



**A Prayer for the Last Days  
Looking for Rescue from or through Persecution  
Psalm 57**

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Psalm 57:title–11

“For the music director; set to Al-tashheth. A Mikhtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave. **Be gracious to me, God, be gracious to me, For my soul takes refuge in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge Until destruction passes by.** I will cry to God Most High, To God who accomplishes all things for me. He will send from heaven and save me; He rebukes the one who tramples upon me. Selah God will send His favor and His truth. **My soul is among lions; I must lie among those**



**who devour, Among sons of mankind whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue is a sharp sword. Be exalted above the heavens, God; May Your glory be above all the earth. They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They dug a pit before me; They themselves have fallen into the midst of it.** Selah My heart is steadfast, God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises! Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your goodness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, God; May Your glory be above all the earth.” (NASB 2020)

Psalm 57 is another Mikhtam psalm from David. It too was composed because of events that took place in his life while he was on the lam from Saul. It was composed while David and those with him were living in the wilderness near the Dead Sea by Engedi or at his headquarters near Adullam, living in a cave.

Looking at the geography of Engedi, the location is below sea level and considered desert. During the summer, the UV levels there are considered to be hazardous to the health of most if you are outdoors. The daytime temperature averages 97 during the day and at night could drop rapidly to around 70. In other words, desert.

Yes, it is indeed a pleasant place to be in the winter. But again, that UV level is really high. The fact that Engedi has a naturally occurring freshwater spring of warm water provides for the area around it to be fertile. This is an area that David hid from Saul in and where the confrontation in the cave took place when Saul came in to relieve himself and David and all of his men were in the back of the cave (1 Samuel 24:1-22).

The other possibility is the cave at Adullam (1 Samuel 22:1). That location would be more to the west and would be somewhere midway between Bethlehem and Gath.

That would be an area David would indeed be familiar with from his shepherd days. “A cave traditionally identified as David’s secret headquarters is located on the precipitous southern cliff of Wadi Khureitun, about two miles south of Herodium, and three miles northeast of Tekoa. The only access to the cave is through a circular opening about 7 feet high. Inside is a narrow, low passage leading to a small cave, from which a winding passage leads to a large room about 5,000 feet square. Narrow passages branch out and lead to other large rooms, some of which are on lower levels. There is ample room for a thousand soldiers.” (Thompson and Jauchen 1997, 2187)

We are not told which cave other than it is written when David fled from Saul to the cave. The tune to set it to is Al-tashheth. This must have been in heavy rotation on Jerusalem radio back in the day as “Do Not Destroy” seems to have been a well-known tune in ancient Israel, applied to various works of poetry, including Psalms 58 and 59.

Given the name of the tune, I’m guessing this wasn’t a happy-clappy song. The choir director only pulls this melody out and attaches it to psalms that have some dark overtones. (Platt, Mason and Shaddix 2020, 60)

Psalm 57:1

“Be gracious to me, God, be gracious to me, For my soul takes refuge in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge Until destruction passes by.” (NASB 2020)

David begins this psalm with a double plea for the grace of, the favor of God.

Enemies, Saul and his troops, are threatening so what David is looking for is a place of safety. He is looking for refuge. “Hebrew ḥāsâ (“refuge”) appears first as a perfect verb, indicating that the very act of



taking refuge happens the moment the sentence is uttered, while the second occurrence is in imperfect form, telling that the situation is ongoing until the danger passes by.” (deClaissé-Walford and Tanner 2014, 488)

For us as followers of Jesus Christ, that is a true picture for us as we do life day by day here on planet earth. We are in Christ, we are constantly in His protection and His care, but on a daily basis we also find ourselves looking for guidance, wisdom and protection in some events that take place in our life. We too are fighting an enemy, not Saul, Satan, and he uses those who do not know the Lord or who are in the flesh to press the attack. We too are in His protection and yet needing it at the exact moment we pray. One more thing, David uses figures of speech, all the various authors used by the Holy Spirit do. God does not have actual wings.

What David is doing is describing God by comparing Him to known things. Bullinger says what we see here is an “Anthropopatheia; or, Condescension, The Ascribing of Human Attributes, etc., to God. The Greeks had another name for it: SYNCATABASIS (Syn´-cat-ab´-a-sis), from σύν (syn), together with, κατά (kata), down, and βαίνειν (bainein), to go: a going down together with: i.e., God, by using this figure, condescends to the ignorance and infirmity of man.

Hence, the Latin name for it was CONDESCENSIO, condescension. (Bullinger 1898, 871)

Wings and Feathers are attributed to God. Ps. 91:4. Hence “the shadow of his wings.” denotes His care. Ps. 17:8; 36:7 (8); 57:1; 63:7 (8). And “the covert of His wings” denotes protection. Ps. 61:4 (5). (Bullinger 1898, 895)

David is in the wilderness, and he has seen, time and again, the loving care of birds while nesting. How they protect that young baby bird by placing their wings around it. He reflects here that he would like to be in a similar type of refuge, only it is the metaphorical wings of God protecting him. Jesus also used this same idea.

Matthew 23:37

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! **How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!**” (ESV)

The Aramaic Targum of this psalm has the following, hinting at one other possibility of interpretation.

Psalm 57:2

“Have pity upon me, O God, have pity upon me, for in your Memra my soul has placed its trust; and in the shadow of your Shekinah I place my trust, until the tumult passes by.” (Cathcart, Maher and McNamara 2004, Psalm 57:2)

The picture of the wings in the Targum is that of the wings of the cherubim overlooking the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant. In the shadow of your Shekinah. That would indeed be right there at the mercy seat in the presence of God and protected fully by Him.

This is indeed how God protects us as His followers. The one who was there over the mercy seat, the Holy Spirit, is the same who now dwells inside each of us. The shadow of His wings from that perspective is now a true statement for all who follow Jesus. His Spirit is indeed in us.

The New Testament sees Acts 2, the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus’ followers in the “last days” after His resurrection, as the fulfillment of this prophecy. As the apostle Paul says, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?” (1 Corinthians 3:16; see also



6:19). From that point on, God's Shekinah glory would dwell not in the Temple or some other location but within the followers of Christ themselves. The Church had been born. (Taylor and Greig 2012, 31)

1 Corinthians 6:19

"Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you**, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (NASB 2020)

It is precisely because the Shekinah glory has been transferred from the OT temple to the person of Jesus Christ and, because he inhabits believers, to them, that the author can speak this way. His life on earth, his physical existence, is a walking tabernacle, a manifestation of the glory of God. (Biblical Studies Press 2006, 2 Pe 1:13)

In the Tabernacle and the first Temple, was the cloud by day and the fire by night, the Shekinah glory and it was behind the veil in the Holy of Holies. Now that same person, the Holy Spirit, was in the Holy of Holies, is in each follower of Jesus Christ making each of us holy space.

If anyone ever asks you where is the presence of God today? The answer is simple. But takes a bit of explanation. Michael Heiser says the following in clarification for us, to make sure we understand we are indeed already residing under the shadow of His wings.

"The God of Israel was incarnate in Jesus Christ, and so it should come as no surprise to read his challenge ("Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"; John 2:19) as ultimately about his own body (John 2:21–22).

After Jesus' ascent to the right hand of the Father, New Testament temple talk focuses on the metaphorical body of Christ and its localized manifestations. **In New Testament theology, believers are holy ground, the place where the presence of God resides.** This is reflected in New Testament statements referring to believers (corporately and individually) as the "temple of God" (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:14–18; cp. 1 Pet 2:4–5) or "a temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 6:19; Eph 2:19–22). **Paul's insistence that an unrepentant believer be expelled from the Corinthian church and that the people "are to deliver this man to Satan" (1 Cor 5:5) illustrates an application of the idea. The church, the visible body of Christ, removes sin "outside the camp" into the world. Sin belongs outside holy ground in the world, the dominion of Satan.**" (Heiser 2020, 2015)

Psalms 57:2–3

**"I will cry to God Most High, To God who accomplishes all things for me. He will send from heaven and save me; He rebukes the one who tramples upon me.** Selah God will send His favor and His truth." (NASB 2020)

When we are under stress and in the middle of a trial, there is a tendency to sit on our pity pot and moan about our situation to only to ourselves. David is not doing that here, he is crying out direct to the one who he knows has a plan for His life.

We should do the same. Jesus Christ went to the cross to die for our sins, He loves us. He is not a stranger to what we are going through.

Was Jesus really subjected to temptation from Satan? Yes.

Hebrews 4:15–16

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but **one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (ESV)



In Matthew 4:1-11, we see that Satan, who Christ created, tempted Him in three specific ways and He did not sin. We learn this in Hebrews 2, He has been there, done that, and did so without failure and without sin.

Hebrews 2:17-18

"Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. **Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.**" (NLT)

"The exalted Christ carries with him the memory of his sufferings so that he can help those who are tempted. Because Jesus the Son of God was tempted like we are, we have a sympathetic high priest in heaven; because Jesus was tempted, yet without sin, we have a Savior who ransomed us with his precious blood "like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Pet. 1:19)." (Calhoun 2013, 249)

God had a plan for David; He also has a plan for each one of us as well. The only one who can foil God's plan for you and me is, you and me. We too agree with David and lift up our voices to the Lord who accomplishes all things for us.

Remember, Jesus took a murderous religious self-righteous zealot and turned him into Paul the Apostle. Is it hard to remember this when we are in the middle of a trial. Yes, but Job remembered.

Job 42:1-2

"Then Job answered the LORD and said: **"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You."** (NKJV)

Romans 8:28

"And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (NKJV)

All things means good things, bad things, things I messed up, things others messed up. Things people do to me and on and on. We sometimes think that the only time we need God is when everything is falling apart. We need God even more when everything is not falling apart.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

**"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**" (NKJV)

Psalms 57:2-3

**"I will cry to God Most High, To God who accomplishes all things for me. He will send from heaven and save me; He rebukes the one who tramples upon me. Selah God will send His favor and His truth."** (NASB 2020)

As a follower of Jesus Christ, when we cry out to the Lord because of distress, trial or whatever it is we are going through. Notice what He will move and where He comes from to take care of His own. "He will send from heaven."

A quick note, because yes, there are indeed those out there who will tell you this is a guarantee that we will always win here in this life.



This psalm does not teach that. It also does not teach wallowing in self-pity or despair but teaches to lean into the God of the universe who is willing to reach down from heaven assuring us that we are not alone as we go through the trial. Prosperity gospel folks would tell us the opposite and ignore what it says elsewhere in scripture.

Jesus said to take up your cross and die and persecution...it is a guarantee.

Matthew 16:24

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” (NASB 2020)

John 15:20

“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well; if they followed My word, they will follow yours also.” (NASB 2020)

If David is writing this from the caves, he still has a lot more of this trial at the hands of Saul yet to come. But he knows God is with him.

He knows that God is sovereign and as he waits on the Lord to move, it is the Lord who protects him and cares for him. God has an eternal perspective, we don't. He is busy preparing us for our next ministry, the next step of faith He wants us to take. And we can only be ready as we learn the lessons of the trail we are in. What was Jesus' message to the church in Smyrna?

Revelation 2:10–11

**“Do not be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. The devil is about to have some of you thrown into prison so you may be tested, and you will experience suffering for ten days. Remain faithful even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown that is life itself.** The one who has an ear had better hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **The one who conquers will in no way be harmed by the second death.”** (NET 2nd ed.)

God is always on the throne and rest assured that nothing we go through takes Him by surprise at all. In these last days, we really do need to remember that.

One other thing as well, there are always others who are watching us as we go through a trial or difficulty. They want to see how a true believer of Jesus Christ will react. And when we react like Jesus, that does indeed enflame others who simply want to pile on. But God is with us and He will send from heaven to save us.

“We have it on the authority of Scripture that this is the narrative sweep of our lives: God will send from heaven and save all who have trusted in Christ. If you have trusted in Christ, that's your life story. Christians are convinced of this: at the end of the day, every false refuge will cave in, and Christ will be seen as the one, true hope of the world.

Rebellion against him will not go overlooked or unaddressed. God will judge human sin. The reality of judgment against sin is one of the central claims of Christian faith. However, another central claim of Christian faith is this: God has provided a Savior. Jesus came and lived a perfect life. He died on the cross to pay for our sins against a holy God. He rose from the dead, and full forgiveness and new life are given to all who trust in what Jesus Christ has done!” (Platt, Mason and Shaddix 2020, 64-65)

When Jesus appears in the sky to take us home, that is indeed Him coming from heaven to save us.



1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

“Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians. For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Here is the important thing to remember, those who are serving the desires of Satan and confronting us and causing issues and problems, it will not end well for them. But for us, God sends His favor and His truth. When Jesus says, come up here, that is His favor demonstrated to rescue us from this world and the wrath about to fall upon it.

Psalms 57:4

**“My soul is among lions; I must lie among those who devour, Among sons of mankind whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue is a sharp sword.”** (NASB 2020)

David has a clear understanding of who the real battle is with. It is not King Saul, it is not those who have been misled by Saul to chase after him, it is not the Philistines. His soul is among lions, and those lions exist in two separate realities, physical and spiritual. The physical is daunting enough, but there is indeed a spiritual war going on.

Peter talks about this spiritual reality as well.

1 Peter 5:8–10

“Stay alert! **Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.** Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.” (NLT)

We are in a spiritual war. David is saying that and Peter here is confirming that is what has been the case for thousands of years.

We engage from victory, not defeat.

Per John, there is also a truth that we must remember as we engage the enemy and those who follow them. **Those who follow the whims of Satan, will not and cannot listen to or hear us without Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who goes before and preps the battlespace.**

The ground is extensive and let me pop an illusion most have. It is the same direction that David is going in here as well.

1 John 4:2–6

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world**



**hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us.**  
By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (NKJV)

This forever shatters the illusion of neutrality, the idea that so-called “good” people who are not Christians are neither for God nor for Satan, are neither in God’s kingdom nor in Satan’s. The fact is, all people, young and old, male and female, belong to one of two kingdoms: the kingdom of light or the kingdom of darkness. If one is not “in Christ” one is “in the power of the devil,” even if there is no visible, sensible awareness of being in the devil’s grip. Thus, not to serve God is to serve Satan whether one is conscious of it or not. (Storms 2006)

How do we prep for battle? God has it, it isn’t tough.

When David says, “I must lie among those who devour,” he is expressing the physical side of the battle. On more than one occasion he and his followers were surrounded by those who wanted him dead. Their teeth were indeed spears and arrows.

Ever have someone who just won’t take no for an answer, and they keep bothering you constantly. For us, it just might be that scammer who calls five times a day from five different phone numbers trying to wear us down. Or perhaps there is indeed someone out there who wants to ruin us. How do we prepare for the battle David is warning us about. Three things on the “to do” list are paramount.

### **Combat Prep Operations**

#### 1. Training and commitment –

Colossians 3:5–11

**“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **But now you must put them all away:** anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.” (ESV)

#### 2. Mental toughness –

Romans 12:1–2

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,** that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (ESV)

#### 3. Situational awareness – The battle is supernatural

Romans 8:38–39

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

2 Kings 6:15–17

“The prophet’s attendant got up early in the morning. When he went outside there was an army surrounding the city, along with horses and chariots. He said to Elisha, “Oh no, my master! What will we



do?" He replied, **"Don't be afraid, for our side outnumbers them."** Then Elisha prayed, **"O LORD, open his eyes so he can see."** The LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw that the hill was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (NET 2nd ed.)

Colossians 2:8

**"Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."** (NET 2nd ed.)

There are a few things to remember too. The only power Satan has is that which we give him. "Don't make the common mistake of assuming that God and Satan possess the same power—or that the power of Satan is equal to the power of God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Cast out of the heavenly realms to roam the earth, Satan has been given power, but only to the degree that the Lord allows." (Hunt 2008, 14)

Remember

1. Satan cannot be everywhere at once. (Job 1:7)
2. Satan has no absolute power over a believer's possessions. (Job 1:8-11)
3. Satan has no absolute power over a believer's body. (Job 1:12)
4. Satan has no absolute power over a believer's life. (Job 2:3-6)
5. Satan must obey Jesus. (Matthew 4:10-11)
6. Satan must ask permission to tempt a believer. (Luke 22:31)
7. Satan must leave if he is resisted. (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9)
8. Satan cannot protect his followers. (Matthew 25:41)
9. Satan cannot prevent his own demise. (Revelation 20:10) (Hunt 2008, 14-15)

**One angel, Michael, will personally cast Satan and all his fallen followers out of heaven** and ban them to earth at the mid-point of the Tribulation. (Revelation 12:7-12)

He and his followers are not impersonal forces, but are intelligent evil in rebellion to God.

We fight the enemy by resisting Him and that is why we are looking for help from on high. David knows that as well.

In practical terms, all the positive resources of the Christian life are to be used—prayer, the word of God, praise, the help of fellow believers, verbal rebuke of the enemy (Luke 10:17–20; Acts 16:18), renewed holiness of life (note 'righteousness' in Eph. 6:14); in short 'the whole armour of God' (Eph. 6:11). (Grudem 1988, 204)

Jesus is on our side. He has defeated the devil. He is more than able to enable us to overcome him. His goal is to perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish us. Yes, that will involve testing, but He is on the throne. And as he prays and meditates on this truth, David turns to praise.

Psalms 57:5–6

**"Be exalted above the heavens, God; May Your glory be above all the earth.** They have prepared a net for my steps; **My soul is bowed down;** They dug a pit before me; They themselves have fallen into the midst of it. Selah" (NASB 2020)

As David slips into praise, it is not because God has done anything for him, it is because God is worthy of our praise. David is addressing the sovereign God who is over everything, including his situation.



Do we pray this way? We, many times, come to the Lord with our list and then tend to ask Him to bless us and then go on with our day. David is not doing that, right here in the middle of his prayer, he is overwhelmed with who God is. Matthew Henry explains.

“Whatever becomes of me and my interest, be thou exalted, O God! above the heavens, be thou praised by the holy angels, those glorious inhabitants of the upper world; and let thy glory be above or over all the earth; let all the inhabitants of this earth be brought to know and praise thee.” Thus God’s glory should lie nearer our hearts, and we should be more concerned for it, than for any particular interests of our own. When David was in the greatest distress and disgrace he did not pray, Lord, exalt me, but, Lord, exalt thy own name.” (Henry 1994, 825)

Then David goes back to praying about the reality he is living with there in his not so cosy cave.

Psalm 57:6

“They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They dug a pit before me; They themselves have fallen into the midst of it. Selah” (NASB 2020)

David can see, perhaps because Saul’s troops are not totally clear as to where David and his followers are and watches them set a trap for him. He may have done this more than once.

Deer hunters do this all the time. They determine where they want their tree stand to be and then they get the deer used to coming to the stand for food. It is done over a long period and then one day, that buck shows up to eat, it is now deer season, and boom.

David is watching Saul’s troops set up traps, and since his intel appears to be better than Saul’s, he moves and maneuvers around in just the right way that they wind up being caught up in their own trap. That would be like setting up and ingress or egress route from a defensive position using claymore mines and then in the midst of being overrun, being more than a bit concerned about where you are in relation to those booby traps since things have changed suddenly due to the movement of the enemy. In other words, the best laid plans have now changed and where did I put that trip wire anyway.

It is nice to know that even during David’s day, no plan survives first contact with the enemy. But it is also nice to know, that even though it may take us by surprise, it does not take the Lord by surprise and His plan, still worked and into the pit they go.

David anticipates that there is a day where he will no longer be in this trial. And that is reflected in where David goes next in his prayer.

Psalm 57:7–10

**“My heart is steadfast, God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!** Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your goodness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds.” (NASB 2020)

I have had the privilege of counseling folks who are undergoing a trial or trials. The conversation usually starts off as “I really need some help on this.” The solution is stated here by David as he anticipates standing on the other side of the trial. When, not if, we enter a trial, we need to begin to anticipate what it is the Lord will do to deliver us.

Did David know how and when? Not at all. Do we? Nope. This is an exercise in faith, how big is our God. “The trouble with many people today is that they have not found a God big enough for modern needs. While their experience of life has grown in a score of directions, and their mental horizons have been



expanded to the point of bewilderment by world events and by scientific discoveries, their ideas of God have remained largely static.” (Phillips 2024, 7)

Remember David realizes that there is a supernatural enemy as well as one who is physical. For us to have a Biblical worldview and to clearly understand why we can praise the Lord even before He has begun the process of delivering us, we need to embrace this same view as David. Francis Schaeffer lays it out for us.

The Bible insists that we live in reality in a supernatural universe. But if we remove the objective reality of a supernatural universe in any area, this great reality of Christ the Bridegroom bringing forth fruit through us immediately falls to the floor, and all that Christianity is at such a point is a psychological and sociological aid, a mere tool. As soon as we remove the supernaturalness of the universe, all we have left is Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, in which religion is to be simply a sociological tool for the future. (Schaeffer 1982, 257)

The problem many of us have with believing God can do what He says He will do for us, is we do not fully appreciate the existence of the supernatural realm. Again from Schaeffer.

According to the biblical view, there are two parts to reality: the natural world—that which we see, normally; and the supernatural part. When we use the word supernatural, however, we must be careful. The supernatural is really no more unusual in the universe, from the biblical viewpoint, than what we normally call the natural. The only reason we call it the supernatural part is that usually we cannot see it. That is all. (Schaeffer 1982, 258)

David is operating with a worldview that accepts the reality of both the physical and supernatural realms. As such, because he knows what God has promised in His word, he knows that God will indeed operate from heaven, from the supernatural world to impact things in the physical.

The beginning is simply that God exists and that He is the personal-infinite God. Our generation longs for the reality of personality, but it cannot find it. But Christianity says personality is valid because personality has not just appeared in the universe, but rather is rooted in the personal God who has always been. (Schaeffer 1982, 168-169)

And because of that, David can indeed say his heart is fixed on the Lord and he will maintain his focus on what it is the Lord will do for him and he will praise him, even before it happens. Why? Because God has always been, God keeps His promises.

God can and will guide. God’s glory is to come first...A person cannot bind God with man-made rules. A man of God must stand and trust God—even against his own people, even if in the minority, even in the midst of physical danger. Even in His judgment, God keeps His promises and distinguishes among men. (Schaeffer, *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History* 1982, 167)

David lives in that reality and because of that, not only does he want to praise the Lord in faith before the reality, but he also wants to praise the Lord to the entire planet. God is the God of the universe, so the entire universe is entitled to hear of the glory of God and what He has done for David.

David knows that God will respond from heaven to his physical reality and provide deliverance. He still does that today for us as well.

Not only is praise appropriate while in a trial, praise is where our heart should be first thing as we begin each day. How do we say off of our pity pot?



Psalm 57:8

“Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.” (NASB 2020)

David chooses, while living in a cave with people trying to kill him, to wake up each morning in praise. He awakens with a “good morning Lord praise your name.” And he is doing so when many would prefer to get up and look at the new day and instead say, “good Lord it’s morning and I am still miserable. Let’s be miserable together”

Now that it is a new day, for David, it is time to run off and tell the world about the Lord and what he has and will do for him.

I remember at work that one of the managers who reported to me would every so often, walk into my office first thing in the morning and announce, “I am cranky today.” To which I would reply, “but I’m not. Good morning.” And then she would moan and go to her office.

It is true, misery loves company. Don’t let them share. The reason, you have a relationship with the creator of the universe who has promised to come from heaven personally and save us. He accomplishes all things for us. He turns those who stand against us against themselves. And because we know this, we too can have steadfast hearts of praise before the Lord.

Meanwhile, those around you who know about the trial you are going through, want to know what has happened to you because you’re supposed to be miserable. Tough to do when you have His perspective on things and realize no matter what it is we are going through, it is nothing compared to the eternity we will have with Jesus Christ.

Psalm 57:10–11

**“For Your goodness is great to the heavens And Your truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, God; May Your glory be above all the earth.”** (NASB 2020)

I wonder what kind of trouble David’s troops had, while in the cave, in hiding from Saul, on the lam and in daily threat of death, getting David to exercise noise discipline when he began to contemplate what it is that God was doing and would do for him.

Be quiet David, meanwhile he has cranked up the amps and into serious worship time with the Lord. Now we know where we should be as well. Let’s pray.

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