

# Psalm 57

June 26, 2022



## SCRIPTURE

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

<sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me.

<sup>3</sup> He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me—God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

<sup>4</sup> I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> They spread a net for my feet—I was bowed down in distress. They dug a pit in my path—but they have fallen into it themselves.

<sup>7</sup> My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

<sup>8</sup> Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.

<sup>9</sup> I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

<sup>10</sup> For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

<sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

## COMMENTARY

**57:1.** David began with the passionate plea that God would have mercy on him. His petition is repeated twice to express urgency and is an identical opening to Psalm 56. Ultimately, it was in God that his soul took refuge for protection. As David trusted in God, he realized he was under the shadow of God's wings. This pictures the divine care he sought that was compared to the care of a mother bird for her young (cp. Ps. 17:8).

**57:2-3.** God Most High is a divine name which emphasizes that God is lifted up above all his creation, over all circumstances, and that he rules over all. This sovereign God,



lifted up and transcendent, fulfills his purpose without any wavering, according to his eternal decree. God can be trusted, David said. He sent from heaven and saved him, rebuking those who hotly pursued him. He was referring to Saul and his skilled warriors. God's overruling purposes are always a great motivation for prayer.

**57:4-5.** Detailing his persecutors, David lamented, I am in the midst of lions and ravenous beasts. He pictured these men with teeth like spears and arrows, meaning they had tongues which were like sharp swords. They were able to inflict disabling, deadly harm. Such is the power of the tongue! In the midst of describing these attackers, David's mind suddenly turned to God: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth. This God-centered focus on divine supremacy was the strength of his life in every adversity, a sure anchor for his soul in the midst of trouble. David requested that God show his sovereign glory by coming to his rescue.

**57:6.** Returning to the detailed portrayal of his foes, David continued exposing them before God. Like a hunter seeking prey, they had spread a net for his feet to trap him (Pss. 7:15; 9:15). But God had promised to keep the feet of the righteous from slipping (Pss. 37:24; 55:22). Instead of ensnaring David, they had fallen into the pit they had dug for him.

**57:7-8.** Still looking heavenward, David steadied his heart in God. My heart is steadfast, he repeated twice, underscoring the firm resolve of his soul to trust in God. Rather than pouting about his plight, he declared, I will sing and make music in worship of almighty God. He roused his own heart, Awake, my soul! as if to say, "Let not my soul be sluggish or dull toward God." David vowed to awaken before dawn to begin the day by offering fervent praise to God.

**57:9-10.** Looking beyond the confinement of the cave in which he found himself, David vowed, I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations and the peoples. Once he was delivered from his trouble, his worship of God would be his public witness to the unbelieving Gentile nations. David must praise God because his love was great, reaching to the heavens. Because God's name was high and lifted up, so David's praise must be.

**57:11.** Repeating the earlier spoken refrain, David concluded, Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. This was an appeal for God to demonstrate his sovereignty by intervening in David's life, reversing his plight and turning back his enemies. Such a rescue, a deliverance, would display God's glory over all the earth.

## MAIN POINT

God provides ultimate protection for His people, even in the most dire of circumstances.



## **INTRODUCTION**

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**What are some human means of protection for the unpredictability of life?**

**How have these means shown that they cannot provide fool-proof protection?**

Throughout history, human beings have sought means of protection from the unpredictable elements of life. Some examples of these means include insurance, smoke alarms, and storm shelters. However, each of these means has failed to protect fully at some point. Insurance doesn't cover or can't bring back all that is lost; smoke alarms fail and do not sound; storm shelters are not completely invincible. In Psalm 57, David placed his hope for protection in God, who provides ultimate protection for those who trust in Him.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

- HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 57:1-6.

**Where did David say he found refuge in times of trouble?**

**Where are some places we are tempted to take refuge outside of God?**

**How is it possible for God to fulfill His purposes for His people in the midst of hardship?**

**In verse 4, David described his circumstances as very tense and dangerous. How was he able to find rest despite this reality? How are we able to do the same?**

Despite the trouble he faced, David sought refuge in God, who would be faithful to fulfill His purposes for David. It is easy to become sidetracked into believing that God's purposes for our lives always include ease and prosperity by the world's definition. However, throughout the Bible it's clear that God's purposes are often accomplished through suffering, as His people learn deep reliance on Him and see His goodness despite their trials.

David described his situation as being surrounded by lions who desired to consume him. By human means, there would be no way to find rest in such a dangerous moment. However, David was confident that God would be faithful to Him and accomplish His



purposes, despite what David could immediately see. We can have this same confidence. We must recognize that fulfilling God's purposes for our lives likely doesn't always mean the easiest course of action, but we can trust that as we follow God, it will be the best way forward.

**How does a focus on God's glory in hard times reorient our priorities and our goals in a given situation?**

**How does a focus on our own glory change our goals and priorities?**

- HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 57:7-11.

**Where did David place his confidence? What was this confidence based on?**

**In verse 8, David stirred his soul toward remembrance and worship of God. How can we do the same on a daily basis?**

David's confidence was in God. David had seen God work mightily in the past and was confident that he would see it again. In times of trouble, we should give our attention to God's past work for us and His promises throughout Scripture to remain faithful to His people. God's goodness to His people has been shown most clearly in the person and work of Jesus. Because of Jesus, we have been given God's Spirit and the promise that He is with us no matter our circumstances.

**In verse 9, why was David confident to praise God, even among those who did not know Him? How can we do the same?**

**David had a big view of God's glory and love. How is our view of God connected to the amount of faith we place in Him to act?**

David proclaimed that he would praise God among the nations. This included those who did not know God and those who were hostile toward Him. David's allegiance was not to the audience in front of him, but to the God who was over his whole life. As we have a greater understanding of who God is, we will be led to continual praise of Him in every moment.

## **APPLICATION**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**Where do you currently feel most in need of refuge? How will you seek this refuge in God who is faithful to you?**



**How does a greater view of God's glory lead to healthier relationships with other people?**

**Where have you experienced broken relationships when seeking your own glory?**

**How is God calling you to praise Him among the peoples and the nations around you? How will you pursue this further?**

### ***PRAYER***

Pray and thank God that He provides ultimate protection for His people in Jesus. Pray that His purposes would be accomplished in your life, and that He would receive the glory.

### ***LOOKING AHEAD***

*Encourage your group to look ahead to next week's scripture passage as we begin our study of 1 Thessalonians:*

**July 3, 2022 --- 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

