

Psalm 56

This Psalm was probably written on the same occasion as **Psalm 34** when David fled from Saul to Philistine country. **To have fled to the home town of Goliath, Gath, took the courage of despair, [1 Samuel 21:10-15].**

Psalms 56:1-4 [New King James] *“Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; fighting all day he oppresses me. My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), in God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?”*

This Psalm is expressive of his misgivings while actually in the hands of Achish, the King of Gath.

This dilemma of fear is the result of being watched by two authorities.

The King of Gath, [verse 6] and the Creator God, [verse 8] left David fearful, without fear.

As yet there were few who could give him human support, those 400 men mentioned in 1 Samuel 22:1-2 were yet to join David.

The striking words in **verse 4** of this Psalm becomes a refrain, enlarged on and repeated in **verses 10 and 11** also quoted in **Psalms 118:6** and **Hebrews 13:6**. **This verse adds to the description of faith, showing where faith rests, that is, in the Creator God, and also where we find the content of our faith, in His Word, the Christian Bible, a point that is made twice in verse 10.**

Matthew 10:28 [New King James] *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

The Greek word translated “soul” is “psuchē” meaning spirit, the “human” spirit referred to in Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Proverbs 20:27.

A non-physical part of every human being that separates us from all other animals, [Daniel 4:24-37].

This “human” spirit returns to the Creator God at death, [Ecclesiastes 12:6-7; Acts 7:59].

The only One who can destroy, Greek “apōllumi” meaning to destroy fully, is the Creator God who first gave it to human beings, it being consigned to outer darkness forever, [2 Peter 2:12-17; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6:12-13].

I cannot prove it, but is this end, destruction completely, have something to do with the “black holes” that are being found to exist throughout the universe??

Psalms 56:5-6 [New King James] *“All day they twist my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather together, they hide, they mark my steps, when they lie in wait for my life.”*

The unremitting pressure on David is the worst part of the ordeal.

Psalms 56:7 [New King James] *“Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God!”*

The main thrust of this part of David’s prayer we can trace to his resolve to subdue the Philistines at this period of his life, [2 Samuel 5:17-19; 2 Samuel 8:1].

Psalms 56:8 [New King James] *“You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?”*

David was aware of God knowing all about his life of insecurity and his tears were registered in heaven.

Matthew 10:29 [New King James] *“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.”*

Jesus Christ reminds us of this attention that God the Father has for all humanity.

Psalms 56:9 [New King James] *“When I cry out to You, then my enemies will turn back; this I know, because God is for me.”*

David knew that his prayers resulted in the Creator God acting on his behalf. David was so sure of this that he repeated the refrain of **verse 4**, [verses 10-11].

Psalms 56:12-13 [New King James] *“Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You, for You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?”*

Finally, David’s faith in the Creator God allows him to foresee, as if already present, a state of deliverance, where he will be carrying out his present vows of praise to God for his salvation.

This is the level of faith that the Creator God wants us to have in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

Is this the direction of our prayers, the assurance of salvation, because we also walk in the light, the true knowledge of who God is and what His desire for all humanity is?

2 Peter 3:9 [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

Repentance is the first step towards salvation.

Repentance is the result of the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin, [John 16:7-8] show us where true righteousness is found, [Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24] and remind us of the judgement that all humanity will face, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

Also through the work of the Holy Spirit in us, leads us into all truth and give us a vision of a time when tears will be a thing of the past, [John 16:13; Revelation 21:1-5], when the Kingdom of God comes in its fullness to the earth after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Make this the central theme of our prayers.