

Psalm 57

This is a Psalm composed soon after David's escape from Gath, [1 Samuel 22:1]. It resembles Psalm 56 in both style and theme.

Both Psalms begin with identical words "*Be merciful to me O God.*"

In this same mood of escape from calamities by a move towards the Creator God.

Psalms 57:1-3 [New King James] "*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by. I will cry out to **God Most High**, to God who performs all things for me. He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. God shall send forth His mercy and His truth. Selah*"

Note the personification of divine attributes is a way to say that God will personally act on our behalf and rescue us.

Psalms 57:4 [New King James] "*My soul is among lions; I lie among the sons of men Who are set on fire, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.*"

The immense peril that David is in is seen that he has to sleep in hidden places while those whose hearts are aflame with enmity.

Psalms 57:5 [New King James] "*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth.*"

Here is another aspect of the God we worship, "*most high*" in **verse 2** we add "*most powerful.*"

Psalms 57:6 [New King James] "*They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down; they have dug a pit before me; into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah*"

The fight had almost gone out of David, "*bowed down.*"

Psalms 57:7-9 [New King James] "*My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations.*"

But his whole mood changes as he praises and prays to the Creator God and seeks to bring other people to join him in that prayer and praise.

David's firm faith in the Creator God is contrasted sharply with his enemies' loud lying and boasting.

When we are confronted with verbal attacks the best defence is simply to be quiet and praise God, realising that our confidence can only be in His love and faithfulness.

In times of great suffering do not turn inward to self-pity or outward to revenge but upward to the all-powerful, loving and caring Creator God.

Psalms 57:10-11 [New King James] "*For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, and Your truth unto the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth.*"

This Psalm finishes not with defiant faith [verse 5] but with gratitude and love towards a merciful, loving Creator God who is exalted above all He has created, and deserves the glory we should give Him.