

Psalm 59

The background to this Psalm in the life of David is recorded in **1 Samuel 19:1, 9-18**.

Although married to Saul's daughter, David was dogged by men commissioned by Saul to kill him.

Psalms 59:1-2 [New King James] *“Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloodthirsty men.”*

There is a mounting sense of alarm in the opening words of this Psalm.

Psalms 59:3-5 [New King James] *“For look, they lie in wait for my life; the mighty gather against me, not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD. They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold! You therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to punish all the nations; do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah”*

Nothing will stop these men from murder in spite of David's innocence [which the account of his life in Samuel clearly shows, giving David a firm ground to plead to God to vindicate him.]

God's intervention as judge is based first on His omnipotent power as, “*Lord God of Hosts,*” His covenanted faithfulness, “*God of Israel*” and His universal office as the One who in righteousness will judge all nations, [**Genesis 18:25**].

True Christians today can relate to the universalising of David's individual grief if we consider, prompted by personal grief, the universal condition of the world today, groan for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to bring righteous judgement to society.

Psalms 59:6-7 [New King James] *“At evening they return, they growl like a dog, and go all around the city. Indeed, they belch with their mouth; swords are in their lips; for they say, ‘Who hears?’”*

Like scavenger dogs, David's enemies make the most of night's darkness, thinking that they are covered from all scrutiny, human and divine.

Psalms 59:8-9 [New King James] *“But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision. I will wait for You, O You his Strength; For God is my defence.”*

By contrast to David's enemies with their confident prowling, David is already safe within God's strength, note present tense.

Psalms 59:10 [New King James] *“My God of mercy shall come to meet me; God shall let me see my desire on my enemies.”*

David's confidence of divine empowering is entirely related to the personally known character of the God he worshipped.

Psalms 59:11-13 [New King James] *“Do not slay them, lest my people forget; scatter them by Your power, and bring them down, O Lord our shield. For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, let them even be taken in their pride, and for the cursing and lying which they speak. Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be; and let them know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah”*

David's plea for God's dealing with his would-be assassins is shown to be free of vindictiveness, he seeks for God to impart a moral lesson to his people, the just punishment for sin and the universal revelation of Israel's God.

No swift destruction, which would soon be forgotten by his people, but to make these evil men somehow a lasting exhibition of how God opposes sinners and judges them.

Psalms 59:12 [New King James] *“For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, let them even be taken in their pride, and for the cursing and lying which they speak.”*

Once again Psalms declares the great seriousness of sins of speech. In David’s mind the sin of their mouth is more worthy of mention than their subtle attempts to take his life.

Psalms 59:13 [New King James] *“Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be; and let them know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth.”*

The Hebrew word translated “consume” is “kâlâh” referring to the end product of God’s anger, that people will come to know the God of Jacob throughout the world.

Psalms 59:14-15 [New King James] *“And at evening they return, they growl like a dog, and go all around the city. They wander up and down for food, and howl if they are not satisfied.”*

The actions of David’s enemies bring them no satisfaction.

Psalms 59:16-17 [New King James] *“But I will sing of Your power; yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defence, my God of mercy.”*

While this experience brought joy and confidence to David in a more intensified form.

1 Peter 4:12-19 [New King James] *“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”*

We as true Christians are likely to suffer trials as a result of our faith, we should look on these trials as a means of bringing glory to God, when we are brought closer to Him during them and are able to show others an example of faith in a loving and caring Creator God, who loves all human beings.