PSALM 54 vs 1



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Title: For the Chief musician – this Psalm was to be accompanied by string instruments. Variety is to be studied in our tunes, and in all other matters relating to sacred song. Monotony is often the death of congregational praise. Our God is varied, and so should our songs be. The setting: David came quietly among Ziphites, hoping to find a little rest in his many flights from his foes; but they betrayed him in his solitary abode, revealing him to Saul; so he turned to God in prayer.

Divisions: The Psalmist pleads with God (1-3); and in the rest of the song, lays aside all doubt, he sings a hymn of victory (4-7) -- Charles Spurgeon.

For the Chief musician, with stringed instruments,

A Contemplation of David, when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, Is not David hiding among us?

¹ Save me O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your power.

² Hear my prayer O God; listen to what I have to say.

³ For strangers rise against me, and tyrants seek my soul: who do not set God before them.

Selah, pause and think about it: David at this time was placed beyond the reach of any assistance. There is a great mistake by rendering the word **zarim** for stranger. Ziphites were Israelites, not strangers; they were proud men; the fact is this word is taken from **Zarah** meaning "to scatter"... "to disperse". They were cousins of Judah. David said, all around me are my foes and their eager helpers; but God is my Savior. David knew, that as long as he had an open ear with God, he would not be trapped in their troublemaking. They had no more regard for right and justice, than if they knew no God, or cared for none. Good men are hated for God's sake, and this is a good plea for them to urge in prayer.

⁴Look, God is my helper: the LORD upholds my soul.

⁵ He repays the evil to my enemies: in truth He destroys them.

⁶ Freely I sacrifice to You: I praise Your name, O LORD; for it is good.

⁷ For from all trouble He delivered me: as for my enemies, What I saw, looked very good.

Think about it: They worked for evil, and they will have their wages. Those who shoot upward their arrows of malice will find them fall upon themselves. "Cut them off" David desired that God would destroy them with a silent, forceful... sudden death-dealing blow.

O Come Let Us Adore Him