

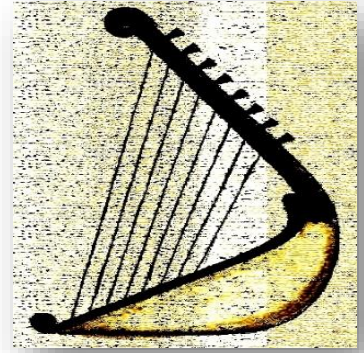
# PSALM 55 vs 1

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Title: For the Chief musician – this Psalm was accompanied by string instruments. It is not a mere personal hymn, there is teaching in it for all; and where the Lord shines through David, there is great meaning. The occasion for this Psalm is idle speculation. It reads like a song of the time of Absalom and Ahithophel; the king betrayed by his trusted counselor.

Divisions: The suppliant spreads his case in general before his God (1-8); he portrays his enemies (9-11); he mentions one special traitor (12-15); he consoles himself in prayer (16-19); and closes with exhortation to the faithful and a denunciation of the wrongdoer (20-23) – Charles Spurgeon.



**For the Chief musician, with stringed instruments,**

**A Contemplation of David,**

**<sup>1</sup> O God, hear my prayer; and do not hide from my request.**

**<sup>2</sup> Attend to me, answer me: though I am restless in my complaint, and greatly distracted;**

**<sup>3</sup> because the voice of the enemy, because the pressure of the wrongdoers: for they bring down trouble on me, and in anger hate me.**

**<sup>4</sup> My heart is sorely pained: and the dread of death falls on me.**

**<sup>5</sup> Fear and trembling come to me, and horror overwhelms me.**

**<sup>6</sup> So I said, Oh that I had wings of a dove! I would fly away, and be at rest.**

**<sup>7</sup> Indeed, far away I would wander, and remain in the wilderness.**

**Selah**, pause and think about it: When a man saw his neighbor in distress, and deliberately passed by him, he was said to “hide himself from him”... and the psalmist begs that the Lord would not treat him so.

**<sup>8</sup> to hurry my escape the whirlwind and thunderstorm.**

**<sup>9</sup> Destroy, O LORD, confuse their language: for I saw violence and conflict in the city.**

**<sup>10</sup> Day and night they go around its walls: crime and trouble are in its midst.**

**<sup>11</sup> Calamity is in its midst: fraud and deceit to not depart from her streets.**

Think about it: The city became a den of wrongdoers; conspirators met in the dark and talked in tight groups in the streets, even in broad daylight; the country was being roused to revolt, and traitors without, threatened to act in concert with rebels within. Justice was discounted while crime went hand in hand with calamity; wilder and more evil elements were uppermost; as the scum floated to the top.

**12 For it was not an enemy who accused me; or I could bear it: nor is it one who hates me who elevated himself against me; or I could hide from him:**

**13 But it was **you**, a man my equal, my companion, and friend.**

**14 We took sweet counsel together, and walked to the house of God in the crowd.**

**15 But let death seize them, let them descend to hell: for evil dwells among them.**

Think about it: He sees the **traitor** as if he stood before him in the flesh. He singles him out, he challenges him to his face. "my equal"... treated by me as one of my own rank, never looked on as an inferior, but as a trusted friend; no stranger to seldom converse with, but a near and dear friend admitted to my inner circle; an advisor so sage, I trusted your advice, it was wise to do so. **Let them go to hell.**

**16 So, I call on God; and the LORD will save me.**

**17 Evening, and morning, and noon, I pray, and cry out: yet He hears me.**

**18 He ransomed my soul in peace from the battle against me: for many were against me.**

**19 God hears, and answers them; even He who sits enthroned from of old.**

**Selah**, pause and think about it: morning, noon and night I pray to God, save me! Their slander, malice, and pride, is not only heard by those it grieves, it reaches to heaven to God's divine ear, it demands vengeance and will have it. God hears and delivers His people; God also hears and destroys the wicked.

**because they do not change, they do not fear God.**

**20 He extended his hand against peace: even as he defiled his promise.**

**21 Smoother than butter was his speech, but in his heart was war: softer than oil were his words, yet in fact they were drawn swords.**

**22 Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you: never will He allow the upright to be moved.**

**23 But You, O God, will destroy them in the pit -- men, bloodthirsty and deceitful, who do not live out half their days; even as I will lean on You.**

Think about it: the traitor buttered him with flattery, and then battered him with malice. Beware of a man who has too much honey on his tongue; a trap is to be expected where the bait is so tempting. Soft, smooth, oily words are most plentiful where truth and sincerity are most scarce. Better to cast your burden on the Lord, He will sustain you... as well as take care of business with the fraud. Matthew Henry