

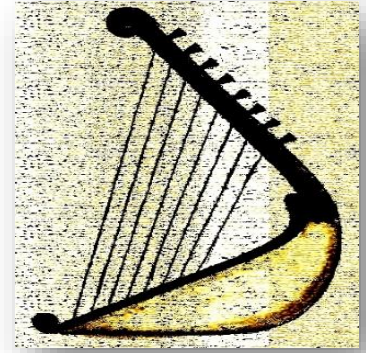
PSALM 56 vs 1

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Title: For the Chief musician – this Psalm is also very instructive; its title is translated: a Silent Dove far away; what it means pertaining to this psalm is uncertain. This is the second Psalm like it, the first was Psalm 16 in which the ending is similar.

Divisions: He pours out his complaint (1-2); he declares his confidence in God (3-4); he returns to his complaint, but pleads with hope (5-9); and sings a grateful song (10-13) – Charles Spurgeon.



For the Chief musician, Set to a Silent Dove far away,

A Michtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

¹ May I find favor, O God: for men crush me; fighting and oppressing all day long.

² My enemies would crush me all day long: for many battle against me, O Most High.

Think about it: The Psalmist needs God's help, his enemies fight with him daily, their appetite for blood never fails them. With them there is no truce.

³ When I am afraid, I lean on You.

⁴ In God I praise His word, on God I lean; and do not fear what they can do to me.

Think about it: David was no braggart, he does not claim never to be afraid, and he was no brute stoic free from fear; but David was learning to put his full weight on God; who alone could help him.

⁵ Every day they twist my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶ They follow, they lie in wait, they watch my steps, when waiting to take my life.

⁷ By injustice they hope to escape? In anger throw these people down, O God.

⁸ You record my wanderings: put my tears in Your bottle: are they not in Your book?

⁹ Then my enemies will retreat when I cry out to You: this I know; because God is for me.

Think about it: They hide themselves until larger numbers assemble; wherever we go, they are at our heels; they lurk, waiting to murder. Constantly the reputations of good men are assailed with deep-laid schemes, and diabolical plots; men of malice are men of cowardice. This is a common mode of warfare among the faithless. They put our language on the rack, then wrestle meanings from it which clearly never were intended; always twisted to injure the person. "This I know"... faith goes on solid ground; it is not a fallible conjecture, but a sure knowledge: God is for me!

¹⁰ On God whose word I praise: On the LORD whose word I praise.

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¹¹ **On God I lean:** I am not afraid what man can do to me.

¹² **On me, O God Your promises are binding: I give thanks to You.**

¹³ **For You delivered my soul from death: my feet did not stumble, walking before God in the light of the living.**

Think about it: Whoever is familiar with the Psalms finds David frequently making vows, and careful to pay them. His life was in constant danger, in his distress he flies to God his refuge and sends an address, a vow to Him. And he looks back, as if he would say, I resolve, O Lord, not to forget what was transacted while under my fears. Better to not vow to God, than to vow and not pay. Ecclesiastes 5

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