

PSALM 57 vs 1

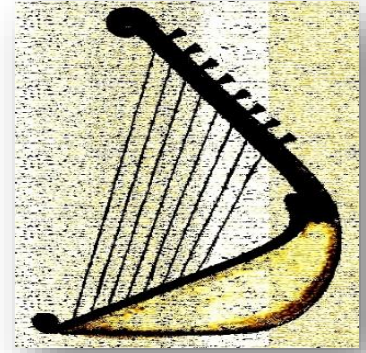
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Title: For the Chief musician – **Do not Destroy**... this petition is a very sententious prayer, as full as it is brief, and well worthy of the motto for a sacred song. It is in reference to Saul.

There are four **Do not Destroy** psalms, namely **57th**, **58th**, **59th**, and **75th**. In all of them there is a distinct declaration of the destruction of the wrong and the preservation of the right. **Mercy = what we do not deserve.**

Divisions: We have a prayer (1-6); and a praise (7-11); the hunted one takes a long breath, and when he is fully inspired, he breathes out his soul in jubilant song -- Charles Spurgeon.



For the Chief musician, Set to Do not Destroy,

A Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in a cave.

¹ **O God, You are merciful: be merciful to me, for my soul runs to You: Yes, in the shadow of Your wings I seek shelter, until these calamities pass.**

² **I call out to God Most High; to God who completes me.**

³ **He sends from heaven, and save me; He censures those who would crush me.**

Selah, pause and think about it: Urgent need suggests the repetition of the cry, and what is the cry? Mercy, mercy ! Nothing but mercy... to obtain from God what we do not deserve. It is the common cry of the poor, condemned criminal – John Flavel,(1627-1691)

God sends His mercy and His truth.

⁴ **My soul is surrounded by lions: and I rest among those who inflame, even sons of men, whose teeth are spears and missiles, and their speech is a sharp sword**

⁵ **Be lifted up above the heavens, O God; above all the earth, let Your glory be.**

⁶ **They prepared a net for my steps; even as my life was bent. They dug a pit before me, but they fell into it.**

Selah, pause and think about it: Like persecutors who dig pits to trap their prey, the enemies of the faithful spare no pains, but go about their evil work with the coolest deliberation. As for each fish, or bird, or beast, a fitting net is needed; so do the lawless suit their net to their victim's circumstances and character with careful craftiness of malice. Whatever David might do, and which way he might turn, his enemies were ready to entrap him in some way or other. His life was surrounded by savage animals walking on two feet. Yet David rejoices because their devices recoiled upon themselves.

7 My heart stands firm, O God, my heart stands firm: Yes I sing Your praises.

8 Awake, my glory; awake guitar and harp: I will awaken the dawn.

9 I give thanks to You among the peoples, O LORD: I sing to You among the nations.

10 For your great mercy reaches the heavens, and Your truth to the clouds.

11 Be lifted up above the heavens, O God: Your glory be over all the earth.

Think about it: David says, "My heart is fixed"... it is anchored, yes, it is anchored to eternity. Paul reminds us, Jesus, the Messiah is the glory of God; David says, No sleepy verse and weary notes will be heard from me; I will arouse myself, for I have a song to sing to my great Lord and God.

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