

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms
3-1-11

Psalms 57

The Story Behind the Psalm: The same as Psalm 56

David had fled to Gath, a town of Philistines. Saul did not pursue. David asked Achish, the king, if he had a country town where David could hide. He was given Ziklag, where he lived for one year and four months. After a time, the Philistines decided to fight Israel. King Saul saw the host of the Philistines and trembled. David was living with the Philistines and had to fight, whereupon the Philistine princes rebelled and said that David would betray them. Because of this they sent him back. Ziklag was destroyed by the Amalekites, and their wives and children were taken captive. The story is much longer than this, but again David was protected by God.

The Way It Was Used by God's People: The same as Psalm 56

This Psalm was especially effective in ministering to God's people when they were away from home, especially when danger arose.

Theme: God's faithful help and love in times of trouble. When we face trials, God will quiet our hearts and give us confidence.

Author: David

For the choir director: A psalm of David, regarding the time he fled from Saul and went into the cave. To be sung to the tune "Do Not Destroy!"

PSALM 57:1

This psalm was probably written when David was hiding in a cave from Saul (see 1 Samuel 22–24).

PSALM 57:4

At times we may be surrounded by people who gossip about us or criticize us. Verbal cruelty can damage us as badly as physical abuse. Rather than answering with hateful words, we, like David, can talk with God about the problem.

PSALM 57:7

David's firm faith in God contrasted sharply with his enemies' loud lying and boasting. When confronted with verbal attacks, the best defense is simply to be quiet and praise God, realizing that our confidence is in his love and faithfulness (57:10). In times of suffering, don't turn inward to self-pity or outward to revenge, but turn upward to God.

Psalm 58

The Story Behind the Psalm

This Psalm was written during his early reign. He was very interested in justice, and in the Psalm he is condemning bad judges. Notice the words in verse 1, "Do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?" As a young king he was demanding that his judges be just.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

This Psalm was used by the Jews while they were in captivity in Babylon.

Theme: A prayer for God's justice. When no justice can be found, rejoice in knowing that justice will triumph because there is a God who will judge with complete fairness.

Author: David, at a time when men in authority were twisting justice

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be sung to the tune "Do Not Destroy!"

PSALM 58:1

This is called an imprecatory psalm. It is a cry for justice so intense that it seems, at first glance, to be a call for revenge.

PSALM 58:1

The Old Testament is filled with references to justice—it is a key topic in the psalms. Unfortunately, many judges and rulers in ancient times took justice into their own hands. They had complete authority with no accountability and the power to make their own laws. When earth's judges are corrupt, there is little hope of justice in this life. But God loves justice, and those who obey him will experience perfect justice in eternity.

PSALM 58:11

Of all people, our national leaders should be just and fair. When they are unjust and unfair, people suffer. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer, politicians wrest power from the people, national morality deteriorates, and God is ignored. When right triumphs at last, "the godly will rejoice" (58:10). Be assured that there will be a day of accountability and that God judges fairly. Be careful never to side with injustice, lest you find yourself standing before an angry Judge.