

Rhema Christian Center
Triumphant Tuesday
Bible Study
Psalm 55
Eddie Poindexter
July 5, 2022

PSALM 55 Supplications of David in Distress

Many expositors feel that David penned this Psalm upon occasion of Absalom's rebellion, and that the particular enemy he here speaks of, that dealt treacherously with him, was Ahithophel, aking David's trouble here typical of Christ's sufferings, and Ahithophel's treachery a figure of Judas's, because they both hanged themselves. David was in great distress when he penned this Psalm.

Outline: How David navigates through his "great distress"

- I. He prays that God will manifest His favor for him, and pleads his own sorrow and fear {vss 1-8}
- II. He prays that God will manifest His displeasure against his enemies, and pleads their great wickedness and treachery {vss 9-15} and again in {20-21}
- III. He assures himself that God would, in due time, appear for him against his enemies, comfort himself with the hopes of it, and encourage others to trust in God, {vss 16-19 and again 22-23}

Supplication (Also known as petitioning) is a form of prayer, wherein one party humbly or earnestly ask another party to provide something, either for the party who is doing the supplicating (e.g., "Please spare my life.") or, on behalf of someone else.

James 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much".

Psalm 55's "Thematic statement": "My companion Violates His Covenant"

A psalm of lament in which David finds himself in danger from a former trusted friend. The friend and the circumstances are unknown, but the shock of the betrayal that David expresses is real. It continues the string of psalms preoccupied with David's enemies.

The Psalm does not unfold in an orderly fashion but veers from one topic to another, perhaps reflecting the turmoil in which David finds himself. He is not so upset, however, that he does not affirm that God is ultimately in control.

Author: King David

Theme: Expressing deep dismay over the treachery of a close friend. When friends hurt us, the burden is too difficult to care for alone.

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A song “*maskil*” of David

Vss. 1-3) Give ear to my prayer. O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication. 2) Attend unto me, and hear me; I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise; 3) Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me. 4) My heart is sore pain within me: and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

This psalm was most likely written during the time of Absalom’s rebellion and Ahithophel’s betrayal (2 Samuel 15-17). Absalom betrayed David by attempting to usurp his throne. Absalom’s rebellion was one of the many dreadful consequences that David suffered because of his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:11-12) note

God Is Mine Helper: This psalm is an appropriate prayer for believers when facing dangers or imminent disaster. The psalmist calls for help, expecting that God will respond in His saving, delivering, and healing power.

Vss. 5-6) Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. 6) And I said , Oh , that I had wings like a dove! for then I would fly away, and be at rest.

Oh That I Had Wings Like A Dove...Would I Fly Away...

When we are oppressed by evil people, spiritual enemies, or when the troubles of the world bring fear, anguish, and overwhelming anxiety, we too often wish to find rest and relief by escaping from our present distress (Jer. 9:2).

However, in most cases escape from such situations is not possible. The real solution is found only in seeking refuge in God. We can do as the psalmist did...call upon God evening, morning, and noon, and cast our burden upon the Lord by looking to Him to sustain us.

Vss.7-8) Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. 8) I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.

Even those who are especially close to God, as David was, have moments when they want to get away from it all and escape their problems and pressures.

Vss.9-10) Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city. 10) Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it.

The wicked seem to have free rein, wrecking havoc everywhere they go, so David asks the “Lord” to oppose them. Habakkuk too questioned God about how and why evil could go unchecked in front of his very eyes (Hab. 1:3-4).

Vs. 11) Wickedness is in the midst therefore: Deceit and guile depart not from her streets.

The city that was supposed to be holy was plagued by internal problems: violence, strife, mischief, sorrow, wickedness, deceit, guile. External enemies, though a constant threat, were not nearly as dangerous as the corruption inside. Likewise, churches may expect their troubles to come from the sinful world. Although we defend ourselves against these external pressures, we often fail to see that our own sins cause many of our troubles.

Vss. 12) For it was not an enemy that reproached me, then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

As if David’s sufferings were not enough by themselves; which he “could endure”; they are made that much worse because they come from a once-trusted “companion”, a “close friend”.

Nothing hurts as much as a wound from a close friend.

At times friends may need to lovingly confront you in order to help you, but betrayal by a friend has caused David great anguish.

Vss. 13-14) But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. 14.) We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

This trusted friend is whom David used to enjoy fellowship at the house of the Lord God together.

REAL friends stick by you in times of trouble and bring healing, love, acceptance, and understanding.

WHAT **KIND OF FRIEND ARE YOU???**

DO NOT BETRAY THOSE YOU LOVE!!!

David is speaking of Ahithophel, who had once been his friend *and advisor, only to betray him. This is foreshadowing of what happened between Jesus and Judas.*

Real friends stick by you in times of trouble and bring healing, love, acceptance, and understanding. What **kind of friend** are **you?** (**Don't** betray **those** you **love.**)

Vs. 15) Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

In a "burst" of fury, David asks God to consign (all) of his enemies to "the realm of the dead" (6:5 "grave").

*Vss. 16-17-(TPT) But as for me, I will call upon the Lord to save me, **and I know he will!** 17.) Every evening I will explain my need to Him.*

Praying morning, noon, and night is certainly an excellent way to maintain correct priorities throughout every day.

The prayers of God's people are effective against the overwhelming evil in the world

*Vss. 18-19) He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me. 19.) God, **who is enthroned from old**, who does not change; he will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God.*

“Who is enthroned from old”: or, “those who never change their ways.”

The Hebrew is ambiguous here: the NIV understands it to mean that God never changes (Jas. 1:17)

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights, with whom is **no variableness**, neither shadow of turning.*

The Bible often compares goodness with light and evil with the shadow of darkness.

Variableness: (caused by change, variation, of turning)

God = no variableness

Jesus disciples = “those who never change their ways”

What kind of **friend** to **Jesus** are **we**?

Vss. 20-21) NIV ``My companion attacks his friend; he violates his covenant. 21.) His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his hand; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.”

Violates: Or “profanes”

There is an element of the sacred in any covenant, and this betrayal was more than a social breach; rather, it represented profaning a sacred oath.

His covenant:

Not specified: it probably refers to a person -to-person oath like the one between David and Jonathan (1 Sam.18:3) rather than one of the great covenants that God established (e.g., Abrahamic or Mosaic covenants). “His” covenant (as opposed to “God’s” covenant) supports this. The betrayer remains anonymous.

Vss.22-23) Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. 23) But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

God wants to carry our burdens, but often we continue to bear them ourselves even when we say we are trusting him. Trust the same strength that sustains you to also carry your burdens.

David steps back from his own troubles and assumes the mantle of teacher urging his listeners to rely completely on the Lord (vs 22).

Closing exhortation:

When facing trials too great to bear, God invites us to cast out burdens and cares upon Him. HE then bears the weight of them (with us) and sustains us in every situation.

The (Holy Spirit) has repeated this invitation throughout redemptive history.

Jesus (Savior and Lord) gave this invitation in Matt. 11:28-30.

Apostle Peter stated that believers should humble themselves before God “casting all your cares upon him; for he cares for you” (1 Pt. 5:7) .

Apostle Paul exhorted us to bring all our anxieties to God in prayer, promising that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds (Phil.4:7).

CAST THY BURDEN UPON THE LORD

In singing this Psalm the Church can apply it to its own troubles, foreseeing that there will be, at last, indignation and wrath to the persecutors, and salvation and joy to the persecuted.

References:

Mark A. Copeland: Study the Psalms

NIV Zondervan Study Bible

The Passion Translation Bible

Life Application Study Bible

Wikipedia

The Full life Study Bible

The prompting of the Holy Spirit

