

PSALMS

Lyrics OF Prophecy

56/150

Psalm - The Songs

Psalm 56

My Trust is in God, Whose Word I praise.

Read and Observe

Read through Psalm 56 and mark every reference to God, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through Psalm 56 and highlight every reference to God's word in blue.

Read through Psalm 56 and mark every reference to the psalmist with a blue capital "R."

Read through Psalm 56 and mark every reference to the psalmist's foes, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e., man, they, enemies, etc.) with an orange capital "W."

Read through Psalm 56 and look for a phrase that is repeated (very close wording). Circle the verse number of both and draw a line from one to the other.

Read through Psalm 56 and highlight in light green the word trust, along with all synonyms.

Read through Psalm 56 and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Foes are against me and wait to take my life.
2. God is for me and delivers me from death.

Read and Answer

Psalm 56:1-7

To whom is the psalmist speaking?

What does He want from God?

Why? What is happening?

What are men, the psalmist's foes, doing?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

How many are against him?

What is the attitude of the men fighting him?

Compare verse one with verse two. What do you notice?

Did you find anything? Here's a hint. Compare the first line of verse 1 with the first line of verse two.

Anything yet? Here's another hint. Compare the second line of verse one with the second line of verse two.

Can you see the A B A B pattern in verses one and two? (I'll put it below for you.) This device was often used to intensify the statement of the writer. David is really trying to impress upon God that he needs Him!

- A Be gracious to me, O God, for man has trampled upon me;
- B Fighting all day long, he oppresses me.
- A My foes have trampled upon me all day long,
- B For they are many who fight proudly against me.

Verses three and four form a slightly different pattern; A B C B A D. Keep this in mind as you answer the following questions.

What situation does David sometimes find himself in (remember the context of verses one and two)?

When David finds himself afraid, what does he declare he will do?

Where will the psalmist put his trust?

What information does he give us about God?

What information does he give us about himself?

Reason for a moment, why does David state that he praises God's word? Think of the context.

Notice the difference in verse three where it says, "I will put my trust in You." and verse four where it says, "In God, I have put my trust." What is the difference between the two?

I love that! David doesn't fall short of doing what he has declared he will do. He did it! The tense has changed from future to past. What is the result? What decision does he now make?

What rhetorical question does he ask?

What is the anticipated answer?

Why? Why can't man do anything to him? What is his reasoning?

Did you find the A B C B A D pattern? Just in case you didn't, I've written it out below.

- A When I am afraid
- B I will put my trust in You.
- C In God, whose word I praise,
- B In God I have put my trust;
- A I shall not be afraid.
- D What can mere man do to me?

Compare the two A lines. What do they have in common? How are they different?

Compare the two B lines. What do they have in common? How are they different?

Line C is the climax. Why?

Line D is added to the pattern as an unstated contrast. With whom is the psalmist contrasting "mere man"?

How about you? Would this be a wise section of Scripture to memorize and have in your heart when the day of fear comes?

Point of Depth

**I find it strangely comforting to know that David was afraid at times.
Everyone fears something once in a while.**

**But David did not stay in fear,
He took both feet and placed them squarely in the realm of trust.
Dead center.**

**He *chose* to trust.
He trusted in God.**

**Because David chooses to trust in God, he chooses to not be afraid.
His God has promised that He can be trusted
and David has put his trust in Him to be faithful to His word.
It's a done deal in David's mind.**

**Why would anyone want to be afraid when they can rest in the refuge of God?
It just takes living out your faith.**

Next time, do it!

Point of Depth

**Why did David praise God's word?
Because he knew God's word.
David was praising God's word because of a specific promise in God's word
that dealt with his situation at hand.**

**He was trusting in a promise that God had given him.
And God is always faithful to His word.**

**You can not put your faith in something God did not say or promise.
Reread that last sentence.**

**Have you ever heard people say they will trust God to get them out of a pickle?
If God promised to get them out of that particular pickle, He will,
because He is faithful to His word.
If God did not make that particular pickle promise,
they can't put their trust in something He didn't say.
God is not obligated to fulfill promises He never made.**

**However, even when God hasn't made a specific promise in His word
that applies to your situation, you can put your trust in who He is.
You can remember His attributes, His nature, and His names.
He remains faithful to who He is.
You can call on the name of your God for help.**

**God will answer out of His wisdom,
which may or may not be the answer you want.**

***Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God,
who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation
with those who love Him and keep His commandments.***
Deuteronomy 7:9

The psalmist now turns his attention back to his tormentors. Make a list of his accusations against them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

What do David's foes do all day long?

This is the third time David has told God that his enemies torment him all day long. Find the first two and make a note. What is the implication? Does David ever have any rest from their evil?

Have you ever been misrepresented? No fun, huh? Have your words ever been intentionally distorted in such a fashion that it caused you harm? I have. If it weren't for the Lord, it would have been unbearable. If this has ever happened to you, take a moment and jot it down. Try to remember how you felt and how you handled it. Did you trust God through it all?

In verse five, the Hebrew word for thoughts is "*machashebah*". It refers to something contrived or deliberately plotted for a purpose. What is the purpose of their schemes?

According to verse 6, what is the ultimate goal of the psalmist's foes?

Do they meet him head-on and challenge him to a fight to the death?

How does David describe their tactics in verse 6?

Point of Depth

The Hebrew words give a clear picture of the evil intentions of the enemy.

Lurk, "tsaphan," means to hide.

Watch, "shamar," means to hedge about, as with thorns.

Waited is the Hebrew word "qavah."

It means to be bound together with something, or, in this case, someone.

These guys are keeping their eyes and ears on David's every footstep. He's being watched like a hawk until the perfect moment comes to slaughter him.

But remember, as David has already said, "What can mere man do to me?"

What does David call on God to do?

1.

2.

Why?

What does he expect God's reaction to be?

Why?

What do you expect God's reaction to be?

Why?

Psalm 56:8-13

Once again, David turns his attention back to God. What does he know God has done?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What has God taken account of, or recorded?

Point of Depth

**The Hebrew word for wanderings, "nowd," is not a positive thing.
It means to be in exile.**

What has God kept as a tally of David's wanderings?

Where has He put David's tears?

Whose bottle is it?

Where has God recorded David's exile and the number of tears he has shed due to his foes pursuing him?

Whose book is it?

What will happen in the day David calls on God?

Why? What will God's evidence show?

What else will God's evidence show (concerning David?)

David is sure about something. What is it?

Are you sure of the same thing?

Point of Connection

Read the following verses slowly, asking God to write them deeply on your heart.

***By this I know that You are pleased with me,
Because my enemy does not shout in triumph over me.
Psalm 41:11***

***The LORD is for me; I will not fear;
What can man do to me?
Psalm 118:6***

***What then shall we say to these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
Romans 8:31***

Point of Depth

**A friend of mine used to wear a beautiful chain
which held a tiny, ornate, cork-topped bottle.
She said it reminded her of Psalm 56:8; she said it brought her comfort.**

**There is not one of us who hasn't experienced pain in relationships.
Some more than others, to be sure,
but each of us can relate, at least, on some level.**

**When pain comes, we all crave comfort.
David found it by putting his trust in God;
he found it in believing what God had said.**

**Most people, when they read this verse, do not take the context into account.
Read verse 9; it's part of the same thought as verse 8.
It starts out with the word "then." When is "then"?**

**According to the psalmist, his enemies will turn back in the day he calls on God.
God can look at the evidence against the wicked and cause the enemy to retreat...
...if He so decides.**

However, God has promised there will ultimately be a time when He will judge all unrighteousness and all ungodliness.

God will unroll His records of the deeds of mankind and deal out just retribution. God keeps records of many things which will be disclosed in the Day of the Lord; this is telling us that God retains a record of the injustices against His people. Now, that ought to bring genuine comfort to your soul!

The Hebrew word for "taken account" is "*saphar*" (to score with a mark as a tally or record.)

It is closely related to the word for book, "*sepher*" (the book where the records are written.)

The first is a verb and refers to God recording the tally. The second is a noun and refers to the place where the tally is recorded.

Reread verse eight with this understanding. The phrase "my tears in His bottle" is a beautifully poetic and expressive way of describing how God records injustices against His people.

He isn't keeping the tears in His bottle out of sentiment, Instead, He is retaining evidence for the court trial He will soon hold, over which He alone will reside as Judge.

Read the next two verses together (10 and 11). Do they sound familiar?

Why? Where have you seen them, or something very similar, before?

Write out verses 3 and 4 below.

Write out verses 10 and 11 below.

Compare the two very carefully. What are the similarities? What are the differences?

Please take the time to slowly read both of these Scriptures aloud before God. Ask Him to help you remember, believe, and act on these verses whenever you are afraid.

Whether empirically or not, David is no longer supplicating for God's deliverance. He has segued into a time of thanksgiving because God has kept him alive to walk another day before His God. What does he say is binding on him?

What does he need to do?

Thank offerings to whom?

Why? What has God delivered?

1.

2.

Reread verse 6. What comparisons can you make?

- 1.
- 2.

Point of Connection

**In the first seven verses,
the psalmist declares he has enemies who are *against* him
and *want to take his life*.**

**In the last six verses, the psalmist declares he has a God who is *for* him
and *delivers him from death*.**

***I will praise the LORD while I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.*
Psalm 146:2**

What is the psalmist now able to be because God delivered his soul from death and his feet from stumbling? Instead of wandering in exile, where can he walk?

What does it mean to walk before God?

Where can the psalmist walk before God?

What does "in the light of the living" mean?

Point of Depth

Notice the remarkable similarities with Psalm 116:8-9.

***For You have rescued my soul from death,
My eyes from tears,
My feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the LORD in the land of the living.*
Psalm 116:8-9**

**How many times has God done the same for us?
Shouldn't we all be offering continual thanksgivings to our God?
Do you?**

Read and Reason

David praised God's word, and it wasn't just any old praise.

The Hebrew word is "*halal*" and is a primitive root. In Strong's Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary of the Old Testament, James Strong defines its meaning, "*to be clear (originally of sound, but usually of color); to shine; hence to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; causatively, to celebrate; also to stultify.*"¹

Did you hear that? The definition of *praising* God's word?

To be clear.

Is it clear that you are praising God's word when you are praising God's word?
Perhaps something is lacking if it isn't clear what you are doing.

*To shine,
to make a show,
to boast.*

Do we praise God's word like that?
Ever?

To be clamorously (loud and noisy) foolish (to lack good sense or judgment).

When is the last time you saw anyone praise God's word without inhibition or fear of man?
Never?

*To rave;
Causatively, to celebrate.*

I'm searching my brain, here, trying to remember if I have ever seen or heard this...
Not finding much...

(This is not an opportunity to joke about the contents of my brains, by the way.
Grinning...)

*To stultify (Confession, I had to look this one up.)
To cause (someone) to appear foolish or absurd.*

Really?
This is the definition?
Amazing...

If we are not offering God this type of praise for His word,

what is it we are offering God, instead?

Or are we offering Him anything at all?

Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-7

Verses 8-13

Purpose of Psalm 56

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 56.
The purpose simply states, "why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm."**

Theme of Psalm 56

**Try giving Psalm 55 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states "what the Psalm is about".**

¹Strong's Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary of the Old Testament, paragraph 1.
https://accordance.bible/link/read/Hebrew_Strong's#1995