

## PSALM 55

It is not easy to fix a time and place for the occasion of this psalm, but it may be when David was betrayed by his trusted counselor. The burden is so heavy and the prospect so dark that David would like to fly away like a dove from the stormy tempest. But in his anguish he looks to Yahweh, who will redeem his soul in peace. All who trust in God will cast their burdens upon him, for he will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

- 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God; and do not hide Yourself from my supplication.
- 2 Give heed to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and am surely distracted,
- 3 because of the voice of the enemy, because of the pressure of the wicked;  
for they bring down trouble upon me and in anger they bear a grudge against me.
  
- 4 My heart is in anguish within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 5 Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me.
- 6 I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.
- 7 "Behold, I would wander far away, I would lodge in the wilderness. Selah
- 8 "I would hasten to my place of refuge from the stormy wind *and* tempest."
  
- 9 Confuse, O Lord, divide their tongues, for I have seen violence and strife in the city.
- 10 Day and night they go around her upon her walls,  
and iniquity and mischief are in her midst.
- 11 Destruction is in her midst; oppression and deceit do not depart from her streets.
  
- 12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, then I could bear *it*;  
Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me,  
then I could hide myself from him.
- 13 But it is you, a man my equal, my companion and my familiar friend;
- 14 We who had sweet fellowship together walked in the house of God in the throng.
- 15 Let death come deceitfully upon them; let them go down alive to Sheol,  
for evil is in their dwelling, in their midst.
  
- 16 As for me, I shall call upon God, and YAHWEH will save me.
- 17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur,  
and He will hear my voice.
- 18 He will redeem my soul in peace from the battle *which is* against me,  
for they are many *who strive* with me.
- 19 God will hear and answer them—  
even the one who sits enthroned from of old— Selah  
With whom there is no change, and who do not fear God.
- 20 He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him;  
He has violated his covenant.

21 His speech was smoother than butter, but his heart was war;  
His words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.

22 Cast your burden upon YAHWEH and He will sustain you;  
He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

23 But You, O God, will bring them down to the pit of destruction;  
men of bloodshed and deceit will not live out half their days.  
But I will trust in You.

#### PRAYER

*Almighty God, you are always ready to aid and comfort those who put their trust in you. Give us a hearty desire to seek you in prayer when dangers come our way. Stretch out your right hand of majesty and help and defend us. Crosses and afflictions are the trials of our faith, and thus we ask that you shower upon us your heavenly grace. Give us patience to bear the wrongs we suffer and to endure with meekness and submission the afflictions you see fit to visit upon us. May we set forth an example of godly living, looking forward to that day when we are admitted to the heavenly realm where we will behold the glory of our great Redeemer, Christ Jesus. Amen.*