

PSALM 59

This is a psalm of David when he prayed for deliverance from his enemies. The occasion is when King Saul sent men to David's house to kill him. David not only trusts in the God of Israel to deliver him, but also in God's righteous judgment to scatter and bring down his enemies for an example to the living of God's righteous judgments. Let us remember, a day of final retribution will succeed the day of grace, and then it is that God will awake to judge the nations. He will not show mercy to those who have offended in malicious wickedness, but will consume them in his wrath. But those who have made God their refuge and strength in this world shall find him a merciful God in the next.

For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth. A Mikhtam of David, when Saul sent men and they watched the house in order to kill him.

- 1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
set me *securely* on high away from those who rise up against me.
- 2 Deliver me from those who do iniquity and save me from men of bloodshed.
- 3 For behold, they have set an ambush for my life; fierce men launch an attack against me,
not for my transgression nor for my sin, O YAHWEH,
- 4 for no guilt of *mine*, they run and set themselves against me.
Arouse Yourself to help me, and see!
- 5 You, O YAHWEH God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to punish all the nations;
do not be gracious to any *who are* treacherous in iniquity. Selah
- 6 They return at evening, they howl like a dog, and go around the city.
- 7 Behold, they belch forth with their mouth; swords are in their lips,
for, *they say*, "Who hears?"
- 8 But You, O YAHWEH, laugh at them; You scoff at all the nations.

- 9 *Because of his* strength I will watch for You, for God is my stronghold.
- 10 My God in His lovingkindness will meet me;
God will let me look *triumphantly* upon my foes.
- 11 Do not slay them, or my people will forget;
scatter them by Your power, and bring them down, O Lord, our shield.
- 12 *On account of* the sin of their mouth *and* the words of their lips,
let them even be caught in their pride,
and on account of curses and lies which they utter.
- 13 Destroy *them* in wrath, destroy *them* that they may be no more;
that *men* may know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah
- 14 They return at evening, they howl like a dog, and go around the city.
- 15 They wander about for food and growl if they are not satisfied.

- 16 But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength;

yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning,
for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress.
17 O my strength, I will sing praises to You;
For God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, clothe us with humility of spirit and make us know that we are always in your presence. Let the desire of pleasing you and the fear of offending you restrain us from evil and prompt us to every good word and work. Let us prepare ourselves and others for joining the heavenly choir in singing praises to your eternal glory in that kingdom which you have prepared for us, through the merits of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.