

PSALMS 57 and 58

David is offering up a plaintive prayer for deliverance from his enemies. The impotence of human efforts against the almighty God is strongly illustrated when David says that his enemies have fallen into the pit they dug for him. These triumphs which David experienced brought forth not only gratitude and praises to God, but rejoicing as well, because the wicked were judged.

Psalm 57

For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth. A Mikhtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in You;
and in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge until destruction passes by.
- 2 I will cry to God Most High, to God who accomplishes *all things* for me.
- 3 He will send from heaven and save me;
He reproaches him who tramples upon me. Selah
God will send forth His lovingkindness and His truth.

- 4 My soul is among lions; I must lie among those who breathe forth fire,
even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows
and their tongue a sharp sword.
- 5 Be exalted above the heavens, O God; *let* Your glory *be* above all the earth.
- 6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down;
they dug a pit before me; they *themselves* have fallen into the midst of it. Selah

- 7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!
- 8 Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.
- 9 I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to You among the nations.
- 10 For Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens and Your truth to the clouds.
- 11 Be exalted above the heavens, O God; *let* Your glory *be* above all the earth.

Psalm 58

For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth. A Mikhtam of David.

- 1 Do you indeed speak righteousness, O gods? Do you judge uprightly, O sons of men?
- 2 No, in heart you work unrighteousness;
on earth you weigh out the violence of your hands.

- 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; these who speak lies go astray from birth.
4 They have venom like the venom of a serpent; like a deaf cobra that stops up its ear,
5 So that it does not hear the voice of charmers, or a skillful caster of spells.
- 6 O God, shatter their teeth in their mouth;
break out the fangs of the young lions, O YAHWEH.
7 Let them flow away like water that runs off;
when he aims his arrows, let them be as headless shafts.
8 *Let them be* as a snail which melts away as it goes along,
like the miscarriages of a woman which never see the sun.
9 Before your pots can feel *the fire of thorns*
He will sweep them away with a whirlwind, the green and the burning alike.
10 The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance;
he will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.
11 And men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous;
surely there is a God who judges on earth!"

PRAYER

Almighty God, you will reward a steady perseverance in godliness but bring unrepentant sinners to judgment. Let us therefore mortify our corrupt inclinations and habits, and conquer those evil thoughts which bring us into bondage of sin. Let faith be the governing principle of our lives, composing our minds under all events by a firm trust and confidence in your all-wise providence. And let us be zealous in sowing the gospel seed that sinners may be convicted and turn to the Messiah for salvation, to Jesus, the only mediator between God and man. Amen.