

Let Your Glory Be Over All The Earth

Psalm 57:1-11

For the director of music. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." Of David. A miktam. When he had fled from Saul into the cave.

<p>¹ <i>Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.</i></p> <p>² <i>I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.</i></p> <p>³ <i>He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!</i></p> <p>⁴ <i>My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts—the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.</i></p> <p>⁵ <i>Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!</i></p>	<p>⁶ <i>They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah</i></p> <p>⁷ <i>My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!</i></p> <p>⁸ <i>Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!</i></p> <p>⁹ <i>I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.</i></p> <p>¹⁰ <i>For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.</i></p> <p>¹¹ <i>Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!</i></p>
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Introduction

The introduction of this Psalm states that it was written by David while he hid from Saul in a cave. God had anointed David to be Israel's king and Saul wanted him dead. Here the Lord has called David and raised him to be the His chosen king for His chosen people, but the path to appointment has brought him to this place.

- What are we to make of this situation?
- What can we learn from David when we find ourselves in such a place?

In the Shadow of Your Wings

¹ *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.*

1. This Psalm begins as a Lament to the Lord. He cries out to the Lord to be merciful twice which indicates his difficult situation and his dire need for help. He cries out to God to treat him with mercy. This is humility before God, believing that the Lord treats his people with grace and mercy. This is the character of God we must always be mindful of when we pray. He has demonstrated the extent of His grace and mercy to us through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8

⁸ *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

2. Being confident of who God is, he takes refuge in the Lord. David takes refuge by trusting the Lord to protect him. The wearied soul looks to God for protection and rest.
3. The imagery here is beautiful. In a midst of a storm that brings destruction, David takes refuge beneath the wings of God.
4. “*The shadow of your wings*” is a covenantal expression. It speaks of God’s covenant with His people. He will be their God and they will be His people. He has delivered them and now they are under His care. He has delivered and anointed us, and we are under His care.

² *I cry out to God Most High,*

to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

³ *He will send from heaven and save me;*

he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah

God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

1. Saul hunted David and wanted to kill him. David took refuge in God by trusting God to deal with Saul. He did not lift a finger against Saul. Saul was anointed by God to be King, and David will not dishonour God by taking things into his hands. He would not grab power from Saul. He trusted the Lord to work things out according to His time. David believed that the Lord will keep His promise and make him the King over Israel. ‘He is the Lord who fulfils His purpose for me’. The Lord is the ‘Most High God’ and no powers on earth can challenge His will and purpose.
 - In the same way Jesus trusted the Lord and obeyed Him by embracing death on the cross. His prayer was ‘not my will but yours be done’. Jesus trusted the Lord to vindicate Him by fulfilling His purpose for Him.

Philippians 2:8-11

⁸ *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

2. God sends out ‘His love and faithfulness’ to deliver His people. In this metaphor, the character of God is referred to as His agents of deliverance. The Psalmist is certain of his deliverance because God always acts in accordance with His character.

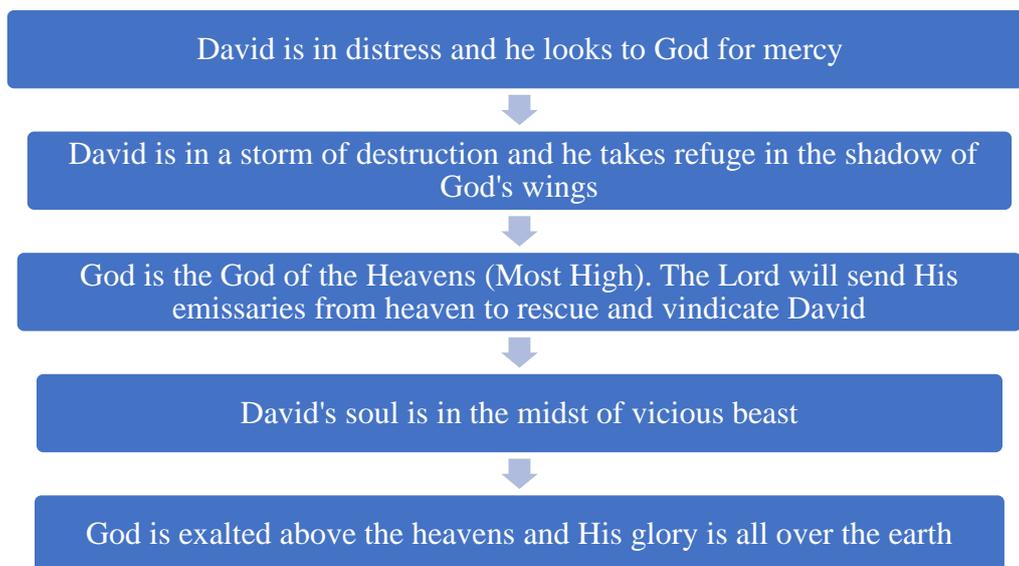
John 3:16

¹⁶ *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

⁴*My soul is in the midst of lions;
I lie down amid fiery beasts—
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,
whose tongues are sharp swords.*

- David laments the ferocity of His opponents. They are people who hunt him down, desiring to consume him with the fire of their rage and evil. They are bent on destroying both him and his reputation.

⁵ *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!*



1. Look at the diagram above. David finds himself in a tight space, but the Lord operates at a different space. He is the highest God who is a place of refuge for His people. He protects His people by sending His angels (and even His son) to rescue them. David is in a cave, but the Glory of the Lord is all over the earth.
2. This is David's confession of who God is during his time of distress:
 - God is merciful
 - God is a place of refuge
 - God will fulfil His purpose for us
 - God is the 'Most High' God
 - God will rescue us
 - God is steadfast in love and faithfulness
 - God is exalted above the heavens and His glory fills the earth

- How does our confession affect our prayers?

God's Glory Over the Earth

⁶ *They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down.
They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah*

- David continues to confess the works of the Lord. The wicked may set traps for the righteous but they will fail because the Lord will cause them to fall into their own traps.

⁷ *My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast!*

I will sing and make melody!

⁸ *Awake, my glory!*

Awake, O harp and lyre!

I will awake 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 steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.*

1. David's soul is now steadfast. Even though he is in trouble, he knows that the Lord is with him and will deliver him from his enemies.
2. A confession in the heart rises to become a proclamation of praise among the nations. In confidence he worships the Lord. He is not content with worshiping the Lord alone. He desires to proclaim the praises of God among the nations. The Lord is the Most High God and His praise must be proclaimed all over the earth.
3. David thought of God as the God Most High (2), the God of heaven (3), the God of all the earth (5). He refused to sulk in the cave. His God was not only bigger but was steadfast in love and faithfulness.

¹¹ *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!*

Let your glory be over all the earth!

- In Gethsemane Jesus was in a confined space. He prayed, "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*" (Luke 22:42). Jesus took refuge in His Father and believed the Father's good work in Him. Now the Glory of God is seen all over the earth through the life and work of Jesus Christ.

Have you experienced times when you had to retreat to a quiet place? Perhaps you have locked yourself up in a confined space to get away from the challenges that surround you, or have looked for a distraction like your phone, tv, etc. as a means to numb your thoughts, fears and problems. Does God want you to remain there? Is He the Lord of that confined space or the Lord of the whole earth?

Make prayer your place of retreat. God gives us the strength to endure the hardship in life with confidence that He is in control, and He is able to accomplish His will for us. In our confined space, He wants us to know that He is the Lord of the whole earth. He is the Lord of your workplace, the Lord of your home, and the Lord of the nations. God meets us in our confined space because He loves us, and we are His people; and He lifts us to see and know the broad space of His Glory, power and rule. In prayer we encounter our hallowed Father seeking His Kingdom and His will to be done on earth as in the heaven.

Habakkuk 2:14

*¹⁴ For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.*

Prayer Items

1. Learning to take refuge in God
2. The outpouring of the Spirit of God
3. Confessing God's goodness in times of uncertainty
4. Trusting the Lord to fulfil His purpose for us
5. May the Glory of the Lord fill the whole earth
6. A heart that is given to worship the Lord

Church

1. Salvation of souls: may the Lord draw people to Him in a time like this
2. We may seize every opportunity to share God's love
3. We may grow in the Word
4. This house will be devoted to prayer and worship
5. We will be persistent in seeking God's justice and mercy to be revealed
6. Grow in faith and hope

Healing

1. Jayden
2. Jayden's family: Protection from Covid-19
3. Sis. Rachel: Praise God for answered praise. Pray for her to recover well from the surgery.

Malaysia

1. Deliverance from the Pandemic
2. Those whose lives are affected (financially, mentally)
3. Good governance
4. God to fill our hearts with mercy and kindness
5. Unity
6. Churches of Malaysia: godly leadership

