



Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 56

12/3/12

Vs. 1-4 speak of the continual problem of David: enemies were relentless;
Vs. 5-7 tell us what "they" say;
Vs. 8-13 acknowledge what God has done and will do to save David.

Verses 1-4: Because God has not abandoned David, David certainly hasn't abandoned God! According to **verse 3**, fear of enemies should bring out the best in a believer! David's disdain for what enemies have power to do is allowed by his confidence in what God has power to do. **Verse 4** (and **verse 11** uses "man" for "flesh"), says, "In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?" This is quoted in Hebrews 13:5-6 and is true for Christians, as well.

Verses 5-7: "They:" "twist my words;" focus all their evil thoughts against David; gather, secretly spy for some way to trap him; seek to ambush him and kill him. David's life, as seen through these Psalms, foreshadows Jesus Christ, who later had enemies characterized the same way. "So they watched *Him*, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor" (Luke 20:20). This constant deliverance of David from his enemies simply demonstrates how hostile the "world" is toward those who serve God. Again, Jesus taught, "'If the world hates you, you know that *it hated Me* before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also" (John 15:18-20). In **verse 7**, he asks: "Shall they escape by iniquity?" He then calls for God to punish them.

Verses 8-13: God keeps a tally of how often David has to flee his enemies, how much sorrow they cause, and a book of their misdeeds toward God's anointed. In **verses 9-10**, the enemies know to cower when God is called into the fray. For Jesus, this is illustrated in John 18:1-6. In Corinth, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision saying, "I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:10).

Verses 12 & 13 show the covenant between David and God, for David commits himself to honor his own vow to God, and continues to respect God for delivering David. Today, Christians should respect their covenant relationship with God (Hebrews 8:6-7).

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