



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

Psalms 57

12/4/12

Vs. 1-6 show David stating his problem before God;
Vs. 7-11 show David's confidence in God's response.

With King Saul in hot pursuit, "David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam" (1 Samuel 22:1). While in a cave of retreat and defeat, David probably composed this Psalm, and 400 men, including his own family, joined him and began his climb to the throne.

Verses 1-6: The tender picture of God's "wings" overshadowing a frightened David would be later termed by Jesus as He pictured Jerusalem: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers *her* chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37). In **verse 2**, David says God "performs," which means "God completes" whatever needs to be done, in this case, David's deliverance. Those who would "swallow me up" indicated the butchery at heart of his enemies. Micah 3:1-4 uses the same sentiment, but shows it to be figuratively used for both Northern and Southern Kingdoms turn on each other to rob of all they have as though they were cannibals! David's enemies are savage ("lions"), hate-filled ("set on fire"), vicious in language ("teeth are spears and arrows"), and heart-ugly ("tongue a sharp sword"). They had "prepared a net" and "dug a pit" for David, but as is often the case, fell into it themselves. "Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him" (Proverbs 26:27).

Verses 7-11: David would not take his heart from before the LORD, but kept it "steadfast," and ready to "sing and give praise." In **verse 8**, David speaks to his musical instruments: "Awake, lute and harp!" Clearly, even David did NOT include his musical instruments whenever he said "sing," for they were an addition to his vocal praise of God! This, then, is yet another reference to such instruments left behind in Moses' Law, for Jesus "has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14).

Verse 9 points to David's hope for the future, when God would be praised "among the peoples," and "among the nations," both frequently referring to "Gentiles," which has happened since the church of Christ (the "kingdom of God" Acts 8:12) began in Acts 2.

In **verses 10-11**, God's "mercy," "truth," and "glory" are above the earth and cannot be tainted by anything that happens down here. For God to be "exalted" "above the heavens" means that no scientific discovery, no scientist, no human, can ever see, control, reach or ruin the "Most High."

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