

Series: Psalms
Title: God is for Me
Text: Ps 56:4-11
Date: February 6, 2020
Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 56 is a Psalm of David. He was being daily pursued by king Saul and his men. David had been taken by the Philistines in Gath where he feared king Achish. But these are prophetic words of Christ Jesus as he walked this earth, pursued by a host of enemies.

Title: God is For Me

Proposition: When enemies attack us and we do not perceive God's presence, rely upon God's word because in it God's child finds, *God is for me*.

Psalm 56: 4: In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

The foundation of David's assurance, the foundation of Christ's assurance and the foundation of our assurance is God's word. When God does not make his presence known in our hearts, flee to God's word where we find his immutable promises to his people in Christ.

Psalms 12:6: The words of the LORD *are* pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

The enemy's goal is to shake our faith in God. But God's word reminds us the battle is not ours but God's. When all Judah and Jerusalem were facing a large host of enemies, the Spirit of God came upon his prophet,

2 Chronicles 20: 15: And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16: To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17: Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

God's word is immutable so his promises are sure and certain promises to Christ and to his people. God's promise to David is a type of God the Father's promise to the Son of God,

Psalm 89: 34: My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. 35: Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David 36: His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37: It shall be established for ever as the moon, and *as* a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

We have that faithful witness in heaven—King Jesus is now sitting victorious on his throne in glory. Therefore, as God's elect chosen freely by the sovereign grace of God, as his people redeemed from the law's curse by the precious blood of Christ, with God's justice having been satisfied toward us, having been regenerated by the Spirit of God, we have the same sure promise from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13: 5: *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6: So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

The Hebrew writer got that word from our text at the end of verse 4, "*I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.*" When scripture speaks contemptibly of man as the lowest, weakest creature, it calls him "flesh." What can flesh do unto me? Which is greater flesh of man or God's word?

Isaiah 40: 6: The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodness thereof *is* as the flower of the field: 7: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass. 8: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

So believer flee to God's word and you will find great reason for assurance and great reason to praise God our Savior.

Psalm 56: 5: Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts *are* against me for evil. 6: They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

Here we see what proud, self-righteous flesh does. This is what false religion did to Christ when he walked this earth. Proud, self-righteous men distorted, wrested everything Christ said and did.

Matthew 22:15: Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

John 2:19: Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20: Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21: But he spake of the temple of his body.

Matthew 26:60:...At the last came two false witnesses, 61: And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

All their thoughts were against Christ. They gathered together to consult and scheme how to do him all the hurt they could.

Matthew 26: 3: Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, 4: And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill *him*.

Matthew 26: 59: Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;

They hid and marked Christ's steps and waited for opportunity to capture, condemn and kill the Prince of life.

Luke 11:54: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

Luke 20:20: And they watched *him*, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

Yet, men did nothing to our Redeemer, except what the Lord purposed to be done.

Acts 4: 27: For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28: For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

O God! Help me to remember that! Help your people everywhere to remember that! No matter what men do to us, believer, they are only doing what God's hand and God's counsel determined before to be done. Remember, flesh can only wound flesh; they can never hurt a child of God in spirit.

Psalm 56: 7: Shall they escape by iniquity? in *thine* anger cast down the people, O God.

Leave your enemies to God. Do not take vengeance. God will take vengeance for the sake of his people.

If the one overcome by their flesh is God's child then God shall cast down the old man of sinful flesh in them that he might spare his child for Christ's sake. But if that one committing iniquity against God's saints is not his, God shall cast them down in righteous judgment and vengeance forever.

Psalm 56: 8: Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: *are they not in thy book?*

Take comfort, believer, because God knows every step we take and every affliction we suffer. David's life was full of wanderings: from the sheepfold to his father's house to the palace of Saul then to the camp of Israel then to the wilderness then to the cave Adullam then among the Philistines, eventually to the throne. Men count twelve great changes in David's life.

God knew them all! God knew every tear and heartache, "*Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?*" God knows all the wanderings and trouble of his people. Concerning the children of Israel's wanderings scripture says,

Psalm 105: 12: When they were *but* a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it. 13: When they went from one nation to another, from *one* kingdom to another people; 14: He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes; 15: *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

All the tears of his saints are in his bottle and all the afflictions in his book of purpose and providence.

Malachi 3: 16: Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Isaiah 63:9: In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

The day has not yet come when Christ shall wipe away all tears from our eyes and there be no more. But the day is here right now when the tears of his saints awaken sympathy in our Redeemer's heart. Mary Magdalene anointed Christ's feet with precious ointment; but her tears, wherewith she washed them, were far more precious to our Redeemer.

Believer, God knows everything that is happening to you right now! It is all according to God's purpose and it is all governed by God's hand. He knows every tear and heartache and shall provide.

Matthew 10: 28: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29: Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30: But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31: Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Psalm 56: 9: When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

Instead of fearing man, cry unto our Savior. This verse tells us what is true of every sanctified child of God. "*This I know*"—by God's grace—"God is for me." Believer you can say this of yourself. God was for me when he chose me freely by his grace and entered covenant to save me. He was for me when he put away my sin and made me righteous. God was for me when he protected me in my blind unbelief then crossed my path with the gospel and regenerated me to faith in Christ. Right now in our present trials, every believer can say, "*This I know, God is for me.*"

Therefore what are we to do?—"I cry unto thee." The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much. Our Saviour told Peter the reason why Peter should put up his sword, "*Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*" (Matthew 22:53). Prayer to God is twelve legions of angels strong! We do not need to fight with carnal swords. Call upon God!

What does God do for me when I cry unto him?—"Mine enemies turn back."

Romans 8:31: If God be for us, who can be against us?

Gamaliel told the Pharisees at least one thing that is true. He said, "*Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God*" (Ac 5:38-39).

Psalm 56: 10: In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

Once again we praise God's word. Notice the difference in the names. God and the LORD are the same God. It is different names but the same God. But "Elohim" denotes justice, "Jehovah" denotes mercy. It was to make justice and mercy meet in harmony in the salvation of his elect that God sent his Son. On the cross in Christ justice and mercy kissed in harmony. So I can be assured as a child of God that God is for me in justice and mercy. The justice of God that demanded I be crucified in Christ now demands I be saved since Christ laid down his life in my place. The mercy of God calls for the same. They do so in perfect harmony. Therefore, "I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing" (Ps 101:1).

Psalm 56: 11: In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

When news came to Martin Luther, that both the emperor and the pope had threatened his ruin, he bravely answered, "I care for neither of them, I know whom I have trusted." Brethren, whether God makes his presence known or delays, having God's word, let us put our trust in God and praise God's word saying, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2Ti 1:12). "*In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.*"

Amen!