

Evening Sermon Outline – June 7, 2020

David was a Cave Man! Psalm 57

I titled this Psalm, “David was a Cave Man!” for a reason, David really was a cave man. Now, someone will say, “no, no, no, Pastor, David was not a cave man, cave men were prehistoric half-ape people ...” I would say “no, no, no!” to that! Prehistoric half-ape people are not real, they are a figment of Evolution’s IMAGINATION!

Cave people are included in the Hebrews 11, Hall of Fame of Faith –
³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth.* Hebrews 11:37–38 (NKJV)

David was one of those cave men, yet he played the harp and wrote Psalms, and this Psalm 57 seems to have been written in a cave / at the very least inspired by David’s time in a cave ...

To the Chief Musician. Set to “Do Not Destroy.” a Michtam of David When He Fled from Saul into the Cave.

I. David’s prayer from the cave –

1. A prayer for mercy! A double prayer, because of a double NEED!

¹ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! Psalm 57:1 A

2. A prayer of faith –

For my soul trusts in You; Psalm 57:1 B

⁶ But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

It was a prayer that saw things faithless people miss:

A. More than a cave was David’s refuge -

And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until *these* calamities have passed by. Psalm 57:1 C

B. His prayer he saw bringing help from Heaven –

² I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs *all things* for me. ³ He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah God shall send forth His mercy and His truth. Psalm 57:2-3

* Mercy would save David from Saul’s attempts to kill him

* Truth would vindicate David from Saul’s lies about him

II. David’s enemies described –

⁴ My soul *is* among lions; I lie *among* the sons of men Who are set on fire, Whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue a sharp sword. Psalm 57:4

1. David may have been among real lions where he was in the Wilderness...

2. Yet, he is definitely among enemy men:

A. Who are set on fire, meaning raging against him!

B. Whose teeth are spears and arrows, weapons designed to kill

C. Their tongue is a sharp sword –

Probably referring to angry lying words spoken against David!

3. Yet David rests. Lies among them –

Verse 4.—“And I lie even among them that are set on fire.” The whole pith lies in the word אִשְׁכַּבָּה (eskabah – Lie, relax) I will recline, which denotes a tranquil and secure condition of body and mind, like a man reclining and sleeping, as Ps. 3:5: “I laid me down and slept, I awaked;” and lived composedly; Ps. 4:9; “I will both lay me down in peace,” etc.—Hermann Venema.

Jesus slept this way on a boat in a storm –

³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” Mark 4:37–38 (NKJV)

III. In the midst of this danger David finds time to praise God -

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth. Psalm 57:5

1. His concern is God's honor, God's glory, even when his life is in danger
2. He does not FORGET GOD when things get crazy
 - * He prays
 - * He praises

IV. David's enemies' actions are described -

⁶ They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah

1. A net, a trap, prepared, meaning they were ready for David, at least thinking they knew where David would go ...
2. This made David sad, why? He had done Saul and Israel no wrong!
3. They would fall into their own trap...

V. David concludes the Psalm with a steadfast heart -

As he started this Psalm with a double prayer for mercy, he ends with a double declaration steadfast heart full of praise -

1. Nothing will stop David's singing, not the lion, not the bear, not Goliath and not Saul and his led by lies army -
⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. Psalm 57:7
 - 2. David will wake everything up to this task, of praising God, meaning his day will start with it -
- ⁸ Awake, my glory! My glory is David himself at his best, he would wake himself ...
Awake, lute and harp! Musical instrument would wake to praise God, not his but others...

I will awaken the dawn. He is committing himself to start everyday like this Psalm 57:8

3. David will praise God everywhere among everyone -
⁹ I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations. Psalm 57:9

4. Why God is worthy of such praise -

¹⁰ For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds. ¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth. Psalm 57:10-11

Verses 10, 11.—A hard and ungrateful heart beholds even in prosperity only isolated drops of divine grace; but a grateful one like David's, though chased by persecutors, and striking the harp in the gloom of a cave, looks upon the mercy and faithfulness of God as a mighty ocean, waving and heaving from the earth to the clouds, and from the clouds to the earth again.—Augustus F. Tholuck.

Whole Psalm.—Mystically this hymn may be construed of Christ, who was in the days of his flesh assaulted by the tyranny both of spiritual and temporal enemies. His temporal enemies, Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and people of Israel, furiously raged and took counsel together against him. The chief priests and princes were, saith Hierome, like *lions*, and the people like the *whelps of lions*, all of them in a readiness to devour his soul. The rulers *laid a net for his feet* in their captious interrogatories, asking (Matt. 22:17), "Is it lawful to give tribute unto Cæsar, or not?" and (John 8:5) whether the woman taken in the very act of adultery should be stoned to death or no. The people were "*set on fire*," when as they raged against him, and *their teeth and tongues were spears and swords*, in crying, "Crucify him, crucify him." His spiritual enemies also sought to *swallow him up*; his soul was among lions all the days of his life, at the hour of his death especially. The devil in tempting and troubling him, had *laid a snare for his feet*; and death, in *digging a pit* for him, had thought to *devour* him. As David was in the *cave*, so Christ the Son of David was in the *grave*.—John Boys, 1571–1625.

Arnold Brewick