

Psalm 58

1 To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David. Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men? 2 Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.

3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. 4 Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; 5 Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

6 Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. 7 Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. 8 As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun.

9 Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath.

10 The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

11 So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

Introduction:

1. "To the chief Musician" (1 Chr. 25:1-6) – Asaph, Jeduthun, Heman.
2. "Altaschith" (4 times) – meaning "destroy not."
3. "Michtam" – meditation. (of David).
4. Imprecatory Psalm – imprecatory (curse).

Outline:

- A. Concern for Justice (vv.1-2)
- B. The Lies of the Wicked (vv.3-5)
- C. Prayer & Expectation of Justice (vv.6-9)
- B.' The Joy of the Righteous (v.10)
- A.' Affirmation of Justice (v.11)

Observations: The Fallenness of man – many times, sin is planned or thought about in the heart (vv.1-5). Imprecatory Prayers look to God for vengeance (vv.6-11).

Lesson: Vengeance belongs only to God.

Psalm 59

1 To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David; when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him. Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. 2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men. 3 For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD.

4 They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold. 5 Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah.

6 They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. 7 Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear? 8 But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision.

9 Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence. 10a The God of my mercy shall prevent me:

10b God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies. 11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield. 12 For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak. 13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be: and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. Selah.

14 And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. 15 Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied. 16 But I will



sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. 17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

Introduction:

1. "To the chief Musician" (1 Chr. 25:1-6)
Asaph, Ethan, Heman.
2. "Altaschith" - (4 times) – meaning "destroy not." (Ps. 57, 58, 59, 75).
3. "Michtam of David" – meditation of David.
4. "When Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him" – historical background – 1 Sam. 19:11-18.

Outline:

- A. Prayer for Deliverance (vv.1-3)
- B. Innocence and Protestation (vv.4-5)
- C. Hope in God (vv.6-10a)
- B.' Imprecation of the Wicked (vv.10b-13)
- A.' Confidence in God's Response (vv.14-17)

Observations: Though this Psalm is imprecatory it is still a Michtam (meditation). The idea is inward victory can be realized over outward enemies. No one challenges God and expects to win.

Lesson: God is our strength.