

## **When I am Afraid...I Shall Not Be Afraid.**

**Psalm 56 (Page 415-16 in the BB)**

**September 4, 2022**

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### **Introduction**

**For the choir director; according to Jonath elem rehokim (The Dove on Far-off Terebinths - ESV).**

**A Mikhtam (possibly a musical term? See Psalms 16, 56-60) of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.**

**(See also Psalm 34: "A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed").**

**1 Samuel 21:10-15**

**Gath – Goliath's city. (1 Samuel 17:4)**

### **Prayer for Grace in the Midst of Hostility (1-2)**

#### **Prayer (1a)**

<sup>1</sup>Be gracious to me, O God,

**(Psalms 4:1; 6:2; 9:13; 25:16; 27:7; 30:10; 31:9; 41:4, 10; 51:1; 57:1 (2x); 67:1)**

#### **The Reason for David's Prayer (1b-2)**

For/because

man has trampled upon me;

Fighting all day long he oppresses me.

<sup>2</sup>My foes have trampled upon me all day long,

For they are many who fight proudly against me.

### **Transition from Fear to Faith (3-4)**

#### **Refrain:**

<sup>3</sup>When I am afraid,

I will put my trust in You.

<sup>4</sup>In God, whose word I praise,

In God I have put my trust;

I shall not be afraid.

What can mere man do to me?

**“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28**

### **Prayer for Justice in the Midst of Hostility (5-7)**

<sup>5</sup>All day long they distort my words;

All their thoughts are against me for evil.

<sup>6</sup>They attack, they lurk,

They watch my steps,

As they have waited to take my life.

<sup>7</sup>Because of wickedness, cast them forth, (“For their crime will they escape?” ESV)

In anger put down the peoples, O God!

### **Confidence in God's Justice (8-9)**

<sup>8</sup>You have taken account of my wanderings;

Put my tears in Your bottle.

Are they not in Your book?

<sup>9</sup>Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call;

This I know, that God is for me.

### **Romans 8:31ff**

#### **Refrain:**

<sup>10</sup>In God, whose word I praise,

In the LORD, whose word I praise,

<sup>11</sup>In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

### **Thanking God (12-13)**

<sup>12</sup>Your vows are binding upon me, O God;

I will render thank offerings to You.

<sup>13</sup>For You have delivered my soul from death,

Indeed my feet from stumbling,

So that I may walk before God

In the light of the living/life.

**Truths to Remember:**

**1. Pray in the midst of persecution, desperation, trials, suffering, temptations....**

“The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.” 1 Peter 4:7

**2. When fear arises in our hearts, remember to trust in God and His word.**

Resolve: When I am afraid....I shall not be afraid.

**3. God keeps a record of our tears and sorrow.**

“...casting all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 (also Psalm 55:22)

**4. When we trust in Christ, God is for us.**

Romans 8:31ff

**5. Don't forget to give thanks to God.**