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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“STAY UNDER UNTIL IT’S OVER!”**

**Psalms 57**

**"{To the chief Musician, Al-taschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.}**

***Psalms 57:1 “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until [these] calamities be overpast."***

This psalm is to the chief musician Al-tashheth and refers to the now unknown melody to which it was to be sung. David wrote this psalm in remembrance of the time he fled before Saul into the cave (1 Samuel 24:1-22). David knew that he was not going against Saul to do him any harm. He would not even defend himself against Saul, because Saul was anointed of God.

***1 Chronicles 16:21-23 (KJV)***

***21  He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes,   
22  Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.   
23  Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.***

If David could not protect himself, his only chance is that God would protect him. The fact that David asks twice for God to be merciful unto him shows the urgency of the prayer. David prays for God’s gracious intervention, as if he were a baby bird being protected from danger under the wings of its mother. When we place our faith in God, He will not fail us. When the rain or storm is coming, the baby chickens run and get under the wings of the mother hen, and no rain falls on them. Notice, this prayer is joined with an announcement of the fact that David’s soul trusted had in God. He declares “yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until [these] calamities be overpast." In other words, he going to “stay under till it’s over!” When an individual is alone, in a new position, or needing special guidance, another, more experienced person may offer to take the other “under his wing” to care for, teach, and guide. In Scripture, under His wings is a metaphor for the protective refuge of God’s presence. The imagery alludes to a mother bird taking her vulnerable hatchlings under her wings to nurture, train, shelter, guide, and protect. These outstretched wings of God that are protecting David, here, are available to all who will hide in the shadow of God's love. Jesus applied the phrase to His concern for Israel: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, 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). Boaz recognized that [Ruth](https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Ruth.html), a Moabite foreigner, had sought refuge under the God of Israel’s wings (Ruth 2:10-12). The psalmist here seeks refuge and shelter “under His wings” (Psalms 57:1) and even sings for joy “in the shadow of His wings” (Psalms 63:7). But there is a richer, fuller application for under His wings that emerges in the first four verses of Psalm 91.

***Psalm 91:1-4***

***1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.***

***2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.***

***3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.***

***4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.***

In God’s presence are security, guidance, protection, and care. The one who “dwells in the secret place of the Most High” and “abides in the shadow of the Almighty” is the one whose sins have been atoned for and who stands clean and forgiven. Only then can one say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” The psalmist continues: “Surely, he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” From the days of the [wilderness wanderings](https://www.gotquestions.org/wilderness-wandering.html), the people of God have taken refuge under His watchful eye and protective wings.

***Deuteronomy 32:10-12***

***10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.***

***11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:***

***12 So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.***

***Psalms 17:8 "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,"***

The enemy would not dare come near enough to God for His shadow to fall on them. You can easily see the protection provided by the shadow of God. And now, because of Jesus Christ’s redeeming sacrifice, we can forever abide under His wings in the protected shelter of His presence.

***2 Corinthians 10:4-6 (KJV)***

***4  (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)***

***5  Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;   
6  And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.***

***Psalms 57:2 "I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth [all things] for me."***

David is recognizing in this that without the help of God, he is helpless. He knows that God has a purpose for him and trusts him to fulfill it. We all are helpless, without the hand of God doing all things well for us. God never failed him before when he cried out to him, and he will not fail him now. Sometimes we forget all the things God has already done for us. David is not just praying to God and thanking Him for the things He has done for him, but David is reminding himself, as well, that God has done wonderful things for him in the past.

***Psalms 57:3 "He shall send from heaven, and save me [from] the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth."***

David’s faithful love and truth guides his steps and defends him. My help, your help, and David's help comes from the Lord of heaven. The world is the enemy of those who love God. Why should we find it strange that the world hates us? Look at what Jesus said about all of this.

***John 15:18 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you."***

***Matthew 10:25 "It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more [shall they call] them of his household?"***

Selah, above, means pause and think on these things. Just as God has done in the past, He will send mercy to save David and truth to inform all. Mercy and truth shall reign in the end.

***Psalms 57:4 "My soul [is] among lions: [and] I lie [even among] them that are set on fire, [even] the sons of men, whose teeth [are] spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword."***

David’s circumstances were akin to being surrounded by lions that wanted to devour him. This is likely a reference to his being pursued by Saul, who desperately wanted to strike him down. These are not sons of God; they are sons of men. A natural lion, or a bear, was no problem to David. These lions are people who have a destructive nature. Even the words that come from their mouth are destructive {their tongue a sharp sword}. David had been hunted down like an animal. They had threatened his life, they had told lies on him, they had even tried to tear him to pieces, but God had protected David. They were so mad at David, it seemed as if they were on fire with hatred.

***Psalms 57:5-6***

***5 "Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; [let] thy glory [be] above all the earth."***

***6 "They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen [themselves]. Selah."***

David was determined to exalt God because he had displayed his glory in David’s trying circumstances. In the very middle of all this terrible danger that David is in, he stops to praise God.

***I Chronicles 29:11 "Thine, O LORD, [is] the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all [that is] in the heaven and in the earth [is thine]; thine [is] the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all."***

In spite of the trap laid for him, David’s enemies fell into it. David is saying, in this, they have set a trap for me, and they will be caught in their own trap. This is the very thing that happens to people today. They try to trap the believer, and they fall into their own trap. This has been speaking specifically about Saul and his men trying to catch David. David went into their camp and did not destroy Saul. David did not desire to kill Saul. Saul wanted to kill David.

***I Samuel 24:11 "Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that [there is] neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it."***

***Psalms 57:7 "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."***

David has determined within his heart to worship God. David remains steadfast and confident in God, so he can’t help but sing praises Though the world be falling down around you, praise God. The battle is God's the victory is mine. We are soldiers in the battle, but it is God's war against Satan. No weapon formed against me shall prosper.

***Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness [is] of me, saith the LORD."***

***Psalms 57:8-9***

***8 "Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I [myself] will awake early."***

***9 "I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations."***

David did most of his praising in song and with his instrument. Each of us have our own way of praising God. He loves the praises of His people. David is saying that he will begin his day by singing praises to God. David is not ashamed of his God. He will sing praises to everyone who will listen, even to the other nations. He did just that when he wrote the Psalms. All nations of the world have read the Psalms and heard the praises of David.

***Psalms 57:10-11***

***10 "For thy mercy [is] great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds."***

***11 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: [let] thy glory [be] above all the earth.”***

David is in awe of the Lord’s faithful love and faithfulness, which he compares to the grandeur of creation. He asks that God would be exalted above the heavens and that his glory would be over the whole earth. Having experienced God’s deliverance in the past and looking expectantly for his deliverance in the future, David was dominated by a desire to glorify God. This is the disposition we should cultivate within our own hearts. Whatever trying circumstances have come our way, we ought to seek to magnify God in them and through them.”There is no limit to the mercy of God. Truth cannot be destroyed; it will live on forever. The truth that we see in the clouds is the rainbow that God set in the clouds to remind us of His promise never to destroy the world again with water. Truth is one of the descriptions of God. Verse 11 is a repeat of verse 5. All we can say to verse 11 is, Amen.

**Questions**

1. Who was after David, in verse one?
2. Where did David say, he would take his refuge?
3. Why would David not fight Saul and try to kill him?
4. What does the fact that David asked God twice to be merciful show?
5. What earthly thing shows us the protection under the wings?
6. Without the help of God, David is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. What is David doing, in verse 2, besides thanking God?
8. My help, your help, and David's help comes from where?
9. What are the Christians called in Matthew chapter 10 verse 25?
10. Who are the people after David in verse 4?
11. Their cruelty causes David to compare them with what animal?
12. What does the statement {their tongue a sharp sword} mean?
13. Who will be caught in the trap they have set for David?
14. Where do we find the Scripture that tells of David cutting off Saul's skirt?
15. How did David do most of his praising?
16. How did David sing in the nations?
17. What do we see in the clouds, that reminds us of the covenant God made with man not to destroy the earth with water again?