**Psalm Fifty-Nine**

***“Awake to visit all the Heathen”***

**Introduction**

Obviously, the canonical order of the Psalter is not necessarily chronological. If so, Psalm 18 would have come much later after David had received final deliverance from King Saul, and certainly after this psalm. The title gave the historical backdrop, referring to another episode about which David had to flee from Saul. Scripture recorded the scenario, saying, *“Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped”* (I Sam. 19:11-12). The content of the psalm seemed as if David prayed during the approach of the messengers and then wrote the prayer after he saw the vindication.

Saul’s pursuit was very personal since he tracked down David to his home, which was no longer an abode of comfort and safety, but a deathtrap! The LORD used Michal, the daughter of Saul, to facilitate David’s escape. Eventually, Samuel protected the fleeing son of Jesse as they went to Naioth. From there, Scripture revealed that the Spirit of God thwarted the messengers’ evil intent. The episode reveals the faithfulness of Jehovah in enabling His saints to accomplish divine purposes through human instrumentality and personal trust.

**Structure**

The psalmist David organized his lament with chiastic structure giving the divine focus upon the protection of the LORD.

A. The Plea of David (vv. 1-4a)

B. The Punishment by Jehovah *Selah* (vv. 4b-5)

C. The Protection of Jehovah (vv. 6-9)

B.’ The Punishment by Jehovah *Selah* (vv. 10-13)

A.’ The Praise of David (vv. 14-17)

**Exegesis**

**A. The Plea of David (vv. 1-4a)**

***1. The Setting of David (v. 1a)***

a. The Audience > *Asaph, Altaschith* (“do not destroy”), *Michtam* (“cover”)

b. The Activity

1) The Stakeout > watched (*shamar*) > they wanted to murder David!

2) The Scripture > I Sam. 19:11-12

***2. The Safety for David (vv. 1b-2)*** his enemies > Saul

a. The Request for Deliverance > *natzal* (v. 1b)

b. The Request for Defense (v. 1c)

a.’ The Request for Deliverance > *natzal* v. 2)

1) *“Workers of iniquity”* (21x) > Job 31:3 to Lk. 13:27

2) *“Bloody men”* (3x) > Pss. 26:9; 139:19

***3. The Situation about David (vv. 3-4a)***

a. The Ruse (v. 3a) > they lie in wait and gathered around his house!

b. The Reason (3b-4a) > they hate David *“without cause”* neither for his transgression, his sin, nor his fault (I Sam.19:5; Job 2:3; Ps. 35:19; Jn. 15:25)

**B. The Punishment by Jehovah *Selah* (vv. 4b-5)**

***1. The Request (v. 4b)*** > *“awake”* for me > *`ur* (81x) > imperative

***2. The Retribution (v. 5)*** *Selah!*

a. Awake to them (v. 5a) > *“awake” qutz* (22x) > imperative

b. Answer to them (v. 5b) > give them a *“visit”* (*paqad* [305x]) without mercy (chanan [78x])

**C. The Protection of Jehovah (vv. 6-9)**

***1. The Audacity of the Mongrels (vv. 6-7)***

a. Their Behaviour (v. 6)

1) Their Return > (v. 6a) > *shuv* (1066x)

2) Their Roar > (v. 6b) > *hamah* (34x) their growl on the prowl!

3) Their Routine > (v. 6c) > *savav* (154x)

b. Their Belch (v. 7)

1) The Sting of their Belch (v. 7a) > *naba`* (11x) > like garlic breath burp!

2) The Stupidity of their Belch (v. 7b) > Who hears the belch? Does God?

***2. The Amusement of the Master (vv. 8-9)***

a. His Derision (v. 8) > the LORD laughs > Pss. 2:4; 37:13; 52:6; Prov. 1:26

b. His Defense (v. 9) > God is my defence > Ps. 59:17

**CONCLUSION: The ongoing attack upon David was *without cause* and *personal*. Jehovah forced him to trust all of the time. The attacks were unrelenting but so were his prayers! Feel privileged that the Lord loves you so much that He allows suffering and heartaches (see I Ki. 15:3, 5).**