**Psalm Fifty-Nine, Part 2**

***“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**

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

***1. The Desire about the Enemies (v. 10)***

a. God Anticipated His Desire (v. 10a) > verb *“prevent”* > *qadam* (26x) > go before (Jon. 4:2) > Jonah anticipated that the LORD would save heathen and headed to Tarshish!

b. God Accomplished His Desire (v. 10b) > God has already orchestrated His answers to prayer (Isa. 65:24)!

***2. The Defeat of the Enemies (vv. 11-12)*** > I Sam. 31:1-6!!

a. The Reservation about the Defeat (v. 11)

1) Their Slow Slaying > *“slay” > harag* (167x)

a) The Process > slow to remember (v. 11a)

b) The People > slow to forget (v. 11b)

2) Their Sure Scattering (v. 11c)

a) The Lord’s Power > *chayil* (243x) > military strength

b) The Lord’s Protection > *“shield” > magen* (63x) > Ps. 33:20

b. The Reason for the Defeat (v. 12)

1) Their Vehicles of Expressions > mouth, lips, speech

2) Their Vehement Expressions > *“sin” > chatta’ah* (296x), *“pride” > ga'own* (49x [Prov. 8:13]), *“cursing” > ‘alah* (36x), *lying > cachash* (6x)

***3. The Destruction for the Enemies (v. 13) > Selah***

a. The Reckoning of the Lord (v. 13a) > *“consume…consume” > calah…calah* (2 witnesses)

b. The Ruling of the Lord (v. 13b) > *“ruler” > mashal* (81x) > Ps. 22:28; not Isa. 3:12!

**A.’ The Praise of David (vv. 14-17)**

***1. The Permission by God (vv. 14-15)***

a. Let them Return (v.14a) > at evening

b. Let them Roar (v. 14b) > *hamah* (cf. v. 6) the guttural hum

c. Let them Routine (vv. 14c-15) *“grudge” > lun* (87x) > grumble for lack of food

***2. The Power of God (v. 16a)***

a. The Testimony > *“sing”* (*shiyr*)*…“sing”* (*ranan*) > *“shout”* (Lev. 9:24) > power and mercy

b. The Time > morning > i.e., *boqer tov =* “good morning” (trip to Israel)

***3. The Protection from God (vv. 16b-17)***

a. My Defence (v. 16b) > *misgab* (17x) *> “refuge” > manos* (8x)

b. Thee—God (v. 17a) > my strength > *`oz* (93x) > Isa. 12:2 > II Cor. 12:9

a. My Defence (v. 17b) *misgab* (17x) > *“mercy” > chesed* (248x)

**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 (II Cor. 12:9).**