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Psalm 54

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 54.

Topics.

- God, save me, strangers and ruthless men seek my life.
- God will return the evil to my enemies and put an end to them.
- With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to God for it is good.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK TWO (PSALM 42-72)

PSALM 54:1-3

To the Choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites (Ziphims) went and told Saul, "Is not David hiding amongst us?"

1

O God, Save Me, Strangers and Ruthless Men Seek My Life.

- **Psalm 54:1-3:** O God, save me, by your name, and vindicate (judge in KJV) me by your might. ²O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth. ³For strangers have risen against me; ruthless (oppressors in KJV) men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves. *Selah*

Vindicate: is not used in the King James Bible, but from the English Dictionary it means to justify, defend, prove to be correct and right and to clear one's name from a bad report.

Judge: comes from the Hebrew word (*diyn*) and means to rule and judge as an umpire and to minister and execute right judgment and honest justice.

Strangers: comes from the Hebrew word (*zuwr*) and means to turn aside, it can refer to a foreigner turning aside from a path for a place of lodging or to a person turning aside from the right way (i.e., committing adultery or any other type of wrong doing).

Oppressors: comes from the Hebrew word (*`arats*) and means fearful, powerful and tyrannical (i.e., dictatorial cruel harsh and domineering) it refers to a mighty terrible, violent and prideful oppressor who has great power over an individual, a group, a community or a nation.

Selah: marks a musical pause.

O God, save me: (v1) David, seeing enemies all around him is in despair and knows the only power he can depend upon is God's so in prayer he flees to find refuge and strength in God and makes the following plea,

"God clear my name from all the lies and deception being spoken about me and by your mighty power defend me against my enemies who have risen up against me."

Strangers (oppressors in KJV) have risen against me: (v3) some theologians reason that the words, "For strangers have risen against me" cannot refer to King Saul or the people of Judah or Israel since they were David's own countrymen and not strangers. Others reason that because those who have risen up against David are so far removed from God's ways and His will that even though they maybe men of Judah and Israel they can be spoken of as strangers since they are not true Israelites, because of this the strangers, oppressors and ruthless men who have risen up against David can apply to any of the following:

- Strangers of another nation or land that David did not know who were ruthless and oppressive and had set themselves against God and were seeking to kill David.
- Israelites that had grossly degenerated from the ways of God and so deserved the name strangers, oppressors and ruthless men.
- Proud men of Judah who had refused to follow God's ways and were full of ingratitude and malice and had treacherously betrayed David.
- King Saul who sought to take David's life and his army.
- Doeg the Edomite or the heathen soldiers that Saul had hired and taken into his army who as strangers of the commonwealth of Israel; rose up against David.
- The Ziphites, who though they were Israelites were called strangers because of their disloyal, deceitful and treacherous attitude towards David and because they treated him as the heathen nations would have done and by this ungodly behaviour showed themselves to be estranged from God and from the commonwealth of Israel.

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It matters not who these enemies were since David's prayer can apply to any anyone who has forsaken the ways of God or to anyone who denies God and aggressively acts against God, against His word and His ways and are violent persecutors of His people and act against what is good, just and right. These are those who do not consider themselves as being under the omniscient eye of God and therefore do not set his word before them. They have no fear in their heart of God or of any impending judgment or any concern for God's honour and His glory. They do not live as in the presence of God or under His authority, but live as a law unto themselves acting ruthlessly and violently (i.e., war) and lying, deceiving and oppressing those under their authority to achieve their own ends and selfish ambitions without any fear of God.

PSALM 54:4-5

God will Return the Evil to My Enemies and Put an End to Them.

- **Psalm 54:4-5:** Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. ⁵He will return the evil to my enemies; in your faithfulness put an end to them (cut them off in thy truth in KJV).

If we are for God, He is for us; and if He is for us, we need not fear His judgment or His wrath. God will in due time save his people and, in the meantime, He sustains them and bears them up by His Spirit, His love and His grace so that all will be saved who trust in Him. David's prayer for his present deliverance also carries and echo of a further and complete deliverance as a thing that is already done even though he has as many troubles before him. It is spoken of as being done because it is based upon God's promise which David was fully confident that God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2) would bring it to pass and therefore was confidently able to speak of it as if it was already accomplished.

He shall return the evil to my enemies: (v5) the idea is that God would deal with them as they deserved and that the mischief and evil they had devised for David would be returned upon their own heads and their own feet would be taken in the net they had spread for him and for others. David in a similar prayer when speaking of wicked men who conceive evil and are pregnant with mischief and gives birth to lies prayed:

- May their mischief return upon their own head, and upon their own skull may their violence descend. (Psalm 7:16).

Meaning may justice befall the wicked according to God's faithfulness and truth and to what is good and right and true to God's promise of righteous judgment which God is bound to keep and fulfil at the appointed time.

PSALM 54:6-7

With a Freewill Offering I will Sacrifice to God for it is Good.

- **Psalm 54:6-7:** With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good. ⁷For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies (my eye has seen his desire upon mine enemies in KJV).

There are men and women who are professors of religion and yet strangers to God. David's words "with a free will offering" are in contrast to those who offer up sacrifices to God because a legalistic law demands that they do so or offer them from a sense of duty. God delights in truth flowing up from the inner being and not simply from an outward act of duty or service. Many today attend church, because it is the traditional thing to do or because of a legalistic law or a sense of obligation to duty and service, but live their lives every other day taking no thought to how their life reflects upon God's honour or upon the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is hypocritical religion it is religion of pretence. This is why David says, "He will offer God a freewill sacrifice," an offering that flows from his heart and expresses his inner most love and gratitude. This prayer of David's shines a spotlight upon the truth that he had full confidence that God would deal with the enemies of His people as they deserved and would not allow evil conduct to escape judgment, but would bring the following verses to pass at the appointed time:

- I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless (lay low the haughtiness of the terrible in KJV). (Isaiah 13:11).
- Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you (the terrible nations shall fear thee in KJV). (Isaiah 25:3).

David had full confidence that not only would God's promises come to pass, but also that all God's threatening's that wrath would come upon the wicked if they did not repent. Whoever desires to escape God judgment and wrath and enter into His promise of eternal life must adopt the heartfelt attitude that David expresses in the following verse:

- I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. (Psalm 16:8).

Every Christian no matter how faithful will experience moments when troubles, grief and sorrow come into their life as they did David's, but those who suffer the cross as their Saviour and King did and endure to the end will shine as bright lights in the New Age to come and make up the Lord's treasured possession in his Kingdom. The voice of honest thanksgiving and praise should always be heard in the heart of the redeemed and in the global church of Christ.

NOTICE: the format of David's Prayer, he:

- Declares Gods name and asks God to listen to him.
- Tells God his problem and proclaims God's goodness.
- Declares his trust that the LORD will answer his prayer.
- Praises and thanks God and recall his answered prayers.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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