

# Always A Time To Praise the Lord

## Praising the Lord in Danger

*Psalms 59*

**Main Idea:** Even in the face of the threat of death, God's faithful can praise the Lord, who is a strength and a refuge for those who trust in him.

*The context of Psalm 59 is found in 1 Samuel 19:11. While Saul was still on the throne in Israel, the Lord had anointed David King. David led the Israelites in defeating the Philistines through the defeat of Goliath, and the Israelites had praised him for the victory by singing that "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (1 Samuel 18:7). Saul's jealousy of David led to Saul's desire to kill David, and in 1 Samuel 19:11, that's exactly what the plan was. Men were sent to watch David's house at night to give Saul the intel he needed so that he could kill David the next morning.*

### **God's faithful are not exempt from the hatred of those who work evil (1-4, 6-7, 14-15).**

David had no problem identifying the threat that he faced. He knew that these men who were watching him were his "enemies;" "those who rise up against" him; "those who work evil;" "bloodthirsty men" . . . who "lie in wait" and "stir up strife against" him (Ps. 59:1-3). The threat was real. His life was in danger. The man sitting on the throne as King of the nation of Israel wanted him dead. Yet, David had done nothing to deserve this threat of death. In fact, David was truly God's anointed one! He was the true King of Israel, waiting for God's timing to place him on the throne. You would think that because of God's plans for David and because of David's heart of faith, perhaps the Lord would exempt David from the danger and the hatred of those who work evil, but that wasn't the case. God's faithful are not exempt from the hatred of those who work evil. From David to Christ himself, God's faithful are often the very targets of that hatred, because while evil doesn't need a justification for its motives and its acts, faithfulness to God is enough to become a target for evil.

1. Who are those who work evil? How do we define evil, biblically? Why is it important to make sure we understand evil from God's Word and not from the way that movies and culture define evil?
2. In what ways do Christians face the hatred of those who work evil? Make a list of the ways that we see this in the world today. What about in our state and community?
3. Have you ever been the target of those who work evil? If so, why? What happened?

### **God's faithful are always able to call on the Lord for help in the face of danger (1-4).**

- *Calling for the Lord's deliverance (1, 2).*
- *Calling for the Lord's protection (1).*
- *Calling for the Lord's salvation (2).*
- *Calling for the Lord to awake, come, and see (4).*

In the face of the threat of danger – even the loss of his life – David did what God desires his people to always do: David looked to the Lord in faith and called on the Lord for help! Alternating with the identification of the threat of these evil men were the calls of David to the Lord. David called for the Lord's deliverance, trusting that God was the one who could deliver him from this danger. David called for the Lord's protection, knowing that God was able to protect him through this danger. David called for the Lord's salvation, looking to the God who saves to be his salvation in the midst of this threat on his life, and David called for the Lord to awake, come, and see his situation, believing that

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God is the God who is the God who comes to his people, seeing and knowing what they face and what they need. God's faithful are always able to call on the Lord for help in the face of danger, and that's because of their faith in knowing the character and the Word of the God who is faithful.

1. Use the BlueLetterBible app to do word studies on the words that David used in calling on the Lord: Deliver, protect, save, awake . . . come . . . see. Discuss what these words mean.
2. Why did David call on the Lord for these things in his life? Have you ever done the same?
3. In an eternal and more significant way, how are these things accomplished in Christ? What is the true deliverance, protection, and salvation that the Lord provided in Jesus? How did he come and see and truly provide these things for his people through his Son?

## **God's faithful find strength in remembering who God is and what only he can do (5, 8-13).**

David's strength in this moment of danger was found in his knowledge of who God is and what only God can do. He reminded himself of these truths as he looked to the Lord for his strength and his protection. First – and most important – he confessed the reality of the identity of God, who is the LORD God of host, the God of Israel (Ps. 59:5). He proclaimed the fact that God is the God over the nations (Ps. 59:8), and that God is a strength and a fortress for those who watch for him by faith (Ps. 59:9). He knew that because of God's steadfast love, the Lord would fulfill his promises; therefore, David would see victory over his enemies. He knew that because of God's power to defeat his enemies (Ps. 59:10-13). Remembering who God is and what only God can do brought strength to David's faith in the moment of danger in his life. This is still true today! God is a strength and a refuge for those who know him and who look to the truth of who he is and what only he can do.

1. Take time to review each truth about the Lord that David remembered. What did he remember about who God is? What did he remember about what only God can do?
2. Why do you think these truths brought strength to David's faith in a time of danger? Has there ever been a time in your life when remembering who God is and what only he can do has brought strength to your faith? If so, share your testimony, and discuss.
3. Do you have an issue right now for which you need God's strength? Share, and allow the group to think about and to share truths about who God is to bring strength to your faith.

## **Because of God's steadfast love, God's faithful can always praise the Lord, who is a strength and a refuge for those who trust in him (16-17).**

David responded to these wonderful truths about the Lord and the true strength and refuge of the Lord in his life with praise! In the face of a threat against his life, David still had a reason to praise the Lord! He sang of God's strength! In faith, he trusted that he would still sing of his steadfast love on the very morning that the King of Israel hoped to see him dead (Ps. 59:16a). How could he do this? Because of God's faithfulness to always be a strength and a fortress to those who continue to trust in him (Ps. 59:16b). So in the face of danger, David sang! He sang to the God of steadfast love who was his strength and his refuge. *So what about you and me?*

1. Use the BlueLetterBible app to do a word study for "steadfast love." Discuss what this word means in relationship to God and his relationship to his people. Ultimately, who did God prove his love for us (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10; etc.)? How can you praise the Lord for his steadfast love?
2. How has the Lord been a strength and fortress for you? Take time to share and praise him in your group! If you know someone who is facing "danger," point them to trust and to praise the Lord too!