**Psalm 53-56**

Psalm 53

**For the director of music. According to *mahalath.* A *maskil* of David.**

**1**The fool says in his heart,
    “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;
    there is no one who does good.

**2**God looks down from heaven
    on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
    any who seek God.
**3**Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt;
    there is no one who does good,
    not even one.

**4**Do all these evildoers know nothing?

They devour my people as though eating bread;
    they never call on God.
**5**But there they are, overwhelmed with dread,
    where there was nothing to dread.
God scattered the bones of those who attacked you;
    you put them to shame, for God despised them.

**6**Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
    When God restores his people,
    let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

Psalm 54

**For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A *maskil* of David. When the Ziphites had gone to Saul and said, “Is not David hiding among us?”**

**1**Save me, O God, by your name;
    vindicate me by your might.
**2**Hear my prayer, O God;
    listen to the words of my mouth.

**3**Arrogant foes are attacking me;
    ruthless people are trying to kill me—
    people without regard for God.

**4**Surely God is my help;
    the Lord is the one who sustains me.

**5**Let evil recoil on those who slander me;
    in your faithfulness destroy them.

**6**I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;
    I will praise your name, Lord, for it is good.
**7**You have delivered me from all my troubles,
    and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

Psalm 55

**For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A *maskil* of David.**

**1**Listen to my prayer, O God,
    do not ignore my plea;
**2**    hear me and answer me.
My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught
**3**    because of what my enemy is saying,
    because of the threats of the wicked;
for they bring down suffering on me
    and assail me in their anger.

**4**My heart is in anguish within me;
    the terrors of death have fallen on me.
**5**Fear and trembling have beset me;
    horror has overwhelmed me.
**6**I said, “Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
    I would fly away and be at rest.
**7**I would flee far away
    and stay in the desert;
**8**I would hurry to my place of shelter,
    far from the tempest and storm.”

**9**Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their words,
    for I see violence and strife in the city.
**10**Day and night they prowl about on its walls;
    malice and abuse are within it.
**11**Destructive forces are at work in the city;
    threats and lies never leave its streets.

**12**If an enemy were insulting me,
    I could endure it;
if a foe were rising against me,
    I could hide.
**13**But it is you, a man like myself,
    my companion, my close friend,
**14**with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship
    at the house of God,
as we walked about
    among the worshipers.

**15**Let death take my enemies by surprise;
    let them go down alive to the realm of the dead,
    for evil finds lodging among them.

**16**As for me, I call to God,
    and the Lord saves me.
**17**Evening, morning and noon
    I cry out in distress,
    and he hears my voice.
**18**He rescues me unharmed
    from the battle waged against me,
    even though many oppose me.
**19**God, who is enthroned from of old,
    who does not change -
he will hear them and humble them,
    because they have no fear of God.

**20**My companion attacks his friends;
    he violates his covenant.
**21**His talk is smooth as butter,
    yet war is in his heart;
his words are more soothing than oil,
    yet they are drawn swords.

**22**Cast your cares on the Lord
    and he will sustain you;
he will never let
    the righteous be shaken.
**23**But you, God, will bring down the wicked
    into the pit of decay;
the bloodthirsty and deceitful
    will not live out half their days.

But as for me, I trust in you.

Psalm 56

**For the director of music. To the tune of “A Dove on Distant Oaks.” Of David. A *miktam.* When the Philistines had seized him in Gath.**

**1**Be merciful to me, my God,
    for my enemies are in hot pursuit;
    all day long they press their attack.
**2**My adversaries pursue me all day long;
    in their pride many are attacking me.

**3**When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
**4**    In God, whose word I praise -
in God I trust and am not afraid.
    What can mere mortals do to me?

**5**All day long they twist my words;
    all their schemes are for my ruin.
**6**They conspire, they lurk,
    they watch my steps,
    hoping to take my life.
**7**Because of their wickedness do not[[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+53-56&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14763l)] let them escape;
    in your anger, God, bring the nations down.

**8**Record my misery;
    list my tears on your scroll-
    are they not in your record?
**9**Then my enemies will turn back
    when I call for help.
    By this I will know that God is for me.

**10**In God, whose word I praise,
    in the Lord, whose word I praise -
**11**in God I trust and am not afraid.
    What can man do to me?

**12**I am under vows to you, my God;
    I will present my thank offerings to you.
**13**For you have delivered me from death
    and my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before God
    in the light of life.