**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.