

# Psalm 56

- I. [Superscription] (1)  
 A. To the preeminent one/ choir director (1a)  
 B. Upon “the dove of distant silence” (1b)  
 C. A Miktam<sup>1</sup> of David (1c)  
 D. When the Philistines seized him in Gath (1d)
- II. [Cry for help/Description of suffering] (2-3)  
 A. Be-gracious-to-me God because he-crushes-me mankind<sup>2</sup> (2a) a b c  
 B. All-of the-day the-fighting-ones<sup>3</sup> he-oppresses-me (2b) d c' b'  
 C. They-crush the-one-who-lies-in-wait all-of the-day (3a) b c" d  
 D. Because many (are) warring-ones against-me proudly (3b) - c''' -
- III. [REFRAIN- Confession of trust] (4-5)  
 A. Whenever I-will-fear I unto-You I-will-trust<sup>4</sup> (4a) a b c -b'  
 B. Through/in-God/God's-help<sup>5</sup> I-will-praise His-Word (5a) d -b" e  
 C. Through/in-God/God's-help I-trust not I-will-fear (5b) d -b' -b  
 D. What? He-will-do flesh to-me (5c)
- IV. [Description of suffering] (6-7)  
 A. All-of the-day my-words/affairs they-hurt (6a) a b c  
 B. Against-me all-of their-thoughts/plans (are) to bad/evil (6b) d b' c'  
 C. They-quarrel they-will-lie-hidden they (7a) e e'  
 D. My footprints they-watch just-as they-lie-in-wait-for my-soul (7b) f e" e''' f'
- V. [Petition for Rescue] (8)  
 A. On-account-of wickedness bring-to-safety<sup>6</sup> from-them (8a) a b c  
 B. With-wrath peoples bring-down God (8b) a' c' b'
- VI. [Appeal to God's Nature/covenant] (9)  
 A. My-wanderings-of-aimless-fugitive You-took-account-of You (9a) a b  
 B. Place my-tears in-Your-skin-bottle is-not? In-Your-scroll (9b) b' a' c c'
- VII. [Expression of assurance] (10)  
 A. Then they-will-turn-back my-enemies back (10a) a b  
 B. In-day I-will-call (10b) a' b'  
 C. This I-know that God (is) for-me (10c)
- VIII. [REFRAIN- Confession of trust] (11-12)  
 A. Through/in-God/God's-help<sup>7</sup> I-will-praise word/promise (11a) a b c  
 B. Through/in-Yahweh/Yahweh's-help I-will-praise word/promise (11b) a' b c  
 C. Through/in-God/God's-help I-will-trust not I-will-fear (12a) a d d'  
 D. What? He-will-do human to-me (12b)

<sup>1</sup> Technical term of uncertain meaning, poss. ‘inscription’, always with leDavid.

<sup>2</sup> Very literal word order and translation to show parallelism.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. v.3, Psa 35:1.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. wealth of Psa refs. in BDB.

<sup>5</sup> Means or instrument Will. §243. cf. WBC and K-D ‘through God’s help’.

<sup>6</sup> Poss. emend to פלט ‘weigh out/recompense’ cf. RSV, WBC takes as question ‘will there be liberation for them?’ cf. K-D “marked as such [question] by the order of the words (2Kgs 5:26, Isa 28:28)” take פלט as ‘substantivized infinitive’, others read ל with force ‘from’ ‘give deliverance from them.’, others ‘in vain let their escape be.’

<sup>7</sup> Means or instrument Will. §243. cf. WBC and K-D ‘through God’s help’.

- IX. [Vow to Praise] (13)
- A. Incumbent-upon-me<sup>8</sup> (are) God Your-vows (13a) a b
  - B. I-will-fulfill thank-offerings to-You (13b) a' b'
- X. [Expression of assurance] (14)
- A. Because You-deliver my-soul from-death (14a) a b c
  - B. Are-not? My-feet from-stumbling<sup>9</sup> (14b) - b' c'
  - C. To-walk-about<sup>10</sup> before God in-light-of the-living (14c)

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<sup>8</sup> Obligation Will. §294.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. Psa. 116:8.

<sup>10</sup> Of friendly relation to God, cf. Gen. 17:1, 24:40, as token of Divine favor, 1Sam 2:30, Psa 116:9.