

Psalm 56

עַל־יוֹנָת אֵלִים רַחֲקִים לְמִנְצִחַ 1
distant silence dove upon to/of preeminent one, poss. choir director

לְדָוִד מִכְתָּם
miktam¹ to/of/by David

בְּאֶחָז אֶתְּו פְּלִשְׁתִּים בְּגַת
in Gath Philistines him when grasped, seized

חַנּוּנִי אֱלֹהִים כִּי־ שָׁאֲפֵנִי אָנוּשׁ 2
mankind he crushes, tramples upon me because God show favor, be gracious to me

כָּל־ הַיּוֹם לַחֵם יִלְחָצֵנִי
he squeezes, presses, oppresses me the one fighting, doing battle² the day all of

שׁוֹרְרִי שָׁאֲפוּ 3
the day all my (insidious) watcher, one who lies in wait they crush, trample

כִּי־ רַבִּים לַחֲמִים לִי מָרוֹם
height, fig. 'proudly' against³ me warring ones (are) many because

יּוֹם אִירָא אֲנִי אֵלֶיךָ אֲבַטַח 4
I will trust⁴ upon, unto You I I will fear lit. 'day' indefinite time, whenever, in that time

בְּאֱלֹהִים אֶהְלֵל דְּבַר
His word, matter, promise I will praise, celebrate through God (God's help)⁵

בְּאֱלֹהִים בְּטַחְתִּי לֹא אִירָא
I will fear not I trust in/through God (God's help)⁶

מֶה־ יַעֲשֶׂה לִּי בִשָׂר
to me flesh, man as over against God, frail and powerless he will do what?

¹ Technical term of uncertain meaning, poss. 'inscription', always with leDavid.

² Cf. v.3, Psa 35:1.

³ Williams §271.

⁴ Cf. wealth of Psa refs. in BDB.

⁵ Means or instrument Will. §243. cf. WBC and K-D 'through God's help'.

6 כָּל-הַיּוֹם דְּבָרַי יַעֲצִיבוּ
They hurt, pain, vex my words, affairs the day all

עָלַי כָּל-מַחְשְׁבֹתָם לָרַע
to bad, evil (are) their thoughts, devices, plans all of against me

7 יִגְוְרוּ (יַצְפִּינוּ) [יַצְפֹּנוּ] הֵמָּה
they will lie hidden, lurk they will hide they quarrel, stir up strife

עֵקְבַי יִשְׁמְרוּ כְּאֲשֶׁר קִוּוּ נַפְשִׁי
my soul, life they lie in wait for just as they watch, guard my footprints

8 עַל-אֵן פִּלְט-לָמוּ
To/(from) them bring to safety⁶ trouble, sorrow, wickedness, idolatry on account of

בְּאֵף עַמִּים הוֹרֵד אֱלֹהִים
God bring down, cast down peoples with, by anger, wrath

9 נָדַי סִפַּרְתָּה אֶתָּה
You You numbered, took account of my wandering of aimless fugitive

שִׁימָה דְּמַעְתִּי בְּנֹאדֶךָ הֲלֵא בְּסִפְרֹתֶךָ
in Your book/scroll (for remembrance) is not? In Your skin bottle my tears put, place

10 אַז יִשׁוּבוּ אוֹיְבַי אַחֲרָי
back my enemies they will turn back/away then

בְּיוֹם אֶקְרָא
I will call in day

זֶה-יִדְעֵתִי כִּי-אֱלֹהִים לִי
to/for⁷ me God that I know this

⁶ Poss. emend to פִּלַּט '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 פִּלַּט as 'substantivized infinitive', others read ל with force 'from' 'give deliverance from them.', others 'in vain let their escape be.'

⁷ Advantage, Williams §271.

דָּבָר **אֶהְלֵל** **בְּאֱלֹהִים** 11
word, matter, promise I will praise, celebrate through God (God's help)⁸

דָּבָר **אֶהְלֵל** **בִּיהוָה**
word, matter, promise I will praise, celebrate in/through Yahweh (Yahweh's help)⁹

אֵירָא **לֹא** **בִטַחְתִּי** **בְּאֱלֹהִים** 12
I will fear/be afraid not I will trust in God

לִי **אָדָם** **יַעֲשֶׂה** **מָה**
to/against me man/a human he will do what?

נִדְרֶיךָ **אֱלֹהִים** **עָלַי** 13
Your vows God (are) incumbent upon me¹⁰

לְךָ **תּוֹדָת** **אֲשַׁלֵּם**
to You thanksgivings, thank offerings I will fulfill, make good, pay

מִמּוֹת **נַפְשִׁי** **הַצַּלָּת** **כִּי** 14
from death my soul You deliver because

מִדְּחִי **רַגְלֵי** **הֲלֹא**
from stumbling¹¹ my feet are not?

הַחַיִּים **בְּאוֹר** **אֱלֹהִים** **לְפָנַי** **לְהִתְהַלֵּךְ**
the living in light of God before walk about = live¹²

⁸ Means or instrument Will. §243. cf. WBC and K-D 'through God's help'.

⁹ Means or instrument Will. §243. cf. WBC and K-D 'through Yahweh's help'.

¹⁰ Obligation Will. §294.

¹¹ Cf. Psa. 116:8.

¹² Of friendly relation to God, cf. Gen. 17:1, 24:40, as token of Divine favor, 1Sam 2:30, Psa 116:9.