

Psalm 56 A Psalm of David (when the Philistines seized him in Gath)

¹ LORD, please be kind to me. I ask this because Saul has chased me out of Israel, and I am living in the land of Israel's enemy. They oppress me day after day, and I really feel like they want to kill me if they have the chance. ² There are more of them than I can count, and in their pride they fight against me. In fact, they harass me all day long, and they do it day after day. ³ Threats against me are very real, but each time I become fearful I rest in the protection and promises of the LORD. I know that He will keep His word. After all, what can mere man do to me with respect to eternity? The answer is a resounding, "Nothing!"

⁵ All day long they distort my words because everything they think and say is intended to hurt me. ⁶ They watch my every move trying to find a time and place where they can kill me. ⁷ LORD, I know You are angry with these wicked people, so in Your anger, please destroy them.

⁸ You have seen me crying, and I know that You have recorded every tear in Your book of remembrance. You have, haven't You? ⁹⁻¹⁰ LORD, I know that You are on my side looking after me. Therefore, I know that when I call out to You in prayer my enemies will stop chasing me and go their way. ¹¹ I have put my trust in You and Your Word, and I praise You for Your faithfulness. I don't need to be afraid. After all, what can mortal man do to me with reference to eternity? They could kill my body, but my soul is secure in Your keeping. ¹² I don't have to worry though, because You made a promise to me that I would be king for generations, and You always keep Your promises. Because of Your faithfulness I will praise and honor Your great name. ¹³ LORD, You have rescued me from death and made my path through life smooth so that I am free to walk among the people of Israel again freely. Praise Your name!