

While We Wait

Ps 59:9-17

The setting of the psalm is identified as Saul's siege of "David's house" (1 Sam. 19:8–11a). Michal, however, helped David escape through a window (1 Sam. 19:11b–14). This part, like the first, follows a sequence of three steps: petition (vv. 11–14) lament (vv. 15–16), and expression of trust with promise of praise (vv. 17–18).

I. A Heart Knows God

- a. Because of Strength I will Watch
 - i. Strength – my protection
 - ii. My God is my stronghold
 - 1. Stronghold - God as a **refuge, a strongly fortified military structure**
- b. My God in His lovingkindness will meet me
 - i. Lovingkindness – **Lovingkindness- joint of loyal and faithful and favor. An unfailing kind of love, kindness and goodness. Often used for God's love faithful to the covenant**
 - 1. Will meet- Either sense would serve; what matters is that God, rather than the enemy, fills the foreground before David's eyes.
 - ii. God will let me look down on my foes
 - 1. Foes – personal enemy
- c. Destroy my foes
 - i. David prayed that the **LORD**, his **Shield** would punish the wicked in a way that people would learn that He is sovereign. The wicked should **not** simply perish, because they would be forgotten. Rather, they should be made to **wander** in humiliation as outcasts and fugitives.
 - ii. 59:12–13. David also prayed that their proud **curses and lies** be exposed, that they be **caught in** the act and consumed so others would know **that God rules** in justice.
 - iii. my shield – my protection

II. While Enemies look to Destroy

- a. Like wild beasts they wander about in search of prey, and they are ready to attack as soon as they find a victim. Like dogs, they dash about looking for victims that are already so 'done in' that they easily 'have done' with them. The interweaving of optical and acoustical impressions, of rapid movements and the static state of lurking and waiting increases their menace. The petitioner has his own death and that of others literally before his eyes."
- b. The intensification in vv. 15–16, beyond vv. 7–8 in our opinion lies in the fact that the dogs now remain all night and one literally hears them seizing and devouring their prey.

III. A Heart rejoices in God

- a. I will sing of Your strength

- i. I will
 - 1. in order to give the petitioner the experience of rescue that he now intends to sing about in his expression of trust as something that has already happened.
 - 2. David was confident that despite the presence of his enemies (whom he again compared to **snarling ... dogs**; cf. v. 6) he would praise God for **strength** (cf. v. 9), **love**, and security (as his **Fortress**; cf. v. 9 and comments on 46:7, and his **Refuge**, *mānôš*, also used in 142:5).
- ii. Sing of your strength
- b. I shall JOYFULLY sing of your lovingkindness
 - i. Joyfully- to **exult**, in contrast to means to let out an entire series of cries of jubilation, to rejoice¹
 - ii. Lovingkindness in the morning
 - 1. “Morning” is pointedly designated as the time when the petitioner experiences the end of the nightly threats (“night” as metaphor for evil and death) as revelation of God’s “steadfast love/mercy
 - iii. For you are my stronghold
 - iv. A refuge in distress
 - 1. Distress
- c. I will sing praises to you
 - i. Praises –
 - 1. Stronghold

Lovingkindness

¹ Ludwig Koehler, Walter Baumgartner, et al., [*The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*](#) (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 1248.