

— PSALM 57 —

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,
for in You my soul takes refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings
until the disaster has passed.

² I cry out to God Most High, to God,
who fulfills [His purpose] for me.

³ He sends from heaven and saves me,
rebuking those who hotly pursue me; *Selah*
God sends His love and His faithfulness.

⁴ I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts—
men whose teeth are spears and arrows,
whose tongues are sharp swords.

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let Your glory be over all the earth.

⁶ They spread a net for my feet—
I was bowed down in distress.
They dug a pit in my path-
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;
I will sing and make music.

⁸ Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.

⁹ I will praise You, O Lord, among the nations;
I will sing of You among the peoples.

¹⁰ For great is Your love, reaching to the heavens;
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let Your glory be over all the earth.

The details that are given for the occasion of this psalm are quite telling: David wrote it while hiding as a fugitive in a cave, to the tune of "Do Not Destroy." It would be difficult for us to imagine a more bleak and despairing circumstance.

The specific occasion for this psalm is 1 Samuel 24. Saul is searching for David with 3,000 "able young men" in the Desert of En-Gedi. This is the thirteenth of at least fourteen specific occasions when Saul tried to assassinate David.

It has been years since the prophet Samuel anointed David to be the next king of Israel. Hiding as a fugitive in a damp, stinking cave, the day of anointing in Bethlehem must have seemed like it belonged to another lifetime. He's in a cave, not a palace—his circumstances could not be more extreme! The promise of God must have seemed too impossible and too far removed to ever be fulfilled. Yet David would declare by faith: "God . . . who fulfills His promise for me" (verse 2).

What was the basis of David's faith? God's love and faithfulness. Psalm 89 details the covenant that God made with David—

*I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.
I will declare that Your love stands firm forever,
that You have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
You said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one,
I have sworn to David My servant,
'I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.' "* (vss.1-4)

Later this psalmist would write, quoting the covenant-making LORD—

*Once for all, I have sworn by My holiness—
and I will not lie to David—
that his line will continue forever
and his throne endure before Me like the sun;
it will be established forever like the moon,
the faithful witness in the sky." (vss. 35-37)*

We understand that Jesus, David's greater Son, is the ultimate and final fulfillment for God's promise to David—the King of kings whose throne and reign would be forever. But first David himself had to get to the throne—and right now every factor excluded that possibility. But David was confident in God's love and faithfulness. He had taken refuge in God and now he determines to take another proactive step: "*I will awaken the dawn and sing of You.*"

From the entrance of that cave, David could see the moon in the night sky—God’s witness to the promise He had made to David. And David determined that he would arise before the sun rose to praise the Lord whose love and faithfulness would fulfill God’s purpose for David.

Maybe you are in a cave where the purpose God has for you and the promises that He has made to you seem like a pipe-dream in light of your present circumstances. Maybe those circumstances have gone on and on and on for so long and become increasingly worse that you can see absolutely no way God’s promise to you will ever happen. Go outside, look up in the sky; the moon is there as God’s reminder to you that He *will* keep His promises. When God made that promise to you, He knew every circumstance; He had taken into account every issue and problem between promise-made and promise-fulfilled. No situation, no person, no agenda can thwart His purpose for you. He is faithful!

Remember that Jesus is the ultimate expression of God’s love and covenant faithfulness. He is the “faithful witness” (Revelation 1.5; 3.14) and the “Yes” to all God’s promises (2 Corinthians 1.20). The moon is there to remind you that God will be faithful to His promises, but when we look at Jesus, we see God’s personal guarantee. No matter how many assassination attempts the enemy has made on your faith and calling, God will fulfill His purpose and promises for you. The enemy cannot blot out God’s witness, the moon, and he has been thwarted by the One who is the ultimate Witness, the invariable “Yes” and the final “Amen.” God is not a liar and He is not mocked; He does not make a promise and then fail to follow through. Conclude every day remembering His promises; begin every day in His presence, praising Him for His immeasurable love and faithfulness. The day of promise-fulfillment is on His calendar and you can be absolutely sure: He *will* fulfill His purpose for you! Amen.

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