Psalm 56

"David's Emotional Call Upon God in Time of Grave Danger"

For the choir director; according to Jonath elem rehokim. A Mikhtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.


A1 DAVID'S TRUSTING CALL FOR GOD'S GRACE BECAUSE OF HIS FOES 56:1-4

B1 His Call for Elohim's Graciousness: {1} Be gracious to me, O God, 56:1a

B2 The Reason for His Call -- Oppressing Foes 56:1b-2

C1 The Time of Their Oppression 56:1b-2a

D1 for man has trampled upon me; Fighting all day long he oppresses me. 56:1b

D2 {2} My foes have trampled upon me all day long, 56:2a

C2 The Quantity of Their Oppression: For they are many who fight proudly against me. 56:2b

B3 His Resolve to Trust in Elohim in Fearful Times 56:3-4

C1 His Faith in Elohim in Time of Fear: {3} When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. 56:3

C2 His Confidence in Elohim, Who Has Spoken: {4} In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; 56:4

C3 His Refusal to Fear Man: I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?

1 56:3-4 - The refrain of trusting in God and not fearing what man can do is repeated in 56:10-11. These two occurrences serve as dividers of the psalm into three sections.
A2 DAVID'S BELIEF THAT GOD WILL OVERTHROW HIS FOES 56:5-11

B1 His Description of His Evil Foes 56:5-6

C1  {5} All day long they distort my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil. 56:5

C2  {6} They attack, they lurk, They watch my steps, As they have waited to take my life. 56:6

B2 His Request for Elohim to Judge His Evil Foes: /7/ Because of wickedness, cast them forth, In anger put down the peoples, O God! 56:7

B3 His Faith in the Efficacy of His Prayers 56:8-9

C1 His Plea for Elohim to Continue to Record His Sorrow as a Fugitive: {8} You have taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book? 56:8

C2 His Belief That Elohim Will Oppose His Enemies in Response to His Prayer: {9} Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; This I know, that God is for me. 56:9

B4 His Praise of Yahweh Elohim as Worthy of His Trust 56:10-11

C1 His Praise of Yahweh Elohim's Word: {10} In God, whose word I praise, In the LORD, whose word I praise, 56:10

C2 His Expression of Confidence in Elohim as Forestalling Fear and Thwarting Man's Diabolical Actions 56:11

D1 His faith in Elohim: {11} In God I have put my trust,

D2 His refusal to fear man

E1 I shall not be afraid.

E2 What can man do to me?

---

2 56:10-11. See note at 56:3-4
A3  DAVID'S VOW OF PRAISE  56:12-13

B1  His Determination to Fulfill His Vows to Bring Thank Offerings to Elohim at the Sanctuary in Israel 3  56:12

C1  {12} Your vows are binding upon me, O God;
C2  I will render thank offerings to You.

B2  His Explanation of the Content of His Thank Offerings  56:13

C1  Deliverance from Death:  {13} For You have delivered my soul from death,
C2  Deliverance from Error:  Indeed my feet from stumbling,
C3  Continued Walk with God among the Living:  So that I may walk before God In the light of the living.

3 56:12 - Sanctuary in Israel (Title):  The assumption is that David wrote this while in Gath, pleading with God to rescue him from the Philistines.