

## 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.

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### 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**<sup>1</sup>

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?

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<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>**

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?

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<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup> 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.

**EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 56**

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<sup>3</sup> 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.