

**Saul Urges His Court to Kill David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)**

1 Samuel 19:1a

1a Now Saul told Jonathan his son and all his servants to put David to death.

**Hide Me from the Wicked (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)**

Psalm 64

*For the choir director.*

**A Psalm of David.**

- 1 Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint;  
Preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
- 2 Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers,  
From the tumult of those who do iniquity,
- 3 Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword.  
They aimed bitter speech *as* their arrow,
- 4 To shoot from concealment at the blameless;  
Suddenly they shoot at him, and do not fear.
- 5 They hold fast to themselves an evil purpose;  
They talk of laying snares secretly;  
They say, “Who can see them?”
- 6 They devise injustices, *saying*,  
“We are ready with a well-conceived plot”;  
For the inward thought and the heart of a man are deep.
- 7 But God will shoot at them with an arrow;  
Suddenly they will be wounded.
- 8 So they will make him stumble;  
Their own tongue is against them;  
All who see them will shake the head.
- 9 Then all men will fear,  
And they will declare the work of God,  
And will consider what He has done.
- 10 The righteous man will be glad in the LORD and will take refuge in Him;  
And all the upright in heart will glory.

**Wickedness of Men and Lovingkindness of God (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)**

Psalm 36

*For the choir director.*

**A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD.**

- 1 Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart;  
There is no fear of God before his eyes. [[Rom 3:18](#)]
- 2 For it flatters him in his *own* eyes  
Concerning the discovery of his iniquity *and* the hatred *of it*.
- 3 The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit;  
He has ceased to be wise *and* to do good.
- 4 He plans wickedness upon his bed;  
He sets himself on a path that is not good;  
He does not despise evil.
- 5 Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens,

- Your faithfulness *reaches* to the skies.
- 6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;  
Your judgments are *like* a great deep.  
O LORD, You preserve man and beast.
- 7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!  
And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
- 8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house;  
And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.
- 9 For with You is the fountain of life;  
In Your light we see light.
- 10 O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,  
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.
- 11 Let not the foot of pride come upon me,  
And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.
- 12 There the doers of iniquity have fallen;  
They have been thrust down and cannot rise.

### Prayer for Rescue from Enemies (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

#### Psalm 35

#### **A Psalm of David.**

- 1 Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;  
Fight against those who fight against me.
- 2 Take hold of buckler and shield  
And rise up for my help.
- 3 Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me;  
Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."
- 4 Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life;  
Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me.
- 5 Let them be like chaff before the wind,  
With the angel of the LORD driving *them* on.
- 6 Let their way be dark and slippery,  
With the angel of the LORD pursuing them.
- 7 For without cause they hid their net for me;  
Without cause they dug a pit for my soul.
- 8 Let destruction come upon him unawares,  
And let the net which he hid catch himself;  
Into that very destruction let him fall.
- 9 And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD;  
It shall exult in His salvation.
- 10 All my bones will say, "LORD, who is like You,  
Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him,  
And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?"
- 11 Malicious witnesses rise up;  
They ask me of things that I do not know.
- 12 They repay me evil for good,  
*To* the bereavement of my soul.
- 13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth;  
I humbled my soul with fasting,

And my prayer kept returning to my bosom.

14 I went about as though it were my friend or brother;  
I bowed down mourning, as one who sorrows for a mother.

15 But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered themselves together;  
The smiters whom I did not know gathered together against me,  
They slandered me without ceasing.

16 Like godless jesters at a feast,  
They gnashed at me with their teeth.

17 Lord, how long will You look on?  
Rescue my soul from their ravages,  
My only *life* from the lions.

18 I will give You thanks in the great congregation;  
I will praise You among a mighty throng.

19 Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me;  
Nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously. [[John 15:24–25](#)]

20 For they do not speak peace,  
But they devise deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land.

21 They opened their mouth wide against me;  
They said, “Aha, aha, our eyes have seen it!”

22 You have seen it, O LORD, do not keep silent;  
O Lord, do not be far from me.

23 Stir up Yourself, and awake to my right  
And to my cause, my God and my Lord.

24 Judge me, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness,  
And do not let them rejoice over me.

25 Do not let them say in their heart, “Aha, our desire!”  
Do not let them say, “We have swallowed him up!”

26 Let those be ashamed and humiliated altogether who rejoice at my distress;  
Let those be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves over me.

27 Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication;  
And let them say continually, “The LORD be magnified,  
Who delights in the prosperity of His servant.”

28 And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness  
*And* Your praise all day long.

### Jonathan Saves David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 19:1b–7

1b But Jonathan, Saul’s son, greatly delighted in David.

2 So Jonathan told David saying, “Saul my father is seeking to put you to death. Now therefore, please be on guard in the morning, and stay in a secret place and hide yourself.

3 I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you; if I find out anything, then I will tell you.”

4 Then Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Do not let the king sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds *have been* very beneficial to you.

5 For he took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel; you saw *it* and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death without a cause?”

6 Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan, and Saul vowed, “As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death.”

7 Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these words. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as formerly.

### Saul Again Tries to Kill David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 19:8–11a

8 When there was war again, David went out and fought with the Philistines and defeated them with great slaughter, so that they fled before him.

9 Now there was an evil spirit from the LORD on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was playing *the harp* with *his* hand.

10 Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, so that he stuck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

11a Then Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, in order to put him to death in the morning.

### Deliver Me From My Enemies (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 59

*For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth.*

**A Mikhtam of David, when Saul sent *men* and they watched the house in order to kill him.**

- 1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;  
Set me *securely* on high away from those who rise up against me.
- 2 Deliver me from those who do iniquity  
And save me from men of bloodshed.
- 3 For behold, they have set an ambush for my life;  
Fierce men launch an attack against me,  
Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD,
- 4 For no guilt of *mine*, they run and set themselves against me.  
Arouse Yourself to help me, and see!
- 5 You, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel,  
Awake to punish all the nations;  
Do not be gracious to any *who are* treacherous in iniquity. *Selah.*
- 6 They return at evening, they howl like a dog,  
And go around the city.
- 7 Behold, they belch forth with their mouth;  
Swords are in their lips,  
For, *they say*, "Who hears?"
- 8 But You, O LORD, laugh at them;  
You scoff at all the nations.
- 9 *Because of his strength* I will watch for You,  
For God is my stronghold.
- 10 My God in His lovingkindness will meet me;  
God will let me look *triumphantly* upon my foes.
- 11 Do not slay them, or my people will forget;  
Scatter them by Your power, and bring them down,  
O Lord, our shield.
- 12 *On account of* the sin of their mouth *and* the words of their lips,  
Let them even be caught in their pride,  
And on account of curses and lies which they utter.
- 13 Destroy *them* in wrath, destroy *them* that they may be no more;

- That *men* may know that God rules in Jacob  
To the ends of the earth. *Selah*.
- 14 They return at evening, they howl like a dog,  
And go around the city.
- 15 They wander about for food  
And growl if they are not satisfied.
- 16 But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength;  
Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning,  
For You have been my stronghold  
And a refuge in the day of my distress.
- 17 O my strength, I will sing praises to You;  
For God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.

### David On the Run (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 19:11b–24

#### David's Wife Michal (Saul's Youngest Daughter) Helps Him Escape

- 11b But Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be put to death."
- 12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he went out and fled and escaped.
- 13 Michal took the household idol and laid *it* on the bed, and put a quilt of goats' *hair* at its head, and covered *it* with clothes.
- 14 When Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."
- 15 Then Saul sent messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me on his bed, that I may put him to death."
- 16 When the messengers entered, behold, the household idol *was* on the bed with the quilt of goats' *hair* at its head.
- 17 So Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal said to Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I put you to death?'"

#### David Flees to Samuel

- 18 Now David fled and escaped and came to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.
- 19 It was told Saul, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah."
- 20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David, but when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing *and* presiding over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul; and they also prophesied.
- 21 When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied.
- 22 Then he himself went to Ramah and came as far as the large well that is in Secu; and he asked and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And *someone* said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah."
- 23 He proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah.
- 24 He also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

## Chronological Notes

- 1) Several of the Psalms written by David have headings or titles that link them to a specific event in David's life. These Psalms have been included in the reading in their respective contexts. In chronological order, these Psalms are:
  - Psalm 59—when Saul sent men to watch David's house in order to kill him.
  - Psalm 56—when the Philistines captured him in Gath.
  - Psalm 34—when David pretended to be insane before Abimelech.
  - Psalm 142—when David was "in the cave" (assumed to be the Cave of Adullam mentioned in 1 Sam 22:1–2).
  - Psalm 52—when Doeg the Edomite betrayed David to Saul.
  - Psalm 54—after David was betrayed by the Ziphites.
  - Psalm 57—when David fled from Saul "into the cave" (assumed to be the caves of En Gedi in 1 Sam 23:26–24:2).
  - Psalm 51—when Nathan confronted David about his affair with Bathsheba.
  - Psalm 60—when David fought against Aram Naharaim, Aram Zobah and Edom (2 Sam 8:1–14; 10:16; 1 Chr 18:1–13).
  - Psalm 18—when God had rescued David from the power of all his enemies, including Saul (placed after David's wars).
  - Psalm 63—when David was in the Judean wilderness (assumed to be David's flight toward the Jordan during Absalom's revolt).
  - Psalm 3—when David fled from his son Absalom.
  
- 2) The following Psalms also having headings that link them to a specific event in David's life—however, there is not enough data to ensure certainty on a date:
  - Psalm 7—concerning a Benjaminite named Cush.
  - Psalm 30—a psalm which was used at the dedication of the "house" (often assumed to refer to the temple).