

TEXT: PSALM 59

TITLE: *GOD IS MY STRONGHOLD*

BIG IDEA:
THE STRONGHOLD OF GOD IS OUR REFUGE FROM FIERCE ATTACKERS

INTRODUCTION:

This week I had the opportunity to visit Cochises' Stronghold in the desert outside of Tucson, AZ. Very Impressive; a place of safety and refuge; no good way for the enemy to attack

I. (:1-5) FIERCE ATTACKERS DRIVE US TO THE STRONGHOLD OF GOD

A. (:1-4) Desire for Protection from Fierce Attackers (in the Stronghold of God)

1. Appeal to God for Deliverance

Deliver me / set me securely on high (:1)

Deliver me / Save me (:2)

Arouse Thyself to help me / and See (:4)

2. Attack of Enemies (their character and strategy)

my enemies

those who rise up against me

those who do iniquity

men of bloodshed

those setting an ambush for my life

fierce men launching an attack against me

they run and set themselves against me

3. Absolution from Guilt (I don't deserve this!)

not for my transgression

nor for my sin

for no guilt of mine

B. (:5) Desire for Punishment of Fierce Attackers

1. Appeal to God for Action

a. Appeal is addressed to God

O Lord God of hosts

the God of Israel

b. Appeal calls for action

Awake to punish

2. Appropriateness of Punishment = they are Guilty

the nations have been treacherous in iniquity

II. (:6-15) FROM THE STRONGHOLD OF GOD WE CAN SAFELY WATCH THE FRUSTRATION AND DESTRUCTION OF OUR ENEMIES

- A. (:6-7) Howling and Belching = Unrestrained Foraging of our Enemies ignorant that God hears and that they will be held accountable
- B. (:8) Laughing and Scoffing = The response of our God
- C. (:9-10) Watching and Looking = Our response from the safety of the Stronghold of God
 - 1. Watching for God to Intervene (God's lovingkindness towards us)
 - 2. Looking at our Enemies being Destroyed (God's strength in action)
- D. (:11-13) Scattered and Destroyed = The Destruction of our enemies
- E. (:14-15) Howling and Growling = The Frustration of our enemies

III. (:16-17) FROM THE STRONGHOLD OF GOD WE CAN JOYFULLY PRAISE HIM FOR HIS STRENGTH AND LOVINGKINDNESS

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DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS:

- 1) How high is the Lord able to lift us up to protect us in His stronghold from all attacks? How impressive are the highest mountains which we have been privileged to see?
- 2) Why do packs of dogs howl? growl? prowl? What does this teach us about the character and lifestyle of the wicked? Why do they never find satisfaction and contentment? How should we be the exact opposite?
- 3) How much trouble are you in when God is laughing at you?
- 4) How can we sing and testify to God's strength and lovingkindness?

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QUOTES FOR REFLECTION:

Piper: Re vs. 16-17 -- "Notice how this psalm begins: "To the choirmaster." Why? David had suffered. Out of his suffering had been born a song. And it was going to be sung well! It was going to be sung the way he wanted it sung. 'According to Do Not Destroy.' Nobody today knows what that means. But of this we may be sure: the choirmaster knew! There was a choir. There was a choirmaster. There was a song born of suffering. And there was a way to sing this song. Do it this way choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy....

David was delivered in the day of distress and he sang of the might and mercy of God.... When will you really sing of the might and mercy of God? I mean really sing from the bottom of your heart?

The answer is, you will sing when you suffer for Jesus Christ, and find in the midst of that suffering that the might and the mercy of God are your refuge and strength.”

Phillips: “BEWARE OF THE DOGS

I. DAVID’S DANGER (:1-9)

A. His Plea (:1-2)

B. His Panic (:3-5)

1. What Concerned Him (:3)

2. What Controlled Him (:4)

3. What Consoled Him (:5)

C. His Peril (:6-9)

1. How He Viewed the Peril of His Situation (:6-7)

2. How He Vanquished the Peril to His Soul (:8-9)

II. DAVID’S DELIVERANCE (:10-17)

A. His Protection (:10-15)

1. His Confidence (:10)

2. His Conviction (:11-15)

He wanted:

a. His People to Be Able to Recognize God’s Judgment (:11-12)

b. His Persecutors to Be Able to Recognize God’s Justice
(:13-15)

B. His Praise (:16-17)”

Perowne:

I. (1) A cry to God for help against enemies; a description of their persevering malice; an assertion of the Psalmist’s own innocence, and the confiding of his cause to God as the Judge. Ver. 1-5.

(2) A further account of the machinations of the wicked; the confident assurance of their discomfiture, and an expression of trust in God. Ver. 6-9.

II. (1) This part opens with a renewed expression of trust in God, especially with reference to the issue of the struggle with his enemies; it repeats the story of their malice, and also the prayer for their punishment, in such a way that God may be acknowledged as the Judge of the earth. Ver. 10-13.

(2) It closes with the curse upon the wicked, and with joyful acknowledgment of God’s goodness to the Psalmist. Ver. 14-17.