

## Psalm 55

In **Exodus 19:4**, God says, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself."

In this psalm, David longs to flee his enemies on the wings of a dove and fly away into the wilderness.

The enemies were (1) For Israel, the Egyptians, who at one time trusted and honored Joseph, before a pharaoh "who knew not Joseph" arose. (2) And for David, it is Saul and later David's rebel son Absalom, as well Doeg and Ahithophel, who turned against him.

**Psalm 55:1** - "Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication."

"supplication" - a cry for mercy

**Psalm 55:2** - "Attend to me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise"

"I mourn" - wander restlessly from one sad thought to another

"complaint" - deep distress

"noise" - a roaring, groaning

Like Jesus, David here is shown as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

**Psalm 55:6** (NET) - I say, "I wish I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and settle in a safe place!"

Since the dove is a picture of the Holy Spirit, this is the means of escaping into the secure rest of God when we're in the grip of consternation and confusion.

**Psalm 55:8** - "I will hurry off to a place that is safe from the strong wind and the gale."

That place is the presence of Jesus himself - He "rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm." (**Matthew 8:26**)

Who is the enemy?

**Psalm 55:13** - "But it is you, a man like me, my close friend in whom I confided."

Our opposer Satan often attacks through the voices in our own mind, in which we have "confided" often. It's as if our own thoughts turn against Christ within us.

**Psalm 55:18** - "He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me."

(The NET and others have "even though they greatly outnumber me." But the text is corrupt, and the wording is confusing.)

Rashi - "because of the many [people who] were with me": For He did this because of the many people who came to my aid to pray on my behalf, as it is stated (I Sam. 18:16): "And all Israel and Judah loved David."

David is remembering when God delivered him in times past. Prayer support from our friends is a powerful tool against the Evil One.

Aben Ezra interprets the "many" as the angels of God fighting on David's side.

**Romans 8:31** - "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

**Psalm 55:19** - "God, the one who has reigned as king from long ago, will hear and humiliate them. (Selah) They refuse to change, and do not fear God."

"changes" - *chaliyphah* - change of raiment, or change course

Fear of God causes you to "put off the old robe" and put on Christ's righteousness.

The rabbis however see this as a refusal to acknowledge the "change" of death. - going from life to the grave. That is why they don't fear God.

Rashi - For those wicked men who pursue me. They do not pay heed to the day of their passing, and they do not quake from the day of death.

**Psalm 55:21** - "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords."

Betrayal implies deceit with a concealed agenda, like Judas' kiss.

The next verse is the Holy Spirit's response to David's cry:

Rashi - The Holy Spirit answers him thus...

**Psalm 55:22** - "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

God showed Israel that He would sustain and protect them in the wilderness. He will do the same for David, and for us.

**1 Peter 5:7** - "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

**Matthew 11:28** - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give

you rest."

**Psalm 37:5** - "Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it."

"moved" = mowt - to waver, slip, fall, be knocked off course