

Psalm 56

In **Exodus 19**, there's a lot about speech and speaking. God speaks to Israel, speaking from Heaven, giving them the Ten Commandments. The people fear to speak to God, preferring to hear Moses.

David here repeats this phrase throughout: "In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust"

The Hebrew word "dabar" is used in all these passages. The LXX translates it as "*logos*"

Jesus is the Word

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word (*logos*), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14 - "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us"

Hebrews 1:1-2 - "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son..."

Intro: To the chief Musician upon Jonathelemrechokim, Michtam of David, when the Philistines took him in Gath.

Jonath-elem-rechokim = "upon the dove of silence"

Gath was the city of Goliath. David had just taken Goliath's sword from Ahimelech the priest, so he had it in his possession when he arrived in Gath!

See **1 Samuel 21:10-15** for the setting.

1 Samuel 21:13 - "And he changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands"

Rashi - Goliath's brothers were requesting permission from Achish to kill him. And he was among them as a mute dove.

Psalm 56:1-2 - "Be merciful to me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresses me. Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High."

"swallow" = "to pant as a raging beast"

Paul/Saul is represented in just this position in persecuting the church:

Acts 9:1 - "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest"

Internal Spiritual Warfare

The dangers of King Saul and the Philistines to David represent our own spiritual battles.

"This may be applied to the old man, the corruptions of nature, and the lusts of the flesh, which are continually warring against the spirit, oppress it, bring it into captivity, and threaten to swallow it up." - *Gill's Exposition*

Psalm 56:4 - "In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."

These words of faith and hope punctuate his cries for help to God.

Psalm 56:5-6 - "Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul."

Psalm 56:8 - "Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?"

Rashi - You know the number of the places to which I wandered, to flee. Place my tears in Your flask, and let them be preserved before You. Are they not in your accounting book?

Psalm 56:11 - "In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."

Matthew 10:28 - "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."