

## Psalm 59

This psalm refers to an incident in **1 Samuel 19:14** "when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him."

The connection with the **Exodus 25** Torah Reading is ... goat's hair!

In **Exodus 25**, the people were asked to bring "goat's hair" as part of the freewill offering for the making of the Tabernacle. The tent itself would utilize rams skins dyed red and "badger's skins" - actually also goat's skins dyed blue, according to Josephus.

David's wife Michal made his bed with a teraphim and a hairy goatskin to look like his sleeping head. (Michal, like Rachel, probably kept this teraphim idol in secret, hoping to appeal to it to cure her barrenness). Then she covered it all with David's mantle or cloak.

By connecting the Exodus and 1 Samuel passages, the Rabbis saw the Tabernacle as being referenced as protecting David, the type of the Messiah. Not only that, but an idol is transformed and used to disrupt the evil intentions of Saul.

**Psalm 59:1-2** - "Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men."

"iniquity" = *'aven* - iniquity, "from an unused root, perhaps meaning to pant (hence, to exert oneself, usually in vain)"

Self-exertion is always the enemy of faith and dependence on God. Like Saul, our self-exertion persecutes Christ in us, hunting him down, trying to eradicate faith.

**Psalm 59:5** - "Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah."

Rashi - "awake to visit all the heathen" - judge these wicked men according to the statutes of the nations. i.e. they are breaking even universally accepted rules and laws of the heathen, let alone your Divine Law.

**Psalm 59:11** - "Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield."

Rashi - "lest my people forget" - the dead are simply forgotten. Instead, deprive them of their possessions, so that they are impoverished. That is the revenge that will be long remembered.

See NET - "Do not strike them dead suddenly, because then my people might forget the lesson. Use your power to make them homeless vagabonds and then bring them down,

O Lord who shields us!"

**Psalm 59:17** - "Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defense, and the God of my mercy."

mercy = *checed* - mercy, loving kindness, favor

This points us to the *kappôreth*, the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant - also described in **Exodus 25**.

NET - the God of my mercy = "the God who loves me"