

# PSALMS

## Lyrics OF Prophecy

54/150

# PSALMS ~ Lyrics of Prophecy

## Psalm 54

### Your Name Saves!

## READ AND OBSERVE

Read through Psalm 54 and mark every reference to God, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through Psalm 54 and mark every reference to "Your Name" with a purple circle filled yellow.

Read through Psalm 54 and mark every reference to the psalmist with a blue capital "R."

Read through Psalm 54 and mark every reference to strangers and violent men, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e., they, foes, them, enemies, etc.) with an orange capital "W."

Read through Psalm 54 and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Save me, O God, by Your Name, from the godless
2. The Lord will destroy the godless in His faithfulness
3. I will give thanks to Your Name, O Lord, for it is good

## READ AND ANSWER

### Psalm 54:1-3

Who is speaking?

To whom is David, the psalmist, speaking?

According to the traditional title, when did David write Psalm 54?

## Point of Depth

**Who are the Ziphites?  
Rats! Squealers! Betrayers!**

**Read through 1 Samuel 23:14-29 and see what they tried to do to David.**

What is David's response to the treacherous Ziphites?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What should our response be to betrayal?

By what does David ask his God to save him?

By what does David ask his God to vindicate him?

## Point of Depth

**The Hebrew word translated vindicate is “*diyyn*,” and means to judge. It has the idea of sailing directly from one point to another by setting a straight course.**

What does David want God to hear?

To "give ear to" means to listen to. Actually, it means to listen and believe and react to what is said. What does David want God to give ear to?

Is this a silent prayer?

How do you know?

Point of Depth

**The Hebrew word for prayer is "*tphillah*,"  
and means intercession or supplication.**

In what form does David offer his prayer? (Hint: It starts with "p," has five letters, and ends with "m.")

What is it that David is asking God to listen to? What is happening to David that he needs God's help?

1.

2.

Who has risen against David?

Who has sought David's life?

What is true of these men?

Has David set God before himself?

How do you know?

**Psalm 54:4-5**

Of what truth does David remind himself?

- 1.
  
- 2.

## Point of Depth

**The Hebrew word for helper is "azar,"  
and means to surround, protect, aid, and succor.**

**The Hebrew word for sustainer is "samakh,"  
and means to prop, lean upon, or take hold of.**

What does David completely believe God will do?

Because he believes that God will pay back the evil done to him to his foes, what does David ask the Lord to do?

## Point of Depth

**The Hebrew word for faithfulness is "emeth,"  
and means certainty, truth, trustworthiness.**

**It comes from the primitive root, "aman," which means to build up or support.  
It has the idea of fostering as a parent or nurse.**

**Foster means to encourage, promote, stimulate, advance, forward, cultivate,  
nurture, strengthen, enrich, help, aid, assist, contribute.  
It means to bring up, rear, raise, care for, take care of, look after,  
nurture, provide for, mother, parent.**

**How faithful is a parent or nurse?  
What goal does a parent or a nurse have?**

**Now I don't know about you,**

**but when I think of the Lord's faithfulness to me, personally,  
understanding the meaning (as regarding a parent or nurse)  
brings a smile of joy to my face.**

**My God is faithful!**

**And to bring it back to the idea of treacherous enemies (who do not repent)...  
I can count on my ultimate salvation,  
and I can count on the fact that they will vanish in the end...  
and both by the unswerving righteous hand of my all-powerful God.**

### **Psalm 54:6-7**

What does the psalmist say he is going to do on his own accord? (This is not something that God is demanding.)

To Whom, or what, will he make his sacrifice?

Why is he, of his own accord, going to make a sacrifice to the Name of the Lord?

Why is he going to offer his thanks to the Name of His Lord?

## Point of Depth

**The Hebrew word for name is "*shem*,"  
and has the idea of a definite and conspicuous position,  
a mark or memorial of individuality, honor, or authority.**

**The Name of God is a reference to His character, His Nature, or His attributes.**

**Everything about God is good, pleasant, and kind.  
To give thanks to His Name is to be grateful that God is exactly *Who* He is—  
and exactly *like* He is.**

**The things He does, in His own way and time,  
are perfect and gracious and all things beautiful!**

**Because of Who He is—  
His acts, His judgments, and His ways are always righteous and pure.**

**To acknowledge that the Name of the Lord is good...  
to give thanks to the Name of God...**

**both in David's time and today...  
is savvy...  
very savvy, indeed...**

Why is the psalmist offering thanks? What has the Lord done?

What is the psalmist able to do because the Lord's Name has delivered him from all trouble?

## READ AND REASON

Let's reason together for a moment...

Is the psalmist in trouble at the beginning of Psalm 54:1-3? Yes. That's why he prays to be saved and vindicated, right? He asks God to hear him out (and do something about it) as he describes his perilous situation—strangers have risen against him, and violent men have sought his life.

He is asking God to do something... in the *future*, right?

In Psalm 54:4-5, the psalmist is convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that God will help him in his situation. He remembers and declares that the Lord is the sustainer of his soul. The psalmist believes God will not look the other way or wink at the evil his foes have perpetrated against him. He knows that God will completely consume his enemies, and they will be no more.

The psalmist is convinced God will do something... in the *future*, right?

Now, look at Psalm 54:6. He is now talking about something he, himself, will do... in the *future*, right?

But yet, suddenly, the psalmist is speaking in the *past* tense in verse 7. Do you see it?

He says God *has* delivered him from all trouble, and that his eye *has* looked with satisfaction upon his enemies. He is speaking as if God has already saved him from his enemies and is *no longer* in danger. He can also look upon his enemies as *defeated* foes, not just adversaries who *will* be defeated!

Now, that, my friends, is faith...

### Hebrews 11:1

***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

## Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.  
Ask God to help you.**

**Verses 1-3**

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**Verses 4-5**

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**Verses 6-7**

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## Purpose of Psalm 54

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 54.  
The purpose simply states, "why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm."**

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## Theme of Psalm 54

**Try giving Psalm 54 a title by identifying its theme.  
The theme simply states, "what the Psalm is about."**

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