

2001

Psalm 57: To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

Walter E. Keller
Valparaiso University

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Recommended Citation

Keller, Walter E., "Psalm 57: To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave." (2001). *Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms*. 54.
<https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms/54>

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Psalm 57

**To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy.
A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.
(RSV)**

- ¹ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in thee my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of thy wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.**
- ² I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfils his purpose for me.**
- ³ He will send from heaven and save me,
he will put to shame those who trample upon me. *Selah*
God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness!**
- ⁴ I lie in the midst of lions
that greedily devour^(a) the sons of men;
their teeth are spears and arrows,
their tongues sharp swords.**
- ⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let thy glory be over all the earth!**
- ⁶ They set a net for my steps;
my soul was bowed down.
They dug a pit in my way,
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah***
- ⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast!
I will sing and make melody!**
- ⁸ Awake, my soul!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn!**
- ⁹ I will give thanks to thee, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to thee among the nations.**
- ¹⁰ For thy steadfast love is great to the heavens,
thy faithfulness to the clouds.**
- ¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let thy glory be over all the earth!**

Footnote:

a. (v.4) Cn: Heb *are aflame for*

Psalm 57 is yet another lament of David, traditionally thought to have been written during the period when he was being pursued by Saul (see 2 Samuel 22-24). This Psalm begins with a beautiful statement of faith (vv. 1-3); there is no doubt in the Psalmists mind that God will be merciful, will fulfill his purpose, and vindicate him over his enemies. Verse 4 is reminiscent of the story of Daniel, who also had great confidence in the power of God over lions (Daniel 6), but in David's case the lions are men, who oppose him not only with weapons but with words. David's defense, like Daniel's did not lie in a proactive battle or attack on his foes, but rather consisted of quiet prayer to the LORD. Verses 7-11 (which with only minor variations constitute Psalm 108:1-5) is a brief song of thanksgiving, rendered as the Psalmist breaks forth in joy and praise to God as his response for the deliverance he experienced.

Prayer to accompany Psalm 57:

Lord, send your mercy and your truth to rescue us from the snares of the devil, and we will praise you among the peoples and proclaim you to the nations, happy to be known as companions of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Linger longer over verse 10:

**For thy steadfast love is great to the heavens,
thy faithfulness to the clouds.**