

To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, "Is David not hiding with us?"

¹ Save me, O God, by Your name,
And vindicate me by Your strength.

² Hear my prayer, O God;
Give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For strangers have risen up against me,
And oppressors have sought after my life;
They have not set God before them. *Selah*

⁴ Behold, God *is* my helper;
The Lord *is* with those who uphold my life.

⁵ He will repay my enemies for their evil.
Cut them off in Your truth.

⁶ I will freely sacrifice to You;
I will praise Your name, O LORD, for *it is* good.

⁷ For He has delivered me out of all trouble;
And my eye has seen *its desire* upon my enemies.

Psalm 54:1-7

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. Who were the Ziphites?

- a) They were residents of a city called Ziph
- b) It had land that was close to a wilderness
- c) Ziph was a town that belonged to Judah Joshua 15:24a
- d) There was a hill and a wilderness near the town

2. 1 Samuel 23

- a) On one occasion, David stayed in the wilderness of Ziph
- b) The Ziphites informed King Saul about David's presence with them
- c) King Saul praised them for their support 1 Samuel 23:15-29
- d) Saul went on to encircle David and would have captured him
- e) A report of an attack of the Philistines caused Saul to withdraw his troops
- f) Psalm 54 was written in reflection of this event

3. 1 Samuel 26

- a) Saul once again pursued David in the wilderness of Ziph
- b) David stole into Saul's camp and took his spear and jar
- c) David could have slain Saul
- d) He refused to touch "The LORD's anointed" 1 Samuel 26:11

A PRAYER OF DAVID

*¹ Save me, O God, by Your name,
And vindicate me by Your strength.*

*² Hear my prayer, O God;
Give ear to the words of my mouth.
Psalm 54:1-2*

1. A prayer for deliverance

"By Your name" Psalm 54:1a

2. A prayer for vindication

"By Your strength" Psalm 54:1b

3. A plea for the prayer to be heard by God

4. Nothing is taken for granted

PRESENTATION OF THE PROBLEM TO THE LORD

*For strangers have risen up against me,
And oppressors have sought after my life;
They have not set God before them. Selah*

Psalm 54:3

1. Strangers and oppressors
2. These words were used to describe King Saul and his troops
 - a) They were not technically "strangers"
 - b) But they were "oppressors"
 - c) Oppressors are likened to "strangers"

STATEMENT OF FAITH IN THE LORD

*⁴ Behold, God is my helper;
The Lord is with those who uphold my life.*

*⁵ He will repay my enemies for their evil.
Cut them off in Your truth.*

*⁶ I will freely sacrifice to You;
I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good.*

*⁷ For He has delivered me out of all trouble;
And my eye has seen its desire upon my enemies.*

Psalm 54:4-7

1. God as "Helper"
2. He is there
 - a) Not just with David
 - b) But also, with those who have upheld his life
 - c) David's quiet confidence

3. God's attitude and action against the evil enemies

- a) He will requite their evil ways!
- b) David prays that the enemies would be "cut off"

4. Worship of the LORD

- a) Freely sacrifice to God
- b) Praise will be given to God's good name
- c) In reflection:
 - i) God had indeed delivered David out of his troubles
 - ii) David saw how the evil enemies came to a bad end