Psalm 57

"David's Plea for Deliverance from His Enemies; His Resolve to Praise God"

For the choir director; *set to* Al-tashheth. A Mikhtam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

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A1 DAVID'S PLEA AND CONFIDENCE 57:1-5

B1 His Plea and Reason 57:1

- C1 The Plea to Elohim: {1} Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, 57:1a
- C2 The Reason for the Plea: Elohim is a Refuge 57:1b
 - D1 For my soul takes refuge in You;
 - D2 And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge
 - D3 Until destruction passes by.

B2 His Confidence of Answered Prayer 57:2-3

- C1 Action toward Elohim: {2} I will cry to God Most High,
- C2 Description of Elohim Effector: To God who accomplishes *all things* for me.
- C3 Response of Elohim 57:3
 - D1 Sending salvation: {3} He will send from heaven and save me;
 - D2 Reproving the wicked: He reproaches him who tramples upon me. Selah.¹
 - D3 Sending loyal love and truth: God will send forth His lovingkindness and His truth.

B3 His Plight 57:4

- C1 {4} My soul is among lions;
- C2 I must lie among those who breathe forth fire,

¹ 57:3 - Selah: The function of Selah both in 57:3 and 57:6 is to underscore God's poetic justice against David's enemies. In 57:3 God holds them accountable -- He reproaches them. In 57:6 David's enemies fall into the pit they had dug for him!

- C3 Even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows
- C4 And their tongue a sharp sword.

B4 His Plea for the Ultimate Triumph of Elohim 57:5

- C1 Exaltation above the Heavens! \{5\}\ Be exalted above the heavens, O God;
- C2 Glory above All the Earth! *Let* Your glory *be* above all the earth.

A2 DAVID'S PRAISE DESPITE OPPOSITION 57:6-11

B1 His Personal Agony and Assurance of Vengeance 57:6

- C1 His Agony Because of the Murderous Pursuit of His Enemies
 - D1 {6} They have prepared a net for my steps;
 - D2 My soul is bowed down;
 - D3 They dug a pit before me;
- C2 His Assurance of the Demise of His Enemies: They *themselves* have fallen into the midst of it. Selah.

B2 His Praise of God 57:7-11

- C1 His Resolve to Praise Elohim for Answered Prayer 57:7-8
 - D1 With steadfast heart issuing in songs of praise 57:7
 - E1 {7} My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;
 - E2 I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!
 - D2 With rousing instrumental accompaniment 57:8
 - E1 {8} Awake, my glory!
 - E2 Awake, harp and lyre!
 - E3 I will awaken the dawn.
- C2 His Resolve to Praise Adonai among the Peoples for His Loyal Love and Truth 57:9-10
 - D1 The venue of his praise 57:9
 - E1 {9} I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples;
 - E2 I will sing praises to You among the nations.

- D2 The reason for his praise -- the magnitude of Adonai's loyal love and truth! 57:10
 - E1 {10} For Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens
 - E2 And Your truth to the clouds.
- C3 His Plea for the Ultimate Triumph of Elohim 57:11
 - D1 Exaltation above the Heavens! {11} Be exalted above the heavens, O God;
 - D2 Glory above All the Earth: *Let* Your glory *be* above all the earth.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 57 Prepared by James T. Bartsch September, 2010. Updated October, 2013

Published Online by WordExplain.com Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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