

The Psalms

(Lesson 9)

Introduction:

1. We are presently studying a series of lessons from the Psalms.
2. The Psalms deserve our careful attention because:
 - a. they are part of the Old Testament Scriptures (Luke 24:44)
 - b. they "*were written for our learning*" (Romans 15:4).
3. In this lesson we are examining the information presented in Psalm 56.
4. Although the title is not inspired, it suggests that David wrote this psalm "*when the Philistines took him in Gath.*"
5. If this is accurate, David was facing difficult circumstances.
 - a. David had been anointed as Israel's king (1 Samuel 16:13).
 - b. Even though God chose him to be king, David had a number of enemies.
 - 1) David defeated Goliath, the champion of the Philistines (1 Samuel 17:50-53).
 - 2) Saul wanted to kill David (1 Samuel 18:5-11).
 - 3) David and his men killed 200 Philistines so he could have Saul's daughter as his wife (1 Samuel 18:25-27).
 - 4) Saul's hatred for David grew (1 Samuel 18:28-29).
 - 5) David continued fighting against the Philistines (1 Samuel 19:8).
 - 6) Saul made other attempts to kill David (1 Samuel 19:9-12).
 - c. David fled from Saul (1 Samuel 19:18; 20:1).
 - d. As he fled from Saul, David went to Gath [the home of Goliath--1 Samuel 17:4] where he pretended to be mad (1 Samuel 21:10-15).
 - e. David escaped and was joined by his family (1 Samuel 22:1).
 - f. David's troubles could have overwhelmed him; however, he never lost his faith in God.
6. This information helps us understand the setting for Psalm 56.

Discussion:

- I. DAVID MADE 3 REQUESTS OF GOD
 - A. David asked God for "mercy" (vs.1a).
 - B. David asked God to "*cast down the people*" (vs.7).
 - C. David asked God to put his tears in a bottle (vs.8).
- II. DAVID MADE THESE REQUESTS BECAUSE HIS ENEMIES AFFLICTED HIM DAILY
 - A. vs.1b
 - B. vs.2
 - C. vs.5
 - D. vs.6
- III. DAVID WAS CONFIDENT THAT GOD WOULD PROTECT HIM
 - A. vs.3
 - B. vs.4
 - C. vs.9
 - D. vs.11
 - E. vs.13
- IV. DAVID PRAISED GOD FOR HIS CARE AND PROTECTION
 - A. vs.10
 - B. vs.12