



# The Book of Psalms: Chapters 52-56

**A Journey Through Worship, Emotion and God's Faithfulness**

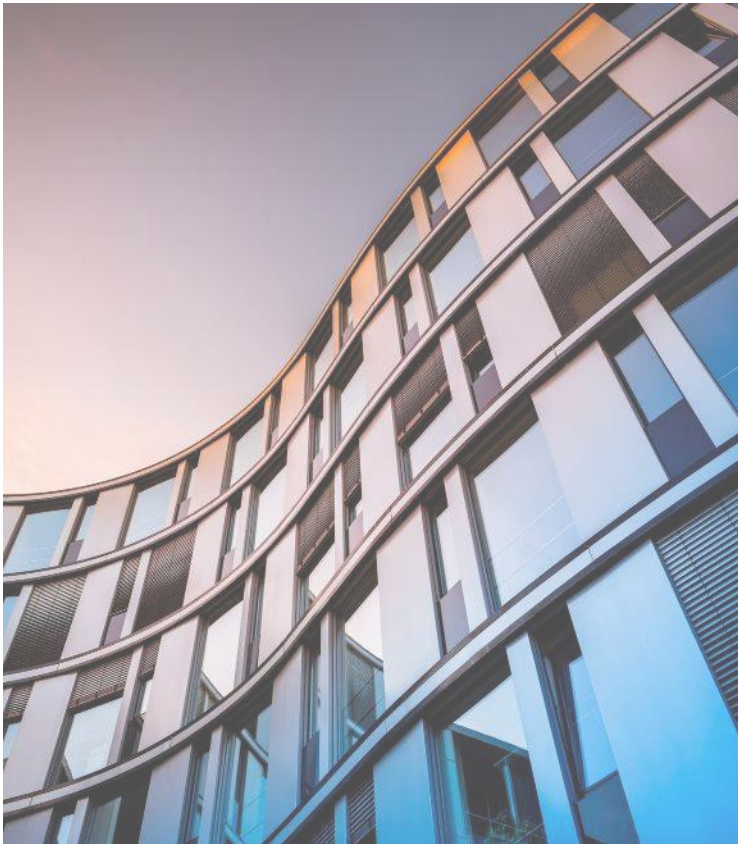
# GOD

Meets us in the palace, the wilderness and in exile.

“THE PSALMS ARE TIMELESS  
BECAUSE THEY COME FROM  
REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES.”

– Pastor Terri Webster

# KEY THEMES IN THE BOOK OF PSALM



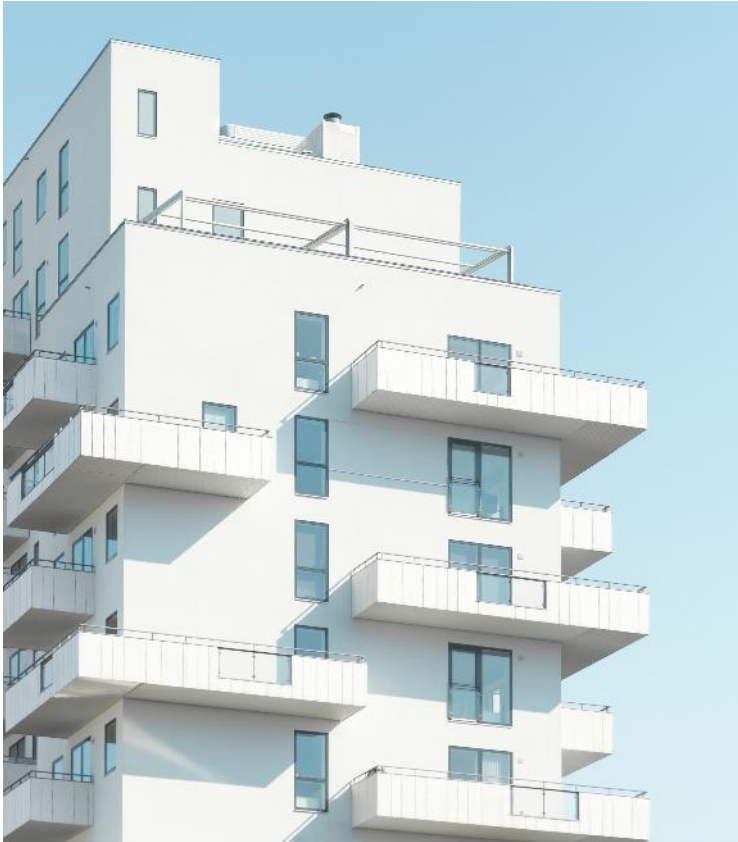
- Worship
- God's kingship
- Human emotion
- Faithfulness
- Repentance
- Messianic prophecy
- Thanksgiving & praise

**The Psalms invite us to bring our whole selves into God's presence.**

They guide us from:

- Lament → Praise
- Fear → Faith
- Brokenness → Restoration

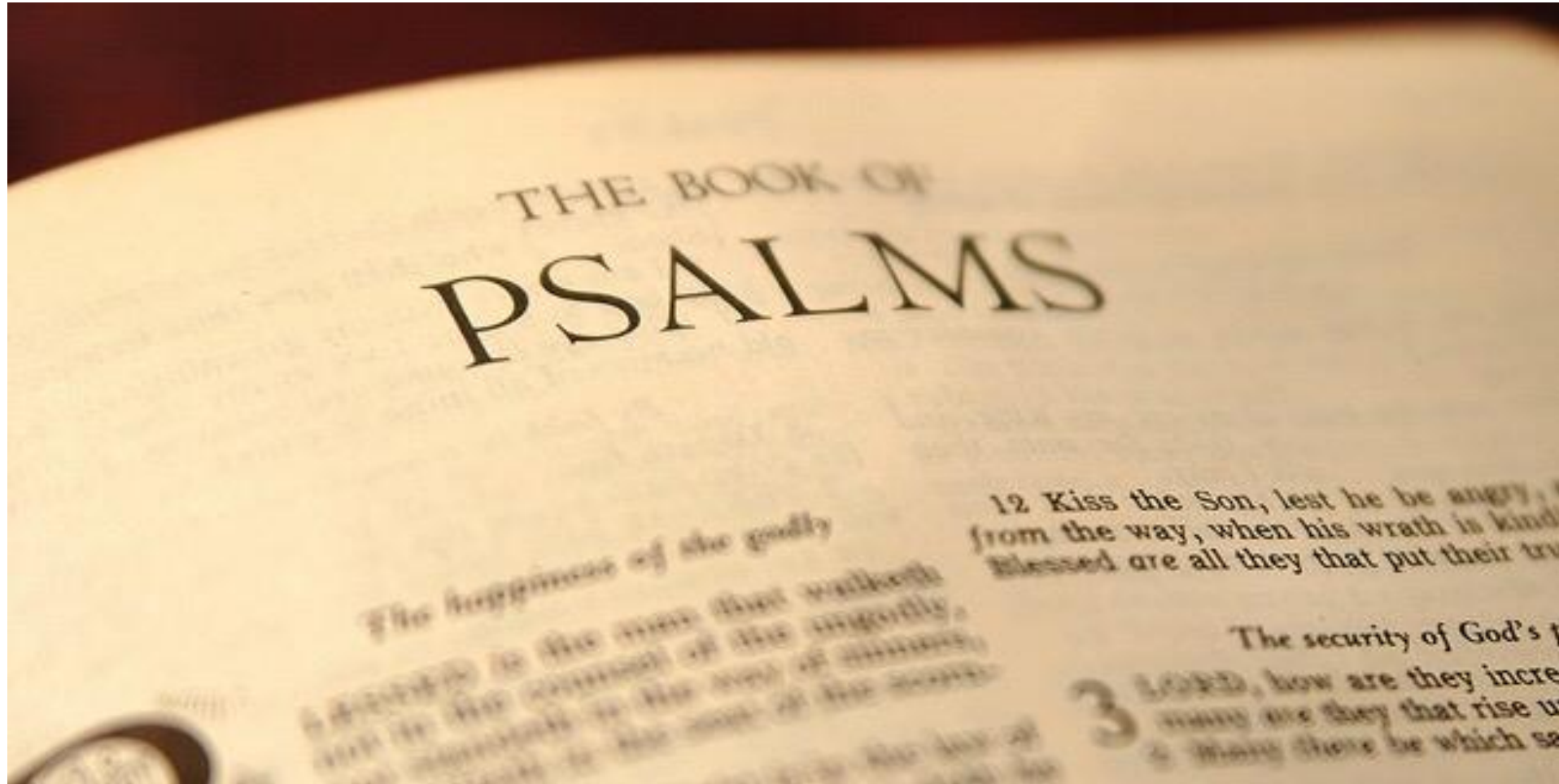
# THE FIVE BOOKS OF PSALM



## Mirroring the Pentateuch:

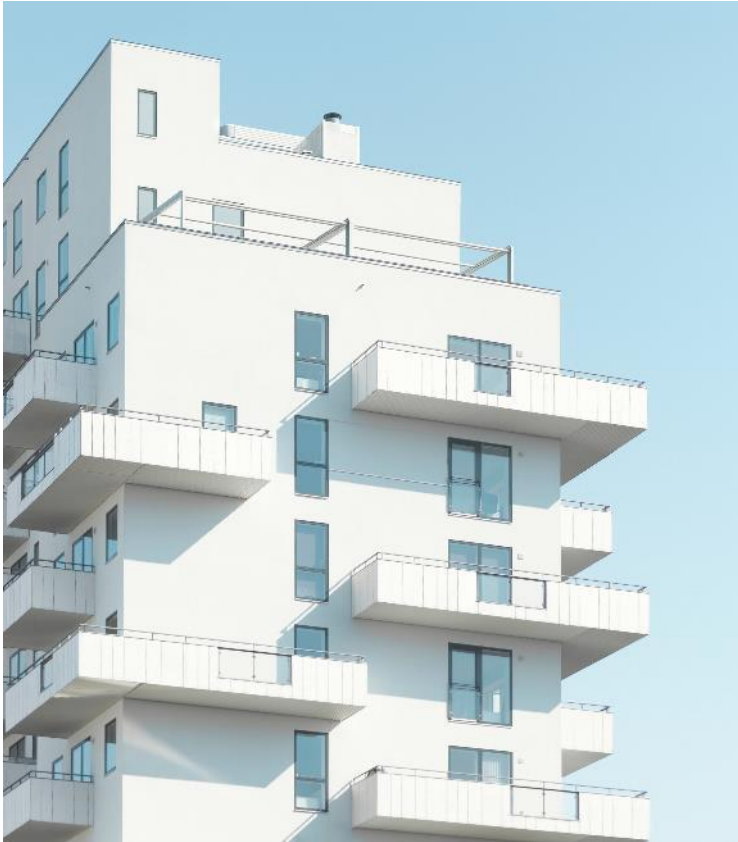
- Book 1 — Psalms 1–41
- Book 2 — Psalms 42–72
- Book 3 — Psalms 73–89
- Book 4 — Psalms 90–106
- Book 5 — Psalms 107–150

# BOOK 2



# BOOK 2

## (Psalms 42–72)



**Focus:** God as Savior

**Themes:** Longing,  
deliverance, kingship

**Authors:** Sons of Korah,  
David, Asaph, Solomon

# GROUP ACTIVITY (10 mins)

# GROUP ACTIVITY

## WHAT IS FEAR?

WHAT AFFECT DOES FEAR HAVE  
ON YOUR WALK WITH GOD?

# PSALM 52

## Read

**52** Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually.

<sup>2</sup> The tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

<sup>3</sup> Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah.

<sup>4</sup> Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue.

<sup>5</sup> God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

<sup>6</sup> The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him:

<sup>7</sup> Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

<sup>8</sup> But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.

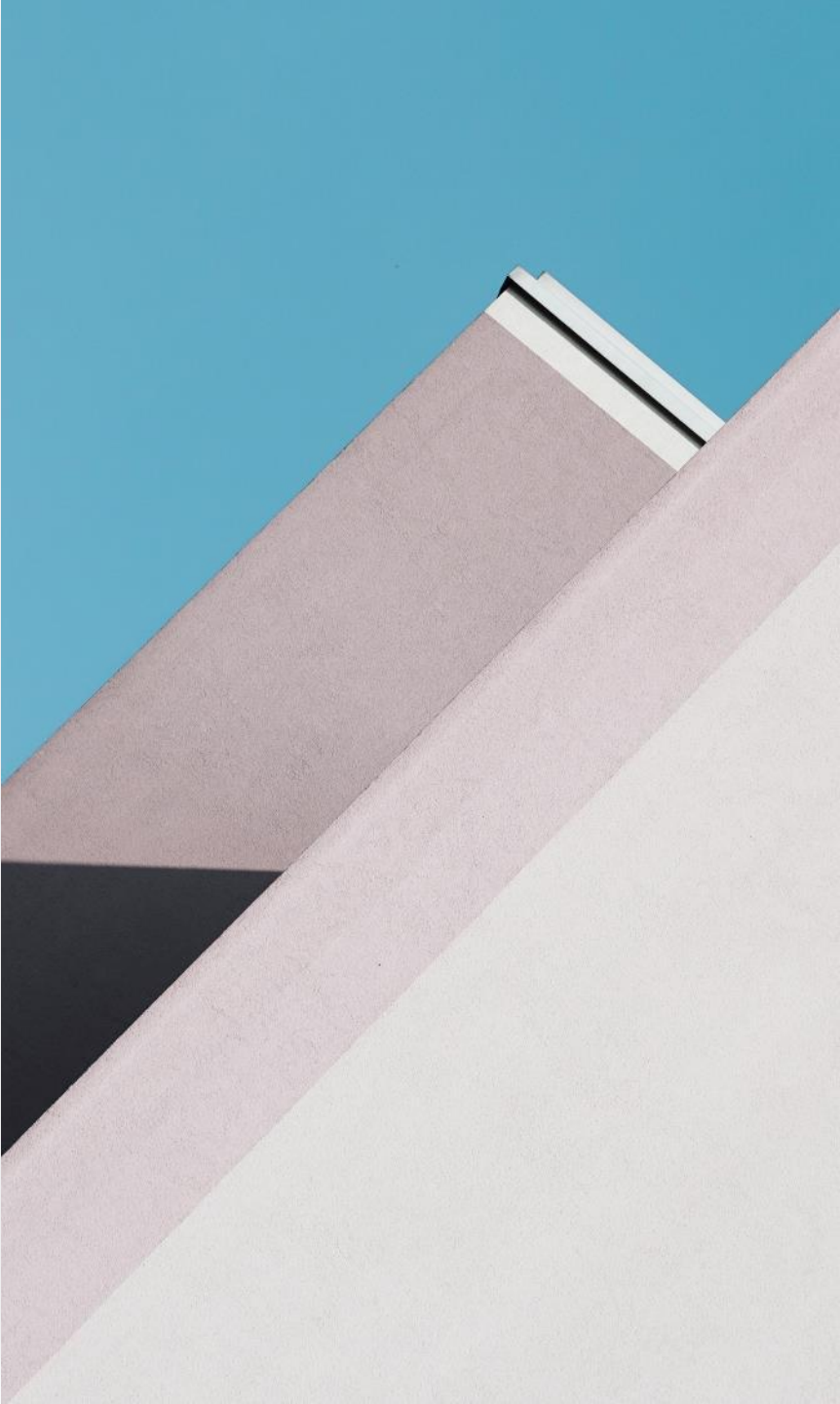
<sup>9</sup> I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints.

# KJV

## Psalm 52

# PSALM 52

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>DAVID</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>THEME:</b>       | GOD WILL JUDGE THE EVILDOER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>HISTORY:</b>     | Doeg the Edomite betrayed David and Ahimelech. Doeg brags about what he has done, but God is not pleased.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>OTHER FACTS:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ahimelech was the Chief Priest of the tabernacle @ Nob.</li><li>• He gave David bread and the sword of Goliath when David was a fugitive running from Saul.</li><li>• Saul was upset and killed him and 85 other Priests.</li></ul> |



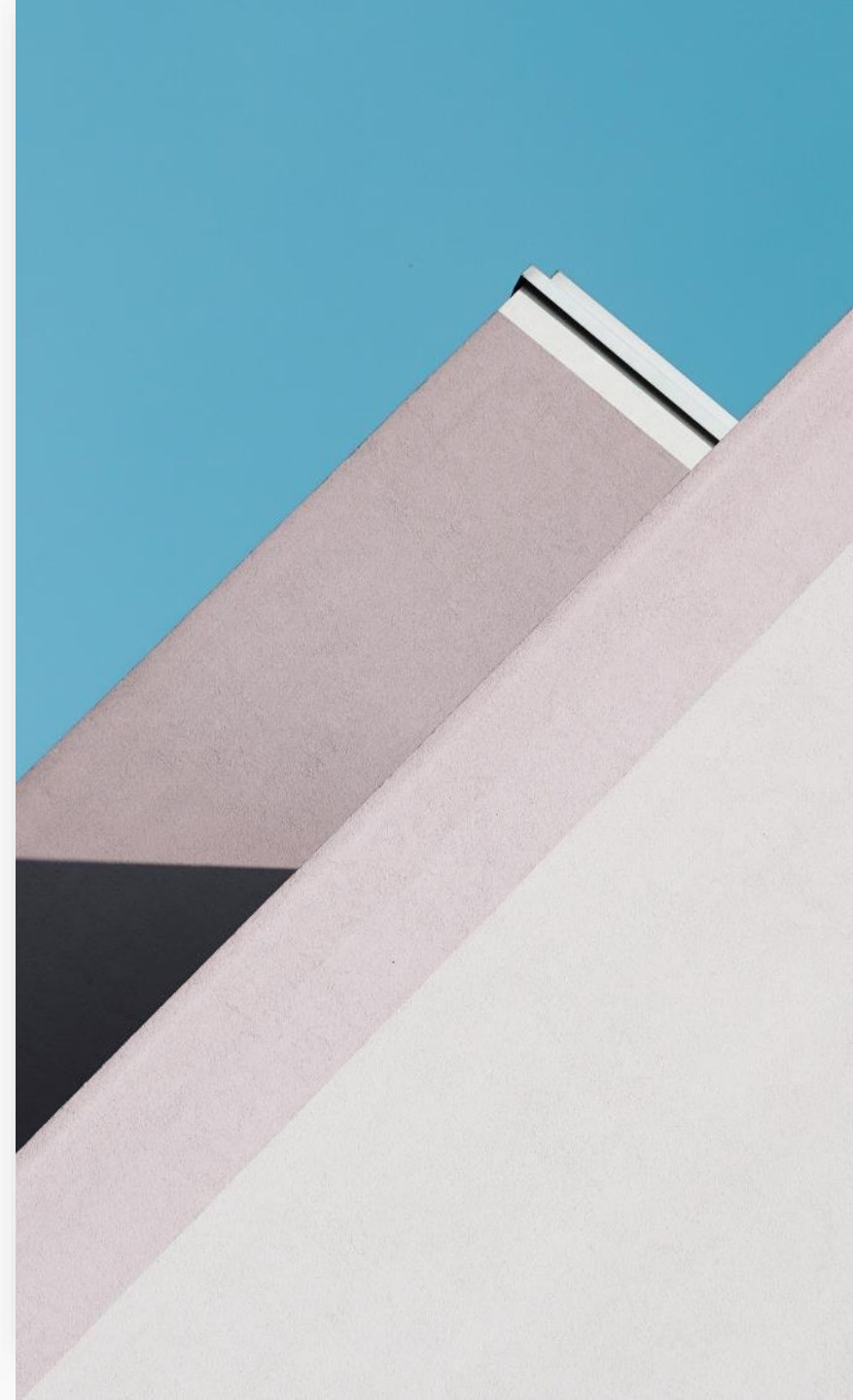
# PSALM 52

## VERSES 1-4

- We should not boast or brag
- If we accomplish something good does not mean that God is in it
- Is what you are doing God's will?
- Don't let your mouth cause your body to sin
- Does what you are doing line up with the Word of God?
- Our heart should love God and righteousness more than evil
- When our intentions are evil, God does not receive our deeds

## VERSES 5-9

- The righteous shall see fear and laugh at the one being reproved by God for their evil
- Don't trust in what you accomplish (money, houses, cars, etc..) Trust in God
- Be like David and trust in God & His House
- Trust God's mercy
- David said like an Olive Tree, I will live a long life (hundreds of years), I will produce food and substance for me and those around me



# PSALM 53

## Read

**53** The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

<sup>2</sup> God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.

<sup>3</sup> Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

<sup>4</sup> Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God.

<sup>5</sup> There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.

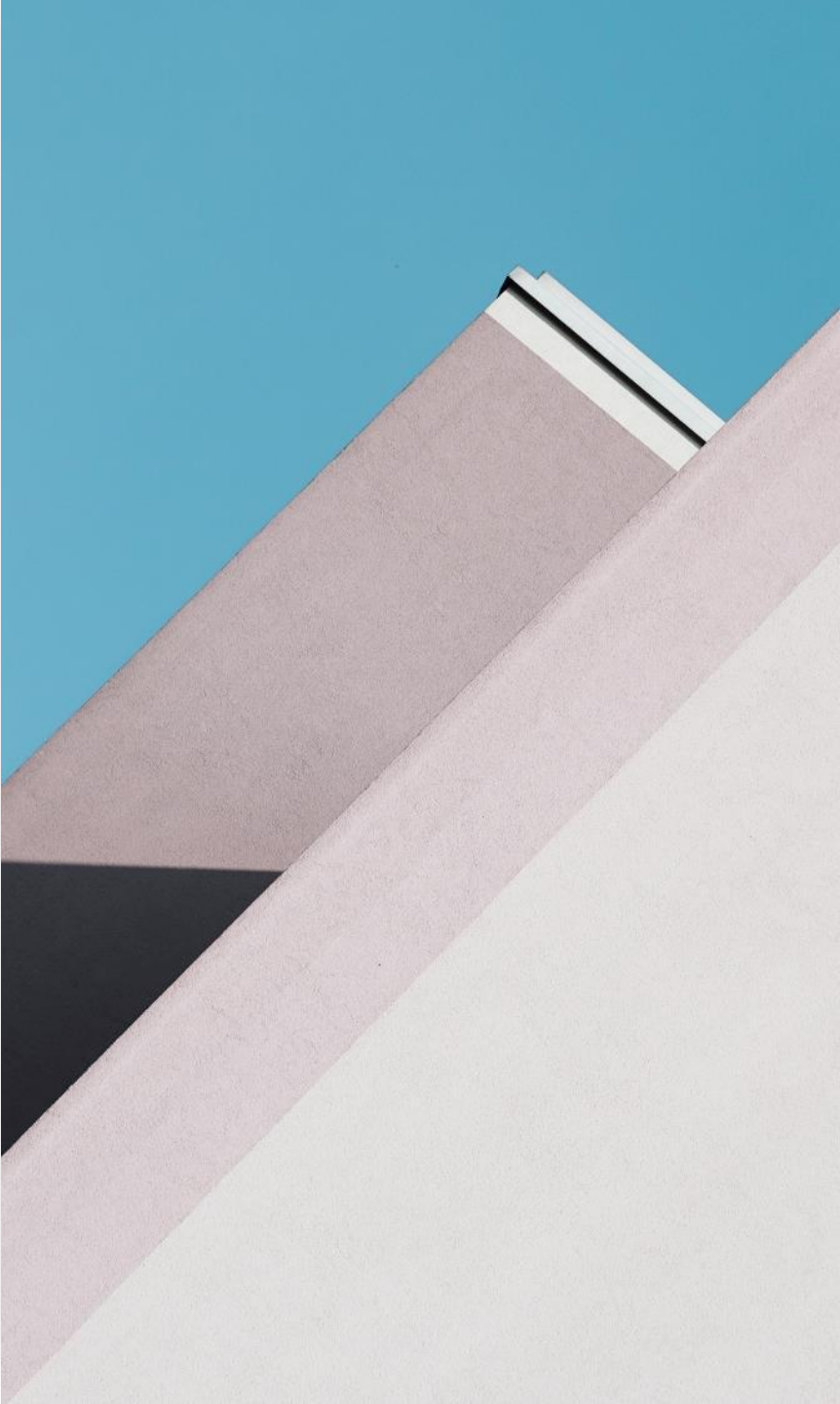
<sup>6</sup> Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

# KJV

## Psalm 53

# PSALM 53

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUTHOR:    | DAVID                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| THEME:     | ALL HAVE SINNED. ONLY GOD CAN SAVE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| HISTORY:   | This Psalm goes with Psalm 14. It talks of the foolishness of atheism.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| VERSES 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We often want to justify our sins &amp; shortcomings. We make our own definitions of what is right and wrong</li><li>• Many continue to make excuses for sin</li><li>• A foolish person is one who willfully rejects God – We can be a member of the church or not coming to church and be guilty of rejecting God</li><li>• We should care about what we think and say about God</li><li>• We should care what God thinks and says about us</li><li>• God is a God of love, mercy &amp; judgement</li><li>• If we focus on running our own life, where does God fit.</li><li>• Don't get caught up in your life so much that you reject God's guidance, direction and love</li></ul> |
| VERSES 4-6 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



# PSALM 54

## Read

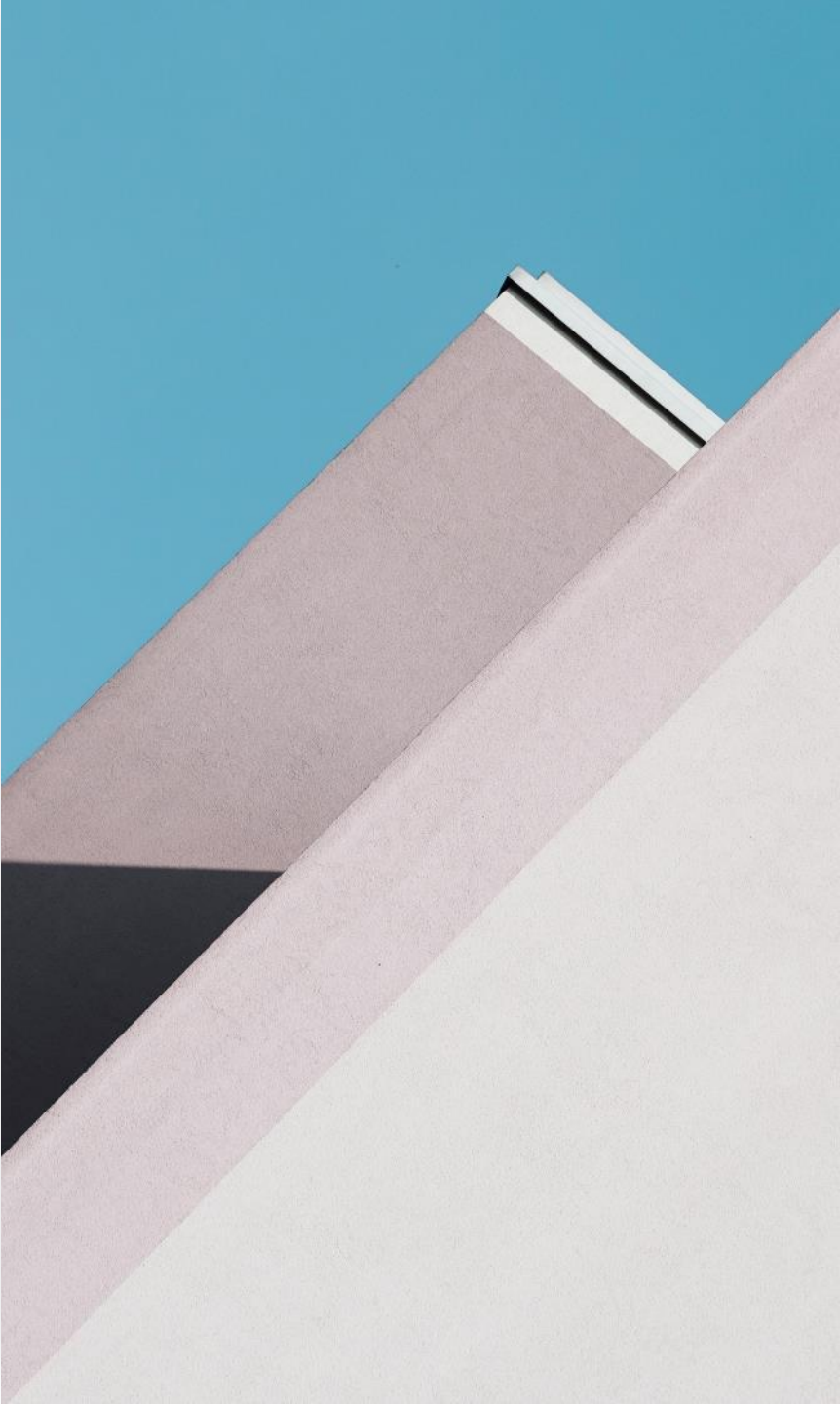
**54** Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength.  
<sup>2</sup> Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.  
<sup>3</sup> For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul:  
they have not set God before them. Selah.  
<sup>4</sup> Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.  
<sup>5</sup> He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in thy truth.  
<sup>6</sup> I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good.  
<sup>7</sup> For he hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen his  
desire upon mine enemies.

**KJV**

**Psalms 54**

# PSALM 54

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUTHOR:   | DAVID                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| THEME:    | GOD WILL HELP US EVEN WHEN WE HAVE BEEN HURT OR BETRAYED.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| HISTORY:  | LIKE MOST OF HIS PSALMS, DAVID GOES FROM PRAYER TO PRAISE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| THOUGHTS: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David is transparent with God</li><li>• Talking with God was where David found relief</li><li>• Where do you find relief?</li><li>• David prayed that God would repay evil to his enemies</li><li>• David is confident in the promises of God</li><li>• If we cause trouble, we will reap trouble (Prov 26:27)</li><li>• What you intend for others might be what comes back to you</li><li>• Like David, be straight forward</li><li>• Like David, be honest</li><li>• You gain nothing by pretending</li></ul> |



# PSALM 55

## Read

**55** Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.  
<sup>2</sup> Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise;  
<sup>3</sup> Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me.  
<sup>4</sup> My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.  
<sup>5</sup> Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.  
<sup>6</sup> And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.  
<sup>7</sup> Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah.  
<sup>8</sup> I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.  
<sup>9</sup> Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city.  
<sup>10</sup> Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it.  
<sup>11</sup> Wickedness is in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets.  
<sup>12</sup> For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

# KJV

## Psalm 55

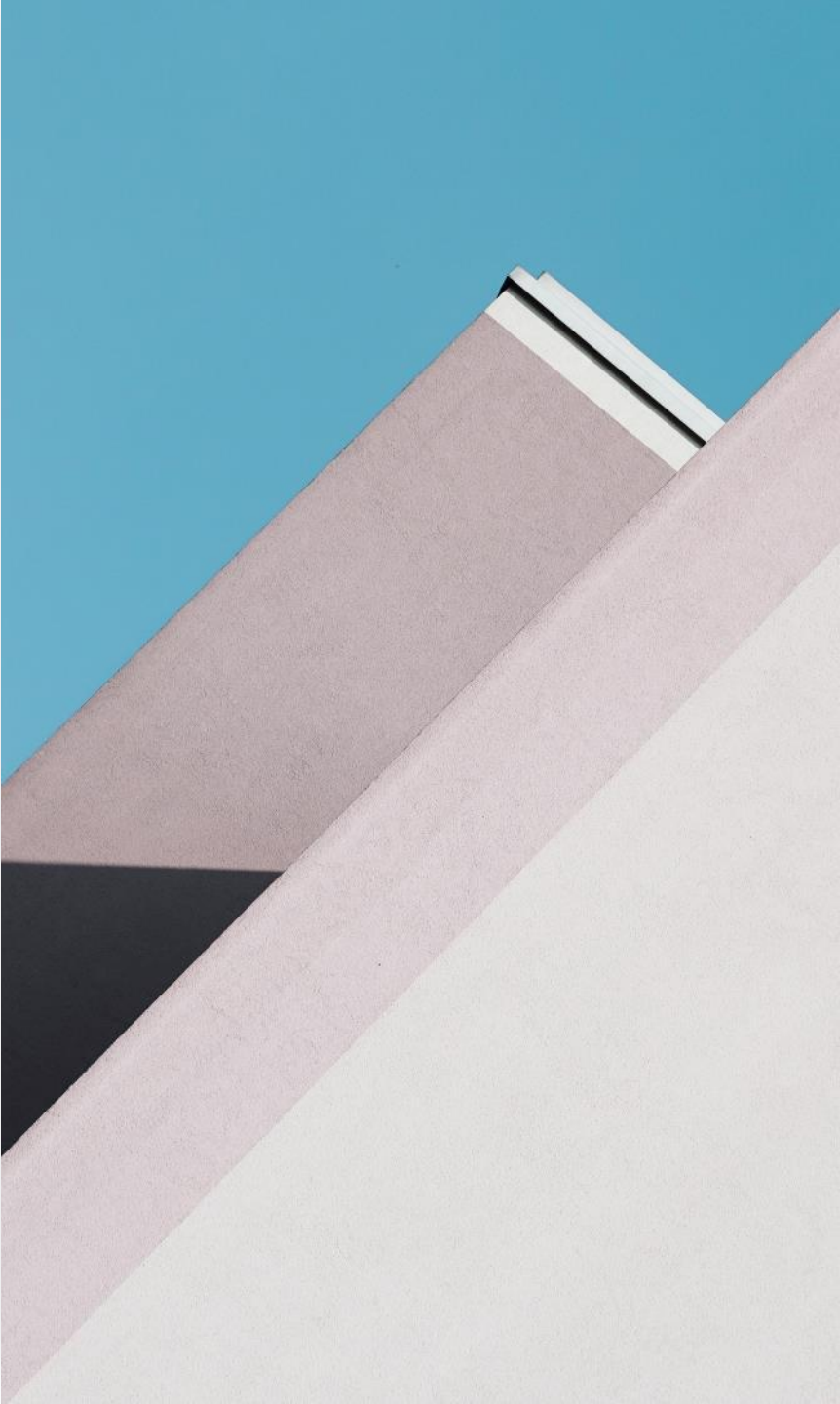
- <sup>13</sup> But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.
- <sup>14</sup> We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.
- <sup>15</sup> Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.
- <sup>16</sup> As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.
- <sup>17</sup> Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.
- <sup>18</sup> He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me.
- <sup>19</sup> God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.
- <sup>20</sup> He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant.
- <sup>21</sup> The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.
- <sup>22</sup> Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
- <sup>23</sup> But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

# KJV

## Psalm 55 (con't)

# PSALM 55

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUTHOR:     | DAVID                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| THEME:      | THE HURT THAT COMES FROM A FRIEND.<br>CHURCH HURT.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| HISTORY:    | SAID TO BE WRITTEN WHEN ABSALOM<br>REBELLED & AHITHOPHEL BETRAYED DAVID.<br>SOME SAY THIS IS A PROPHECY OF JUDAS’<br>BETRAYAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| VERSES 1-5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David cries out to God for help</li><li>• David tells God what’s going on</li><li>• David is fearful &amp; shaking – he feels like he is in a nightmare</li><li>• David want to run &amp; hide</li><li>• We all have our moments</li><li>• Our escape as believers should be in stillness and prayer</li><li>• Even when it seem like the church is not following God’s word – we must do what’s right</li><li>• We must deal with our church issues before we blame the world</li></ul> |
| VERSES 6-10 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



# PSALM 55 (con't)

## VERSES 11-15

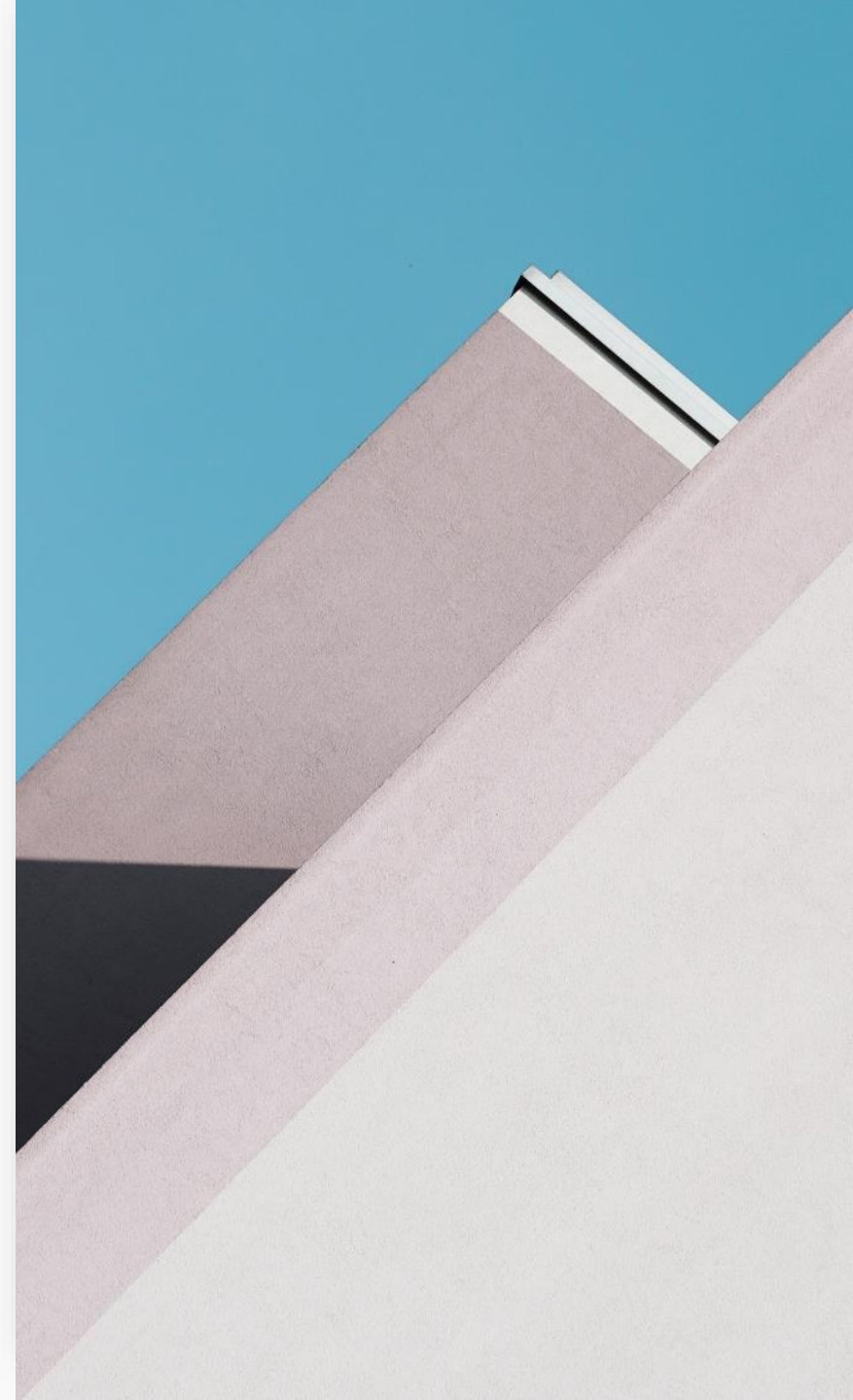
- Being hurt by a friend is unexplainable
- David was betrayed by a friend, and he tells God about it
- Real friends stick by us, love us, accept us and attempt to understand our point of view – they may not agree, but they listen and sometimes rebuke us

## VERSES 16-20

- David modeled what morning prayer should look like

## VERSES 21-23

- **\*\*\*TRY TO PAY A PSALM ONCE A WEEK - 91**
- Give your burdens to God
- He will carry them - 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.



# PSALM 56

## Read

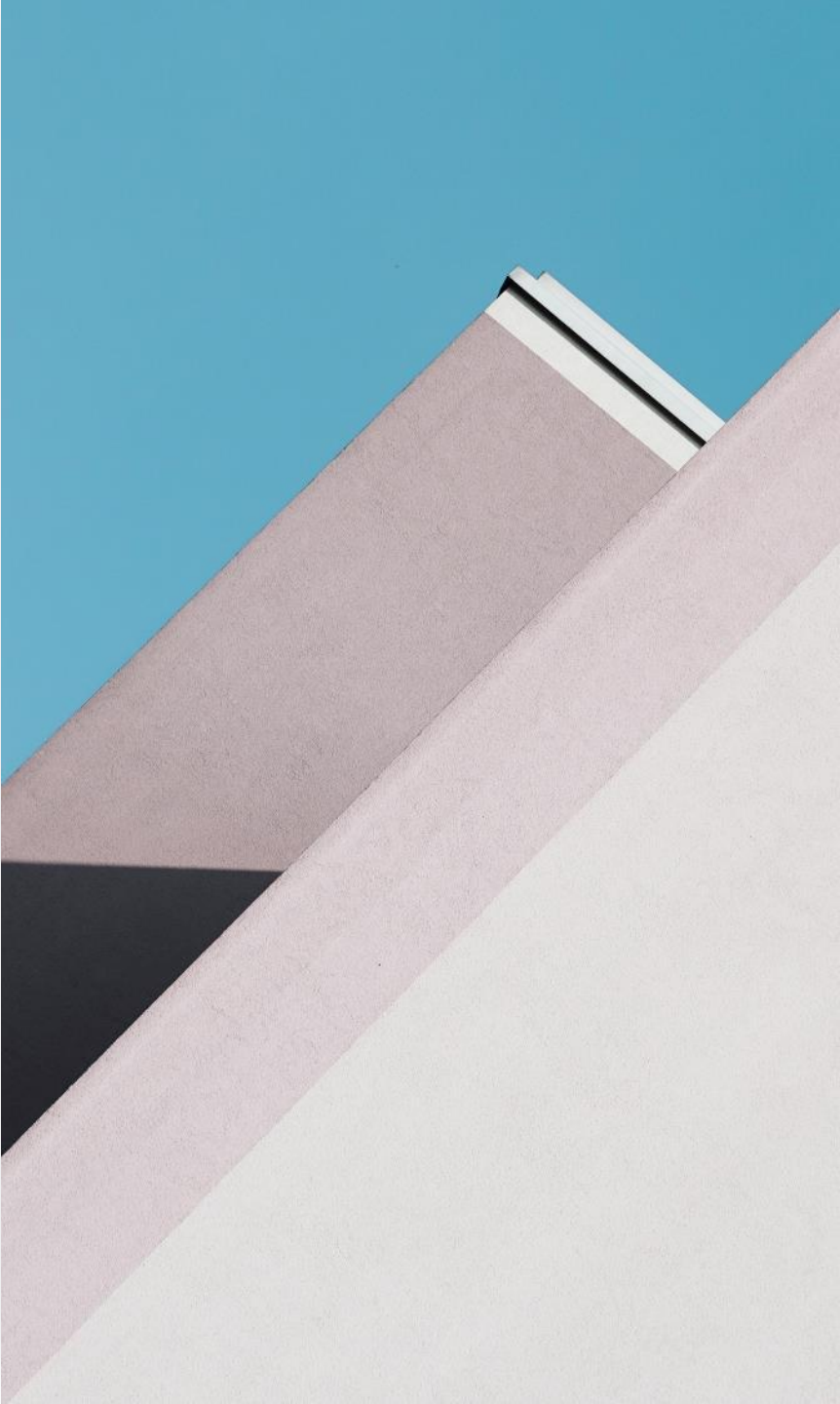
**56** Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me.  
<sup>2</sup> Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.  
<sup>3</sup> What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.  
<sup>4</sup> In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.  
<sup>5</sup> Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.  
<sup>6</sup> They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.  
<sup>7</sup> Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God.  
<sup>8</sup> Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?  
<sup>9</sup> When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.  
<sup>10</sup> In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.  
<sup>11</sup> In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.  
<sup>12</sup> Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.  
<sup>13</sup> For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

# KJV

## Psalm 56

# PSALM 56

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUTHOR:    | DAVID                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| THEME:     | TRUST IN GOD IN THE MIDST OF FEAR<br>Romans 8:31- What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| HISTORY:   | It is believed that this Psalm was written around the same time as Psalm 34. David was running from Saul and ended up with the Philistines                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| VERSES 1-2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• David asked God for mercy as his enemies came against him</li><li>• We say sticks and stones may....</li><li>• People can harm our physical bodies but they can not touch our souls</li><li>• Don't reject God... your future depends on it</li><li>• Matthew 10:28</li><li>• David tells God what's going on – he asks for help</li><li>• God knows every problem and sees every fear. He will take care of us</li></ul> |
| VERSES 3-4 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| VERSES 5-7 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| VERSE 8    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



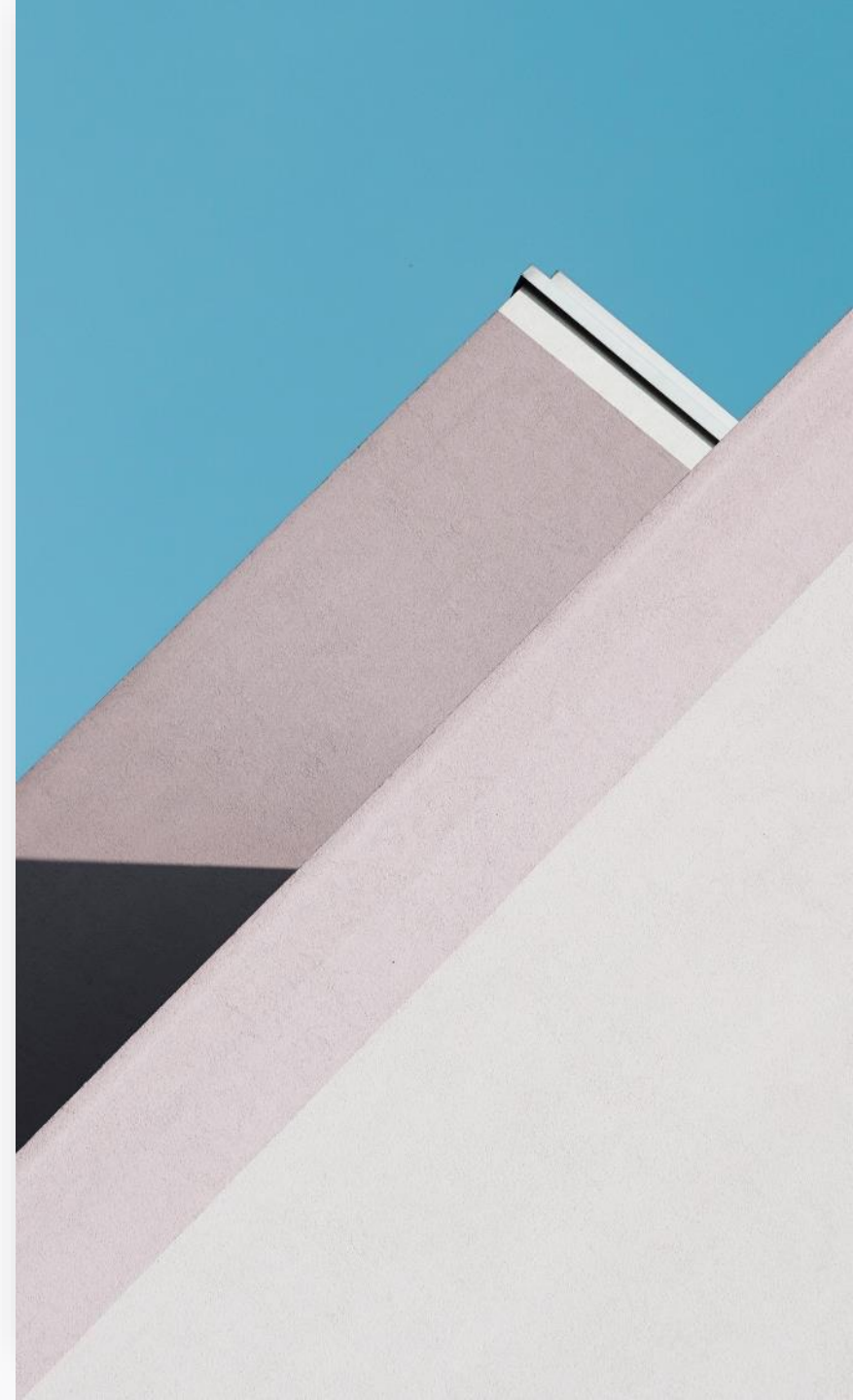
# PSALM 56 (con't)

## VERSES 9-11

- Fear can paralyze us
- Fear can cause us physical sickness
- God is always by our side
- God is to be praised when He answers your prayers

## VERSES 13

- God give us light, so we won't fear – do you fear the dark
- We must remain in His presence
- God guides us and helps us make the right decisions



# SUMMARY OF Psalm 52-56

| Psalm | Author | Theme                                          | Historical Setting                                                                                   | Commentary / Application                                                                                                            |
|-------|--------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 52    | David  | The downfall of the boastful wicked            | When Doeg the Edomite told Saul that David had gone to Ahimelech (1 Sam. 21–22)                      | Evil may appear powerful, but God uproots deceit. Trusting God’s steadfast love gives stability when slander or betrayal strikes.   |
| 53    | David  | The corruption of humanity                     | A parallel to Psalm 14; likely written during a time of national moral decline                       | Human rebellion is universal, but God defends His people. This psalm calls believers to humility and dependence on God’s salvation. |
| 54    | David  | God as helper in betrayal                      | When the Ziphites informed Saul of David’s hiding place (1 Sam. 23)                                  | Even when “friends” turn against us, God sustains. David models prayer that moves from fear to confidence.                          |
| 55    | David  | The pain of betrayal and the burden of anxiety | Possibly during Absalom’s rebellion, when a close companion (likely Ahithophel) turned against David | Emotional wounds from trusted people cut deepest. Casting burdens on the Lord brings relief when human relationships fail.          |
| 56    | David  | Trust in God despite fear                      | When the Philistines captured David in Gath (1 Sam. 21)                                              | Fear is real, but God’s Word anchors the soul. David shows how to turn panic into praise by remembering God’s promises.             |

*What else?*

*Is there anything you  
want to talk about?*

# Psalms Reading Plan

— 5 Psalms per Week —

Begins: March 20, 2026

## Weeks 1–10

| Week | Dates        | Psalms       |
|------|--------------|--------------|
| 1    | Mar 20–26    | Psalms 1–5   |
| 2    | Mar 27–Apr 2 | Psalms 6–10  |
| 3    | Apr 3–9      | Psalms 11–15 |
| 4    | Apr 10–16    | Psalms 16–20 |
| 5    | Apr 17–23    | Psalms 21–25 |
| 6    | Apr 24–30    | Psalms 26–30 |
| 7    | May 1–7      | Psalms 31–35 |
| 8    | May 8–14     | Psalms 36–40 |
| 9    | May 15–21    | Psalms 36–40 |
| 10   | May 22–28    | Psalms 46–50 |

## Weeks 11–20

| Week | Dates        | Psalms        |
|------|--------------|---------------|
| 11   | May 29–Jun 4 | Psalms 51–55  |
| 12   | Jun 5–11     | Psalms 56–60  |
| 13   | Jun 12–18    | Psalms 61–65  |
| 14   | Jun 19–25    | Psalms 66–70  |
| 15   | Jun 26–Jul 2 | Psalms 71–75  |
| 16   | Jul 3–9      | Psalms 76–80  |
| 17   | Jul 10–16    | Psalms 81–85  |
| 18   | Jul 17–23    | Psalms 86–90  |
| 19   | Jul 24–30    | Psalms 91–95  |
| 20   | Jul 31–Aug 6 | Psalms 96–100 |

## Weeks 21–30

| Week | Dates        | Psalms         |
|------|--------------|----------------|
| 21   | Aug 7–13     | Psalms 101–105 |
| 22   | Aug 14–20    | Psalms 106–110 |
| 23   | Aug 21–27    | Psalms 111–115 |
| 24   | Aug 28–Sep 3 | Psalms 116–120 |
| 25   | Sep 4–10     | Psalms 121–125 |
| 26   | Sep 11–17    | Psalms 126–130 |
| 27   | Sep 18–24    | Psalms 131–135 |
| 28   | Sep 25–Oct 1 | Psalms 136–140 |
| 29   | Oct 2–8      | Psalms 141–145 |
| 30   | Oct 9–15     | Psalms 146–150 |

30 Weeks • 150 Psalms • 5 Per Week



# **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT CHURCH**

## **Read the Bible in a Year Initiative**

**One Word. One Church. One Year.**