

## When Trouble Comes Knocking On Your Door

### Psalm 54

**Introduction:** Psalm 54 is a part of a group of 4 Psalms (Pss. 52-55) in which David prayed for the Lord's deliverance when he was being hunted by Saul. The background is found in 1 Samuel 23. Psalm 54 provides for us psychological and spiritual insight into the thinking of David.

David is pursued like an animal. A friend has become an enemy. What was his response?

#### I. Call on the Lord. 54:1-3

Our lives are in God's hand as the sovereign Lord of the universe. He is in control of the details, the moments of our lives.

##### 1) The Lord can save you. 54:1

- Salvation in this context is temporal not eternal.
- David appeals to the character and nature of his God, denoted by the phrase "Your name." This God is righteous and just. (Exodus 34:6-7).

##### 2) The Lord can vindicate you. 54:1

- That David has primarily in mind the righteousness and justice of God is borne out by the term "vindicate." God will prove us to be men and women of integrity and authenticity, and He will do it by His strength, His might, His power. [Note the use and repetition of the word "Your"].
- (Rom. 8:31; Rom. 8:33).

##### 3) The Lord can hear you. 54:2-3

- Verse 2 is a beautiful example of Hebrew parallelism as the 2<sup>nd</sup> line complements and reinforces the 1<sup>st</sup>. The same is true for verse 3 (a verse nearly identical to Ps. 86:14), though it contains a 3<sup>rd</sup> line providing something of a summary judgment or indictment of the evil persons who seek to do harm to David.
- David identifies his enemies as strangers and oppressors (HCSB, "*violent men*"). They are not friends, and their character and behavior is that of violence and destruction. Their goal? To take his life.
- Their motive? God is not before them. (NLT: "They care nothing for God; HCSB: "They have no regard for God.")
- Jesus reminds all of His disciples, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18).

## II. Trust in the Lord. 54:4-5

David prays in confidence (vs. 1-2) because he knows who God is and what He will do (vs. 4-5).

### 1) The Lord is your helper. 54:4

- This is the center verse of this psalm and its apex or climax. Is it implied that one means by which God sustains us is thru others, like a Jonathan?! (Prov. 17:17; Prov. 18:24)
- We are made by Him and we are sustained (maintained) by Him. “I am immoral til my task on earth is finished!” (Lottie Moon)

### 2) The Lord is your avenger. 54:5

- (Rom. 13:19; Deut. 32:35; Psalm 94:1, and Psalm 54:5).
- David says, as we should say, “He [the Lord] will repay my enemies for their evil.” I will leave the matter in His hands.
- David “wants their blood”, but he will leave it to God to make the call.

## III. Worship the Lord. 54:6-7

### 1) Sacrifice to the Lord. 54:6

- David pledges to make a “freewill offering to the Lord”, an offering explained in Leviticus 3&7. It was offered willingly, voluntarily. Also called a “fellowship offering,” it was an offering or sacrifice made from a grateful heart for deliverance from sickness, trouble or death, or even for a blessing received.
- Romans 12:1 addresses the proper sacrifices for the one who has experienced “the mercies of God” and deliverance from the penalty and power of sin, death and the grave by the blood atonement of Jesus.

### 2) Praise the Lord. 54:6-7

He will praise the Lord’s name, His character, and in particular, His goodness. The *NIV* translates v. 7b, “my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.” They meant me harm but God turned it back on them. He did it. He did it all. “I will praise your name.”

**Conclusion:** We have learned that trouble will come knocking. It is inevitable. That’s the way life is. So, when you hear its rapping at your door: Call on the Lord; Trust in the Lord, and Worship the Lord. He has a purpose. He is working out His plan for His glory and for our good.