

Psalm 55, Bible Study Outline

By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket RI, 2021

1. Authorship: David; “A Contemplation of David”
2. Theme and Occasion: Trust in the Lord in Difficult and Treacherous Days; Thompsons entitles it “Trust in God Concerning the Treachery of Friends”, the days of Absalom and Ahithophel, there are Messianic overtones and applications to this Psalm
3. “To the chief musician”, for congregational singing
4. 55:1-2, crying to God a first resort in times of desperate need, “my complaint” allowable when it is to God who is the Solution
5. 55:3, the cause, evil people of the world who make “trouble”, whether at work, at home, or elsewhere, “oppression” is the fruit of the work of the evil-hearted who act upon their “hate”
6. 55:4-5, “terrors of death”, the awful feeling that there is no discharge from the battle with current tribulation, even the Lord has hedged him in (Job 3:23 as opposed to Job 1:10 of days past), this prayer of David correlates with that of Psalm 61:2
7. 55:6-8, **the universal desire for spiritual rest shared by all men, which can only be found through knowing Christ**, restlessness and restless lives and lifestyles of unbelievers, the desire of Christians to find escape from ungodliness is good but must not be taken too far (Cf. John 17:14-19), nostalgia often at odds with reality
8. 55:9-11, an appeal to divine judgment and frustration of the plans of the wicked, Cf. Genesis 11:6-9
9. 55:12-15, betrayal of a friend much harder to bear than reproaches of an enemy, context is the betrayal of David by Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15:12,31, 16:23), this betrayal may (or may not) have been contrived due to a grudge (2 Samuel 11:3, 23:34), we remember Judas’ betrayal of our Lord to which certain of these things are true, apply to our own lives, even within Christendom
10. 55:16-19, trust in God to hear and answer prayers, has not the Lord loved us enough to provide for the redemption of our souls?
11. 55:20-21, treachery and flattery the tools of evil men
12. 55:22-23, Cf. 1 Peter 5:6-7, divine support, saints immovable when they trust in the Immovable God, the wicked cut off