

Psalm 59: A plea to God to destroy his enemies



Psalm 59 (58) (Mode 1. 5....65 / 3.....23)

Enemies, like wild dogs, are prowling through the city plunged in darkness. The psalmist pleads with YHWH to rise up and show that he is the God of Israel, and will not allow Israel's enemies to prevail.

Rescue me, God, from my foes;
protect me from those who rise up against me.
Rescue me from those who do evil.
Save me from those thirsting for my blood.

They are out to take my life.
They stir up strife against me.

For no guilt of mine, O Lord,
they hasten and make ready to attack.
Rouse yourself to my call,
O Lord, come and see!

These stanzas are not in the liturgy

You, O powerful Lord, are God of Israel.

Awake to punish the nations.

Do not spare them,

they treacherously plot evil.

refrain, verse 14

They turn up at dusk, howling like wild dogs.

They prowl about the city forever snarling.

Their mouths are filled with daggers.

Who listens to them?

You laugh at them, Lord.

You hold the nations in disdain.

refrain, verse 17

O my strength,

I watch for you.

For you, O God, are my fortress,

my God who shows me love.

God goes before me

and shows me the defeat of my enemies.

These stanzas are not in the liturgy

Do not utterly destroy them,
lest my people forget you.

Use your power to make them totter,
and humble them, Lord, our shield.

The sin of their mouths
is the loquacious nonsense that they utter.
Let them stay trapped in their insolence
by the lies and their curses.

These stanzas are not in the liturgy

Destroy them in your wrath;

once and for all destroy them.

Let them know that the Lord rules in Jacob

and to the utmost ends of the earth.

refrain verse 6

They turn up at dusk, howling like wild dogs.

They prowl about the city in search of food.

You can hear them snarling

if they do not get their fill.

As for me, I will sing of your might.
Every morning I will acclaim your love.
For you have been a fortress for me,
a refuge in the day of my distress.

O my strength, refrain, verse 9
I will sing praises to you,
for you, O God, are my fortress,
my God who shows me love.

The refrain in verse 9 has ‘*O my strength, I watch for you*’.
Now he sings praises because his plea has been heard.