

## I Will Awaken The Dawn (Psalm 57)

### Background

This setting for this psalm is given in the title: David pursued by Saul has fled into a cave. This is either the cave of Adullam (1 Sam 22) or a cave in the wilderness of Engedi (1 Sam 24).

### Structure

It can be divided into six sections:

- v1 **A plea for mercy:** David appeals for God's help on no other basis than his faith. He has not put his faith in the walls of his surroundings but in the wings of the one who watches over him.
- v2-3 **A firm resolve:** David will continue to cry out to God, the one who is the source of all good things. He is confident that God will help him, displaying his steadfast love and faithfulness (see Exod 34:6)
- v4 **The present peril:** David's enemies are like vicious lions; his own people have taken up weapons against him.
- v5-6 **The final victory:** David prays for God's glory; even though his soul is troubled, he is confident that God will rescue him.
- v7-8 **Personal praise:** David's firm faith in God leads to exuberant praise; he praises God before the start of the day. ("My glory" in verse 8 may mean "my highest powers" or "my whole being.")
- v9-10 **Universal praise:** The praise of David's Lord will not be confined to a cave; it will spread to all nations; his exaltation and glory will be as great as his steadfast love and truth.

### Points to ponder

God has incomparably demonstrated his love by sending his Son to die for us. Jesus has been exalted and we will be exalted with him. Even now Jesus is seated in the heaven watching over us. So, even in the most difficult circumstances, we have many good reasons to *awaken the dawn*.

## Psalm 57

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Michtam of David when he fled from Saul into the cave.

<sup>1</sup>Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!

For my soul trusts in You;

And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge,  
Until these calamities have passed by.

<sup>2</sup>I will cry out to God Most High,  
To God who performs all things for me.

<sup>3</sup>He shall send from heaven and save me;

He reproaches the one who would swallow me up.

Selah

God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.

<sup>4</sup>My soul is among lions;

I lie among the sons of men

Who are set on fire,

Whose teeth are spears and arrows,

And their tongue a sharp sword.

<sup>5</sup>Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

Let Your glory be above all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>They have prepared a net for my steps;

My soul is bowed down;

They have dug a pit before me;

Into the midst of it they themselves have fallen.

Selah

<sup>7</sup>My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;

I will sing and give praise.

<sup>8</sup>Awake, my glory!

Awake, lute and harp!

I will awaken the dawn.

<sup>9</sup>I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing to You among the nations.

<sup>10</sup>For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens,

And Your truth unto the clouds.

<sup>11</sup>Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

Let Your glory be above all the earth.