

A FIXED HEART

OR, PEACE IN
A CAVE.

Psalm 57 (v. 7) Mrs. Helen Blood's
verse.

Intro: Both from the heading of this Psalm and from its content we can see that this was written in a time of great danger for David.

It is practically all a prayer to God.

Although v. 7 seems to indicate that the trouble is over, in reading the rest of the Psalm we can see that this is only spoken prophetically.

But in all of this, while he was in the cave, David boldly declares, "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed:
I will sing and give praise."

What does he mean?

A fixed heart is one that is full of hope and confidence. See Gesenius, p. 453. It is sure of the outcome.

Paul had a fixed heart in Phil. 1:6.

But did this mean this mean for David and Paul that things were going to turn out their way? NO!

Behind such confidence is a great deal of knowledge of the Lord and His Word. We may not know the details of the outcome, and certainly we do not know the time. It may be quite different from what we hope, but the child of God can be certain, can be assured, nevertheless!

Before we see the reasons for David's confidence, let us note what it had done to him:

- 1) It had made him pray. See vv. 1, 2.
- 2) It had made him praise. See vv. 7-9.

Sometimes this is the only way we can have our hearts turned to the Lord and established in Him.

But now let us learn from the Psalm itself why David was so certain of ultimate victory and blessing where Saul was concerned. Note: He had been anointed. He knew the plan of God. But on at least one occasion he gave up! What kept him steady and confident here?

- I. HE WAS KEPT BY HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD AND HIS ATTRIBUTES. See vv. 1, 2, 3, and 10.

Note such things as God's mercy,
the fact that He is God,
that He is "most high,"
His mercy and truth (faithfulness),
and that these last two are inexhaustible.

- II. HE WAS KEPT BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT TRIALS COME, BUT THEY ALSO GO. See v. 1b. "Calamities" is also translated destruction, disaster, even engulfing ruin.

But David also knows that they are just passing by. It is true that sometimes they end in death, but we can look forward to the time when they will be gone.

- III. HE WAS KEPT BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN EVERYTHING THAT TOUCHES OUR LIVES. See v. 2.

The NIV says, ". . . God, who fulfills his purpose for me." The NASB renders it, "accomplishes." A marginal reading is, completeth.

These are Old Testament expressions for such verses as Rom. 8:28 and Eph. 1:11. Note that this ties in with "God most high" in the first part of Psa. 57:2.

- IV. HE WAS KEPT BY HIS DESIRE THAT GOD WOULD BE EXALTED IN THE HEAVENS, AND THAT HIS GLORY BE SEEN IN THE EARTH.

This is the major emphasis of the Psalm, the refrain -- which is found two times: vv. 5, 11.

This is our main purpose in being here, and when it becomes our greatest desire, even in trials, then we will know what it means to have a fixed heart.

Concl: Looking back over these points, and going over the Psalm again, we note one particular thing about each of them -- which is a vital factor in a fixed heart. It is this: They all have to do with the Lord.

David could not get much consolation looking at the cave.

Nor could he if he thought about Saul, whose intention was to kill him.

His own resources were nothing -- and he knew that he could not touch the Lord's anointed.

Even the restlessness of his own men would only add to his own anxiety.

BUT THE ONLY PLACE OF CONFIDENCE AND REST WAS TO DO WHAT HE DID:

- 1) To pray.
- 2) To praise.
- 3) To strengthen his heart by what he knew of the Lord and the ways of the Lord.

And this is where our hope must be, too!