

Treasure Hunt

- How do the last five Psalms of the Defense differ from the first four?
- Why are these Psalms labeled “Michtam”?
- Why are Psalms 56-58 labeled “Al Taschith”?
- What is the Michtam in Psalm 56?
- What progression do the stanzas of Psalm 56 show?
- What is the Michtam in Psalm 57?
- How does this motto contrast with David’s historical situation in the Psalm?
- What two attributes of God encourage David, and why?
- What is the Michtam in Psalm 58?
- Why is this Psalm grouped with the others in 56-60?

Enemies of the Kingdom

Psalm	Title or (Allusion)	History	Type	Tune	People
52	Doeg the Edomite	1 Sam 21-22	Maschil	Mahalath	Gentile Individual
53	(Nabal)	1 Sam 25		Neginoth	Private Opposition
54	People of Ziph	1 Sam 23:19; 26:1		Jonath elem rechokim	
55	(Ahithophel)	2 Sam 15-17			
56	Gath (Philistine)	1 Sam 21:10-15	Michtam	Al Taschith	Gentile
57	Saul in cave	Adullam, 1 Sam 22 En Gedi, 1 Sam 24			Official Opposition
58	(Silent judges)	Saul?			
59	Saul watched the house	1 Sam 19:11		Shushan eduth	
60	Edom	2 Sam 8:13		Neginah	Gentile Nation

Michtam: A Motto or Epigram

Marked by repetition:

56:4 (10) In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

57:5 (11) Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

59:17 (cf. 9-10) for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

60:10 (cf.1) Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off?

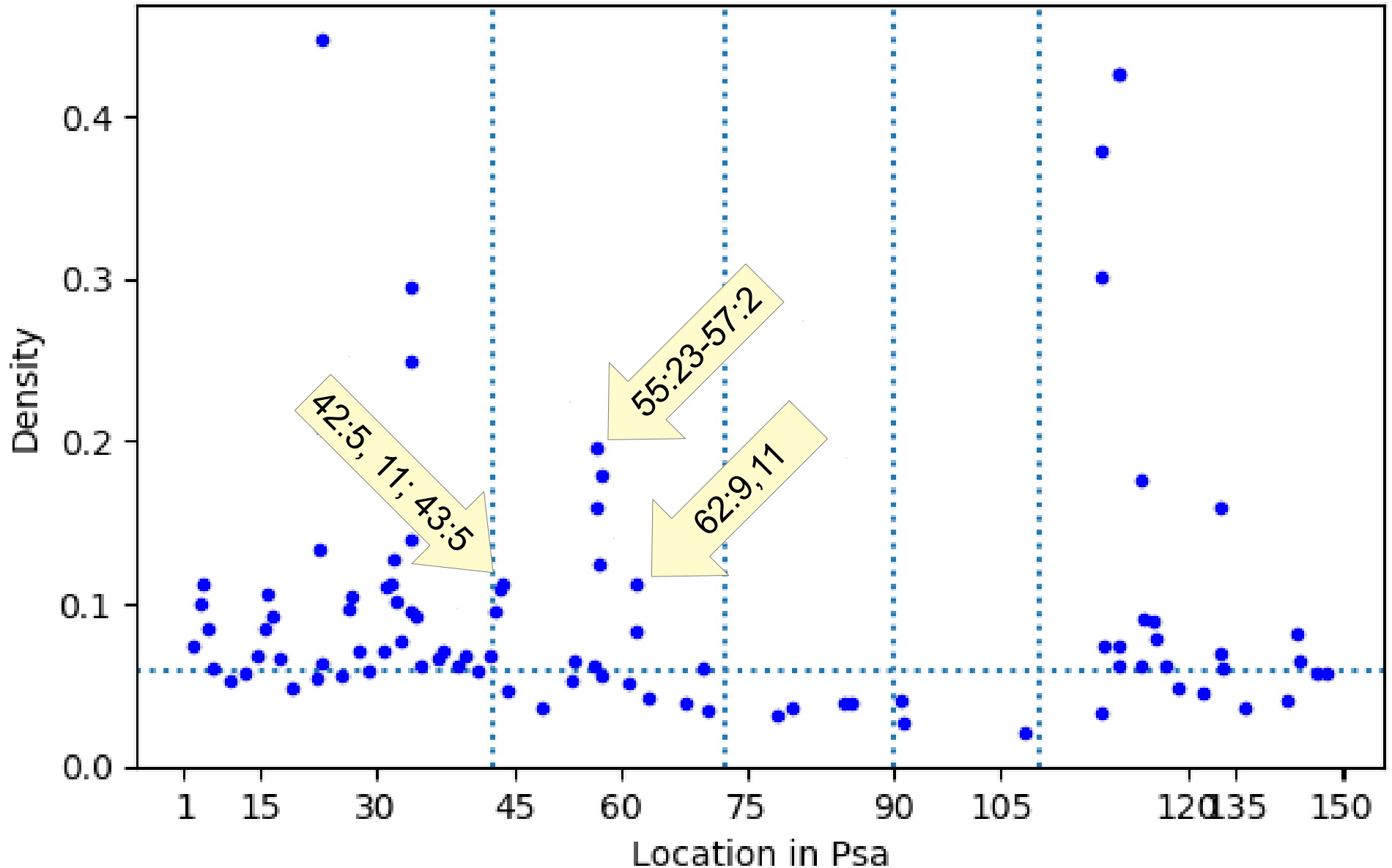
Marked by “I said,” “One said”

Psa 16:2 *O my soul, thou hast said* unto the LORD, Thou *art* my Lord: my goodness does not surpass thee thee;

58:11 So that **a man shall say**, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth. (cf. vv. 1-2)

Words for “Trust” in Psalms

XSH, XKH, YXL, B+X in Psalms



Structure of Psalm 56

Psalm 56: David in Gath

1-3, David's **Panic**

- 1, Prayer for Mercy
- 2, Unprincipled opposition
- 3, Trust in the midst of fear

4, **Motto: Praise, trust, and not fear**

5-9, David's **Perspective**

- 5-7, Opposition from iniquity
- 8-9, Prayer and Confidence

1-11, **Motto: Praise, trust, and not fear**

12-13, David's **Praise**

Al-Taschith (subscription to Psalms 56, 57, 58)

Deut. 9:26 I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, **destroy not** thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

1 Sam. 26:9 And David said to Abishai, **Destroy him not**: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

Structure of Psalm 57

Psalm 57: David in the Cave

1-4, Petition

1-3, Prayer for Mercy

→ God's **Mercy and Truth**

4, Description of the **Enemy**

5, Motto: May God be exalted

6-10, Praise

6, Description of the **Enemy**

7-10, Promise of Praise

→ God's **Mercy and Truth**

11, Motto: May God be exalted

Which Cave, Adullam or En Gedi?

1. Links between En Gedi and Psalm 7

1Sa 24:11 Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that **I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not**, know thou and see that **there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand**, and **I have not sinned against thee**; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

Psa 7:3 O LORD my God, if I have done this; **if there be iniquity in my hands**; 4 If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, **I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy**:)

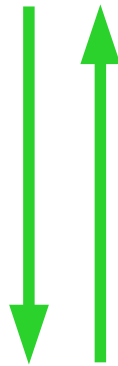
2. Parallels between Psalms 7 and 57 (next chart:)

Parallels between Psalms 7 and 57

Psalm 7	Psalm 57
1 concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite	1 when he fled from Saul in the cave
2 Lest he tear my soul like a lion , rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.	4 My soul is among lions :
5 Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour כבודי in the dust. Selah.	8 Awake up, my glory כבודי ; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.
6 Arise , O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself	5, 11 Be thou exalted , O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.
9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end גמר ; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.	2 I will cry ... unto God that performeth גמר all things for me.
15 He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.	6 ... they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.
17 I ... will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.	2 I will cry unto God most high ;

Alexander Maclaren, *The Life of David as Reflected in his Psalms*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1903.

Structure of Psalm 58

Judges (Righteousness, Judge, Earth)	1-2, Silent and corrupt		11, Active and Righteous
Wicked vs. Righteous	3-5, Insensitive wicked		10, Joyful righteous
Judgment	6-8, Requested		9, Declared

Who is a Judge?

Exo 18:13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat **to judge the people**: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. 14 And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? 15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: 16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and **I judge between one and another**, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

1Sa 8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king **to judge us** like all the nations.

2Sa 15:4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made **judge** in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

1Ki 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to **judge** thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?