

Psalm 59

4. ⁷Behold their lips, such spiteful words
Cast out, as they should seem to bear
Within their mouth sharp edged swords,
For what regard they who doth hear?
⁸But Lord, thou hast their ways espied,
And at the same shalt laugh apace:
The heathen folk thou shalt deride,
Yea, mock and scorn them to their face.
5. ⁹His force therefore that would me wrong,
I will refer, O Lord, to thee:
For though for me he be too strong,
Yet God will my defender be.
¹⁰God will prevent me with his grace,
Whose mercies I have found of old:
God will my foes each one deface
So that mine eyes shall it behold.
6. ¹¹But slay them not, lest their decay,
My people should forget and light:
Disperse them, Lord, our shield and stay,
And bring them low by thy great might.
¹²Let them be taken in their pride,
The sins of their own mouth, even that
Whereto their lips were aye applied,
Curses and lies then let them prate.²⁰
7. ¹³Consume, consume them in thine ire
That they henceforth no more be kend:²¹
That men may know how great empire,
Hath Jacob's God, to the world's end.
¹⁴And they in th'evening shall turn back
Like barking dogs, which howl and cry
When they run here and there for lack,
The town about their prey to spy.
8. ¹⁵They wander shall for hunger great
To seek their food, with need oppressed,
Before they filled be with meat:
Although the night drive them to rest.
¹⁶But I will sing of thy great power,
And early will thy mercy praise:
For thou hast aye been my strong tower,
And refuge in my troublous days.
9. ¹⁷To thee my only strength, I will,
Therefore sing psalms incessantly;
For God is my defence, and still,
A God most merciful to me.

²⁰ To talk excessively and pointlessly; babble.

²¹ Known as a fact, well-known.