



David begins by praying for the Lord's rescue. He describes those who want to kill him as strangers, which in this context means people who act as enemies. He asks for God's vindication: to be proven in the right (Psalm 54:1-3). After asking for rescue, David expresses supreme confidence that God will keep him alive. The main point is vindication: the psalmist vows an act of thanksgiving for God's judgment against his enemies. The author of the psalm says, "I will sacrifice." Presenting a "freewill offering" in order to "give thanks". In worship the psalmist will celebrate his deliverance.

In David's distress he relied on both the name and the strength of God. God's name speaks of the nature and character of God; strength speaks of His great power. David knew that God's strength could respond to his need by what he knew of God's name.

**The Lesson:** the psalmist calls God the upholder of his life. and in so doing, he reminds his readers that God holds all of our lives in the palm of His hand and He sustains and rescues His people. The important lesson is prayer and the acknowledgment of pain, as well as the power of praise and fulfillment of prophecy. This book has been designed as a prayer book for God's people as they wait for the arrival of the messiah and the fulfillment of God's promises.

**Main Concept:**

Save me, O God, by your name vindicate me by your might. Hear my prayer, O God, listen to the words of my mouth. Surely God is my help: the Lord is the one who sustains me. Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them.

**Commentary by Matthew Henry:**

The key of this psalm hangs at the door, for the title tells us upon what occasion it was penned- when the inhabitants of Ziph, mn of Judah, betrayed David to Saul, by informing him where he was and putting him in a way how to seize him. This thy did twice (I Sam. 23:19; 26:1), and it is upon record to their everlasting infamy. The psalm is sweet; the former part of it, perhaps, was meditated when he was in his distress and put into writing when the danger was over, with the addition of the last two verses which express his

thankfulness for the deliverance, which yet might be written in faith, even when he was amid his fright.

Psalm 54 is a contemplation psalm which means it is understood as an instruction psalm.

The historical setting of Psalm 54 is unclear. The psalter's editors thought it was David's hiding from a rampaging Saul at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph. The Ziphites approached the king and basically informed him that David was hiding in Ziph. They begged Saul to come so that they could hand David over to him.