

Psalm

DEFEND ME

For the Pure and Shining. On David's contemplative song of instruction, a song of derision^a when the Ziphites betrayed David to Saul. When David is hiding among the rocks, he says, "Get in

"God, defend me by your mighty name,
Come with deliverance and save me!
Listen to my prayer, O Lord, for my cry.
These violent men have risen up against me,
They are ruthless, ruthless men who care not for the Lord—
They seek to take my life."

Pause in the middle of the verse.

"The Lord God has become my strength,
My Helper."

He leans into my heart and seizes his hands against me!^c

^dGod will see to it that those who sow evil will reap evil.

So Lord, in your great faithfulness, destroy them once and for all!

^aThe Hebrew word used here is translated in some versions as *stringed instrument*. It also be rendered as *rejection*. This is a psalm for anyone who feels betrayed, rejected, and in a difficult situation with no one to rely on. See *Psalm 54:3* for foreigners.

^b54:4 The Hebrew word used here is *uphold or sustain*. It comes from a root that means *to lean upon or to rely*. The translation uses both concepts in this verse.

the
Psalm