

## Psalm 34

*Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelech,  
who drove him away, and he left.*

- 1 I will *extol* the Lord at all times; his *praise* will always be on my lips.  
2 My soul will *boast* in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and *rejoice*.  
3 *Glorify* the Lord with me; let us *exalt* his name together.
- 4 I *sought the Lord*, and *he answered me*; *he delivered me* from all my *fears*.  
5 Those who look to him are *radiant*; their faces are *never covered with shame*.  
6 This *poor man called*, and the Lord *heard him*; he *saved him* out of all his *troubles*.  
7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.
- 8 **Taste** and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.  
9 **Fear** the Lord\*; you his saints, for those who fear\* him lack nothing.  
10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
- 11 **Come**, my children, listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord\*.  
12 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,  
13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.  
14 **Turn** from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous\* and his ears are attentive to their cry;  
16 the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from  
the earth.  
17 The righteous\* cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their  
troubles.  
18 The Lord is close to the **brokenhearted** and saves those who are **crushed in spirit**.  
19 A righteous\* man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;  
20 he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.
- 21 Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous\* will be condemned.  
22 The Lord redeems his servants\*; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.

\*"righteous," "fear the Lord," "saints" "servants," (all of them) = In the Old Testament, these are God's people—those who honor God and order their lives according to his will.

*I Samuel 21:10-15*

That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish, king of Gath. But the servants of Achish said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land? Isn't he the one they sing about in their dances:

'Saul has slain this thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands?'"

David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish, king of Gath. So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

Achish said to his servants, "Look at the man! He is insane! Why bring him to me? Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?"

*I Samuel 22:1-2*

David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

II Corinthians 1:3-4