

## ***Psalm 35***

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- Once again David is being hounded by Saul, and slandered by Saul's men. David is God's chosen king and Saul is trying to destroy him out of jealousy and lust, wanting one of his own sons to succeed him.
- During this Psalm David makes three basic requests and eventually God grants all three.

V: 1-10 David asks God to protect him.  
V: 11-18 David asks God to reward him.  
V: 19-28 David asks God to vindicate him.

- This is considered an "imprecatory" Psalm, a Psalm that pronounces curses.
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V: 1-3 Fight for me, plead my cause against my enemies, show yourself strong on my behalf against those that fight against me.

- That's the smart thing to do, to ask for the Lord to fight for you - He always wins!

The Lord our God is amongst other things a God of war:

**Psalm 24:8** "Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle."

As capable as the mighty archangel is, he relied upon the Lord:

**Jude 9** "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, the Lord rebuke thee."

- This is not one sided on David's part, he turns it around and very much sides with the Lord against those that are against the Lord.

**Psalm 139:21-22** "21Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies."

- David knew what it was like to have spears thrown at him, he's asking God to do the same to his enemies.

*"... say unto my soul, I am thy salvation."*

- Speak to me, re-assure me once again that I am yours! Declare it, prove it!

V: 4-7 Let my enemies be confounded in every way, let them be confused, let them be as chaff in the wind - just blown away.

- The winnowing process: the wheat is ground against the stone floor breaking the kernel or fruit loose from the chaff / covering, but they are still mixed together. They would then take scoops of the wheat and throw it up into the air, the wind would carry the chaff away and the fruit / kernel which is heavier would simply fall to the ground. The chaff is useless and got blown away in the wind - that's what David is saying, they are useless and let them just be blown away, carried away in the wind.
- “*6Let their way be dark and slippery...*” When it's dark and slippery what happens? They fall, they can't move, they become helpless.
- <sup>7</sup>Why should this happen to them? Because without cause they have sought to kill me.

V: 8 Continuing in this poetic description of their inevitable defeat: let destruction come upon them unawares, may they be totally surprised, may they fall into their own traps.

**Psalms 9:16** “The Lord is known by the judgment which He executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.”

V: 9-10 My soul shall be joyful - not in their destruction, my soul shall be joyful in the Lord and in His salvation.

**Proverbs 24:17** “Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth.”

- All my bones, my whole body and being will rejoice in the Lord.
- Which is consistent with how we are to love the Lord.

**Matthew 22:37** “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

- That is also how we're to rejoice in Him.
- <sup>10b</sup>David asks that question: “*Who is like unto Thee...?*”

**Isaiah 40:25** “To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? Saith the Holy One.”

**Isaiah 46:9** “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup>declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.”

- At the same time David is admitting that his foes were too strong for him, that he would be defeated and spoiled were it not for the saving hand of the Lord.

- Each of the three sections to this Psalm follows the same pattern; David makes his request which is then followed up with a song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord - which demonstrates not only his faith in the Lord, but also his desire to magnify the Lord.

V: 11 Messianic prophecy with a dual fulfillment: false witnesses have risen up against David, speaking lies about him - and false witnesses would later rise up against Jesus seeking to condemn Him.

- **1 Samuel 22: 9** When David was fleeing from Saul, at one point he sought food from the priests in Nob. Doeg, an Edomite, had seen this but he also added to his story to Saul that the priest had sought the Lord for his sake, lying and making it look worse for both David and the priests who were later killed because of this - David had never done anything wrong to either Saul or Doeg.
- 1,200 years later:

**Mark 14:57-58** <sup>57</sup>“And there arose certain, and bare false witness against Him, saying, <sup>58</sup>we heard Him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.”

**John 2:19** “... destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

- Jesus wasn't speaking of the Temple of Herod - which He didn't and wouldn't destroy - other men would do that.
- He was speaking of the Temple of His body, they would destroy / kill Him, but He would raise it up after three days - which He did!

V: 12-14 David hasn't mistreated anyone, including Saul, but Saul is certainly rewarding him evil for good.

- It's recorded that on at least two different occasions David had the ability to kill Saul, but instead David spared him. Saul even later admitted the same and declared that David was a more righteous man.

- When they, presumably speaking of Saul, when they were sick David prayed for them and fasted in sackcloth. David was concerned for them and prayed for them just as he would have for a brother or even for his own mother.
- David is essentially living out the words that Jesus described.

**Matthew 5:44** “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”

- I think one of the reasons that David could pray for his enemies and love those that despitefully used him was the awareness that the battle was not against them, those people / persons were not the enemy - the enemy is the Devil himself and the battle is spiritual.

**Ephesians 6:12** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

**2 Corinthians 10:4** “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;”

- What was David doing? He was praying, he was fasting. We need to do more of that.

V: 15-16 The same people that David was praying for have gathered themselves against him, they mocked, and tore him apart - “hypocritical mockers” - gnashing upon him, tearing him apart with their teeth - just being hateful.

- That is pretty much what the Devil, our enemy does:

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

V: 17 Lord, what are you waiting for? Don't just stand there; do something! Save me!

- The word “*darling*” means “sole” or “only”, like an only child, or in this case “my only love...” “My only hope” “My only Savior...”

V: 18-23 I will thank you and praise you among the great congregation - perhaps he means the great congregation of heaven, I will sing your praises among the people.

- I believe this is an expression of his faith, his trust, and thanks to the Lord. David is praying for victory, a victory which hasn't actually happened yet. He's going to offer his thanks and praise ahead of time, confident that the Lord will make it so.

**Philippians 4:4, 6-7** “<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice.” - “<sup>6</sup>Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- Just as before David praises the Lord; unlike the first expression of praise and thanks which was private, this expression of the same is public, in the great congregation, among much people!
- Just don't let them rejoice over me, don't let them think they've gotten away with anything.
- Deal with them Lord!

V: 19 Another Messianic verse with a dual fulfillment, a short term fulfillment in that David's enemies / Saul hated him without a cause. There was no reason for Saul to hate David who was loyal to Saul, it was simply Saul's jealousy and envy, his pettiness, David hadn't done anything to provoke that.

- The long term fulfillment being in the person of Christ, who only did good, blessing, healing, providing, serving, and teaching, ultimately sacrificing Himself for them and us - spiteful provocation indeed!

**John 15:24-25** “<sup>24</sup>If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father. <sup>25</sup>But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, they hated Me with a cause.”

- They are grieving the innocent, those that were just minding their own business. David is starting to sound a little bit like Job.

V: 21 “Aha, aha! I saw that! Making accusations, accusations about nothing.”

**Revelation 12:10** Satan is referred to as the accuser of the brethren. His very name means “slanderer.”

V: 24 Judge me, vindicate me, prove me right - according to what you know, according to your righteousness.

- According to His / God's righteousness because neither David nor any of us have any righteousness of our own. The depravity of man is well established!

**Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

**Romans 7:18** “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:..”

- It has to be according to His righteousness because He is the only One who has it!

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

**Revelation 19:11** “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.”

- Just don't let them rejoice over me.

V: 25-28 Summarize this Psalm.

V: 25-26 As they say “Aha, aha!” and wink and nod at each other with the confident assumption of victory, let it be snatched away out of their grasp with the sudden realization of defeat - that's what David is asking for.

- Repeating the basic premise or statement of the Psalm: Don't let them rejoice, let them be ashamed and confused, let them be clothed in dishonor and disgrace that hate me. ([Imprecatory Psalm](#))

V: 27-28 On the opposite end of the scale, let them shout for joy and be glad that favor me, that say continually let the Lord be magnified in the prosperity and favor or your servant.

- The word translated “prosperity” in English is the Hebrew word “shalom.”

“*Shalom*” means more than just the cessation of hostility, but it means health, prosperity, and soundness. It carries the idea of well being in every aspect of life including peace with God, peace with yourself, and with the circumstances of your life.

Paul describes it as:

**Philippians 4:7** “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Jesus is the giver of that peace:

**John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you...”

- My tongue shall speak of your righteousness and praise you all day long!

- When you've made peace with God and come to know His peace, that becomes one of your favorite things to do!

Ref.Psalm.035