

# PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

## Psalm 7: God's Righteous Judgment

### **Psalm 7:1-17 (NASB)**

- <sup>1</sup>“O LORD my God, in You I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me,  
<sup>2</sup>Or he will tear my soul like a lion, Dragging me away, while there is none to deliver.  
<sup>3</sup>O LORD my God, if I have done this, If there is injustice in my hands,  
<sup>4</sup>If I have rewarded evil to my friend, Or have plundered him who without cause was my adversary,  
<sup>5</sup>Let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake *it*; And let him trample my life down to the ground And lay my glory in the dust. Selah.  
<sup>6</sup>Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift up Yourself against the rage of my adversaries, And arouse Yourself for me; You have appointed judgment.  
<sup>7</sup>Let the assembly of the peoples encompass You, And over them return on high.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD judges the peoples; Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me.  
<sup>9</sup>O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.  
<sup>10</sup>My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.  
<sup>11</sup>God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.  
<sup>12</sup>If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.  
<sup>13</sup>He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.  
<sup>14</sup>Behold, he travails with wickedness, And he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood.  
<sup>15</sup>He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, And has fallen into the hole which he made.  
<sup>16</sup>His mischief will return upon his own head, And his violence will descend upon his own pate.  
<sup>17</sup>I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

The circumstances that gave occasion to this psalm are found in [1 Samuel 24](#) and [26](#). They were in response to the reproaches of a Benjamite named Cush, an unscrupulous captain of Saul's army.

Because of the slanderous reproaches, David appealed to the Lord for help. God was his friend and helper. David petitioned God for freedom and deliverance from those who persecuted him. Because of his innocence, he appealed to God's justice. He was in danger of suffering death at the hands of his enemies.

[Psalm 7](#) is similar to [Psalms 3; 4; 5; 9](#), and [10](#) in calling for God's justice to be done. It might seem strange to us to ask God's vengeance on enemies in light of the New Testament teaching of Jesus to love your enemies ([Matthew 5:44](#)).

[Matthew 5:44 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>44</sup>“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”**

We need to understand the context—David is not requesting God's help to avenge a personal slight or satisfy his jealousy of another's success. Rather David is seeking God's honor and glory for the sake of God's reputation. David is asking that God be seen for who He is—the righteous judge ([verses 8, 9, 11](#)).

[Psalm 7:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>8</sup>“The LORD judges the peoples; Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me.**

**<sup>9</sup> O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.”**

[Psalm 7:11 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>11</sup>“God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.”**

David was so closely aligned with God that when an enemy persecuted David as God's chosen king and representative, in effect, that enemy was maligning God Himself. This was reprehensible to David.

[Verses 15–16](#) describe the natural consequences that befall a wicked person.

[Psalm 7:15-16 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>15</sup>“He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, And has fallen into the hole which he made.**

**<sup>16</sup> His mischief will return upon his own head, And his violence will descend upon his own pate.”**

Sometimes the wicked person experiences the very fate he plotted for another. The story of Haman hanged on his own gallows in the book of Esther is an example ([Esther 8:7](#)).

[Esther 8:7 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>7</sup>“So King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Behold, I have given the house of Haman to Esther, and him they have hanged on the gallows because he had stretched out his hands against the Jews.”**

The close of the psalm ([verse 17](#)) is a doxology.

**Psalm 7:17 (NASB)**

**<sup>17</sup>“I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”**

David was giving thanks for a true, just, and merciful God who judges the righteous, saves those who are true of heart, establishes the just, and takes revenge upon the wicked. David said, **“I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness.”**

This psalm has three parts:

1. David prayed for deliverance from his enemies, protesting his innocence and right dealing toward them ([verses 1–5](#)).
2. He prayed against his enemies, declaring what good would come to his children by the overthrow of the wicked ([verses 6–10](#)).
3. David pronounced God’s judgment against the ungodly. He promised to give thanks to the Lord ([verses 11–17](#)).

**Study Procedure** Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God’s wisdom and understanding as you study and don’t be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

**Review:** What do you understand more thoroughly after last week’s lesson?

**FIRST DAY: Read [Psalm 7](#)**

1. How do [verses 3–5](#) appear to be the cry of an innocent person?
2. Read [Genesis 18:25b](#). In [verses 6–13](#), give phrases that show *“the Judge of all the earth”* will do right.
3. What do [verses 14–16](#) teach? Can you give any examples?