

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 35:1-28 (NASB)

- ¹ Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me.
- ² Take hold of buckler and shield And rise up for my help.
- ³ Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me; Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."
- ⁴ Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life; Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me.
- ⁵ Let them be like chaff before the wind, With the angel of the LORD driving *them* on.
- ⁶ Let their way be dark and slippery, With the angel of the LORD pursuing them.
- ⁷ For without cause they hid their net for me; Without cause they dug a pit for my soul.
- ⁸ Let destruction come upon him unawares, And let the net which he hid catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall.
- ⁹ And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD; It shall exult in His salvation.
- ¹⁰ All my bones will say, "LORD, who is like You, Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him, And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?"
- ¹¹ Malicious witnesses rise up; They ask me of things that I do not know.
- ¹² They repay me evil for good, *To* the bereavement of my soul.
- ¹³ But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled my soul with fasting, And my prayer kept returning to my bosom.
- ¹⁴ I went about as though it were my friend or brother; I bowed down mourning, as one who sorrows for a mother.
- ¹⁵ But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered themselves together; The smiters whom I did not know gathered together against me, They slandered me without ceasing.
- ¹⁶ Like godless jesters at a feast, They gnashed at me with their teeth.
- ¹⁷ Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue my soul from their ravages, My only *life* from the lions.
- ¹⁸ I will give You thanks in the great congregation; I will praise You among a mighty throng.
- ¹⁹ Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me; Nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously.
- ²⁰ For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land.
- ²¹ They opened their mouth wide against me; They said, "Aha, aha, our eyes have seen it!"

22 You have seen it, O LORD, do not keep silent; O Lord, do not be far from me.

23 Stir up Yourself, and awake to my right And to my cause, my God and my Lord.

24 Judge me, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness, And do not let them rejoice over me.

25 Do not let them say in their heart, "Aha, our desire!" Do not let them say, "We have swallowed him up!"

26 Let those be ashamed and humiliated altogether who rejoice at my distress; Let those be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves over me.

27 Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, "The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant."

28 And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness And Your praise all day long.

Psalm 35: Petition for God's Intervention

This psalm was written by David as he was again pursued. The pursuit was either by King Saul or possibly at the time of Absalom's rebellion.

David had been wrongfully accused. He petitioned God to be his advocate, not in a court of justice but in the battlefield. David needed help and he knew God could give it. He also needed to hear God say to him "*I am your salvation.*"

In this psalm, the righteous and the wicked are contrasted. There is an attitude of mutual hostility. This psalm has three divisions. In each division there are complaint, prayer, and the promise of thanksgiving for anticipated deliverance.

In the first division, there is an invocation for divine judgments on God's enemies. It ends with praise for God's triumph ([verses 1–10](#)).

The second division is a description of these enemies: oppressors, false accusers, those who return evil for good, and scoffers. It ends with a prayer for divine intervention and a promise of thanksgiving "*in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people*" ([verses 11–18](#)).

In the third division, David briefly described the actions of the enemy. He then requested to be delivered from them. This division also closes with a promise of thanksgiving ([verses 19–28](#)).

The psalmist had perfect confidence in God's righteousness. The petition was not written from the position of a king, but a subject who was harassed, poor, attacked by enemies, and suffering persecution.