

Preaching the Psalms Series

(30)

Psalm 7

How to Be Delivered from Evil Pursuers, [Psalm 7:1-17](#)

Psalm 7:1-17 (NASB)

¹ “O LORD my God, in You I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me,

² Or he will tear my soul like a lion, Dragging me away, while there is none to deliver.

³ O LORD my God, if I have done this, If there is injustice in my hands,

⁴ If I have rewarded evil to my friend, Or have plundered him who without cause was my adversary,

⁵ 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.

⁶ Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift up Yourself against the rage of my adversaries, And arouse Yourself for me; You have appointed judgment.

⁷ Let the assembly of the peoples encompass You, And over them return on high.

⁸ The LORD judges the peoples; Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me.

⁹ O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.

¹⁰ My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.

¹¹ God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.

¹² If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.

¹³ He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.

¹⁴ Behold, he travails with wickedness, And he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood.

¹⁵ He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, And has fallen into the hole which he made.

¹⁶ His mischief will return upon his own head, And his violence will descend upon his own pate.

¹⁷ I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”

([Psalm 7:1-17](#)) Introduction: all of us have a measure of control over our emotions. For some that level is much higher than it is in others. Some of us have short fuses; we are very easily and quickly incited. Others of us have a great deal of control over our feelings. Our patience is long, and it takes a great deal to push us to the point of becoming excited or distressed over a situation. Every individual, however, has a point at which his or her emotions are aroused.

David had reached that point when he penned [Psalm 7](#). He added the term *Shiggaion* to the introduction, which means that it was to be sung with intense emotion. This psalm was not originally composed for congregational use; David sang it directly to the Lord. As in [Psalm 5](#), David was being falsely accused, and the stakes were high. Cush the Benjamite was seeking to tear him apart, the way a lion ravages its prey ([v. 2](#)). David had reached his breaking point and cried out to the Lord to intervene on his behalf.

Psalm 7:2 (NASB)

²“Or he will tear my soul like a lion, Dragging me away, while there is none to deliver.”

Scripture does not reveal who Cush was. In fact, this is the only time he is mentioned in the Bible. The one detail provided about him is that he was a Benjamite, which identified him as a relative of Saul.

Because of this, most commentators speculate that the historical setting was Saul’s pursuit of young David, when some of Saul’s men spied on David and reported lies about him ([1 Samuel 24:9-10](#)); or the rebellion of Absalom, when some of Saul’s relatives rose up against him ([2 Samuel 16:5-8](#)).

This is, *How to Be Delivered from Evil Pursuers*, [Psalm 7:1-17](#).

1 Samuel 24:9-10 (NASB)

⁹“David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men, saying, ‘Behold, David seeks to harm you’?”

¹⁰Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but *my eye* had pity on you; and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’S anointed.’”

2 Samuel 16:5-8 (NASB)

⁵“When King David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out from there a man of the family of the house of Saul whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he came out cursing continually as he came.

⁶He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the mighty men were at his right hand and at his left.

⁷Thus Shimei said when he cursed, “Get out, get out, you man of bloodshed, and worthless fellow!

⁸The LORD has returned upon you all the bloodshed of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. And behold, you are *taken* in your own evil, for you are a man of bloodshed!”

- 1. Take refuge in the Lord (vv. 1-2).**
- 2. Search your heart to see if you are guilty of offending others (vv. 3-5).**
- 3. Ask God to execute true justice and judgment (vv. 6-8).**
- 4. Ask God to put an end to wickedness and to make the righteous secure (vv. 9-10).**

5. **Bear strong witness to the Lord; He is the righteous and fair judge (vv. 11-13).**
6. **Know that evil reaps bad results (vv. 14-16).**
7. **Praise God's Name: Praise Him because of His righteousness (v. 17).**

5. (**Psalm 7:11-13**) **Bear strong witness to the Lord: He is the righteous and fair judge.**

Psalm 7:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹“God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.

¹²If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.

¹³He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.”

In these verses, David presents a colorful picture of God. Note the striking images that portray Him in action against slanderers and evildoers.

a. God judges the wicked everyday (v. 11).

Psalm 7:11 (NASB)

¹¹“God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.”

David first described God as a righteous judge who is diligent in his duties. The key words in this verse are *every day*. Every day the judge of the universe is on the bench. He never compromises His attitude toward wickedness. Every day he is *angry* or righteously indignant. His demeanor toward evil never changes, and He is consistently heated against the wicked. He never cools down or becomes lax, not even for a second. He never takes a day off from His duty. Every day he expresses His indignation against wickedness and corruption.

b. God will judge—wage war against the wicked—if the wicked do not repent (v. 12).

Psalm 7:12 (NASB)

¹²“If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.”

Understand this also about the attitude of God as the judge of the universe: He does not want to execute or destroy evildoers; He desires, rather, that they *turn* from their sins. The Lord warns the wicked and gives them opportunity to repent or change their ways. If they do not, His role toward them changes. In addition to a righteous judge, David describes God as a mighty warrior who wages war against the wicked.

Envision the clear images of God in this verse:

⇒ He is *sharpening His sword* in preparation for battle.

⇒ He is *bending His bow*—stringing it tightly so that it is taut and will shoot both accurately and forcefully.

c. God is preparing to execute justice and judgment on earth (v. 13).

Psalm 7:13 (NASB)

¹³“He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.”

The Lord’s weapons are fully prepared, and He is ready to strike all who refuse to repent of their wicked ways. Notice how His sword and arrow are described: they are *instruments of death* or *deadly weapons*. When God finally delivers justice upon the earth, He will not strike to maim or injure but to kill. His judgment will be fierce and final. His arrows will be *fiery* arrows, shafts shot for the purpose of igniting their target and burning it completely. This is a picture of hell, the lake of fire where all the unrighteous will perish for eternity (**Revelation 20:15**).

Revelation 20:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Persecutors (**dalaq**) comes from a root verb which literally means to flame or burn. The **KJV** understands it as referring to those who hotly pursue others in their evil—David’s enemies in this situation. All other good versions translate it as describing the Lord’s arrows of judgment which are set ablaze, tipped with fire. This better agrees with the context of the passage (**vv. 11-15**).

Psalm 7:11-15 (NASB)

¹¹“God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.

¹² If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.

¹³ He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.

¹⁴ Behold, he travails with wickedness, And he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood.

¹⁵ He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, And has fallen into the hole which he made.”

David spoke in these verses of God, who righteously judges *all* evildoers, not just those who were slandering him.

Thought 1. This passage prophetically points to Jesus Christ who will come again to judge the earth. In **Revelation 19:11-21** He comes to make war.

Revelation 19:11-21 (NASB)

¹¹“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

¹² His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

¹³ He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.

¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God,

¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh."

This mighty warrior destroys His enemies with His sharp sword ([v. 15](#), [21](#)): the two-edged sword, His holy and powerful Word ([v. 21](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#)).

[Revelation 19:15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ "From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty."

[Revelation 19:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ "And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh."

[Hebrews 4:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Jesus, the righteous judge who opens the books, declares that all who refuse to repent are guilty, and He casts them into the lake of fire ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)).

[Revelation 20:11-15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹ "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in

the books, according to their deeds.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of *them* according to their deeds.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

God has set the lake of fire ablaze for the devil and his angels, but it is the eternal destination of all who do not repent and believe in Christ ([Matthew 25:41](#)).

Matthew 25:41 (NASB)

⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

He has committed all judgment to His Son ([John 5:22-29](#)).

John 5:22-29 (NASB)

²² "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,

²³ so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

²⁴ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."

²⁶ "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

²⁷ and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.

²⁸ "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment."

When Jesus returns to earth, He will come to execute judgment ([Jude 14-15](#)). He is both a warrior and a judge.

Jude 1:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ "It was also about these men *that* Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

¹⁵ to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."