

Preaching the Psalms Series

(28)

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).**

3. **(Psalm 7:6-8) Ask God to execute true justice and judgment.**

Psalm 7:6-8 (NASB)

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.

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

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

David knew that God was just and righteous, and he was convinced that God should be angry on his behalf ([v. 6](#)).

Psalm 7:6 (NASB)

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.

He was emotionally incited because of Cush's lies, and he believed God should be too. The slandered king boldly, but not irreverently, calls the Lord to three immediate actions. Bible teacher John Phillips notes, “It is not the kind of language we use in prayer meeting today, but it is language quite consistent with David's day and with David's circumstances.”

⇒*Arise*—Get up from a seat of observance and spring into action!

⇒*Lift up*—Stand against the unjust in passionate, righteous indignation!

⇒*Awake*—How can You sleep while this is going on? Open Your eyes to see what they are doing to me and decree the justice they deserve!

a. Ask Him to gather the people before Him and call them to give an account of their behavior ([v. 7](#)).

Psalm 7:7 (NASB)

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

David described a courtroom scene in his appeal to God for justice. He called upon God to rise like a judge and to pronounce a guilty verdict upon his enemies. To whom David was referring by the *congregation* or assembled people is not exactly clear.

First, it could be the people who are assembled to witness the proceedings. The entire nation was looking on to see what God would do in this case. David may have been calling upon God to vindicate him and pronounce judgment on his enemies in the sight of the all the people.

Second, the *congregation* or assembled people may refer to all the people who were rebelling against him. David may have been calling upon God to hold all the people involved accountable for their actions in this matter, not just Cush. This understanding better fits if the setting is Absalom's rebellion. The majority of Israelites had turned from David and supported his wickedly ambitious son. David may have been imploring God to rise up not only against Cush, but against all the citizens who had unjustly betrayed him.

b. Ask Him to judge the people (v. 7b-8).

Psalm 7:7-8 (NASB)

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

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

David called upon God to rise up in righteousness against all the *people*—every person of every nation. Nobody is excluded from God's authority and from accountability to Him. He sits on high where He observes all and ultimately rules over all (v. 7).

Psalm 7:7 (NASB)

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

c. Ask Him to vindicate you—to declare you innocent because of your righteous behavior (v. 8).

Psalm 7:8 (NASB)

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

None of us stands righteous before God nor do we have any claim to righteousness before God apart from justification through faith in Jesus Christ ([Isaiah 64:6](#); [Romans 5:1, 9](#); [Galatians 2:16](#)).

Isaiah 64:6 (NASB)

⁶“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”

Romans 5:1 (NASB)

¹“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:9 (NASB)

⁹“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

Galatians 2:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so

that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”

David was not saying that he was completely righteous in every area of his life; he was simply pleading his righteous behavior in this particular situation. He had committed no sin against his enemies.

He had behaved justly and rightly in all his dealings with them. With a clear conscience and clean hands ([Genesis 20:5](#); [Psalm 18:20](#)), David declared that his integrity was uncompromised ([Psalm 26:1](#)).

[Genesis 20:5 \(NASB\)](#)

⁵“Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

[Psalm 18:20 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰“The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.”

[Psalm 26:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.”

He stood blameless in this matter. David fully expected God’s intervention on his behalf before the world. He expected to be vindicated because of his testimony for the Lord, that of obeying God’s commandments and living righteously ([Titus 2:12-13](#)).

[Titus 2:12-13 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”

Thought 1. When we are falsely accused and persecuted, we must firmly believe that the judge of all the earth will do right in our case ([Genesis 18:25](#)).

[Genesis 18:25 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁵“Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated alike*. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”

Although we may have every right to call upon God to act in justice against our enemies, a greater principle was later revealed through Jesus Christ: it is far greater to surrender our right for justice and pray for God to forgive our enemies. This was the shocking attitude of our Savior at Calvary, and it was modeled by Stephen, the godly deacon, when he was martyred. Because God has forgiven us of our grievous offenses against Him, we should desire the repentance of those who sin against us. Vengeance and justice against those who wrong us should be left in God’s hands. This is the sign of those who are spiritually mature ([Matthew 5:48](#)).

Matthew 5:48 (NASB)

⁴⁸ “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48 (NASB)

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’

⁴⁴ “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.”

⁴⁶ “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

⁴⁷ “If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”

⁴⁸ “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Luke 23:34 (NASB)

³⁴ “But Jesus was saying, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.”

Acts 7:60 (NASB)

⁶⁰ “Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them!’ Having said this, he fell asleep.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NASB)

³¹ “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”