

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(29)

## Psalm 7

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

#### **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.”

**([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)**

**<sup>2</sup>“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)**

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

**<sup>10</sup>Behold, 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)**

**<sup>5</sup>“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.**

**<sup>6</sup>He 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.**

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

**<sup>8</sup>The 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).**

**4. (Psalm 7:9-13) Ask God to put an end to wickedness and to make the righteous secure.**

**Psalm 7:9-13 (NASB)**

<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.”

When we are in the midst of some crisis, we should always remember who God is and what He does. This is David's emphasis in these verses.

He appeals to three of God's attributes—the qualities that express His essence and character—in calling upon Him to intervene against his enemies:

⇒His righteousness ([v. 9<sup>a</sup>](#))

⇒His omnipotence—*God (Elohim)* is the strong, mighty one ([v. 9](#))

⇒His omniscience—“*tries the hearts and minds*” ([v. 9<sup>b</sup>](#))

**Psalm 7:9 (NASB)**

<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.”

**a. Because God alone can search the heart and mind—know who is wicked and righteous ([v. 9](#)).**

**Psalm 7:9 (NASB)**

<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 7:9 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup>“Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and **reins**.”

God and only God has the power to know the absolute truth in David's situation. Many others had been deceived into believing lies and turning against David, but the all-knowing God cannot be deceived. He alone has the ability to *try* or *search* our hearts, so He alone can judge righteously in any conflict. *Reins* means kidneys and was used in Old Testament times as a symbol of the deepest, innermost part of a person. God knows what is truly deep within us, what we are really thinking. He is able to see beyond our actions and discern our motives and intentions.

David called upon God to judge who was truly right in his situation and to *establish* him—to cause him to stand innocent and secure in the sight of all the people.

**b. Because God is your protector (shield) (v. 10).**

**Psalm 7:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.”

Every lie Cush was spreading was a fiery dart acutely aimed to pierce David’s heart. David knew he was powerless to fend off those darts. He rested in the unwavering confidence that God would be His *defense* or *shield* (see below note, **Protector, Shield—Ps. 3:3 for more discussion**). Firmly clutching the mighty name of *God (Elohim)*, David raised it in front of his chest to deflect the slanderous darts of his foes.

Notice that David moves from declaring who God is to describe what God does (**v. 9**).

**Psalm 7:9 (NASB)**

<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**.”

The Lord protects those whose hearts are right against the attacks of their evil-hearted enemies.

**Deeper Study Notes # 2-Psalm 3:3**

**a. God is your protector (shield) (v. 3).**

**Psalm 3:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“But You, O LORD, are a **shield** about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head.”

David’s troubled mind turned to the familiar promises of God’s Word, promises such as these:

**Genesis 15:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.”

**Deuteronomy 33:29 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup>“Blessed are you, O Israel; Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, Who is the shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! So your enemies will cringe before you, And you will tread upon their high places.”

The betrayed king’s confidence was not in his skills as a warrior, his armies, or his friends. He knew that His Protector—his *shield (magain)*—was the Lord. Two types of shields were used by Hebrew warriors. One was a large rectangular shield which the soldier could hide behind and be covered. The other was a small, hand-held shield which was used to fend off arrows and absorb sword strikes.

The Hebrew word, *magain*, is the latter. Note the significance of this word. David was not afraid of a mortal shot or blow from his enemies. The Lord was his shield. The Lord would not just protect David from being struck by his foes, but also, He would personally take the shots or blows intended for David. He *personally* would rise up in front of David and absorb the impact. This reminds us of the smitten Lamb at Calvary who absorbed the impact of sin for us:

**Isaiah 53:4-6 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.  
<sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.”

This great truth is fully understood by remembering that David’s bloody household—his family problems—were the result of his terrible sin with Bathsheba:

**2 Samuel 12:9-12 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.”  
<sup>10</sup> ‘Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’  
<sup>11</sup> “Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.’”  
<sup>12</sup> ‘Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’”

Yet when David’s own son raised his sword against his father—a consequence of David’s sin of murdering Uriah the Hittite—David declared that God would intercept the blow and bear the strike that was meant for him.

What a prophetic picture of the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ! God’s Son stepped between us and the penalty for our sin. Like a shield, He absorbed the painful punishment that should have been ours.

Note this also about the *shield*: it is the piece of the Christian’s armor that pictures our faith in God and His Word:

**Ephesians 6:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>“In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.”

The Lord is our shield. When we raise the shield of faith, we declare our unwavering confidence that God will protect us. We bear strong witness to His power and immeasurable strength.

[End Notes [Psalm 3:3](#)]

Let's return to:

4. ([Psalm 7:9-13](#)) Ask God to put an end to wickedness and to make the righteous secure.

[Psalm 7:9-13 \(NASB\)](#)

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<sup>10</sup>My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.

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

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a. Because God alone can search the heart and mind—know who is wicked and righteous ([v. 9](#)).

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

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b. Because God is your protector (shield) ([v. 10](#)).

[Psalm 7:10 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>“My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.”

c. Because God saves the righteous ([v. 10](#)).

[Psalm 7:10 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>“My shield is with God, Who saves the **upright** [*yāshār*] in heart.”

God displays His power to *save* or set free “**those whose hearts are true and right**” (NLT). *Upright* (*yāshār*) means straight or even. It refers those who walk straightly in line with God’s law, who do not stray to the left or right of God’s holy commands.

**Thought 1. Who God is and what God does:** this must be our confidence when we are unjustly accused and attacked. We have a divine right to call upon God to act justly against all wickedness—to act according to His character and power on the behalf of the innocent.

David could boldly invoke God because he was absolutely confident in his uprightness. He could insistently call upon God to execute justice because he was innocent of sinning against his enemies. Once again, note the important truth of this psalm: David had opened his heart to a thorough examination by the all-knowing

God. No guile or evil was found in his heart against those who were trying to destroy him.

He could fearlessly call down God's wrath on the evildoer in his situation because he knew God's justice would not strike him (David).

When we walk in a *straight* line, truly follow God's commands, we are empowered to live with a holy boldness that only comes from being rightly related to Him and others. When we obey God, we have nothing to fear: not the unwarranted attacks of our foes and not the judgment of God upon us. Walking after the Spirit rather than the flesh—obeying the Lord rather than our sinful desires—gives us confidence against God's condemnation ([Romans 8:1](#)).

[Romans 8:1 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup>“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

[Revelation 2:23 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>23</sup>“And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.”

[1 Samuel 16:7 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>7</sup>“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

[Psalm 97:10-11 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>“Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>Light is sown *like seed* for the righteous And gladness for the upright in heart.”

[Jeremiah 17:10 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>“I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.”