

Preaching the Psalms Series

(31)

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).**

6. **(Psalm 7:14-16) Know that evil reaps bad results.**

Psalm 7:14-16 (NASB)

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

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

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

Not only will evildoers face God in judgment, but they will also face the consequences of their sin in this life. God's Word promises that we will reap what we sow; we will eat the fruit of the seeds we have sown ([Galatians 6:7-8](#)).

Galatians 6:7-8 (NASB)

⁷“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Note the images David draws upon to portray this constant natural law.

a. The wicked plan evil and reap trouble and disillusionment (v. 14).

Psalm 7:14 (NASB)

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

The first image is of a pregnant woman, panting and travailing in labor to deliver the child she has conceived. **But notice this:** she has conceived *iniquity* and *mischief* or trouble, and she gives birth to lies. This is the sin of Cush. He conceived trouble against David in his heart, which gave birth to his slanderous lies about David. By using the image of giving birth, David emphasized the great effort Cush exerted to deliver his evil scheme. He illustrates the wickedness he has borne as turning against him and attacking him, possibly in the same way that Absalom rebelled against his father and sought to overthrow him.

b. The wicked will suffer retribution (vv. 15-16).

Psalm 7:15-16 (NASB)

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

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

Second, David illustrates the law of sowing and reaping by a man who digs a deep pit to trap a wild animal, but falls into it himself ([v. 15](#)).

Psalm 7:15 (NASB)

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

Hunters who used this method covered the hole with grass and brush. A man who fell into his own trap would have forgotten its location and would have failed to recognize his own handiwork—having been fooled and snared by his own deception. This is the way of those who sow evil against others: devices of their own making spring back against them. The violence they intend for others falls upon their own heads ([v. 16](#)).

Psalm 7:16 (NASB)

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

Thought 1. Grasp the difference between God’s judgment ([vv. 11-13](#)) and natural retribution ([vv. 14-16](#)).

Psalm 7:11-13 (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.”

Psalm 7:14-16 (NASB)

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Repentance of sin may bring relief from God’s condemnation, but it does not assure release from sin’s consequences. If you conceive evil, you will give birth to evil. If you fall into a trap you have dug and cannot escape, you will perish in it. If you sow corn, you will reap corn. If you sow wheat, you will reap wheat. You may repent and change your ways, but the seed has been planted and will inevitably bear fruit.

Preachers often cite three laws of sowing and reaping:

- (1) You always reap *what* you sow.
- (2) You always reap *more* than you sow.
- (3) You always reap *later* than you sow.

Lord Byron, early nineteenth century English poet, wrote, “The thorns which I have reaped are of the tree I planted: they have torn me, and I bleed: I should have known what fruit would spring from such a seed.”

Note the finished product of sin:

Galatians 6:7-8 (NASB)

⁷“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

James 1:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵“Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”

Job 4:8 (NASB)

⁸“According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity And those who sow trouble harvest it.”

Ecclesiastes 10:8 (NASB)

⁸“He who digs a pit may fall into it, and a serpent may bite him who breaks through a wall.”