

Psalm 35

The theme of this Psalm is a prayer to the Creator God for help against those who are trying to inflict injury for no reason.

David possibly wrote this Psalm while he was being hunted by King Saul in order to kill him, [1 Samuel 24:1-22].

Many of David's Psalms may sound very harsh in the way that he calls on the Creator God to deal with his enemies, but we must in this example remember the background details.

David could not understand why he was forced to flee from men who were unjustly seeking to kill him, who had been anointed king over a nation called by the Creator God to annihilate the evil people of the land.

David's call for justice was sincere, **not** a cover-up for his own personal vengeance, he truly desired what was God's ideal for the nation.

Notice David did not say that he would take revenge, but gave the whole matter to the Creator God, these actions were merely his suggestions.

This type of Psalm was an overstatement as they were designed to motivate others to take a strong stand against sin and evil.

When we pray for justice to be done we are praying in the same way that King David was.

Psalms 35:13 [New King James] *“But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; and my prayer would return to my own heart.”*

David was sad when his prayers seemed unanswered.

When our deliverance is delayed it is easy to assume that God has not answered our prayers.

The Creator God does hear every prayer but He answers according to His superior wisdom.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 [New King James] *“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Paul learnt and accepted that this “thorn in the flesh” would help him remain humble when, like David, God was doing great things through him.

Let such a seemingly lack of response from the Creator God actually help to strengthen your faith.

“Without cause” or “wrongfully” [Psalms 35:7 and 19] touches the very nerve of King David's pain, which is exposed more fully in verses 11-18.

The Psalms make us especially sensitive to the hurt of injustice, giving us an opportunity to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, recorded by Peter.

1 Peter 2:19-23 [New King James] *“For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;”*

Some suffering is the direct result of our own sin, but some are the result of this evil society. Peter is speaking about suffering that comes from doing good. We can only do this knowing that the Creator God is in charge of all that happens.

God will clear your name in the eyes of those who really matter.

Psalms 35:24-28 [New King James] *“Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion who rejoice at my hurt; let them be clothed with shame and dishonour who exalt themselves against me. Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favour my righteous cause; and let them say continually, ‘Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.’ And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long.”*

As a direct result of this vindication, King David was seeking to live a life that was reflecting the righteousness of the Creator God and verbally praise Him always.

We have to ask, does such a statement reflect our personal lives?

Matthew 5:14-16 [New King James] *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

Jesus Christ taught us in the same way, we are to reflect the very character of God in our own community.