

Psalm 7

Justice will mean salvation, for the two coincide when the Creator God tries the case of those oppressed. This Psalm moves from the intensely personal plea of a man who is betrayed and hounded to the conviction that God is judge of all the earth, and that all wickedness is self-defeating. So the Psalm ends with great confidence and praise.

Psalms 7:1-2 [NIV] *“O LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me, or they will tear me like a lion and rip me to pieces with no-one to rescue me.”*

While King David’s preservation and deliverance were still matters for prayer, his unseen refuge was already a fact, as the Hebrew tense shows, since it was located in God.

King David had placed himself in God’s hands, so was within God’s will where there was peace [**Psalms 119:165**] whatever the outcome.

Psalms 7:3-5 [NIV] *“O LORD my God, if I have done this and there is guilt on my hands, if I have done evil to him who is at peace with me or without cause have robbed my foe, then let my enemy pursue and overtake me; let him trample my life to the ground and make me sleep in the dust. Selah”*

This Psalm is in response to slanderous accusations of those who claimed that David was trying to kill Saul and seize the throne. [**1 Samuel 24:9-11**] Instead of taking matters into his own hands, David cried out to God for justice. [**1 Samuel 24:12**]

The proper response to slander is prayer, **not** personal revenge.

Romans 12:19-21 [NIV] *“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

Such an unexpected response could melt the hardest attitude of mind. [**Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Hebrews 10:30-31**]

David’s reply to this slander reveals something of his code of honour, as well as the thrust of the accusation which alleged that he dealt in bribes and treachery.

Psalms 7:6-11 [NIV] *“Arise, O LORD, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies. Awake, my God; decree justice. Let the assembled peoples gather round you. Rule over them from on high; let the LORD judge the peoples. Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High. O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure. My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.”*

The Hebrew is indicating great breadth of vision here, a concern for universal justice is the motive behind David’s personal appeals for vindication. A universal justice that will **not** be found until God takes His seat on Judgement Day after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. [**Matthew 25:31-46**]

David knew that God’s judgement would be perfect and fair because of His supernatural ability to read the thoughts of people. [**Psalms 139:1-6**]

With God’s justice there is **no** place to hide, **no** way can we pretend to have **not** sinned. This can be either terrifying or comforting.

God Himself is far from lukewarm on this matter of judgement and justice, it was executed on a daily basis. [**v11**] This is far more constant than any human zeal for justice, having **no** tendency to cool down into either compromise or despair.

Psalms 7:12-16 [NIV] *“If he does not relent, he will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows. He who is pregnant with evil and conceives trouble gives birth to disillusionment. He who digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit he has made. The trouble he causes recoils on himself; his violence comes down on his own head.”*

The need for immediate repentance is implied by three converging lines of retribution, the wrath of God [verses 12-13], the inherent fertility of evil [verse 14] and the futility of trying to escape the consequences. [verse 15]

James 1:13-15 [NIV] *“When tempted, no-one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”*

There is a growth-cycle from desire to sin that in the end gives birth to eternal death.

Eventually the evil we generate will “*come home to roost.*” [Psalms 7:16] This may operate unevenly in the material world, but is an inescapable fact in the spiritual world.

1 John 2:9-11 [NIV] *“Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.”*

To hate or harm another person in any way will cause us to be blinded to the end consequences that will descend on our life.

Christian love is **not** a feeling but a choice. We can choose to be concerned with other people’s wellbeing and treat them with respect, whether or not we feel affection towards them.

If we choose to love other people God will help us to express that love.

Psalms 7:17 [NIV] *“I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.”*

Even during a time of great evil and injustice, David was grateful that God is righteous. When we wonder if anyone or anything is just, honest and fair, we can be assured that God will continue to bring justice and fairness in our personal lives when we involve Him in all our activities.

If we feel that we are being treated unfairly, ask the One who is always fair and just to be with you.

Then thank Him for His presence.