

## PSALM 28:1-9

### CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"David's griefs made him eloquent in holy music."

The title, **A Psalm of David**, is too general to give any clue about the occasion for which he wrote it. Its position, following the twenty-seventh, seems designed, for it is a most suitable jewel and sequel to it. It is another of those "songs in the night" of which David's pen was so prolific. The old naturalists said the thorn at the breast of the nightingale makes it sing. David's griefs made him eloquent in holy music. This Psalm's main pleading is that the workers of iniquity, whom he abhorred, may not confound the suppliant. It suits any slandered saint who is misunderstood, treated as unworthy, and anxious to stand before the bar of God. The Lord Jesus may be seen here, pleading as the representative of His people.

#### Division

The first and second verses earnestly petition an audience with the Lord in this time of dire emergency.

- The portion of the wicked is described and deprecated, verses 3-5.
- Praise is given for the Lord's mercy in hearing prayer, verses 6-8.
- The Psalm concludes with a general petition for all militant believers, verse 9.

**(Ps. 28:1) To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock.** A cry is the natural expression of

sorrow. It is a suitable utterance when all other methods fail. Yet the cry must be directed to the Lord alone, for to cry to man is to waste our pleas on the air. When we consider the Lord's readiness to hear, and His ability to aid, we see good reason for directing all appeals to the God of our salvation. We will use language of firm resolve, like that in the text, **I will cry.** The immutable Jehovah is our **Rock**, the immovable foundation of all hope, "a very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1). We are determined to flee to Him in every hour of danger. Calling to the rocks in the day of judgment will be useless (Rev. 6:16), but our Rock attends to our cries.

**Be not silent to me.** Mere formalism may be content without answers to prayer, but not genuine suppliants. They are not satisfied with prayer that only calms the mind and subdues the will. Genuine suppliants must obtain actual replies from heaven, or they cannot rest. If possible, they want those replies immediately, because even a little of God's silence is dreaded.

**(Ps. 28:7) The LORD is my strength.** The Lord employs His power and infuses strength into our weakness. The psalmist, by an act of appropriating faith, takes the

omnipotence of Jehovah as his own.  
Dependence on the invisible God gives  
great independence of spirit; it inspires  
confidence that is more than human.

**And my shield.** David found both sword  
and shield in God. The Lord preserves His  
people from unnumbered ills. The Chris-  
tian, sheltered behind God, is far safer  
than the hero who is covered with a  
shield of brass or triple steel.

*(The Treasury of David, Charles Had-  
don Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)*

**Show in scripture how the “Rock” (Ps.  
28:1) implies God’s immovable faithful-  
ness.** Ps. 18:2 Ps. 19:14

Do not take me away with the wicked  
(Ps. 28:3). **Show how it is impossible that  
our righteous God could destroy us with  
the wicked?** Gen. 18:23 1 Chron. 16:20-  
22 Esther 7:1-10 Ps. 26:6-12 Ezek.  
32:1-5 Matt. 7:1-6