

PSALM 7:1-17

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"Even the worst of evils may furnish a reason for a Psalm"

From the title, we learn the occasion of the composition. Cush, the Benjamite, had probably accused David of treason against Saul's royal authority. King Saul was willing to believe this because of his jealousy of David and the relationship that probably existed between himself, the son of Kish, and this Cush, or Kish, the Benjamite. They who are near the throne can do far more injury to a subject than an ordinary slanderer. This Psalm may be called the "Song of the Slandered Saint." Even the worst of evils may furnish a reason for a Psalm. What a blessing to turn the most disastrous event into a theme for a song, and so turn the tables on our great enemy. Learn a lesson from Luther who said, "David made Psalms. We also will make Psalms, and sing them to the Lord's honor to spite and mock the devil."

(Ps. 7:1) David appears before God to plead against the accuser who had charged him with treason and treachery. The case is opened with a declaration of confidence in God. Whatever the emergency, it is never wrong to retain our reliance on God. **O LORD my God:** mine by a special covenant, sealed with Jesus' blood and ratified in my soul by a sense of union to You. In You, and in You only, **I put my trust.** I shake in my distress, but my rock does not move. Distrusting God is never right. Trusting Him is never wrong.

With both divine relationship and holy trust to strengthen him, David utters the burden of his desire, Save me from all those who persecute me.

And deliver me. Extricate me from their snares. Acquit me of their accusations. Give a true and just deliverance in this trial of my injured character. David clearly states his case. Make sure that we know what we would have when we come to the throne of mercy. Pause before you pray, so that you will not offer the sacrifice of fools. Get a distinct idea of your need, and then you can pray with the fluency of fervency.

(Ps. 7:6) Arise, O LORD, in Thine anger. David's sorrow makes him view the Lord as a judge who left the judgment seat and retired. Faith would move the Lord to avenge His saints.

Lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies. A stronger figure of speech expresses David's anxiety that the Lord would assume His authority and mount the throne. Stand up, O God, rise above them all. Let Your justice tower above their villainies.

(Ps. 7:11) God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. He not only detests sin, He is angry with those who continue in it. We do not have an insensible and stoic God. He can be angry. He is angry today and every day, with the

ungodly and impenitent sinners. The best day that ever dawns on a sinner brings a curse. Sinners may have many feast days but no safe days. From the beginning of the year to its end, there is not an hour that God's oven is not burning in readiness for the wicked.

(Ps. 7:12) If he turn not, He will whet his sword. Blows will be dealt by that long uplifted arm. God's sword has been sharpened on the revolving stone of our daily wickedness. If we will not repent, it will speedily cut us to pieces. "Turn or burn" is the sinner's only alternative.

He hat bent His bow, and made it ready. Even now the thirsty arrow longs to be wet with the persecutor's blood. The bow is bent, the aim is taken, and the arrow is fitted to the string. Sinner, if the arrow should fly at you, God's arrows never miss the mark. They are "instruments of death." Judgment may tarry, but it will not be late. The Greek proverb says, "The mill of God grinds late, but grinds to powder."

(Ps. 7:15) He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which He made. There he is. Laugh at his disappointment. He is the beast; he has hunted his own soul, and the chase has brought him a good victim. Come and make merry with this trapped hunter, this biter who has bitten himself. Show

him no pity, for it will be wasted on such a wretch. Being paid in his own coin richly rewards him; he speaks evil, and it has fallen into his heart. He set his house on fire with the torch that he lit to burn a neighbor. He sent a foul bird, and it has come back to nest.

(Ps. 7:16) The rod he lifted has struck back. He shot an arrow, and it has returned upon **his own head.** He hurled a stone and it has **come down upon his own pate.** Curses are like young chickens, they always come home to roost; ashes always fly back at those who throw them. "As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him." (Ps. 109:17.) Often this has been the case in both ancient and modern history. People have burned their fingers hoping to brand their neighbor. If this does not happen now, it will later. The Lord caused dogs to lick the blood of Ahab in Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21:19; 22:38). Sooner or later the persecutors' evil deeds will leap into their arms. So it will be in the last great day, Satan's fiery darts will strike his heart, and all his followers will reap the harvest they have sown. (*The Treasury of David*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

Show how the deliverance of the righteous and the destruction of the wicked are the theme for this Psalm.