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The
Songs
35

PSALMS - The SONGS

Thirty-five

O LORD, Fight Against Those Who Fight Against Me

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 35** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 35** and mark every reference to the psalmist or the righteous, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "R+".

Read through **Psalm 35** and mark every reference to the wicked, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. those who fight against me, those who pursue me, him who is too strong for me, him who robs me, smiters, those who magnify themselves over me, etc.) with an orange capital "W".

Read through **Psalm 35** and mark every reference to evil with an orange "do not" symbol (i.e. an orange circle with a diagonal slash through it).

Read through **Psalm 35** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 35** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line. (There are a lot of them.)

Read through **Psalm 35** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Call for the LORD to contend with David's enemies
2. Confidence in the LORD's salvation and Contrast between David and his enemies
3. Call for the LORD to act because his enemies want to dethrone him
4. Call for the LORD to stir Himself to save David
5. Call for those who favor David's vindication to rejoice in the LORD

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 35:1-8

According to the title, who wrote this **Psalm**?

What is the first word of this **Psalm**?

To Whom is David speaking?

What does David want the LORD to do?

1.

2.



Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for “contend” is *riyb* and means to toss, to grapple, to wrangle, or to strive. It has the idea of holding a controversy. By implication it means to defend.

The Hebrew word for “fight” is *lacham* and means to feed on; figuratively it means to consume. By implication it means to do battle, as in destruction.

With whom does David want the LORD to contend and fight?

What does David picture the LORD using on his behalf?

1.

2.

What does David want the LORD to do with the buckler and shield?



The Hebrew word for “buckler” is *magen* and means a small shield. It has the idea of covering and thus shielding from danger.

The Hebrew word for “shield” is *tsinnah* and means a hook or large shield (as if guarding by prickliness).

What weapons does David want the LORD use against those who pursue him?

- 1.
- 2.



The Hebrew word for “spear” is *chaniyth* and means a lance for thrusting.

The Hebrew word for “battle-axe” is *cagar* and is a primitive root that means to shut up. It has the idea of surrender.

What does David want the LORD to say to his soul?

What does David want to happen to those who seek his life?

- 1.
- 2.

What does David want to happen to those who devise evil against him?

1.

2.

What two pictures does David paint for us regarding the destiny of those who fight against him? (I'll give you extra room to describe the scene.)

1.

2.

What is the common theme in both pictures?

Why does David believe they deserve this end?

1.

2.

David changes from identifying his enemies in the plural form to the singular form in **verse 8**. What does he want to happen to his enemy?

1.

2.

3.

Psalm 35:9-16

What does David expect his soul to do?

1.

2

What does he confidently expect the LORD to do?

What does David expect to be saved from?

When David is saved, what does he expect his “bones” to say? (Write out the entire saying below.)

What rhetorical question will David’s “bones” ask?

How does David describe the LORD?

1.

2.

What does David say the LORD is able to do, and does?

Who will the LORD save?

1.

2.

What does David consider himself to be?

1.

2.

What does David say has happened to him?

1.

2.

3.

What do the malicious witnesses do?

1.

2.

How has David treated the malicious witnesses in the past? (**Verse 12**)

How is David affected by what the malicious witnesses do?

What is another name for a malicious witness? (Hint: This is not in the text. I am not looking for a particular word, but rather an understanding of what a malicious witness is.)



The Hebrew word for “malicious” is *chamas* and means to be violent or to maltreat.

The Hebrew word for “witness” is *ed* and means a witness, a testimony, or a recorder.

When these malicious witnesses were sick, what did David do on their behalf?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

In contrast to how David cared for them, how did they react when he “stumbled”?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for “stumbled” is *tsala*
and means to limp.

When David says he stumbled, he is not saying that he sinned.
He is simply saying that things were not going well for him.
In other words, he was at a vulnerable moment in his life
and these malicious witnesses took advantage of it in order to destroy him.



Point of Depth

The picture of a fast and the picture of a feast...

When David’s enemies were sick he went into mourning over them.
He fasted and prayed for them.
He responded as though each one were a loved one.

In contrast, when David had a low spot in his life
these same people rejoiced rather than mourned.
Rather than fasting they were feasting.
And rather than praying for him they were slandering him.
Rather than love, they displayed hatred.

What a contrast!

And yet, I wonder how many people realize this is the typical life of a believer...
this is the everyday life of all who follow Jesus...
of all who truly *follow* Jesus...

How many people think they have found a way to be a Christian
and yet remain untouched by malicious witnesses?

How many believe their “kindness” and their own ability to “get along”
will grant them peace instead of enemies?

How many consider themselves exempt
to the persecution all true Christians must endure?
Perhaps many are tolerating sin rather than following Jesus...
Perhaps many are silent rather than following Jesus...
Perhaps many have decided there is some other way than The Way...

Perhaps many walk their own path
and do not even try to follow the One Whose path leads into the Holy of holies...

Psalm 35:17-21

What rhetorical question does David ask the LORD?

What is implied? (If the LORD discontinues simply “looking on” what will He be doing instead?)

What does David ask the LORD to do?

1.

2.

What does David promise to do once the LORD rescues him?

1.

2.



**Who is the great congregation?
Who is the mighty throng?**

**Remember that David was the king of Israel.
Israel worshiped the One True God—YHWH, Jehovah, the LORD.**

**The LORD gave His people instructions for worshiping Him
when He created the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai
after delivering them from Egypt.
Israel was required to meet and worship together at Jerusalem,
specifically during the three Feasts of the LORD.**

**The great congregation, or mighty throng,
is referring to the large gathering of God’s people
to worship Him in His holy city—Jerusalem.**

What does David want the LORD to prevent?

- 1.
- 2.

Why?

What do David's enemies not "speak"?

Instead of seeking for the welfare of the people of Israel, what do they do?

What is the connection between what David's enemies are trying to do to him and how it would affect the people of Israel? (Hint: What position does David have in the kingdom? Will the people be more likely to have peace if David is king... or if he is overthrown by someone inside the nation of Israel?)

What have David's enemies done?

- 1.
- 2.

What have they said against David?

What do they pretend they have seen?

Psalm 35:22-26

In contrast to what David's enemies falsely claim they have seen, what have the eyes of the LORD seen? (Hint: Check out this entire section—**verses 22-26.**)

So far, David's enemies have been using their mouths to loudly (and falsely) testify of David's unrighteousness. What does David want the LORD to do now?

In what manner would the LORD speak if He were to testify on David's behalf?

What is synonymous with the Lord not being far from David? (Take note that David has changed from "LORD" to "Lord" in this verse.)



"Lord" and "LORD" are two different words.

The Hebrew word for "LORD" (small caps) is *YHWH* and is the memorial Name for Israel's God. It means the Self-Existent or Eternal One.

The Hebrew word for "Lord" is *adona* and means lord, owner, master.

What does David ask the LORD to do?

- 1.
- 2.

What does David want the LORD to awake Himself to?

- 1.
- 2.

What is David's cause?

How does David refer to the LORD?

- 1.
- 2.

What does David invite the LORD his God to do?

What is the criteria David knows the LORD will use to judge him?

Again, what does David want the LORD to *prevent* from happening?

1.

2.

3.

What does David want the LORD to *cause* to happen?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Who is the “them” who want to rejoice over David?

Psalm 35:27-28

What group is in contrast to David’s enemies, who want to destroy David?

Who is the “them” who favor David’s vindication?

Why does David need vindication? (Hint: What were the malicious witnesses doing?)

What does David pray for those who favor his vindication?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who do David's enemies want to magnify? (**Verse 26**)

Who do those who favor David's vindication want to see magnified?

Once David is vindicated, what will those who favor his vindication be able to say?

What will be the proof that the LORD delights in the prosperity of His servant?

Who is His servant in this case?

Not only will those who favor David's vindication use their tongues to shout for joy, what will David's tongue do?

- 1.
- 2.

Will David's praise be a one time event?

READ AND REASON

Normally the LORD makes it clear He does things for His Own Name's sake. Here David is asking Him to awake to his cause. What is David's cause and why might the LORD be concerned about it?

Presently David's cause was a simple personal vindication.

Without vindication he might be destroyed by a growing number of believers in the malicious lies of the false witnesses. They preyed upon his every action and word and distorted both to achieve their own devices.

But in a broader sense David's cause was a not so simple vindication—a vindication needed in order to hold onto the throne of Israel.

Without vindication David might lose the throne... the throne which would one day belong to his descendant, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the King of kings—Jesus Christ.

Let me back up and explain...

God created the universe to bring Glory to Himself—both man and the rest of creation. Sin would make that impossible. Man, specifically Adam, sinned against God and death was the result. A curse was put on both mankind and the rest of creation. But even with the certainty of death, God promised to send the Seed that would bring Life—the Messiah. Jesus Christ would be that Messiah. This is often called the Adamic Covenant.

Throughout the generations, men continue to sin. God said that all mankind ever did was to sin continually. It got so bad that God destroyed His creation on earth through the worldwide flood.

He spared one man and his family from death because He had made a promise to that first man, Adam. He promised Adam that He would send life—the Seed, so He would not destroy all of mankind. The Seed would come through Adam as He had promised. Now the line was narrowed down to the lineage of Noah.

When Noah put his feet back on the earth it wasn't long before he sinned. Mankind was no different—smaller in number but no different, still sinful. God's plan was that mankind would bring Him Glory... and sin made that impossible... But our amazing God had that taken care of, too. The Seed, that He had promised would bring Life, would bring a Covenant in which God would cause men to obey Him.

Mankind grew in size, but not in righteousness. Eventually all of mankind plotted a mutiny against their Creator—the rebellion at Babel. When they did, God overruled their scheme and sent them to the four corners of the world as He had demanded. In doing so, he created the nations of the world—before that time there were no nations.

Out of those nations, God took one man out of the Ur of the Chaldeas (which was in the Babylonian area) and made a very special nation out of him. Long before God ever made a Covenant with Israel (in fact, before He ever made Israel) God made a Covenant with him and changed this man's name to Abraham. Among other things, He promised him that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in his Seed (referring to

his descendant—Who turned out to be the Messiah—Jesus Christ). This is called the Abrahamic Covenant and is the promise of The Seed.

The lineage of the Seed had been carried by Adam, Noah, and now would be continued through Abraham. From Abraham, God made a unique nation—the nation of Israel. Abraham had two sons, Jacob and Esau. God designated Jacob as the carrier of the line of the Seed. Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) had 12 sons who are referred to as the 12 tribes of Israel.

Jacob's entire family went to Egypt for 430 years and grew into a very large company of people—God's chosen people. When God delivered them from the Pharaoh of Egypt, He took them to Mt. Sinai and made a Covenant with them. The Covenant is called the Law, the Old Covenant, or the Mosaic Covenant and is a picture of the Seed.

Israel's son, Judah, was designated as the next in line to carry the lineage of the Seed. Judah's great-great-great-(and then some)-grandson was David, who became the king of Israel.

God made a Covenant with David, too. It is often referred to as the Davidic Covenant. God promised, among other things, that David's house and kingdom would endure before Him forever and that his throne would be established forever.

David's cause was also God's cause because God always keeps Covenant. The Messiah, the Promised One, the Coming One would come through the line of David. God would take care of David and his position as king. God would also make sure that the line of David would not be broken, even if the kings of Israel ceased to exist, until the King of kings, Jesus Christ, was born and fulfilled His purpose as the Son of God on earth.

Once Jesus satisfied the righteous demands of a holy God, the Father gave Him what He had promised Him—the Holy Spirit. Jesus poured forth the Holy Spirit and entered into a New Covenant—the reality of the Seed. Each and every believer enters this Covenant—the one where God keeps both sides.

Remember, God created the universe to bring Him Glory. In the New Covenant, sin is taken care of and God's people are able to bring Him Glory. One day soon He will receive His whole weight of Glory as His entire creation sees Him for Who He really is and responds rightly to Him.

Jesus is the the radiance of God's Glory... and the exact representation of His nature. Christ brought Glory to God because He "looked" like Him.

Christians bring Glory to God because we "look" like Jesus...

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren...

How can we “look” like Jesus, and therefore bring Glory to the Father?

Colossians 1:27

...to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

It is clear that David’s cause was truly God’s cause. David was part of the line that would bring the true King—Jesus Christ, the Messiah, Whose cause was to be the Savior of Israel (and the whole world) so that God could be Glorified by His creation.

David’s cause was the cause of their hatred.
David’s cause was the cause of Christ...
And while it was the cause of their hatred...
It was the cause of our love and eternal gratitude...

John 15:25

But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, “THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.”

They hated Christ... because He looked just like the Father...
They hated David, who was a type of Christ...

John 15:18

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

They hated Christ’s own then...
They hate Christ’s own today...
They hate Christians who are being conformed into the image of Christ...

God’s cause can never be thwarted by enemies... because He is God!

There is much more to God’s story...
Some that has already taken place...
And much more that is still to come...

God will see to that...

Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-8

Verses 9-16

Verses 17-21

Verses 22-26

Verses 27-28

Purpose of Psalm 35

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 35.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

Theme of Psalm 35

**Try giving Psalm 35 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
