

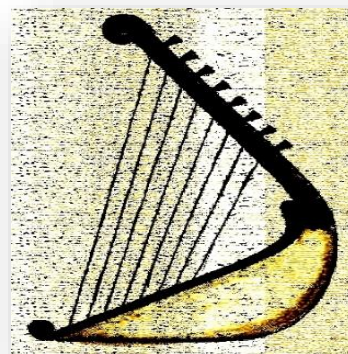
PSALM 140 vs 1

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Charles Spurgeon wrote: This Psalm is in its proper place; you almost read right on, and make no break between the two. It is the cry of a hunted soul, the supplication of a believer incessantly persecuted and beset by cunning enemies, who hunger for his destruction.

The writer wished this hymn is under the care of a chief master of song, that it is not left unsung, or chanted in a slovenly manner. Such trials and such rescues deserve to be remembered, our songs which are of no ordinary kind, these must be sung with our best powers of heart and tongue.



For the choir director. A Psalm of David,

¹ **O LORD, rescue me from evil men: guard me from violent ones** / in Hebrew, **hamas**, **what filled the earth in the days of Noah**; the word is used 3 times in this Psalm. This verse reads like a clause in the prayer Jesus taught us, "Deliver us from evil"; it is fit that our enemies are evil, it would be terrible to have the good against us; our Lord who knows how to save His saints; we are not able to baffle the craft of the enemy;

² **who devise evil in their hearts; who stir up endless wars.**

³ **They sharpened their tongues as a serpent; poison of a viper is under their lips** / although it is certain that the serpent wounds by his fangs and not by his tongue, so in the case of slanderer, they so literally sting with their tongues, which are so nimble in malice and so piercing and cutting, a strange text some may say, and 'tis true; as the adder skillfully prepares for her work of death, so do the unhappy children of slander and falsehood prepare themselves for injuring their unoffending victims – John Morison.

Selah / this is a musical interlude; pause, think about it.

⁴ **O LORD, guard me from the hands of the wicked; guard me from violent ones; who seek to trip up my feet** / keep me from doing as they do; to destabilize me – Matthew Henry.

⁵ **The proud hide a net and cords by the wayside; they set snares and traps for me** / the psalmist alludes to the artifices employed for capturing birds or beasts; the most skillful use a certain slip with a running noose, which they cast when they are within reach; or a trap being sunk into some frequented path, always covered over with grass or brush, and having long cords attached to each side, by which the hunter, lurking at a distance might close it whenever the game steps on the spot – Benjamin Weiss, 1858.

Selah / pause and think about it.

⁶ **I said to the LORD, You are my God: O LORD hear my requests** / hear my petitions, and appeals; the one safety for simple, unlearned people when assailed by crafty arguments of heretics and infidels is not argument, but prayer, a weapon their foes seldom use, and do not understand – Bruno of Aste, 1123 .

7 O God the LORD, the strength of my salvation / my Yeshua, my Jesus, You cover my head in the day of battle / each day, every day is a war; that is I had no other helmet or armor but Your Almighty power in the day of battle – Thomas Fenton; the head is chiefly aimed at by the enemy, where life principally lies – John Meyer.

8 O LORD, do not grant the desires of the evil fool: do not further his wicked device / which is to destroy me; lest they be lifted up.

Selah / pause and think about it.

9 As for the fool head of those who surround me, let the evil of their own lips cover them.

10 Let burning coals fall on them: throw them in the fire; in deep pits from which they do not get up again / let their destruction be as swift and thorough as when Sodom and the five cities of the plain were incinerated – Thomas Fenton

11 Let no slanderer be established in the earth: let evil hunt the violent quickly / in these three verses, the prophet predicted those just judgments which heaven will inflict on the slanderers and persecutors of the righteous. Their lips which uttered evil against others, will be the means of covering themselves with confusion, when from their own mouths they will be judged – George Horne.

12 I know the LORD helps the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the poor / Moses told us, He daily loves to take care of the poor and afflicted; He expects His people to love and do the same; sooner or later, He will do something; let Him pick the time and place.

13 Surely those doing right give thanks to Your name: the upright dwell in Your presence / for I have a promise, I know the Lord will maintain the cause. Let these great truths be firmly rooted in our hearts, and they will keep us steady in the worst of times – George Horne.

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