

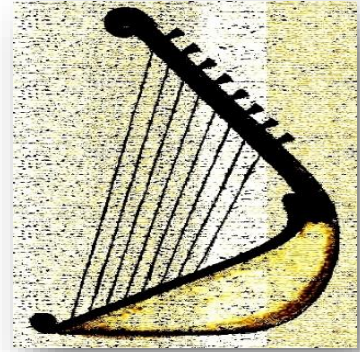
# PSALM 35 vs 1

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Title and Subject: A Psalm of David – here is all we know concerning this Psalm, but internal evidence seems to fix the date of its composition in those troublesome times when Saul hunted David over hill and dale. When those who fawned upon the cruel king, slandered the innocent object of his wrath; or it may refer to the noisy days of frequent insurrections in David's old age.

Divisions: the most natural mode of dividing this Psalm is to not its triple character. Its complaint prayer, and promise of praise are repeated with remarkable parallelism three times, even as our Lord in the Garden prayed three times using the same words. The first portion (1-10); the second (11-18); and lastly (19-28); each section ending with a note of grateful song – Charles Spurgeon.



## A Psalm of David

**<sup>1</sup> O LORD, contend with those who contend with me: fight those who fight against me.**

**<sup>2</sup> Take Your shields – both small and large, and get up to help me.**

**<sup>3</sup> Take the spear and battle-axe, to meet those who pursue me: say to my soul, I am Your **salvation** / your Yeshua.**

**<sup>4</sup> Shame and dishonored those who seek my life: let them retreat humiliated who plan evil against me.**

**<sup>5</sup> Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them.**

**<sup>6</sup> Dark and slippery is their way: with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.**

**<sup>7</sup> For without a cause they hid a net for me, without a cause they dug a pit for my soul.**

**<sup>8</sup> Let destruction come on him unexpectedly; and the net he hid ensnare him: into his own destruction let him fall.**

**<sup>9</sup> And my soul rejoices in the LORD: and lifts up His **salvation**. / His Yeshua**

**<sup>10</sup> All my bones will say, LORD, who is like You, who delivers the poor from one who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from the one who robs him?**

Think about it: What a glorious idea is this of the Lord blocking the way of persecutors, holding them back with His weapons of choice; giving time for the hunted saint to elude their pursuit. "Say to my soul, I am your **salvation**" – Say, I am your **Yeshua**... from where comes the name: your **Jesus**. Let their own fears and alarms of their conscience neutralize them, so that the least breeze of trouble carries them away.

Men hunt for their game with cunning and deception; net-making and pit-digging require time and labor, and both of these the wrongdoer will expend cheerfully, if they can overthrow the good people of God.

But men set traps and catch their own fingers, they throw up stones that fall on their own heads. Here David says, have death enter the persecutor's house without pausing to knock at the door.

**11 Malicious witnesses get up; they ask me of things I do not know.**

**12 They repay me evil for good to the ruin of my soul.**

**13 But for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled myself with fasting; and my prayer returned to my own heart.**

**14 I grieved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down with grief, as one who mourns for his mother.**

**15 But in my stumbling they rejoiced, and gathered together: Yes, the attackers who I did not know gathered against me; they slandered me, and did not cease:**

**16 with two-faced mockers at their feasts, they gnashed at me with their teeth.**

**17 O LORD, how long will You look on? Rescue my soul from their ruining, my only life from those lions.**

**18 and I will give thanks to You in the great assembly: and praise you among many people.**

Think about it: "False witnesses rise up"... this is the old strategy of the heartless and living dead; and do not wonder that it is used against us as it was against our Lord. "They rewarded me evil for good" ... this is devilish; but they learned the lesson well from that crazy old destroyer, and practice it most perfectly. The wicked would strip the right one naked to their very soul; they would rob you of everything you have; had not the Lord intervened. They know no pity; they are merciless, full of insatiable hatred; pure evil. A pack of dogs tearing their prey, is nothing compared to a set of malicious gossips mauling the reputation of a worthy man; weak-kneed wretches taunting and insulting the one whose name had been their terror. Most men publish their griefs; but good men should proclaim their mercies. David says, "O Lord, I give You thanks and praise in the great assembly."

**19 Do not let wrongdoers rejoice over me: nor let them wink maliciously, who hate me without cause.**

**20 For they do not speak peace:** but devise deceitful words against the peaceful in the land.

**21 Yes, they open wide their mouth against me, and say, Aha, aha, we saw it with our own eyes.**

**22 You have seen it all, O LORD: do not keep silent: O LORD, be not far from me.**

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**<sup>23</sup> Stir up Yourself, and awake to my defense; my God and my LORD, even to my cause.**

**<sup>24</sup> Judge me according to Your rightness, O LORD my God; let them not rejoice over me.**

**<sup>25</sup> Do not let them say, Ah, just what we wanted: do not let them say, We destroyed him.**

**<sup>26</sup> Shame and confounded those who rejoice at my distress: clothe them with shame and dishonor who lift up themselves against me.**

**<sup>27</sup> Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my right cause: Yes, let them say continually, the LORD is bigger, He delights in the prosperity of His servant.**

**<sup>28</sup> And my tongue will declare Your righteousness; praising You all the day long.**

Think about it: Disappoint them Lord. They are all too sure, and too boastful; little do they dream of the end of their scheming. Even before their wicked lips can frame a speech, their devious designs will be stalled, their wishes frustrated, and their traitorous tricks exposed; while clothed in blessed assurance, David is praising his Savior all the day long.

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