

Psalm 17

"A Plea for Just Deliverance from Enemies"

A Psalm of David.

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A1 DAVID'S PLEA FOR JUSTICE AS A MAN OF INTEGRITY 17:1-5

B1 David's Plea for Justice 17:1-2

- C1 A Plea from a Just Man for a Hearing
 - D1 The just cause: {1} Hear a just cause, O LORD, give heed to my cry;
 - D2 The truthful lips: Give ear to my prayer, which is not from deceitful lips.
- C2 A Plea for Exoneration: {2} Let my judgment come forth from Your presence; Let Your eyes look with equity.

B2 David's Defense of His Integrity 17:3-5

- C1 His Passing of Yahweh's Scrutiny: {3} You have tried my heart; You have visited *me* by night; You have tested me and You find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.
- C2 His Avoidance of Violence: {4} As for the deeds of men, by the word of Your lips I have kept from the paths of the violent.
- C3 His Unswerving Obedience: {5} My steps have held fast to Your paths. My feet have not slipped.

A2 DAVID'S DESPERATE PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE FROM HIS ENEMIES 17:6-14

B1 David's Plea for Deliverance from His Enemies 17:6-9

- C1 His Fervent Plea for a Hearing: {6} I have called upon You, for You will answer me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, hear my speech.
- C2 His Plea for God to Exhibit His Loyal Love 17:7
 - D1 His plea: {7} Wondrously show Your lovingkindness,
 - D2 His description of God as a Savior of refuge-seekers: O Savior of those who take refuge at Your right hand From those who rise up *against them*.

- C3 His Metaphorical Description of His Desire for God to Watch over Him 17:8
 - D1 As the constant focus of the pupil of one's eye: {8} Keep me as the apple ¹ of the eye;
 - D2 As a bird under the shadow of it's mother's wings: Hide me in the shadow of Your wings
- C4 His Plea for Preservation 17:9
 - D1 {9} From the wicked who despoil me,
 - D2 My deadly enemies who surround me.

B2 David's Description of His Wicked Enemies 17:10-12

- C1 Unfeeling (Heart): {10} They have closed their unfeeling *heart*,
- C2 Arrogant Mouth: With their mouth they speak proudly.
- C3 Surrounding Feet: {11} They have now surrounded us in our steps;
- C4 Diabolical Eyes: They set their eyes to cast *us* down to the ground.
- C5 Predatory Lion 17:12
 - D1 {12} He is like a lion that is eager to tear,
 - D2 And as a young lion lurking in hiding places.

B3 David's Desperate Plea for Yahweh to Deliver Him by Overthrowing His Enemies 17:13-14

- C1 Vanquishing David's Enemy: {13} Arise, O LORD, confront him, bring him low;
- C2 Delivering David with His Sword: Deliver my soul from the wicked with Your sword,
- C3 For Direct Intervention with Yahweh's Hand: {14} From men with Your hand, O LORD, 17:14a
- C4 His Description of His Enemies 17:14b
 - D1 Men fixated on this world: From men of the world,
 - D2 Temporal men, who live only for this life, not the next: whose portion is in *this* life,

¹ 17:8 - apple: **The apple of the eye** seems to refer to an eye's pupil, symbolizing one's sight. In other words the psalmist prayed for God's direct and careful attention. (Allen P. Ross, "Psalms," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

D3 Evil men who have been rewarded by God!

E1 With plenty of food: And whose belly You fill with Your treasure;

E2 With many heirs: They are satisfied with children,

E3 With abundant wealth to pass on to their heirs: And leave their abundance to their babes.

A3 DAVID'S CONFIDENCE IN AN ETERNITY WITH GOD 17:15

B1 Beholding God's Face: {15} As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness;

B2 Basking in God's Presence in the Resurrection: I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.²

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 17
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² 17:15 - awake: I take the position, along with *Ryrie Study Bible*, that David refers to his ultimate hope of resurrection. Allen P. Ross, *TBKC*, holds that David, not anticipating death, is merely anticipating restful sleep, trusting God to protect him from his enemies. Nevertheless, Ross allows present day believers to apply this to themselves as anticipating resurrection.