

## Psalm 35

# "David's Plea for the Demise of and Relief from His Adversaries"

(A Psalm of David.)

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### **A1 DAVID'S PRAYER FOR YAHWEH TO DEFEAT HIS ADVERSARIES 35:1-10**

#### **B1 His Prayer for Their Defeat 35:1-3**

C1 His Request for Divine Assistance in Battle 35:1

D1 Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;

D2 Fight against those who fight against me.

C2 Using Specific Weaponry 35:2-3

D1 {2} Take hold of buckler and shield And rise up for my help. 35:2

D2 {3} Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me; Say to my soul, "I am your salvation." 35:3

#### **B2 His Prayer for Their Humiliation 35:4**

C1 Shame and Dishonor: {4} Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life;

C2 Humiliation: Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me.

#### **B3 His Prayer for the Angel of Yahweh to Pursue Them 35:5-6**

C1 Like Chaff before the Wind 35:5

D1 The metaphor: {5} Let them be like chaff before the wind,

D2 The Agent: With the angel of the LORD <sup>1</sup> driving *them* on. 35:5

C2 On a Dark and Slippery Way 35:6

D1 The metaphor: {6} Let their way be dark and slippery,

D2 The Agent: With the angel of the LORD pursuing them. 35:6

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<sup>1</sup> 35:5-6 - angel of the LORD: Most likely a reference to the pre-incarnate Christ, who served as the commander of Yahweh's heavenly army. See Dr. Constable's Notes on Psalms (<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/psalms.pdf>) p.79. See also The Angel of Yahweh (<http://www.wordexplain.com/Angel%20of%20Yahweh.html>).

**B4 His Justification for Their Demise 35:7**

- C1 Their Trap: {7} For without cause they hid their net for me;
- C2 Their Pit: Without cause they dug a pit for my soul.

**B5 His Renewed Prayer for Their Destruction 35:8**

- C1 Sudden Destruction: {8} Let destruction come upon him unawares,
- C2 With Poetic Justice
  - D1 And let the net which he hid catch himself;
  - D2 Into that very destruction let him fall.

**B6 His Projected Praise 35:9-10**

- C1 Joyful Exultation in Yahweh 35:9
  - D1 Joy: {9} And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD;
  - D2 Exultation: It shall exult in His salvation.
- C2 Animated Praise of Yahweh:{10} All my bones will say, "LORD, who is like You, 35:10
  - D1 For His deliverance from the strong: Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him,
  - D2 For His deliverance from the robber: And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?"

**A2 DAVID'S INDICTMENT OF HIS OPPONENTS 35:11-17**

**B1 His Ill-Treatment by His Enemies When He Had Done Them Good 35:11-16**

- C1 Their Malicious Treatment of Him 35:11-12
  - D1 Their absurd interrogation: {11} Malicious witnesses rise up; They ask me of things that I do not know.
  - D2 Their repaying him evil for good: {12} They repay me evil for good, To the bereavement of my soul.
- C2 David's Good toward Them 35:13-14
  - D1 Praying for them when they were ill: {13} But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled my soul with fasting, And my prayer kept returning to my bosom. 35:13
  - D2 Mourning as for a friend or relative: {14} I went about as though it were my friend or brother; I bowed down mourning, as one who sorrows for a mother. 35:14

- C3 Their Repayment of Evil 35:15-16
  - D1 Their joy at his stumbling: {15} But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered themselves together;
  - D2 Their ceaseless slander: The smiters whom I did not know gathered together against me, They slandered me without ceasing. 35:15
  - D3 Their gnashing at him with their teeth: {16} Like godless jesters at a feast, They gnashed at me with their teeth. 35:16

**B2 His Closing Prayer and Praise 35:17-18**

- C1 His Plea for Speedy Rescue from the Lions 35:17
  - D1 {17} Lord, how long will You look on?
  - D2 Rescue my soul from their ravages, My only *life* from the lions.
- C2 His Vow of Praise in the Tabernacle 35:18
  - D1 {18} I will give You thanks in the great congregation;
  - D2 I will praise You among a mighty throng.

**A3 DAVID'S PRAYER FOR VINDICATION FROM HIS ENEMIES 35:19-28**

**B1 His Prayer to Yahweh to Stop the Gloating of His Enemies 35:19**

- C1 Wrongful Rejoicing: {19} Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me;
- C2 Malicious Winking: Nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously.

**B2 His Expose of the Wicked: Their Verbal Stratagems against the Unsuspecting 35:20-21**

- C1 Their Deceitful Plots: {20} For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land. 35:20
- C2 Their False Testimony: {21} They opened their mouth wide against me; They said, "Aha, aha, our eyes have seen it!" 35:21

**B3 His Prayer to Yahweh for Vindication 35:22-27**

- C1 Not to Keep Silent: {22} You have seen it, O LORD, do not keep silent; O Lord, do not be far from me. 35:22
- C2 To Respond to His Cause: {23} Stir up Yourself, and awake to my right And to my cause, my God and my Lord. 35:23

- C3 To Prevent the Wicked from Gloating over Him 35:24-25
- D1 Rejoicing over him: {24} Judge me, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness, And do not let them rejoice over me. 35:24
  - D2 Uttering victory speeches: {25} Do not let them say in their heart, "Aha, our desire!" Do not let them say, "We have swallowed him up!" 35:25
- C4 To Humiliate Those Who Desire His Demise 35:26
- D1 Who taunt: {26} Let those be ashamed and humiliated altogether who rejoice at my distress;
  - D2 Who swagger: Let those be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves over me.
- C5 To Bring Joy to Those Who Support Him 35:27
- D1 Who favor his vindication; {27} Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication;
  - D2 Who value his servitude to Yahweh: And let them say continually, "The LORD be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant."
- B4 His Vow of Praise: {28} And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness And Your praise all day long. 35:28**

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 35  
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