Psalm 35

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

(A Psalm of David.)


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 1 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

1 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%26y%20Yahweh.html).
B4 His Justification for Their Demise 35:7

  C1 Their Trap: 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: 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: And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD;
    D2 Exultation: It shall exult in His salvation.
  C2 Animated Praise of Yahweh: 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: Malicious witnesses rise up; They ask me of things that I do not know.
    D2 Their repaying him evil for good: 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: 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: 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