

Psalms Chapter 035 Commentary

A Psalm of David.

Ps 35:1 "Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. 2 Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. 3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation."

David had, and all of God's children have, many occasions to pray this prayer. When trials, troubles, tribulations, and temptations come into our lives, we need the Holy Spirit of God, and Christ, to **"Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. 3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me:"** In other words, we need the Holy Spirit power to bring into subjection our inherited sin nature, that our gifted Christ nature may shine forth.

We witness this deliverance when we have the peace that passes all understanding. When we have thankful hearts, filled with rejoicing, because we hear our Saviour saying unto our souls, **"I am thy salvation."** We recognize this deliverance in many ways: through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ: through reading of the promises of God in his Word of truth: through a brother or sister in Christ who is sent to be a true comforter in our times of distress: or even having the promises of God, from the scripture, called to remembrance to strengthen our faith.

4 "Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. 5 Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them. 6 Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them. 7 For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul. 8 Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall. 9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation."

David prays that the devices of his enemies against him might be turned upon their own heads. David prays that the angel of the Lord will avenge him, and that he does not try to avenge himself, which is as we are told in **Ro 12:19; 17 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."** Again, David reminds us that when we are delivered, we are to rejoice that God's says, **"I am thy salvation."**

We see a prophetic picture of how they will persecute Jesus, when he begins his public ministry. Multitudes of times; the Scribes and Pharisees lay traps to catch Jesus in an error. Why? so they could accuse him truthfully and justify their unbelief in Jesus being the Messiah. Truly, with the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, the enemies of Jesus were caught in their own net and brought to confusion. When Jesus returns, destruction will come upon all his enemies, and they shall be cast into the eternal lake of fire.

10 "All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him? 11 ¶ False witnesses did rise up; they laid on my charge things that I knew not. 12 They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul."

David recognizes his weakness, and lack of strength, to overcome the vast array of the army of enemies gathered against him. David praises God for being a deliverer of the poor from the stronger enemy, and from the false witnesses they conjure against him. David tells God how they have rewarded him evil when he did good for them. David tells God, they are trying to get me to forget the God of my salvation, who can and will help him.

We are reminded of the poor as seen in **Mt 5:3 ¶ "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** God's people recognize their poverty without God in their lives. They understand those that brag of being great in the eyes of men are nothing.

We are also reminded of Jesus, our Saviour, who became poor to redeem us in **2Co 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."** Jesus left the throne in heaven and became a man. He left the riches of heaven and came

to the earth that is only rich in sin and disgracefulness, in the sight of God. He was made poor; in that he took on the prepared body of human flesh, and the position of lowliness of mankind.

Jesus went about doing good, and evil men rewarded Jesus by falsely accusing him and crucifying him on the tree of the cross. Jesus yielded himself to evil men, to deliver the poor out of their hands. He is our eternal salvation.

13 "But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. 14 I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother."

David continues to plead his case to God. When my enemies were sick, I put on sackcloth, mourned, and prayed for my enemies with fasting. David explains to us: though they rejected my prayers for them, the blessing of praying for my enemies returned to my own heart, because I fulfilled the word of God to love even my enemies. Jesus commanded us to do the same, seen in *Mt 5:44; 43 ¶ "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."*

Jesus set this example as he hung on the cross praying in *Lu 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."*

15 "But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not: 16 With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth. 17 ¶ Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions. 18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people."

We believe this could have been David's prayer, when Absalom revolted against David, his father, and proclaimed himself to be king over Israel. How the heathen rejoiced and gathered themselves against God's king over Israel, and David did not know this was going on. Remember how Shimei cursed David, when David fled before Absalom in *2Sa 16:5-8; 5 ¶ "And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. 6 And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: 8 The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man."* Shimei falsely accused king David of killing Saul, so David could take the throne over Israel, which David did not do.

The same is true for each child of God. What do you mean? When you profess Christ as Saviour and Lord in your life, Satan immediately begins to attack you. Many will be the false accusations of your life in Christ. Why? Because all the unsaved are united under their own chosen king, Satan, who like Absalom will ultimately be overthrown.

However, the greatest enemy we will have to overcome is that inherited sin nature, which Satan will use to plot against you every step of the way of living the life of a child of God. David declares to God, when you have saved me out of this quagmire, I gave thanks and praise to you in the great congregation, which is Israel returned to their king.

The difference between the situation with king David and with our King Jesus; is that our King Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen, and he yielded his prepared body into the hands of sinful men. How the abjects did rejoice as they did rend and tear at the body of Jesus. Likewise, they were hypocrites, they were mockers, and they gnashed upon him with their teeth. With His resurrection, these were all overthrown. Like king David returned to his rightful throne over Israel, Jesus has returned to his rightful throne in heaven. When Jesus

returns as King forever, he will gather the great congregation to himself, and we will all give thanks and praise to his Holy and Matchless Name, forever, because Jesus has said unto our souls, "***I am thy salvation.***" Hallelujah! Amen!

19 "Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause. 20 For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land. 21 Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it. 22 This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me. 23 Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord."

Before the battle in which Absalom, the self-proclaimed king, which is a picture of Satan, loud were the cries against King David. God fulfilled this prayer of David, when Absalom was slain and all revolting Israel went sneaking back to their homes in shame. God answered David's prayer by restoring him to his rightful throne over Israel.

This same principle was true in the life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, of Jesus Christ. We remember that David's return to the throne did not end his heartaches and the uprisings against him. The same is true in the kingdom of God on earth, the New Testament Church. Even though our King has risen and is sitting on the throne of God, the raging of Satan and his minions will not cease until the return of Christ at the end of time, and the resurrection of the dead in Christ. Then, Satan, and all those who follow him, will be cast into the everlasting lake of fire.

This is why God's people are to be continually in prayer to God, for daily deliverance from the satanic evil in this world, seen in ***Lu 21:34-36; 34 "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."*** This reminds us: as God commanded the kings over Israel to write a copy of the commandments of God, and to read them every day, so that they forget not their God, and that they rule in accordance with the word of God: likewise, we should daily partake in reading the word of God, the King James Bible, and thereby; we will be reminded of who our God is; how to live our lives in the manner that Christ set for us to walk in: call to remembrance the promises of God: and rejoice in the surety of God's salvation.

24 "Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me. 25 Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up. 26 Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me."

David request of God to be judged according to God's righteousness, which had been imparted to him when he was anointed by Samuel the prophet to be king over Israel, seen in ***1Sa 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."***

David requested that his enemies not be allowed to rejoice over him, but rather to be ashamed and confused. When David was returned to his rightful position on the throne over all Israel, after Absalom's rebellion, he saw this come to fruition.

Likewise, when our Saviour rose from the dead, the enemies of God were put to confusion. We know this is true, because on the day of Pentecost, the enemies of God were pricked in their hearts, when Peter told them that they were guilty of crucifying the Christ. With shame and dishonor they cried out for God's salvation, asking how they must be saved. Peter tells them to repent and be baptized, which they did. Now, this was a time of great rejoicing, for those, who were against Christ, are now for him. Oh, how the name of King Jesus was magnified that day, and his praise flowed from the lips of those who were once his accusers.

Today, this happens every time God is delivered from the bondage of sin and Satan. There will be an eternal fulfillment of this scene, when Jesus divides the sheep and the goats. The sheep go to the place Jesus has prepared for them. The goats will be cast into the eternal lake of fire, along with Satan and his angels, to suffer eternal damnation for their unbelief in King Jesus.

27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. 28 And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long."

In that eternal day, all of God's people will continually magnify the name of the LORD and of the LAMB, all the day long. God will rejoice in presenting to His Son, Jesus Christ, his pure and holy bride at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Remember, in eternity there is only one day, which is forever, which is why we will praise God all the day long.

This scene, of continually giving glory to Christ in the eternal heaven, is seen when we join the four beast seen in Revelation which cease not to cry out **Re 4:8 ¶ "saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty."** Hallelujah! Praise, ye the LORD!