

Psalms Chapter 035; Say Unto My Soul, I Am Thy Salvation

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 **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:"** 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 to 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!