

Psalms 35

A Plea for Deliverance from Evil

¹ Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me.

² Take up shield and armor;
arise and come to my aid.

³ Brandish spear and javelin^[a]
against those who pursue me.

Say to me,
“I am your salvation.”

⁴ May those who seek my life
be disgraced and put to shame;
may those who plot my ruin
be turned back in dismay.

⁵ May they be like chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the LORD driving them away;

⁶ may their path be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.

⁷ Since they hid their net for me without cause
and without cause dug a pit for me,

⁸ may ruin overtake them by surprise—
may the net they hid entangle them,
may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.

⁹ Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD
and delight in his salvation.

¹⁰ My whole being will exclaim,
“Who is like you, LORD?”

You rescue the poor from those too strong for them,
the poor and needy from those who rob them.”

¹¹ Ruthless witnesses come forward;
they question me on things I know nothing about.

¹² They repay me evil for good
and leave me like one bereaved.

¹³ Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth
and humbled myself with fasting.

When my prayers returned to me unanswered,

¹⁴ I went about mourning
as though for my friend or brother.

I bowed my head in grief

as though weeping for my mother.
¹⁵ But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee;
assailants gathered against me without my knowledge.
They slandered me without ceasing.
¹⁶ Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked;^[b]
they gnashed their teeth at me.

¹⁷ How long, Lord, will you look on?
Rescue me from their ravages,
my precious life from these lions.
¹⁸ I will give you thanks in the great assembly;
among the throngs I will praise you.
¹⁹ Do not let those gloat over me
who are my enemies without cause;
do not let those who hate me without reason
maliciously wink the eye.
²⁰ They do not speak peaceably,
but devise false accusations
against those who live quietly in the land.
²¹ They sneer at me and say, “Aha! Aha!
With our own eyes we have seen it.”

²² LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent.
Do not be far from me, Lord.
²³ Awake, and rise to my defense!
Contend for me, my God and Lord.
²⁴ Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God;
do not let them gloat over me.
²⁵ Do not let them think, “Aha, just what we wanted!”
or say, “We have swallowed him up.”

²⁶ May all who gloat over my distress
be put to shame and confusion;
may all who exalt themselves over me
be clothed with shame and disgrace.
²⁷ May those who delight in my vindication
shout for joy and gladness;
may they always say, “The LORD be exalted,
who delights in the well-being of his servant.”

²⁸ My tongue will proclaim your righteousness,
your praises all day long.