

Holiday Special Series
Independence Day-

Psalm 35

July 4, 2021

Dean Bible Ministries

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**In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen
united States of America,**

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

“You may deem it a strange prophecy, but I predict that the time will come in this once free America when the battle for religious liberty will have to be fought over again, and will probably be lost because the people are already ignorant of its true basis and conditions.”

**~Robert L Dabney, *The Practical Philosophy*,
394.**

When in the Course of human events ...

The *First* Continental Congress, 1774

“Be Thou present, O God of Wisdom, and direct the counsel of this Honorable Assembly; enable them to settle all things on the best and surest foundations; that the scene of blood may be speedily closed;



“that Order, Harmony and Peace may be effectually restored, and that Truth and Justice, Religion and Piety, prevail and flourish among the people ...”

The *First* Continental Congress, 1774

“... Preserve the health of their bodies, and the vigor of their minds, shower down on them, and the millions they here represent, such temporal Blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world, and crown them with everlasting Glory in the world to come.

“All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Saviour, Amen.”



John Adams observed:

“Washington was kneeling there with Henry, Randolph, Rutledge, Lee, and Jay, and by their side there stood, bowed in reverence the Puritan Patriots of New England ...

“It was enough to melt a heart of stone. I saw the tears gush into the eyes of the old, grave, Pacifist Quakers of Philadelphia.”

Psalm 35

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- 1. The author is David, the slayer of Goliath, the warrior under King Saul, the second King of the united kingdom of Israel, a man after God's own heart.**
- 2. The circumstances were unknown.**

“It is a prayer for vindication from a false accusation; the imagery of the psalm shifts between legal, military, and hunting terminology. But the descriptions and the prayers in the composition are essentially timeless.”

**~Allen P. Ross
*Psalms, Vol. 1***

“So long as Saul was the enemy of David, the nobles, and such as at that time bore any authority, had (according to the subservient spirit which always prevails in the courts of kings) eagerly conspired to destroy an innocent man. They had also succeeded in inducing the common people to participate with them in their hatred and cruelty, so that all of them, from the highest to the lowest, burned with implacable hatred against him.”

~Calvin

Psalms, Vol. 1

Psalm 35

Structure

Vss. 1–10: a cry to the Lord to come to the aid of the Psalmist to protect him and vindicate him against the unjust, unmerited, and undeserved attacks of his enemies.

Vss. 11–18: describes those persecuting David, the witnesses against him, how they returned evil for good.

Vss. 19–28: David calls upon God to punish the wicked and vindicate David according to His righteousness.

I. David petitions the LORD to deliver him from his enemies by destroying them for they hate him without a cause (1–10).

A. Turning to the LORD in his time of need, David petitions Him to set his enemies down in battle (1–6).

Psa. 35:1,

**“Plead my cause, O Lord, with those who
strive with me;**

Fight against those who fight against me.”

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**רִיב *riyv* qal imper
masc sing
to strive, contend,
often used of legal
challenge**

**יָרִיב־1 *yariv-1*
comm masc plur constr
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Isa. 49:25, “But thus says the Lord: ‘Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered;

For I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children.’”

Psa. 35:2,

**“Take hold of shield and buckler,
And stand up for my help.”**

Psa. 35:3,

**“Also draw out the spear,
And stop those who pursue me.
Say to my soul,
‘I am your salvation.’ ”**

Psa. 35:4,

“Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor

Who seek after my life;

Let those be turned back and brought to confusion

Who plot my hurt.”

Psa. 35:5,

**“Let them be like chaff before the wind,
And let the angel of the Lord chase them.”**

Psa. 35:6,

**“Let their way be dark and slippery,
And let the angel of the Lord pursue them.”**

B. David's appeal is based on their unjustified hatred of him (7–8).

Psa. 35:7,

**“For without cause they have hidden their net for me in a pit,
Which they have dug without cause for my life.”**

Psa. 35:8,

**“Let destruction come upon him
unexpectedly,
And let his net that he has hidden catch
himself;
Into that very destruction let him fall.”**

Psa. 35:9,

**“And my soul shall be joyful [shout for joy,
‘I will exult’] in the LORD;
It shall rejoice in His salvation
[deliverance].”**

Psa. 35:10,

“All my bones shall say,

‘LORD, who is like You,

**Delivering the poor from him who is too
strong for him,**

**Yes, the poor and the needy from him who
plunders him?’ ”**