

Holiday Special Series
Independence Day-
Psalm 35 - Part 2

July 6, 2021

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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 ...”

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.”

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

**יָרִיב־1 *yariv-1*
comm masc plur constr
opponent, adversary**

לָחַם־1 *lacham-1* qal imper masc sing to fight

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.”**

C. David vows to praise the LORD when he is delivered (9–10).

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?’ ”**

II. David calls upon God to intervene because he is hated without a cause and has not been delivered (11–18).

A. David's complaint is that the enemies repay good with evil (11–16).

Psa. 35:11,

**“Fierce witnesses rise up;
They ask me things that I do not know.”**

1 Sam. 24:18, “And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me.”

Psa. 35:12,

**“They reward me evil for good,
To the sorrow of my soul.”**

Psa. 35:13,

**“But as for me, when they were sick,
My clothing was sackcloth;
I humbled myself with fasting;
And my prayer would return to my own
heart.”**

Psa. 35:14, “I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother.”

Time Line of Events Leading to Independence

1. Initial Charters and Colonies. Founded on private money.
2. **1649** Parliament acknowledged that only the House of Burgesses could tax Virginians.
3. **1650s** Britain attempted to redefine the relationship to her advantage. The colonials resisted, no resolution was found.
4. **1680s** James II attempted to unite all of the New England colonies under the direct control of the Crown.
5. **1688** When William and Mary came to the throne, the English government officially recognized its dependence on the consent of the people's representatives.

Time Line of Events Leading to Independence

6. **1697** British Board of Trade recommended that Parliament bring the colonies directly under the control of the Crown. Never tried it.
7. **1763** England defeated France in the Seven Years War—major debt.
8. **1764, April 5** Parliament asserted this new theory of its sovereignty; **the Sugar Act.**
9. **1764** **Currency Act**—Banned colonial paper money.
10. **1765** **The Stamp Act**
11. **1767** The Townshend Acts
12. **April 1770** Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts
13. **1773** Parliament passed the Tea Act to revive the financially failing East India Company.

Time Line of Events Leading to Independence

14. The Coercive Acts—Cancelled self government in Mass.; Shut down the harbor, revoked the royal charter.

What is Nature's Law?

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.

“The law of nature is that which God at the time of creation of the nature of man infused into his heart, for his preservation and direction ... this is *lex aeterna*, the moral law, called also the law of nature. And by this law written with the finger of God in the heart of man, were the people of God a long time governed, before the law was written by Moses who was the first reporter or writer of law in the world.”

~Sir Edward Coke



**Various Judicial Offices
25 October 1592 –
15 November 1616**

“This will of his maker is called the law of nature ...

“This law of nature, being coequal with mankind and dictated by God himself, is of course superior in obligation to all other. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, at all times, no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this.”

~Sir William Blackstone

Commentaries in the Law of England

“There never has been a period, in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations.”

**United States Justice Joseph Story
1812–1845; Justice of the Supreme Court
of the United States**

Psa. 35:15,

**“But in my adversity they rejoiced
And gathered together;
Attackers gathered against me,
And I did not know it;
They tore at me and did not cease;”**

Psa. 35:16,

**“With ungodly mockers at feasts
They gnashed at me with their teeth.”**

B. The expression of his adversity focuses on the need for the LORD to deliver (17).

Psa. 35:17, “Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue me from their destructions, My precious life from the lions.”

C. David ends with a vow to praise the LORD in the congregation.

Psa. 35:18, “I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.”