

Psalm 35 (A Psalm of David)

LORD, fight for me

¹⁻³ LORD, there are people who are fighting against me and are doing their best to chase me down in order to destroy me. Please stand up for me and engage in battle with them on my behalf. Don all of Your protective gear, load all of Your weapons, and chase them down in the same way they are chasing me down. Please tell me You will do this for me!

Make their life as miserable as they have made mine

⁴ Cause my enemies to be ashamed of their actions and see themselves as shameful as they actually are. Cause them to be humiliated in the eyes of the public because of their evil intent and actions. Direct the angel of God to drive them away like wind drives the chaff from the wheat. ⁶ Tell the angel of the LORD to 1) chase them down and fill their lives with hurts, heartaches, and losses, and 2) put them in a position where others will betray their trust¹ like they have betrayed my trust.

This is why I am asking You to do it

⁷ My enemies set all sorts of traps intending to take my life, and they do so without a valid reason. ⁸ Therefore, let destruction come upon them unawares, and let them be caught in the same trap they set for me. Yes, let them be destroyed by their own doing. ⁹ If You will do this for me I will be thrilled, and when You actually do, I will shout for joy at my deliverance. ¹⁰ Everything within me will say,

“There is no one else who is as great, mighty, and powerful as the LORD. He rescues the man who is experiencing hurts, heartaches or losses at the hand of those who are too strong for him, and He delivers the man who has severe needs because others have robbed him.”

These are my opponents and my response to them

¹¹ Mean, violent, and unjust men have arisen and are self-appointed witnesses against me. They keep asking me about things of which I have no knowledge, ¹² and they keep paying me back evil for the good I have done to them. ¹³ But as for me, when they were sick I was deeply burdened for them. I was so burdened for their welfare that I fasted and prayed for them. ¹⁴ As a mother sorrows for her child, so I went about my daily activities sorrowing as though it were my best friend or brother who was sick. ¹⁵ I did this for them, but when misfortune, calamity, or distress² came upon me, they attacked me as a group. ¹⁶ People I didn't even know slandered me without ceasing. They feasted upon me like a hungry pack of wolves and literally chewed me up and spit me out. This mistreatment continues even now.

LORD, how long will You wait?

¹⁷ How long will You sit back and watch these people wreak havoc upon me? Please arise, come to my aid, and rescue me from these savage wolves. ¹⁸ When You do, I will praise You in the church, and I will testify of Your goodness before all those who have a strong faith in the LORD Jesus Christ³.

Don't let them succeed with their evil plans

¹⁹ I have done nothing wrong against these people. Therefore, they are enemies without a just cause. Please don't let them be thrilled that they have succeeded in destroying me, and don't let those who hate me without cause wink back and forth at each other deceitfully indicating that they have succeeded. ²⁰ They talk in public like they are good men, but in secret they devise all sorts of deceitful words against those who are peaceful, law-abiding citizens. ²¹ They are bold and aggressive when they look me in the face and say, "Aha, aha! You rascal, you're not fooling anybody. You're guilty, and all of us have seen it!"

LORD, look at me, and see what is really going on

²² LORD, You've seen all of this as it happens. Please don't sit back silently and let it continue. ²³ My LORD and my God, arouse Yourself, and see my just cause for what it really is - innocent and without wrong. ²⁴ Judge me according to Your righteous standards, and don't let these evil people shout for joy that they have destroyed me. ²⁵ Don't let them say in their heart, "Aha, we have finally succeeded," and don't let them say out loud, "We did it. We have swallowed him up and sent him to the grave." ²⁶ Instead, cause these people to be ashamed of their actions and humiliated that they would do such things to me. Cause the public to see the shame and dishonor these people have brought upon themselves as a result of their arrogance when they try to make themselves greater than me.

Cause good people to rejoice in my deliverance

²⁷ When You deliver me, good and godly people who favor my vindication will shout for joy and say over and over again, "Praise the LORD. He is pleased to rescue David, His servant, and return him to a place of prosperity and peace." ²⁸ I, too, will tell everyone about Your righteousness, and I will praise You all the day long.

¹ Strong's Concordance says that "slippery" implies "treacherous."
www.dictionary.com/browse/treachery

² Definition of "adversity" www.dictionary.com/browse/adversity

³ For the sake of application, since Christ said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," the name "LORD Jesus Christ" has been used.