

Psalm 35

A Messianic psalm - Jesus was hated without cause, and accused by many false witnesses.

(Regarding our Torah passage, Joseph suffered a similar fate)

See **Mark 14:55-59** and **John 18:19-23**

Plead my cause, O Lord - a courtroom setting.

Compare

John 15:18-25

John 15:18-19 - "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:20 - "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."

John 15:24-25 - "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause."

Psalm 35:5 - "Let them be like the chaff before the wind, and let the Angel of the Lord chase them."

David is calling on the Angel of the Lord here (the eternal Christ). Similarly, Christ's human nature on the cross is crying out for the divine Avenger to act. The image is of a threshing floor, with the threshing wind - a type of the Holy Spirit descending at Pentecost - to burn up the chaff (represented by the flames over the heads of the disciples. The chaff is our old nature, the flesh.

A similar picture is displayed in **Psalm 118:12** - "They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched as the fire of thorns: for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them."

Although David was referring to Saul and his other enemies here, the picture for us is our internal battle against spiritual principalities and powers.

Even if physical enemies attack us, we don't fight against flesh and blood. It's not the people who are the enemy. Jesus said of the people who were crucifying him "Forgive them for they know not what they do." We are to love our enemies. (**Luke 6:28**)

But Jesus also said, “Get thee behind me Satan.” Jesus was speaking to the evil one who was using Peter’s thoughts to utter a natural desire that Jesus not go to the cross to die.

The enemy lays internal traps and snares for us, makes us take ourselves too seriously, tempts us into being mean, or consumed by lust, or focusing on self, trying to make us lean on our own strength.

False witnesses and accusations: (**Revelation 12:10**)

The extended call for vengeance here relates to the spiritual warfare Paul discusses: “Revenge the disobedience.” Disobedience within ourselves, and also to exhort others when heresy or a false gospel appears.

Psalm 35:24 - “Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 - He who knew no sin was made sin for us.

Isaiah 61:10 - We are now robed in his righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:9 - WE ARE the righteousness of God.

How do we fight? Here’s an example:

2 Samuel 23:20-22 - Benaiah, one of the group of offscouring and renegades that flocked to David when he was chased by Saul.

Use the weapons of the enemy against him: “You’re right, I’m even worse than you say I am. But Jesus paid the price for my sin on the cross.”

—See John Courson’s Application Commentary, Volume 2

Compare **Matthew 5:25** - “Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.”