

Psalm 7 – “Judge Me According to My Righteousness” (part 1)

INTRODUCTION

The title of this psalm was taken from a phrase in verse 8: “Judge me O LORD according to my righteousness.” What an audacious declaration by David, the man after God’s own heart! Who would dare to cry to God and demand that He judges him according to his righteousness? Yet, David has taught all believers to make the same declaration before God when they pray, in the face of their enemies. David was certainly not claiming “sinless perfection”. Neither was he teaching salvation by good works. David was not boasting of his own righteousness independent of the righteousness that God had imputed to him when he became a believer. The context of this psalm is a cry for deliverance because of the snares set by his enemies. David’s enemies wanted to kill and destroy him. David established for all believers the basis for crying to God to intervene, based upon God’s just justice.

This is an imprecatory psalm. “Shiggaion” is probably a musical note to accompany the singing of this psalm. That David wrote this psalm is without doubt. The psalm was sung unto the LORD. Cush was a Benjamite who wanted David dead. No one knows for sure who Cush was. It is unlikely that David would use a pseudonym for King Saul. David usually stated the name of the person whenever he described the occasion for his psalm. David desired justice upon his enemies who had dealt with him grievously and unjustly. David established five reasons for his cry for God’s justice against his enemies.

- I. **V 1-5 – THE BASIS IS JUST JUDGMENT** – The onset of this psalm summarized the main theme of David’s cry. He cried to his LORD in whom he had a personal relationship as a child and servant of God. The use of the personal pronoun “my” after “God” affirms this. To call the name of God is to invoke the power of God to deliver him from his persecutors. His LORD alone, whom David believed in with all his heart, was able to deliver. With great emphasis (use of the imperative in the two verbs), he cried in desperation to God to save and to deliver. If the LORD would not help David, no one would. The situation in David’s life was desperate. David likened his desperation to his soul being torn to pieces by a lion without anyone to deliver (v 2).

The help David cried for was not at the expense of justice. David was not pulling strings for divine intervention because of the special relationship he had with his LORD. David was not like a wayward son going to his father for deliverance because he had committed a crime. That would be wrong and God would not commit a wrong doing to save, not even for David. David knew that. David acknowledged that if he had committed sins and iniquities, he deserved the persecution (v4-5). However, he was claiming innocence. All in Israel knew David’s treatment of King Saul. It appears that David was referring to what he had done to King Saul. He had

spared his life on at least two occasions when he could have killed him. David was not vengeful. This imprecatory psalm has nothing to do with personal vengeance! David cried for God's just judgement. David was being persecuted unjustly. If David was guilty of any sin committed against Cush, David was prepared to accept the persecution. He was prepared to die for his sins if he had wronged Cush in any way! Let Cush destroy his reputation as well.

- II. V 6-7 –THE CERTAINTY OF JUST JUDGEMENT** – With urgency in his tone, David cried to his LORD (use of imperative in “arise” and the vocative) to arise in anger against David's enemies. This was to match the anger of his enemies. David cried for just retribution from the LORD! The verb “awake” (also in the imperative) is stronger than the use of the verb “arise.” It was as if the LORD was sleeping and he had to ask the LORD to “wake up” for his sake. He asked the LORD to bring to pass the sure judgement that He had commanded. We cannot find from Scriptures a reference to any specific command that God had made. David was appealing to God the just Judge, who always judges righteous judgement on this earth!

This was the basis of Abraham's prayer, when he reduced the number of the righteous from 50 to 10, to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. **Genesis 18:25** (KJV) “That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” His appeal to the just judgement of the LORD was most appropriate. He was not crying to the LORD for deliverance so that he could indulge in carnality. David knew that as long as his work for the LORD was not completed, he could not die. His enemies wanted his life. He was justified to cry for divine intervention.

A demonstration of divine justice from the LORD will inspire confidence in God's people to worship and praise Him. They will gather around the Tabernacle of the LORD and rejoice to know that the LORD God is the one living and true God and beside Him, there is none other! This experiential knowledge of the LORD is what every believer needs throughout the ages, without exception. How else will believers know that the LORD is real in their lives if not for these blessings of God's execution of His just judgement in the lives of His servants? David, and all of God's people, needed these experiences from the LORD. Therefore, David cried to the LORD “to return thou on high”, for the sake of God's people. This means that the LORD must return to His throne and take action against David's enemies. David was not implying that the LORD had left His throne. This was a poetic expression describing a delay in justice, as if the LORD was no longer on the throne and David's enemies appeared to be having an upper hand. It appeared that the enemies had thwarted or hindered God's work through His servants. No, God never leaves His throne. Nothing on this

earth happens without His sovereign and absolute permission, not even the breathing of evil man. God puts down kings and raises others, according to His holy will. The judgement of God is certain. David cried for immediate intervention!

[to be continued]