

PSALM 7

It is difficult to ascertain any particular occasion of this psalm in the life of David, but as Delitzsch has noted, "We need only to read 1 Samuel 24-26 in order to see how rich in unmistakable allusions to this period of David's life our psalm is." We are here taught that the wickedness of the ungodly shall come to an end; that though Yahweh bears with them for a time, yet if they go on in their wickedness, he prepares for them the punishments they deserve and often makes them the instruments of their own ruin.

A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to YAHWEH concerning Cush, a Benjamite.

- 1 O YAHWEH my God, in you do I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and deliver me,
2 lest like a lion they tear my soul apart, rending it in pieces, with none to deliver.
- 3 O YAHWEH my God, if I have done this, if there is wrong in my hands,
4 if I have repaid my friend with evil or plundered my enemy without cause,
5 let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it,
and let him trample my life to the ground and lay my glory in the dust. Selah
- 6 Arise, O YAHWEH, in your anger; lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies;
awake for me; you have appointed a judgment.
- 7 Let the assembly of the peoples be gathered about you; over it return on high.
- 8 YAHWEH judges the peoples; judge me, O YAHWEH, according to my righteousness
and according to the integrity that is in me.
- 9 Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous—
you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!
- 10 My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.
- 11 God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.
- 12 If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow;
13 he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.
- 14 Behold, the wicked man conceives evil and is pregnant with mischief
and gives birth to lies.
- 15 He makes a pit, digging it out, and falls into the hole that he has made.
- 16 His mischief returns upon his own head, and on his own skull his violence descends.
- 17 I will give to YAHWEH the thanks due to his righteousness,
and I will sing praise to the name of YAHWEH, the Most High.

PRAYER

O God, who knows that we are set in the midst of many and great dangers, and that the frailty of our nature keeps us from always standing upright, grant us strength and protection to support us in all dangers, and carry us through all our temptations. In your tender love toward mankind, you have sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh and suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow his example of great humility. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his resurrection, for we plead his merits on our behalf. Amen.