

Psalm 7

Title: Prayer for God's Righteous Judgment

Author and Date: David

Key Verse: Psalm 7:11

Outline

- A. God is my savior: the refuge of the psalmist (verses 1-2).
- B. God is my examiner: the innocence of the psalmist (verse 3-5).
- C. God is my judge: the vindication of the psalmist (verses 6-16).
- D. God is my song: the praise of the psalmist (verse 17).

Notes

Title: "Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto Jehovah, concerning the words of Cush a Benjamite." The term "Shiggaion" is thought to be a music notation meaning a "rhythmic poem" (only used here and in Hab. 3:1). "Cush a Benjamite" is not identified in scripture. He may have been a man from the house of Saul who pronounced false and slanderous accusations against David as he was fleeing from Saul (see 1 Sam. 24:9 or the words of Shimei in 2 Sam. 16:5ff)

Verse 2: The lion is a common metaphor for enemies (see also 10:9; 17:12; 22:13, 21; etc).

Verses 3-5: Here, the psalmist invites God to examine him to see if any iniquity can be found. The words here are an ancient way of professing one's integrity. It is a way to vindicate and exonerate one's integrity before another: "If I have done such and such, then let such and such happen to me" (see also Job 31:5-40).

Verse 4: David had "delivered" his enemy, Saul (see 1 Sam. 24:10-11, 17 and 26:18, 23-24).

Verse 5: For "Selah" after this verse, see the notes on Psalm 3:2.

Verse 6-8: The psalmist called upon God to judge between him and his enemies (see 1 Sam. 24:12, 15). He wanted God to rule over the people as a judge would rule: "Gather the nations before you. Rule over them from on high" (verse 7, NLT).

Verses 12-13: God is the subject of the actions presented in these verses. If a wicked man will not repent ("turn not"), "he" (God) will whet his sword, etc (see the NASV).

Verses 14-16: The wicked man is the subject of the actions presented in these verses. "He" (the wicked man) travails with iniquity, etc. The punishment of the wicked person is the result of his own actions. He reaps what he sows. Sin has a boomerang effect. Note in verse 14

the reference to bearing sin like a child (see Jas. 1:14-15; the NIV reads “pregnant with evil”). The Old English word “pate” (verse 16) used in some versions (KJV, ASV, (NASV) refers to “the top of the head”; the “crown” of the head (NKJV).

Questions

1. What request does the psalmist make of the Lord and why (verse 1)?
2. How does the psalmist describe his adversaries (verse 2)?
3. What does the psalmist profess about his integrity (verses 3-4)?
4. What punishment is he willing to accept if he is guilty (verse 5)?
5. What does the psalmist request concerning his adversaries and what does the psalmist request concerning the people (verses 6-7)?
6. What does the psalmist request concerning himself (verse 8)?
7. What does the psalmist desire for the wicked and for the righteous (verse 9)?
8. How does the psalmist describe God (verse 10)?
9. What kind of judge is God (verse 11)?
10. What does God do with one who will not repent of his iniquity (verses 12-13)?

11. How does the psalmist describe the process of iniquity (verse 14)?
12. What will happen to the one who gives birth to iniquity (verses 15-16)?
13. What does the psalmist promise to do (verse 17)?

Applications for Today

1. The Lord is our refuge and savior (verse 1). What does Peter tell the Christian to do (1 Pet. 1:21; 4:19)?
2. Some enemies of God's people are ferocious and ravenous (verse 2). How do Jesus (Mt. 7:15) and Paul (Acts 20:29) describe the opponents of the Lord's people?
3. We need to live in such a way that we can profess our own personal integrity (verses 3-5). What admonition do Paul and Peter give Christians (Phil. 2:15; 2 Pet. 3:14)?
4. Let God be the judge (verses 6-8). What did Paul write about concerning who is the proper judge for the Christian (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 4:3-5)? Who is to take care of the judgment against one's enemies (Rom. 12:17-21)?
5. Our righteous God tries (tests, judges) the hearts and minds (verse 9). What does Jesus do with members of the local church (Rev. 2:23)?
6. God is a shield and a righteous judge for the godly (verses 10-11). How will God judge the world at the end of time (Acts 17:31)? What did Jesus do when he was reviled (1 Pet. 2:23)? How is God's judgment on Rome described (Rev. 16:5; 19:2, 11)?

7. We must repent so that we do not face the wrath of God (verses 12-13). What did John, Jesus, and Peter preach (Mt. 3:2; 4:17; Acts 2:38; 3:19)?

8. Temptation in the heart can give birth to sin (verse 14). How does James describe this process (Jas. 1:14-15)?

9. You reap what you sow (verses 15-16). What does Paul say about this (Gal. 6:7-9)?

10. Give thanks to the Lord according to his righteousness (verse 17). What did David ordain when the ark of the covenant was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 16:7-36)?