

## Psalm 35 New American Standard Bible

### Prayer for Rescue from Enemies.

<sup>1</sup> Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me. <sup>2</sup> Take hold of buckler and shield And rise up for my help. <sup>3</sup> Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me; Say to my soul, "I am your salvation." <sup>4</sup> Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life; Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me.

<sup>5</sup> Let them be like chaff before the wind, With the angel of the Lord driving *them* on. <sup>6</sup> Let their way be dark and slippery, With the angel of the Lord pursuing them. <sup>7</sup> For without cause they hid their net for me; Without cause they dug a pit for my soul. <sup>8</sup> Let destruction come upon him unawares, And let the net which he hid catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall.

<sup>9</sup> And my soul shall rejoice in the Lord; It shall exult in His salvation. <sup>10</sup> All my bones will say, "Lord, who is like You, Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him, And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?" <sup>11</sup> Malicious witnesses rise up; They ask me of things that I do not know. <sup>12</sup> They repay me evil for good, *To* the bereavement of my soul. <sup>13</sup> But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled my soul with fasting, And my prayer kept returning to my bosom.

<sup>14</sup> I went about as though it were my friend or brother; I bowed down mourning, as one who sorrows for a mother. <sup>15</sup> But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered themselves together; The smiters whom I did not know gathered together against me, They slandered me without ceasing. <sup>16</sup> Like godless jesters at a feast, They gnashed at me with their teeth.

<sup>17</sup> Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue my soul from their ravages, My only *life* from the lions. <sup>18</sup> I will give You thanks in the great congregation; I will praise You among a mighty throng. <sup>19</sup> Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me; Nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously. <sup>20</sup> For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land.

<sup>21</sup> They opened their mouth wide against me; They said, “Aha, aha, our eyes have seen it!”

<sup>22</sup> You have seen it, O Lord, do not keep silent; O Lord, do not be far from me.

<sup>23</sup> Stir up Yourself, and awake to my right And to my cause, my God and my Lord. <sup>24</sup> Judge me, O Lord my God, according to Your righteousness, And do not let them rejoice over me.

<sup>25</sup> Do not let them say in their heart, “Aha, our desire!” Do not let them say, “We have swallowed him up!”<sup>26</sup> Let those be ashamed and humiliated altogether who rejoice at my distress; Let those be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves over me. <sup>27</sup> Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, “The Lord be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant.”

<sup>28</sup> And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness *And* Your praise all day long.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

### **Paul’s questions and insights**

1. David is confident in making a request to God to become His ally and rise up and fight against David’s enemy.
2. Why would God do this?
3. When we are on the Lord’s side, the side of righteousness, the Lord fights for us against all our enemies.
4. See how David is quite happy to talk to his soul that is within him.
5. David knows he is more than just flesh and blood.
6. Are you learning to take control of your soul by rising up in your spirit and bringing your soul back into line with God’s ways.
7. When you walk in the pathway of righteousness, even though you will still have enemies, because you are on the right path you will be able to stand firm.
8. Who is the Angel of the Lord who drives Gods enemies on?
9. To pronounce over all enemies prophetic judgements.
10. David often pronounced righteous judgements over his enemy.
11. If you are a friend of God then you are an enemy of unrighteousness.
12. The enemies of unrighteousness do not need a reason to act out their evil plan.
13. What does it feel like to be pursued by the Angel of the Lord?
14. What is it to have your soul fall into a pit dug by your enemy?

15. May the plans of your enemy to destroy you turn and destroy your enemy, just like in the book of Esther when Haman was hung in the place of Mordecai.
16. What is it to see your soul rejoice in God?
17. David's bones spoke of the joy in him. David learnt to exalt the God of his salvation.
18. Do your bones speak within you like David's did? What are your bones telling you?
19. Accusers attempt to incriminate David into a snare of evil with the intention of destroying him.
20. When your enemy who you have served turns on you, it is increased sorrow for you.
21. David served his sick enemy with compassion and love, he even cries for the recovery of his enemy and treated his enemy as a friend. Have you learnt to do this?
22. But then, when David fell, his enemy turned and mocked him.
23. How should you respond to slander?
24. God was going to be where David received justification.
25. When God blesses your life it is important to celebrate with praise to God for His goodness to you.
26. What motivates unprovoked people to act maliciously?
27. Peace comes when you are not surrounded by enemies.
28. David's accusers say 'Aha, aha' - what does this gesture mean?
29. It is the realisation they see something in you to accuse you of.
30. Why would God get stirred up for you?
31. David knows, if it is God who judges he will be safe, because God judges with truth and righteousness.
32. David knows God will not let his enemy have victory over him.
33. What is it to know dishonour and shame?
34. David realises it is important to win his enemy over despite the fact he is an enemy, because if he wins his enemy over, his enemy becomes his friend.