

Psalm 7 is a “Shiggaion of David” which he sang to Jehovah concerning the matter pertaining to Cush, a Benjamite. It is not known for sure what “**shiggaion**” specifically means, but we cannot be far from the meaning when we think in terms of this being **a poem written from intense feeling or emotion**, which was to be sung very emotionally. This is a Psalm in which David cries out to God. It is a specific Psalm in which David cries out to God and asks Him to send His judgment, calamity and cursing upon his enemies.

The specific target of the prayer was “Cush,” a Benjamite, who is only referred to here in the Bible. The Benjamites were the relatives of King Saul and were hostile to David before and after he became King.

Many commentators believe this to be a reference to Saul, the son of Kish. Hengstenberg suggests that Cush was an Ethiopian name for Saul. It is also possible that there was a Benjamite whose name was Cush, who truly was leading an attack against David. Dr. Unger claims that Cush was a wicked, ruthless supporter of Saul, who hated David and persecuted David.

Now it seems that the primary point of the Psalm is to communicate that:

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES SURROUNDED BY THOSE WHO WANT TO DESTROY THEM, THEY CAN CRY TO GOD FOR HIS HELP, DELIVERANCE, VINDICATION AND JUDGMENTS.

This book of Psalms is filled with the theme of personally crying out to God when you are in trouble. From this observation, we may conclude that one of the main points of Psalms is to get us to do just that.

There is no question that trials, troubles, threats, intimidations and persecutions should drive us to pray. In fact, prayer takes on a whole new emotional meaning when we are under fire. It is always right for us to run to the Lord in prayer when we are surrounded by fierce forces of evil who are seeking to destroy us.

Certainly during the Tribulation, Israel will need to realize this because she will find herself surrounded by a world of hostile enemies who are out to destroy her. She will cry out to God for His deliverance and ultimately His deliverance will come. The severe trials will bring Israel to her knees and that is what it should do for us.

Now this Psalm breaks down nicely into three Psalm segments:

PSALM SEGMENT #1 – The specific prayers of David. 7:1-9

There are three main prayer categories that systematize David’s prayer:

Specific Prayer Category #1 - David prays concerning his enemies. **7:1-2**

There is no question that David believed that God was the only one who could rescue him from all his enemies. In these verses, David cries out to God as being his refuge when being pursued by vicious enemies, who literally wanted to kill David. David learned that his only refuge was God. This is a lesson we too need to learn. Whatever our own emergency or difficulty our refuge is God and we need a trust in Him and a reliance upon Him.

We may notice that David's request is for God to deliver him from "all" his enemies. David needed deliverance from all his enemies and he went to God and requested it. In fact, David says in **verse 2** that if God doesn't deliver him, his enemies will tear his soul like a lion and drag him away. That is what lions do; they tear their prey and drag it away.

Over in the Chicago Museum of Natural History are two lions. These two lions are the actual lions from which the story *The Ghost and the Shadow* was based. Those two man-eating lions killed over 100 people. They ripped the people to shreds and dragged their bodies into a cave. That is what lions do and David viewed his enemies as those who wanted to do that to him.

Now we may ask who is this roaring lion who is seeking to devour us? Who is this lion who would rip us to pieces and drag us away? It is Satan. If God does not deliver us, none will ever or can ever deliver us. When we are surrounded by enemies, God wants us running to Him in prayer. When we find ourselves under attack, God wants us running to Him in prayer. Pray that God will deliver us from "all" our enemies. In the famous prayer known as the Lord's Prayer, which is really the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray, Jesus prayed "do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Obviously God has the power to deliver from any temptation or any evil.

Specific Prayer Category #2 - David prays concerning himself. **7:3-5**

David was asking God to deliver him on the basis of the integrity of his spiritual life. David had always tried to do the right thing and the just thing and he never did anything to someone that they did not deserve. He never went after someone without a cause and he didn't go after someone because he wanted to plunder them.

That word "plunder" is one that means David never did anything just to get the spoils (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 282). What David is saying is that he never did anything just to get the spoils. He was so certain of this that he says in **verse 5** that if he had, God should not answer the prayer and in fact should permit him to be destroyed.

When our lives square with the Word of God, we can pray and expect God will answer.

Specific Prayer Category #3 - David prays concerning God. **7:6-9**

There are seven specific actions David prays about to God:

(Action #1) - David asks God to arise in anger. **7:6a**

David assumes God is very angry with people who do things against innocent righteous people. David is asking God to get up, get mad and get after his enemies.

(Action #2) - David asks God to lift up against their rage. **7:6b**

These enemies were in war with David and with God. These people were in a rage against the true Word and will of God. Sometimes force must be met by force.

(Action #3) - David asks God to arouse in judgment. **7:6c**

God has appointed judgment for those who rage against Him. David is asking God on his behalf to arouse Himself in judgment against his enemies. Carefully notice that David bases his request on the basis of the fact that the Word of God promises judgment.

(Action #4) - David asks God to cause people to reverence God. **7:7**

David asks God to work through this experience so that the people end up encompassing God.

(Action #5) - David asks God to judge the people and vindicate David. **7:8**

Notice David had no desire to escape the judgment of God. People who do evil do not want God's judgment. David asks God to make a judgment and include him in it. Vindication in God's judgment comes through righteousness and integrity. Those who truly pursue righteousness and have integrity will not be ashamed at the judgment of God.

(Action #6) - David asks God to end the evil of the wicked. **7:9a**

David does not just ask God to put an end to the wicked person, but put an end to the evil of the wicked person. God has ways of ending one's wickedness without ending one wicked (Ps. 10:15). God can break an arm of a person or a leg of a person without ending the person's life. It is true that sometimes in order for the evil to be gone, the one doing the evil must be gone; but that is not always the case.

(Action #7) - David asks God to establish the righteous. **7:9b**

The Lord tries and tests the hearts and minds for the purpose of establishing who is truly righteous. God does try and test hearts and minds to see whether we are loyal or disloyal.

Put pressure on a believer and we will see who really does trust God. David wanted God to show who the truly righteous people were.

Trials enable God to test one's heart and mind. When these tests come, the right thing to do is pray. One commentator wisely observed, "When the heart is overweighted with sorrow and anxiety, let us always tell our God exactly the state of the case. ... Such petitions as are forced out by sorrow may be sent up in all loving confidence to our Father in heaven" (*Pulpit Commentary*, Vol. 8, p. 46).

When trials, troubles, persecutions and problems hit us, we need to run to God in prayer.

PSALM SEGMENT #2 – The theological statements of David. 7:10-16

David makes a series of theological statements about God and about his enemies:

Theological Statement #1 - Statements David makes about God. 7:10-13

There are five statements David makes about God:

(Statement #1) - God is David's shield. 7:10a

(Statement #2) - God saves those with an upright heart. 7:10b

(Statement #3) - God is a righteous judge. 7:11a

(Statement #4) - God is a judge of indignation. 7:11b

God is angry at wicked sinners every day. Do you see that? God's indignation is aimed at evil people every single day.

Those believers who are obedient to God and who are pursuing righteousness in their hearts may be comforted knowing that the wicked evil that people are committing is not going unnoticed by God and vengeance belongs to the Lord and He will repay it (Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30).

(Statement #5) - God will judge the unrepentant. 7:12-13

The language of these verses described God as a warrior who is preparing deadly weapons which He will unleash in His judgment. God has the unrepentant person in His sights and when He unleashes His judgment, it will not miss its target. Charles Spurgeon said in light of this the only thing a sinner may do is "turn or burn" (Charles Spurgeon, *Psalms*, p. 36).

Theological Statement #2 - Statements David makes about his enemies. **7:14-16**

There are five statements David makes about his enemies:

(Statement #1) - The wicked person travails with wickedness. **7:14a**

Wicked people are like a pregnant woman who cannot wait to give birth to their evil.

(Statement #2) - The wicked person invents mischief. **7:14b**

Wicked people give birth to a wicked depravity that has no limits.

(Statement #3) - The wicked person invents lies. **7:14c**

Wicked people lie and distort truth.

(Statement #4) - The wicked person has dug and will fall into His own pit. **7:15**

Ultimately there is a boomerang effect when one sins against God, because God will see to it their sin will track them down.

(Statement #5) - The wicked person will see a return of mischief and violence to himself.
7:16

Doing evil is self-destructive. It will eventually come full circle.

PSALM SEGMENT #3 – The thanksgiving praise of David. **7:17**

When God sends His judgment, David would thank God and praise God. There will come a day when God will ferociously judge the wicked. There will come a day when God will rid the world of all evil and sin and that will be a great day of thanksgiving and praise.

Psalm 7 begins with a prayer and ends with a praise.

Practical Considerations:

- 1) Pray about enemies and ask God to deliver you from them all.
- 2) Establish a consistent righteousness and remind God of it.
- 3) Remember God is a righteous judge and He will repay evil.
- 4) Wicked people must either “turn” or “burn.” Either turn to God for grace or experience His wrath judgment. It is one or the other.
- 5) Always praise God and thank God.