

## **WHEN YOU ARE FALSELY ACCUSED**

### **PSALM 7**

Introduction:

It is not a daily occurrence, but it can happen. David encountered false accusations on more than one occasion. The occurrence that produced this Psalm evidently took place during the time that he was fleeing from Saul. Cush may have been a relative or friend of Saul since he was from the tribe of Benjamin. He accused David of things that never happened.

Jesus encountered this kind of experience throughout his ministry. He was accused of being a lawbreaker, of being possessed by a demon, of being out of his mind, of blasphemy, and many other untrue things. He warned that those who follow him will encounter the same kind of treatment.

What do you do when you are falsely accused? David's prayer is preserved for us in the Psalms to give us some guidance. When you put the prayer in the context of his life, it is obvious that he made the right response to false accusation. In the end God vindicated him.

- I. **WHEN YOU ARE FALSELY ACCUSED, TAKE IT TO GOD IN PRAYER.**

I have a painful memory from my early ministry when I was falsely accused of a wrong. I can still feel the pain and fear that this brought with it. Would this false accusation bring an end to my ministry almost before I had gotten started? What should I do? I can still remember my first response--I went to my prayer closet immediately and laid my heart open to the Lord. This was David's first response.

1. Ask God for protection. (v. 1-2)

"O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: <sup>2</sup> Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending *it* in pieces, while *there is* none to deliver."

I still remember how deeply I felt my complete dependence on God in that moment of accusation. You remind yourself that He is indeed "the LORD my God" and you put your trust in Him. While acknowledging the evil intentions of your opposition, you ask the Lord for deliverance.

A petition for divine protection is always in order.

2. Ask God for vindication. (v. 3-5)

"O LORD my God, if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands; <sup>4</sup> If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:) <sup>5</sup> Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take *it*; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust."

After the prayer for protection, David searches his heart and concludes that the charges against him are false. His hands are clean. He has not rewarded good with evil. He has not been guilty of acting deceitfully in an attempt to overthrow Saul. He has been a loyal subject of the king, and has sought the

prosperity of his kingdom. In this moving section he asks the righteous God for vindication.

He does not take vengeance into his own hands, but rather presents it to God for vindication. This is the model for us to follow when we are falsely accused. This is also the way that Jesus, the Son of David, would later follow.

## II. WHEN YOU ARE FALSELY ACCUSED, REST YOUR CASE WITH THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE.

There was a conviction that sustained David when this opposition arose. He knew in the deep of his heart that God is the righteous Judge of all the earth. There are two aspects of divine judgment that are set forth by David in this section. They are woven into this section of the Psalm.

"Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me *to* the judgment *that* thou hast commanded. <sup>7</sup> So shall the congregation of the people compass thee about: for their sakes therefore return thou on high. <sup>8</sup> The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity *that is* in me. <sup>9</sup> Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.

Follow me as we look down through this section--

"Arise, O Lord....awake for me." This expresses the desperation of his heart, and the deep sense of need that was upon him. The LORD of the covenant must come to his aid now.

"The Lord shall judge the people." This is God's work and the time for Him to do it is now. David believed that God works in the providential events of history to carry out His judgment in the present.

But David also believed that there will be a final day of judgment at the end of history. "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins." He anticipates that Day, and knows that then all wrongs will be made right.

David also affirms that evil deeds have a way of creating their own judgment. "Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. <sup>15</sup> He made a pit<sup>c</sup>, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch *which* he made. <sup>16</sup> His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate." God makes it so!

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You can rest your case in the hands of the righteous Judge of all the earth. He will do what is right in time and eternity.

### III. WHEN YOU ARE FALSELY ACCUSED, CONTINUE TO SERVE THE LORD.

This is what David did. Two things in the Psalm remind us of this.

#### 1. Continue to serve God with a clear conscience (v. 10)

"My defense *is* of God, which saveth the upright in heart."

Determine in your heart that God will be your defender, and that you must continue to do His will. This is what David did.

He did not give in to discouragement and resign his calling.

This was the response that Paul made to false accusations. He was careful to maintain a clear conscience.

This is also the response that Peter encouraged in 1 Peter 3:15-17.

#### 2. Continue to serve God with praise (v. 17)

"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high." Is this not a fitting conclusion to the whole matter? Is this not the best way

to demonstrate your confidence in the righteous judgments of the Lord? Sing your song! Serve Him with all your strength.

So David gives us both an example and a Psalm for those times when we are unjustly accused, when enemies rise against us.

Follow his example and sing his song!