

Psalm 7: Plea for protection from one's enemies



Psalm 7 (Mode 2. 5....31 / 4.....32)

This is a prayer of one who is innocent and is being unjustly accused.

He is appealing to the highest court – that of God, confident that God, his only chance of justice, will vindicate him and see that his accusers do not escape the consequences of their behaviour.

Once we realise that God is love, and so does not control our response, we see that the problem is one of faith. Injustice may well triumph (in the short term) if people choose not to welcome and respond to grace.

Lord my God, in you I take refuge;
save me from those who pursue me.
lest like a lion they tear me to pieces,
and drag me off with no one to save me.

Lord my God, if I have done wrong,
if there is guilt on my hands,
if I have repaid with harm
one who has come to me in peace,
if I have mistreated an enemy for no good reason,
then let my enemies pursue and overtake me,
let them trample my life to the ground,
and lay me in the dust.

1Peter 2:23

‘When Jesus was abused, he did not return abuse;
when he suffered, he did not threaten;
but he entrusted himself
to the one who judges justly.’

Rise up, Lord, in your anger;
stir yourself against the fury of my enemies.
Pronounce in my favour
at the judgment to which I am summoned.

An assembly of nations gathers around you.
Take your seat above them on high.
Judge of the nations,

Declare me innocent, my Lord.

Put an end to evil.

Uphold the just, you who test mind and heart.

Psalm 26:1-3

Vindicate me, O Lord,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.
Prove me, Lord, and try me;
test my feelings and my heart.
For your kindness is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.'

My shield is God who saves the upright of heart.
God pronounces a judgment that is just.

God gives verdicts of condemnation every day
to those who do not change their ways.

‘I, the Lord, test the heart and search the feelings,
to give to all according to their ways, according to
the fruit of their doings’(Jeremiah 17:10).

‘All deeds are right in the sight of the doer,
but the Lord weighs the heart’(Proverbs 21:2).

God will sharpen the sword,
bend the bow, straight to the target,
preparing for them deadly weapons,
arrows barbed with fire.

Look at them! They conceive evil,
are pregnant with malice,
and give birth to lies.

‘When evil desire has conceived,
it is sin that it bears,
and when sin has reached full term,
it gives birth to death’(James 1:15).

They made a pit, dug it deep,
but fell into the trap they made.
Their wicked deeds recoil upon themselves.
On their own heads fall their cruel blows.

I celebrate the justice of the Lord,
and sing in praise: 'Lord Most High.'