

PSALM 35

Play the Melody 

Of David.

Geneva, 1551



1. Strive, LORD, with those who strive with me,
and fight my fight to set me free.
Take shield and buck-ler, rise in splen-dour;
come to my aid, be my de-fend-er.
Draw out the spear and bar the way
of those who seek me as their prey.
Speak now the re-as-sur-ing word
that You are my sal-va-tion, LORD.

2. *Let those be humbled in disgrace
who seek my life, whose threats I face.
Let those by whom I now am hounded
retreat in shame and be confounded.
Foiled be the mischief they intend;
may they be chaff before the wind,
and may the Angel of the LORD
pursue them with His glittering sword.*

3. Their *path be slippery*, dark with woe,
the *Angel* of the *LORD* their foe.
They *without cause together* banded
to *hide a net for me* intended.
They tried to *trap me in a pit*;
may they *themselves fall into* it.
Let *ruin* seize them *unawares*;
may *they be caught in their own* snares.

4. Then *I will in the LORD* rejoice
and *praise Him* with a *thankful* voice.
With *songs and shouts of exultation*
I will delight in His salvation.
With all my *being I will* cry,
“Who is like *You, O LORD Most High* –
You who deliver those in need
from *their oppressor’s power and greed*?”

5. *Malicious witnesses* arise;
they *question* me and *utter* lies.
With *evil they for good* repay me.
I am perplexed. They seek to slay me.
Yet I was *grieved when they were* sick;
their sorrows *hurt me to the* quick.
I went in sackcloth and would fast;
I bowed in prayer, my eyes downcast.

6. My *heart was sad* as for a friend;
I mourned, my mantle I would rend
as *one who sorrows for a* brother
and *who with grief laments* his mother.
But when I *stumbled, they rejoiced*;
gathering around, their hate they voiced,
and *wretches* whom I *did not* know
mocked *me and gloried in my* woe.

Psalm 35

7. Un - ceas - ing - ly they scoff and jeer;
they gnash their teeth at me and sneer.
O LORD, how long yet will this rab - ble
a - buse me with their god - less bab - ble?
O from these li - ons res - cue me!
Then, prais - ing You who set me free,
I'll in the great as - sem - bly bless
Your mer - cy and Your faith - ful - ness.

8. Let *enemies* who scheme and lie
not *smirk* at me and *wink the eye*,
for *without reason* they accuse me.
Those *who so wrongfully* abuse me
do not speak *peace*, for they intend
to harm the *quiet in the land*.
I *hear those loudmouths falsely* claim:
“We’ve *seen that you have cause for* shame.”

9. LORD, *You have heard and seen this all; do not be silent as I call, nor stand aloof, O my Defender! Wake up, arise, and justice render! Contend for me, my God and Lord, and give my foes their due reward. O LORD my God, grant me redress according to Your righteousness.*
10. Let them not say, “Yes, we have won. We’ve *swallowed him; he is undone!*” Those *who against me are assembled be shamed, by their confusion* humbled, and let all *victory be denied* to those *puffed up with boasting* pride. Let *all who gloat at my expense* be *clothed with shame as recompense.*
11. May *those rejoice* with shout *and song* who *for my vindication* long, and *may they praise with happy* voices the LORD, *who in my good* rejoices. Let them *repeat how great He is* and laud His *perfect righteousness.* Then *my tongue, too, with word and song* will *praise His justice all day* long.