

## Responding to Ridicule

Psalm 7: 1-17

As we have considered the Psalms in our recent studies, it is evident that David faced his share of adversity. He was anointed king according to the divine will of God, but that alone did not prevent David from dealing with difficult circumstances. Our text today was written during another difficult time in David's life. It is a song David sang unto the Lord while dealing with the accusations of Cush the Benjamite. Some assume Cush was loyal to king Saul, being of the tribe of Benjamin; maybe even serving on the king's court in some manner. Others think it may have been a title associated with Saul himself. We can't know for certain, but it is clear that Cush caused a lot of grief for David.

We are not kings, but we do face our share of difficulty in life. Like David, we seek to serve the Lord and maintain a relationship with Him. Being a Christian does not prevent adversity from coming our way, but it does provide a source of help during difficult times. We are not without hope, even during the darkest moments of life.

Let's take a few moments to look in on this difficult time for David. I want to discuss the [elements](#) of this song he sang as we think on: [Responding to Ridicule](#).

**I. A Plea for Justification** (1-5) – As David begins his song, he cries out unto the Lord for justification. He knew the Lord was just in His dealings and David wanted to be justified in the eyes of God. Notice:

**A. His Hope** (1a) – [O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust](#): Although we don't have specific information, it is clear that David was in distress. He faced a situation that was beyond his ability to handle alone. His enemies were many, and yet David was secure in the Lord. He knew that God would keep him. His trust was in the Lord and he fully expected to be delivered.

- We are prone to panic and worry. Often adversity creates great distress in our lives. Many of the problems we face are beyond our ability to handle or control. Even in the most difficult circumstances we have hope. The believer can place His trust in God just as David did.

**B. His Help** (1b-2) – [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.](#) David had been anointed king, but he faced an adversary that was stronger than he was. Apart from God he would never survive the enemies attack. He trusted the Lord to help and protect him against the enemy. He knew God would deliver him from the enemy. There was a plan and purpose for David.

- We too face a determined adversary. In fact, we are not match for the enemy within ourselves. Our only hope is in the help of the Lord. If we are trying to overcome and obtain victory solely depending upon our strength and ability, we will surely fall. We can overcome in Christ though. [1 John 4:4 – Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.](#)

**C. His Honesty (3-5)** – David heard the accusations of Cush. In his heart he genuinely felt they were without merit, but he desired the Lord to search his heart. David wanted the Lord to reveal any iniquity in his life. He asked God to show him if he had hindered or hurt Cush in any way. If he was responsible for the adversity, David wanted to know and he wanted to make it right.

- We too need a proper attitude when dealing with adversity. We are prone to be defensive and judgmental. We can always spot the weakness or failures in others, but we tend to have difficulty admitting our own failures and needs. When conflict arises, we need to do as David did, seeking the Lord to search our hearts and reveal any need we might have. Admitting failure and apologizing isn't easy, but it is necessary at times!

**II. A Prayer for Judgment (6-16)** – As David continues his song he offers a prayer for righteous judgment from the Lord. Consider:

**A. The Appeal (6-8)** – David appeals to the Lord to judge between the rebellious and those who seek the ways of God. He first speaks of:

- **The Rebellious (6)** – [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.](#) David simply prayed for the Lord to deal with those who sought his defeat. He doesn't seek revenge or personal retribution. He prays about the matter and leaves the judgment to God.
- **The Righteous (7-8)** – [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.](#) This doesn't reveal arrogance or a sense of self-righteousness by David, but a prayer for God to deal with him, and the congregation, according to their desire to serve the Lord and live for Him. David was praying for mercy from the Lord, desiring remembrance of his faithfulness. He had sought the Lord and was trying to live an upright life before God and men.

- I was reminded of the great need to live for the Lord and honor Him. The Lord knows the lives we live. He is aware of our desires and motives. He alone is our righteousness; apart from Christ we have nothing to boast of. We should live in such a way that we are confident of a right relationship with God. We should deal with sin and failure as the Spirit reveals it, and thus having confidence when we pray that our lives are in order before the Lord.

**B. The Appreciation** (9-10) – David was confident in the ability and righteousness of God. He knew the Lord would deal with all men according to His righteous standard. He trusted the Lord to put an end to the wicked devices of his enemies and grant him strength and protection.

- We too can rest knowing that God's ways are always right and just. That isn't to say our lives will be free of problems, but we can rest in the Lord. He will care and provide for His own.

**C. The Appropriation** (11-13) – There were times in David's life when it seemed defeat was certain. If one looked only at the outward circumstances, it would appear David had been abandoned or forsaken, but he knew that God was always on his side. He knew the Lord would eventually deal with his enemies according to His divine purpose and will. Even though the enemy seemed to prosper, David knew their time of prosperity was limited before God.

- It seems today as if the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer, but we must continue to trust the Lord. Evil men may enjoy a season of prosperity in this life, but they too will one day stand before the Lord. Their evil deeds are not unnoticed, and apart from Christ, they will not be unpunished. Rather than seeking to resolve every issue on our own, there are times when we must seek the Lord and trust Him. I had rather have little in this life, even dealing with adversity along the way, and enjoy the abundance of God through Christ than have all the world could give and face eternal separation and judgment!

**D. The Accusation** (14-16) – David reveals the perilous situation of the wicked. The life they live will end in righteous judgment. Their evil deeds will return upon them as they stand before God in judgment. The snares they laid for others would eventually entrap them. They will be consumed by their wicked devices.

- We need not envy the prosperous in this life. Many have gotten much gain and power at the expense of others. Their lives have been lived without regard to the Lord or His righteousness. They may choose to deny it, but one day they will stand before God accountable for their lives. Really this ought to create compassion and concern for them. Apart from Christ they will face the righteous judgment of God. They are without hope. We need to reach all we can for Christ.

**III. A Praise in Jubilation (17)** – In conclusion, David offers praise and adoration unto the Lord. He was aware of:

**A. God's Righteousness (17a)** – *I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness:* David had been troubled by the unrighteous nature of his enemies. They had dealt deceitfully, seeking his demise. When he focused on men he was burdened, but when he focused on God he was encouraged. David rejoiced to know the Lord was righteous and just in all His dealings. When men created adversity or let him down, he always had One on whom he could depend.

- We too can rejoice in the righteous nature of our God. We live in a world corrupted by sin. We deal with the effects of sin and depravity within society. Our world grows darker each day, but our God never changes. The moral decline of humanity does not alter the righteous nature of our God. Our hope is not in this life or the devices of men. I am trusting in the Lord to provide for my needs and keep me throughout eternity!

**B. God's Radiance (17b)** – *and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.* As David pondered the majesty of God, he was compelled to worship. None compared to the God he served. Men possessed a measure of power and influence, but God reigned on high. David had no reason to fear. He was secure in the Lord. What could he possibly face that God could not handle? What could he need that God could not provide?

- We have the assurance of knowing Christ is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us. He gave His life a ransom for sin, conquered death, hell, and the grave, rising triumphantly in power, and ascended back to heaven. He will one day return for the church and take us home to dwell with Him in heaven throughout eternity. We may face temporal problems and setbacks in life, but we are secure in Christ our Lord. As I consider all He is and all He has done for me, like David, I am compelled to sing praise unto Him! What a mighty, merciful, and gracious Lord we serve!

**Conclusion:** Likely there are those in the service who are dealing with adversity. You may feel defeated and greatly outnumbered. There is hope in the Lord. If He be for us, who can be against us! You and Christ constitute a majority, regardless of the adversity. Look to Him and lean upon His promises. If you are unsaved you don't enjoy the many benefits associated with being in Christ. He died so that you might be saved. Look to Him by faith and respond to the call of salvation. Come to Jesus for whatever need you have!