

**SBC – Oct. 22, 2023**  
**Psalm 7:1-17 (NKJV)**  
***“Prayer for Deliverance”***

***Intro:***

Instead of “***Meditation***” as found in the NKJV other translations such as the NASB and the ESV have the word “***Shiggaion***” in the superscription.

**Slide # 1**

*“A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the Lord concerning Cush, a Benjamite.”*

The word Shiggaion is a rare word with this exact form being found only here in the Bible. Most believe it is a word that carries with it the idea of that this is to be sung with emotion and enthusiasm. It is the idea of “intense feeling” (cf. Prov. 5:19-20; Hab. 3:1).

It is probably related to the idea of wondering, reeling, veering, or weaving...it more than likely conveys shifting emotions or movements of thought. – ***John MacArthur***

Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin as was this person named “Cush”. Most believe it is probable that Cush was one of Saul’s loyal henchmen who were out to kill David during the days of king Saul (cf. 1 Sam. 22:8; 24:9; 26:19).

The NKJV has for the superscription: “***A Meditation Concerning the Words of Cush a Benjamite.***” Some have said the title of the Psalm could be “***Surviving Slander***” or “***Song of the Slandered Saint***”.

The old saying, “*Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me*” has got to be one of the most false things ever spoken. Words perhaps do more damage and inflict greater pain than anything else.

**Slide # 2**

***Psalm 7***

**Theme:** *Prayer for Deliverance*

- A. David Expresses His Concern (vv. 1-5)
- B. David Makes His Case (vv. 6-16)
- C. David’s Composure of Praise (v. 17)

**Psalm 7 (NKJV)****A Meditation Concerning the Words of Cush, a Benjamite.**

**1 O LORD my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me,**

**2 Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver.**

David begins with an affirmation of his TRUST in the LORD and with a petition that God save him from those who persecute or pursue him. He very specifically asks that God deliver him.

David is very concerned that the enemy is very vicious and violent and may tear him in pieces like a lion. If a lion comes upon a sheep all by itself the sheep is in desperate trouble unless the shepherd comes to its rescue. That was the position of David.

He was once again singing, "Where could I go but to the LORD!" David felt very vulnerable with no where to go except to the LORD.

This understanding gave David urgency in prayer. God sometimes allows difficult circumstances, so they will awaken this urgency in us.

**-David Guzik**

It is amazing how a serious crisis kicks your prayer life into another gear! We are all human and it seems that oftentimes we need a crisis to drive us closer to the Lord.

"It will be well for us here to remember that this is a description of the danger to which the Psalmist was exposed from slanderous tongues. [Truly] this is not an overdrawn picture, for the wounds of a sword will heal, but the wounds of the tongue cut deeper than the flesh, and are not soon cured." - **Charles Spurgeon**

**3 O LORD my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands,**

**4 If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause,**

**5 Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust. Selah**

It seems that this Cush guy had slanderously accused David of these kinds of things – probably to king Saul. David is not here claiming sinless perfection, but he saying that he is blameless in the matter about which he has been falsely accused.

He is innocent of the crime of which he has been slanderously charged. Perhaps in view is the idea that David has not tried to do evil to king Saul; he has not stolen from the spoils that belonged to the king. He has done nothing of the sort!

So sure is David of his innocence that he tells God if he has done these things to then let the enemy overtake him, kill him, and allow his life to end in dishonor.

**Selah** denotes a pause as if to say, “*Stop and let this soak in.*” David was emphatically proclaiming his innocence in the strongest of terms. David has not done anything wrong. He didn’t go looking for trouble. What is being said about him has been a total hit job – total slander. Slander is speaking falsely about someone with the goal of destroying their reputation.

The name devil (Gk. *diabolos*) means slanderer. It's what he does. The devil is a LIAR and a MURDERER and those who know him as their father seek to do the desires of their father (cf. Jn. 8:44). The devil specializes in character assassination. In the New Testament the Greek word **diabolos** is sometimes translated impersonally as a "false accuser," "slanderer" or "malicious gossip." (cf. 1 Tim. 3:11; 2 Tim. 3:3). This is the devil's work!

In describing last days perilous times, which are days of APOSTASY, Paul right in the middle of a long list of sins includes "slanderers" which is sometimes translated as "malicious gossips." (cf. 2 Tim. 3:2-3). The word used there is the very same word translated "devil" in John 6:70.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **John 6:70 (NKJV)**

**70** Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil [Gk. **diabolos**]?”

#### **2 Timothy 3:3 (NKJV)**

**3** unloving, unforgiving, slanderers [Gk. **diabolos**], without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

In calling Judas "a devil" Jesus was not saying he had somehow become the actual devil incarnate, rather he was calling him "a slanderer" or "a malicious gossip" which is characteristic of the devil. To be a slanderer is to be a Judas and to play the part of the devil.

The devil is about DESTROYING people. "The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Pet. 5:8). And his tool of choice is often slander!

James says, "the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity" and says "it is set of fire by hell" (Ja. 3:6). The tongue is a "hellish" thing if used by the devil! The devil works through false accusers. It's what he does! The devil is called "the accuser of the brethren" who accuses them before God day and night (cf. Rev. 12:10). When he is cast down all of heaven will REJOICE! (cf. Rev. 12:12).

There are few things more hurtful and harmful than SLANDER! CHARACTER ASSASSINATION is the devil's work! This is the great issue in Psalm 7. David felt the sting of it severely.

**6 Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded!**  
**7 So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high.**

David knowing he was innocent and knowing the righteous indignation of the LORD against slander, calls on God to arise in anger and deal with his enemies in keeping with appropriate judgment as He has ordained.

And then David asks that in this process the congregation of God's people surround Him in worship as He is recognized as sitting over them on high.

**8 The LORD shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me.**

David asks God to intervene as JUDGE. When David says, "***Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness***" he in effect was asking God to vindicate him. Again, he is not claiming "sinlessness" in every area of his life, but rather in regard to those accusations that have been slanderously leveled against him.

When you are innocent and speak out of integrity it is a wonderful thing to know that God knows all and that He will have the last word accordingly. In the end, He will vindicate integrity and He will judge the sinner.

But note this word of caution...

**Slide # 4**

Yet it is also a mistake to assume that the passions of God are always with us or support our opinion. Many dangerous fanatics have been wrongly inspired by the mistaken assurance that God was for them when He was not. – **David Guzik**

Everyone wants to claim God is on their side, but it is good to remember that vindication is only in keeping with true integrity. This is where David was coming from and he knew it.

**9 Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.  
10 My defense is of God, Who saves the upright in heart.**

The prayer of the righteous is often that God will for once and for all bring an end to the reign of evil. We as God's people long for that day. And one day this prayer will be answered.

**Slide # 5**

**Psalm 34:16 (NKJV)**

**16** The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, To **cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

**Psalm 37:9 (NKJV)**

**9** For **evildoers shall be cut off;** But those who **wait on the LORD,**  
**They shall inherit the earth.**

And God tests the hearts and minds of all people. Ultimately life is about the heart and what is in the heart comes out in the life.

**Slide # 6**

**Jeremiah 17:9–10 (NKJV)**

**9** “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked;  
Who can know it?

**10** I, the LORD, **search the heart, I test the mind,** Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Verse 10 is once again an affirmation of David's faith. He affirms God as his defense or shield meaning his protector.

And then he affirms that God saves the upright in heart. David knew it is all about having a right heart before God – a heart of integrity (v. 8). David expects God to answer prayer and work in response to his prayer accordingly.

### **Slide # 7**

#### **Psalm 66:18 (NKJV)**

**18** If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

#### **1 John 3:22 (NKJV)**

**22** And whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

### **11 God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.**

Wicked sinners who have no fear of God have lost sight of this reality! God is a just judge! He calls it like it is! And because He is holy He is angry with the wicked every day. The Bible says unbelievers are at enmity with God. They are not on good terms with God. John 3:36 says the wrath of God abides on them. That is a terrible place to be.

This is a commonly and dangerously rejected truth about God. Many anticipate that they will one day stand before a God of great love, great mercy, great warmth, and great generosity. They never imagine they will stand before a God who is perfectly **just** and who cannot ignore the crime of sin. – **David Guzik**

### **Slide # 8**

This is the message we must bring to a sinful world. God is angry with the wicked every day. His wrath abides on them (John 3:36). Every time they sin, they are storing up for themselves wrath that will be revealed on the Day of Judgment (Rom. 2:5). Unless they are convinced that there is wrath to come, they will not flee to the One who can deliver them from that wrath (1 Thess. 1:10). – **Ray Comfort**

The warning of verse 11 – that God is a just God Who is angry with the wicked every day leads into one of the great texts on the necessity of repentance on the part of the wicked as seen in verse 12.

**12 If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready.**

God is angry with the wicked every day, but He gives space for them to repent. However, if they don't turn back – that is repent; God is ready to take them out in deadly judgment. The language here is metaphorical, but it makes the point.

The words “turn back” are in other translations translated as “repent”. This is the idea of repentance. It is a change of mind that results in a turning – a turning from sin to God.

The sinner has no idea how much danger he is in.

***Jonathan Edwards*** (1703–1758), in 1741 preached a powerful sermon that is still talked about even today. This sermon is famously titled, “Sinners in the hands of an angry God.”

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The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked. His wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else but to be cast into the fire.

O sinner! consider the fearful danger you are in! It is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath that you are held over in the hand of that God whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of Divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it and burn it asunder. . . .

It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of Almighty God one moment; but you must suffer it to all eternity. ...Oh! who can express what the state of a soul in such circumstances is! All that we can possibly say about it gives but a very feeble, faint representation of it. It is inexpressible and inconceivable: for "who knows the power of God's anger"!

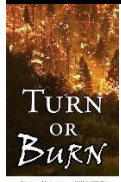
**When bow hunters** go out looking for an animal of prey, when they see such an animal they pull back their bow and aim for the kill. And then when the moment is right they let it go. That is the picture here. God's got the sinner in His sights. It's just a matter of letting it fly.

Thankfully He is patient. He is God of mercy and grace. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked and is not willing that any should perish. Still, His bow is all the while trained on the sinner and the only thing that can change this situation is if the sinner turns in repentance.

On December 7, 1856 Charles Spurgeon [1834-1892] (known as the Prince of Preachers) preached a sermon titled, “Turn or Burn” based on Psalm 7:12.

In Introducing the somber theme of his sermon, Spurgeon pointed out how unpopular the doctrine of hell and eternal punishment was in his day—as it also in ours. He said, “I fear in too many places the doctrine of future punishment is rejected and laughed at...but the day will come when it will be known as a reality.” Spurgeon went on to explain the nature of repentance and addresses why it is necessary that God should punish men if they will not repent.

### **Slide # 9**



I have heard people almost openly mock the old preacher for daring to preach a message called “Turn or Burn” but that is really what David was saying. David was really saying “Turn or Die”.

And to drive the point home David further embellishes the point...

**13 He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.**

Note these are “instruments of death”. People who refuse to get right with God are messing with death – eternal death. The word death means separation. When we die physically our soul/spirit is separated from our body, and if we die in our sin we will be eternally separated from God.

God has instruments of death trained on the sinner – at any moment he could wound them mortally for all eternity. The warning is strong!



**14 Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood.**

This verse presents the source of sin as coming from within. The sinner conceives trouble in the heart and then gives birth to falsehood in the life.

**Slide # 10**

**Matthew 15:19 (NKJV)**

**19** For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Ps. 7:14 is descriptive of the slanderous sinner who has been seeking to destroy David. But in the end, this never goes well for the sinner.

**15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made.**

**16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.**

There is an enduring principle in Scripture that says, “whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Gal. 6:7).

**Slide # 11**

**Proverbs 26:27 (NKJV)**

**27** Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

Evil men plot how to destroy the righteous but eventually this boomerangs on them – it comes back on them in one way or another – in time or eternity. Soon or later you reap what you sow.

“God is righteous. The way of wickedness cannot prosper. It creates its own destruction. The pit digged is the grave of the man who digs it.” -**G. Campbell Morgan**

A chief example of this in the OT is wicked Haman who prepared the gallows for the Jew Mordecai only to be hung on them himself (Est. 7). Daniel’s enemies conspired to have him eaten by lions only to find themselves the main course of the beasts (Dan. 6)

Focused on this reality that God ensnares the wicked in their own traps causes David to end this Psalm with composure of PRAISE.

**17 I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.**

He is expressing gratitude and praise for whatever God chooses to do; no matter what it is, it will be consistent with God's perfect righteousness. – **The Moody Bible Commentary**

The Judge of all the earth always moves in accordance with His righteousness. What He does is always right. And God's children can rest there. We can praise Him for this fact!

We can give it over to God and leave it with Him knowing He will do just the right thing at just the right time in regard to wicked sinners who slander God's people.

Indeed, as David says, "...will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High."

He ends on a HIGH note – more specifically "the LORD Most High". I love that title. What a great reminder. God is over all. He is MOST HIGH. This title for God is first mentioned in Genesis 14 (14:18-22) but then is found frequently throughout the OT.

But most interesting is that it is mentioned 14 times in the book of Daniel in a context where Daniel and his people (the Jews) were in captivity in Babylon. What an interesting context to make a point like this.

The pagans thought that taking a people captive meant their god was greater than the gods of those they had captured. But in the case of the Jews God makes the point that even though His people the Jews were in captivity He is the MOST HIGH God.

Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest ruler in the world and yet God put him out to pasture for 7 years until he got the point that YHWH (the God of the Jews) is indeed the MOST HIGH God.

**Slide # 12**

**Daniel 4:16–17 (NKJV)**

**16** Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him.

**17** 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, **In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men**, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

And sure enough at the end of the 7 years Nebuchadnezzar got it...

**Slide # 13****Daniel 4:34–35 (NKJV)**

**34** And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and **I blessed the Most High** and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.

**35** All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

David started the Psalm with great concern, but ends with great confidence because his focus now was on the "***name of the LORD Most High***".

Whatever, we are going through in terms of mistreatment or slander, remember the Most High is in charge and that ultimately He will sovereignly deal with the people in view. We can give it over to Him knowing He will deal with it rightly and that He is the Most High!

We can leave it there!