



VINTAGE**CHURCH**

PSALM 35

Reading Guide

September 1 - 7, 2013

PSALM 35

- 1** *Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me!*
- 2** *Take hold of shield and buckler
and rise for my help!*
- 3** *Draw the spear and javelin
against my pursuers!*
Say to my soul,
"I am your salvation!"
- 4** *Let them be put to shame and dishonor
who seek after my life!*
Let them be turned back and disappointed
who devise evil against me!
- 5** *Let them be like chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the LORD driving them away!*
- 6** *Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them!*
- 7** *For without cause they hid their net for me;
without cause they dug a pit for my life.*
- 8** *Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it!
And let the net that he hid ensnare him;
let him fall into it—to his destruction!*
- 9** *Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD,
exulting in his salvation.*
- 10** *All my bones shall say,
"O LORD, who is like you,
delivering the poor
from him who is too strong for him,
the poor and needy from him who robs him?"*
- 11** *Malicious witnesses rise up;
they ask me of things that I do not know.*
- 12** *They repay me evil for good;
my soul is bereft.*
- 13** *But I, when they were sick—
I wore sackcloth;
I afflicted myself with fasting;
I prayed with head bowed on my chest.*



14 *I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother;
as one who laments his mother,
I bowed down in mourning.*

15 *But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered;
they gathered together against me;
wretches whom I did not know
tore at me without ceasing;*

16 *like profane mockers at a feast,
they gnash at me with their teeth.*

17 *How long, O Lord, will you look on?
Rescue me from their destruction,
my precious life from the lions!*

18 *I will thank you in the great congregation;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.*

19 *Let not those rejoice over me
who are wrongfully my foes,
and let not those wink the eye
who hate me without cause.*

20 *For they do not speak peace,
but against those who are quiet in the land
they devise words of deceit.*

21 *They open wide their mouths against me;
they say, "Aha, Aha!
Our eyes have seen it!"*

22 *You have seen, O LORD; be not silent!
O Lord, be not far from me!*

23 *Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication,
for my cause, my God and my Lord!*

24 *Vindicate me, O LORD, my God,
according to your righteousness,
and let them not rejoice over me!*

25 *Let them not say in their hearts,
"Aha, our heart's desire!"
Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."*

26 *Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether
who rejoice at my calamity!
Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor
who magnify themselves against me!*



27 *Let those who delight in my righteousness
shout for joy and be glad
and say evermore,
“Great is the LORD,
who delights in the welfare of his servant!”*

28 *Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness
and of your praise all the day long.*



DAY 1

Read through Psalm 35 once writing down what you find interesting, what you find helpful, and what you don't fully understand.

According to the notes on Psalm 35 in the *ESV Study Bible*, "This Psalm shows how the faithful should pray when they know that malicious people are seeking to harm them." The Psalm ends with David still waiting for God's deliverance. "How long, O Lord, will you look on?" (verse 17). Even so, as he waits he hopes in God.

Read through the notes on Psalm 35 in the *ESV Study Bible**. Write at least one paragraph highlighting what you learned from the study notes.

Reread Psalm 35, personalizing the Psalm as your own prayer. Write out that prayer.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 35 again, stopping at the end of each of the following sections: verses 1-10, 11-18, and 19-28. As you read each section, write out a summary of David's situation as well as his response to his situation.

Read through what you've written, noting any similarities between the sections.

David ends each section on a note of hope: God has heard and God will deliver him (verses 9-10, 18, 27-28), though his situation seems grim. David asked God to take up his cause and deliver him. As he asked, he believed God would do so.

Jesus gives his followers an even greater hope. Peter picks up on the themes in Psalm 35 in 1 Peter 1:3-7, where he says we have a "living hope."

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This hope is expressed well in the hymn, "Our Hope Shall Never Fail" (author unknown, text from the *Gadsby Hymnal*).

We travel through a barren land,
With dangers thick on every hand;
But Jesus guides us through the vale;
O, The Christian's hope can never fail.



Huge sorrows meet us as we go,
 And devils aim to overthrow;
 But vile infernals can't prevail;
 O, The Christian's hope shall never fail.

Sometimes we're tempted to despair,
 But Jesus makes us then His care;
 Though numerous foes our souls assail;
 O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

We trust upon the sacred word,
 The oath and promise of the Lord;
 And safely through each tempest sail;
 O, The Christian's hope can never fail.

Write out a prayer to Jesus, thanking him for some specific reasons your hope in him is certain and secure.

DAY 3

Read Psalm 35 again, focusing on verses 11-18.

In verses 12-14, David describes his prior relationship with those he now calls "malicious witnesses" (verse 11). He summarizes the situation in verse 12: In verse 12 David writes, "They repay me evil for good; my soul is bereft."

Write down some of the ways in verses 13-14 that David describes how he related to those who are now against him when they were in need. Now read verses 15-16 and write down the way these people responded to David's misfortune.

Write about a time when you experienced a similar betrayal from friends. If that situation is resolved, pray a prayer of praise to God using verses 9-10, 18, and 28 to guide your prayers. If that situation is not resolved, write out a prayer asking God to bring it to any end, quoting verses 22-24 as the start of your prayer. If you are able, end your prayer with a hope similar to the hope expressed verses 9-10, 18, and 27-28.

DAY 4

Read Psalm 35 again, focusing on verses 18 and 27-28.

In verses 18 and 27-28, David reminds himself of something that is easy to forget when it seems like everyone is against you and seeking your demise: You aren't alone. There is a "great congregation" and "mighty throng" of God's people who will join you in praising God when God delivers you.

Write down the names of the people who will rejoice with you when your present suffering comes to an end. Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for them and for their involvement in your life. Send them a note, letting them know you are thankful for them and their friendship. Next time you experience God's goodness and deliverance, let those people know so they can rejoice with you and for you.



DAY 5

Read through Psalm 35 twice.

Write out at least two paragraphs reflecting on what you've learned about God, yourself, and others from Psalm 35. Write out at least one thing you hope to apply to your life from Psalm 35.

Spend at least 15 minutes sharing what you wrote with a trusted friend or family member. If they read Psalm 35 this week, ask them to do the same. End your time in prayer, thanking God for what he taught you this week.

* Purchasing an ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Bibles, 2008.) will aid you in your understanding of the Psalms. The first day's reading each week assumes you will have access to the notes in the ESV Study Bible. The ESV Study Bible is the most comprehensive study Bible ever published. It will help you understand not just the Psalms, but also the rest of the Bible in a deeper way. You can either buy the Bible (amazon.com, search: ESV Study Bible) or purchase online access to the notes at www.esvbible.org.

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