

Psalm 7:1-17
Trust in the Righteous Judge

Introduction: This is the longest psalm in the Psalms so far. It is a lament psalm, telling God how difficult life is at the moment and the foreseeable future. David apparently has been false accused but swears that he is innocent. David clings to the truth that while false accusations may deceive and convince certain people, they will never deceive God. These false accusations are designed to distract him from his primary responsibilities of running the kingdom for the glory of God. David wants God's justice to be done.

Philosophers typically talk of two kinds of social and political justice. On the one hand, there is *egalitarian justice*, and on the other, there is *distributive justice*.

Egalitarian justice distributes exactly the same thing to everyone. No one gets more or less than anyone else. *Distributive* justice, on the other hand, renders to each person exactly what is due; no more and no less. Though everyone might deserve the same thing, that rarely happens; and even if everyone merited and received the same thing, that would still be *distributive* justice, not *egalitarian*. When *egalitarian* justice is the norm, possibly no one would merit anything, and yet everyone would get the same. On the other hand, *distributive* justice specifically aims to give each person what they have earned. (John Feinberg) Distributive justice may be *retributive* punishment or *remunerative* rewards. (MacArthur)

David Dorsey's basic outline:

- ❖ David ask God to protect him—7:1-2
 - David declares his relative innocence—7:3-5
 - David request that Yahweh rise up in anger and demonstrate justice—7:6-8a
 - FOCUS: David pleads for justice and declares his faith in Yahweh—7:8b-10
 - David declares that Yahweh will rise up and will, in His anger, punish the wicked—7:11-13
 - David declares the guilt of his enemies—7:14-16
- ❖ David praises God for protecting him—7:17

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- 1) **We must pray to God for protection in the midst of danger—7:1-2**
 - a) David chose to take refuge (place his trust) in Yahweh—7:1a (cf. 2:12)
 - b) David asks Yahweh to protect him (rescue, deliver)—7:1b
 - c) David explains why he needs Yahweh's protection—7:2
 - i) He perceives imminent danger from those ravenous to destroy him and he realizes that he is helpless.
 - 2) **We must be open to the possibility that we are genuinely guilty—7:3-5**
 - a) Note the 3-fold if: *if I have done ... if there is iniquity ... if I have repaid*

- b) If the accusations **are** true, then let my enemy win and let me be dishonored.
 - c) We are not perfect, but we can be innocent of certain accusations.
 - i) It is not wrong to protest your innocence, if you are innocent.
 - ii) If we are guilty, we must be willing to submit to God's discipline.
- 3) We must pray to God to demonstrate His holy justice—7:6-8a**
- a) Negative: punish the wicked (cf. Acts 17:31)
 - b) Positive: establish the righteous
- 4) FOCUS: We must cast ourselves before the perfect Judge—7:8b-10**
- a) Note the descriptions of Yahweh: the omniscient Examiner of the inner person, the righteous God, the Protector, the Savior
- 5) We must recognize and bow before the awesome justice of God—7:11-13**
- a) God is just and angry at genuine injustice and wrongdoing and is prepared to address it with all of His weapons.
 - b) Judgment is certain, God's anger is real.
 - i) To deny that God is angry is to take away any hope that suffering people have.
- 6) We must be grateful to escape the just judgment of God—7:14-16**
- a) Evil is prevalent.
 - b) The wicked are victims of their own desires. While hunting for David, they themselves end up being the prey.
- 7) We must praise the supreme God for protecting us—7:17**
- a) The psalm's last 2 words are Yahweh Elyon. The psalm began with Yahweh.
- 8) Things we need to remember (think, feel, do):**
- a) God knows everything. (cf. Heb. 4:13)
 - b) If God does not rescue us, no one will.
 - c) The judgment of sin, though currently appearing to operate unevenly, is operating inescapably. Sin has a way of bringing its own punishment if we wait long enough.
 - d) Someone has said: "It is better to maintain integrity and continue to suffer injustice, than to sell out to evil and form ranks with the unrighteous."
 - e) Ralph Davis ends his commentary on Ps. 7 with these helpful words: Trouble always leads to more psalms! Trouble drives us to God so that we can place it before him; then when he delivers from trouble we go back to him with praise. Whether in tears or in triumph, we never get away from worship, from having to deal with God.