

Sunday Night Message

August 4, 2013

Psalm 35

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 35

Introduction

This psalm is one of the many Psalms of David, and deals with a time in David's life when he is threatened by his enemies. David had many enemies, but this particular psalm is believed to surround the time when King Saul was attempting to eliminate David.

This psalm is classified as an imprecatory psalm, that is a psalm calling for judgment. (See Psalm 5, 6, 7)

Saul wanted David dead for the following reasons:

- 1 Saul was threatened by David. David had killed the giant that Saul was too fearful to fight. David had a reputation for being more valiant than Saul. The maidens sang songs attributing 10,000's slain to David, while only attributing 1000's to Saul. To complicate matter, Saul had a lot of men in his kingdom who were feeding him bad information about David.
- 2 Saul knew that God's hand was off of him, and he probably suspected that David was the one who would replace him. (1 Samuel 15:24 – 28; 1 Samuel 16:1 – 14; 1 Samuel 25:28 - 31)
- 3 Saul was attempting to preserve his kingdom for one of his sons. (1 Samuel 20:30 – 31; 1 Samuel 23:17 – 18)

David had the opportunity twice to take Saul out, but he didn't do it. (See 1 Samuel 24; 1 Samuel 26)

I David's Plea for God's Protection from His Enemies (vs. 1 – 10)

The image in v. 1 is of a court of law, as well as a battlefield. David wanted God to plead his case to Saul. David was innocent. Saul wanted to fight against both God, and God's anointed.

Notice in this section “the angel of the Lord” is mentioned in vs. 5 & 6. He was also mentioned once in Psalm 34, and once in Psalm 37. The traditional interpretation is that this special angel is actually a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus. However, I am not so sure that is true as he also appears in the New Testament as the angel that appears to Joseph on two separate occasions (Matthew 1:10, 24; 2:13). He is also the angel that announces the birth of Christ to the shepherd (Luke 2:9). He is also the angel that rolled the stone away from the tomb (Matthew 28:2). He appeared to Phillip in Samaria, and told him to go to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26). He also sprang Peter out of jail twice in the Book of Acts (Acts 5:19; 12:7)

Unless the angel of the Lord of the New Testament is someone different from the angel of the Lord of the Old Testament, he cannot be the Lord Jesus.

Notice that David concludes this plea for protection with a confident praise of the Lord’s deliverance (vs. 9 – 10)

II David’s Position of Being God’s Anointed and the King’s Enemy (vs. 11 – 16)

Some of the men that were now David’s bitter enemies had once been his dear friends. (Psalm 41:9; Psalm 55:12 – 14)

Notice in vs. 12 – 14 that David had once prayed for the healing of these men.

III David’s Prayer for God’s Judgment Against His Enemies (vs. 17 – 26)

IV David’s Petition for God’s People to Praise the Lord (vs. 27 – 28)

Notice that even though David was sought after by Saul, and many other people, there were still many that were righteous in Israel, and many that supported David. Sometimes we think we are all alone.

David is a picture of the Lord Jesus:

He was hated without a cause.

He was lied about and falsely accused.

He loved those that hated Him.

He returned good for evil.

Yet Jesus was not spared by God as David was:

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

Practical Truths

1 We are to love our enemies.

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:43-48)

2 We are to pray for our enemies.

3 We are to pray for grace in our own life.

4 We are not to take matters into our own hands.

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:17-21)