

Bible Text New International Version	What does the psalm reveal about God and how we are to approach, address, and respond to God?
<p>Psalm 35 <i>Of David.</i></p> <p>¹ Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me.</p> <p>² Take up shield and armor; arise and come to my aid.</p> <p>³ Brandish spear and javelin^[a] against those who pursue me. Say to me, “I am your salvation.”</p> <p>⁴ May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay.</p> <p>⁵ May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away;</p> <p>⁶ may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.</p> <p>⁷ Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me,</p> <p>⁸ may ruin overtake them by surprise— may the net they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.</p> <p>⁹ Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation.</p> <p>¹⁰ My whole being will exclaim, “Who is like you, LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.”</p> <p>¹¹ Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. Or <i>and block the way.</i></p>	

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<p>Psalm 35 (continued)</p> <p>¹² They repay me evil for good and leave me like one bereaved.</p> <p>¹³ Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered,</p> <p>¹⁴ I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother.</p> <p>¹⁵ But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; assailants gathered against me without my knowledge. They slandered me without ceasing.</p> <p>¹⁶ Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked;^[b] they gnashed their teeth at me.</p> <p>¹⁷ How long, Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my precious life from these lions.</p> <p>¹⁸ I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you.</p> <p>¹⁹ Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye.</p> <p>²⁰ They do not speak peaceably, but devise false accusations against those who live quietly in the land.</p> <p>²¹ They sneer at me and say, "Aha! Aha! With our own eyes we have seen it."</p> <p>²² LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent. Do not be far from me, Lord. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>b. Septuagint; Hebrew may mean <i>Like an ungodly circle of mockers</i>,</p>	

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<p>Psalm 35 <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>²³ Awake, and rise to my defense! Contend for me, my God and Lord.</p> <p>²⁴ Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God; do not let them gloat over me.</p> <p>²⁵ Do not let them think, “Aha, just what we wanted!” or say, “We have swallowed him up.”</p> <p>²⁶ May all who gloat over my distress be put to shame and confusion; may all who exalt themselves over me be clothed with shame and disgrace.</p> <p>²⁷ May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, “The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant.”</p> <p>²⁸ My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, your praises all day long.</p> <p>Psalm 109 <i>For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.</i></p> <p>¹ My God, whom I praise, do not remain silent,</p> <p>² for people who are wicked and deceitful have opened their mouths against me; they have spoken against me with lying tongues.</p> <p>³ With words of hatred they surround me; they attack me without cause.</p> <p>⁴ In return for my friendship they accuse me, but I am a man of prayer.</p> <p>⁵ They repay me evil for good, and hatred for my friendship.</p> <p>⁶ Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy; let an accuser stand at his right hand. <i>(continued)</i></p>	

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<p>Psalm 109 (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>⁷ When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and may his prayers condemn him.</p> <p>⁸ May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.</p> <p>⁹ May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.</p> <p>¹⁰ May his children be wandering beggars; may they be driven^[c] from their ruined homes.</p> <p>¹¹ May a creditor seize all he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor.</p> <p>¹² May no one extend kindness to him or take pity on his fatherless children.</p> <p>¹³ May his descendants be cut off, their names blotted out from the next generation.</p> <p>¹⁴ May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD; may the sin of his mother never be blotted out.</p> <p>¹⁵ May their sins always remain before the LORD, that he may blot out their name from the earth.</p> <p>¹⁶ For he never thought of doing a kindness, but hounded to death the poor and the needy and the brokenhearted.</p> <p>¹⁷ He loved to pronounce a curse— may it come back on him. He found no pleasure in blessing— may it be far from him.</p> <p>¹⁸ He wore cursing as his garment; it entered into his body like water, into his bones like oil.</p> <p>¹⁹ May it be like a cloak wrapped about him, like a belt tied forever around him. (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>c. Septuagint; Hebrew <i>sought</i></p>	

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<p>Psalm 109 (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>²⁰ May this be the LORD's payment to my accusers, to those who speak evil of me.</p> <p>²¹ But you, Sovereign LORD, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.</p> <p>²² For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.</p> <p>²³ I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.</p> <p>²⁴ My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt.</p> <p>²⁵ I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.</p> <p>²⁶ Help me, LORD my God; save me according to your unfailing love.</p> <p>²⁷ Let them know that it is your hand, that you, LORD, have done it.</p> <p>²⁸ While they curse, may you bless; may those who attack me be put to shame, but may your servant rejoice.</p> <p>²⁹ May my accusers be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.</p> <p>³⁰ With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD; in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him.</p> <p>³¹ For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them.</p>	

Reflections

We have all found ourselves crying out to God for mercy, healing, or forgiveness. How do you find the ability to praise Him during dark times? Share a story of your own redemption or healing.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you God's perspective of yourself and others. Practice listening to and praying for someone with whom you don't agree, praising God for His mercy and grace.

