

Psalm 35

4. ⁷For why without my fault they have
in secret set their gren:⁵
And for no cause have digged a cave,
to take my soul therein.
⁸When they think least and have no care,
O Lord destroy hem all.
Let them be trapped in their own snare,
and in their mischief fall.
5. ⁹Then shall my soul my heart and voice,
in God have joy and wealth:
That in the Lord I may rejoice,
and in his saving health.
¹⁰And then my bones shall speak and say,
my parts shall all agree,
O Lord though they do seem full gay,
what man is like to thee.
6. ¹¹That dost defend the weak from them,
that are both stout and strong,
And rid the poor from wicked men,
that spoil and do them wrong.
¹²Against me cruel men did rise,
to witness things untrue,
And to accuse me did devise
of that I never knew.
7. ¹³And where to them I bear good will,
they quite⁶ me with disdain:
For their intent was how to spill,
and bring my soul in pain.
¹⁴Yet I, when they were sick, took thought,
and clad myself in sack:⁷
With fasting I myself low brought,
to pray I was not slack.
8. ¹⁵As to my friend or brother dear,
I did myself behave:
And as one making woeful chear
about his mother's grave.
¹⁶But in my troubles they did joy
and gather on a route,
Yea abject slaves at me did toy,
with mocks and checks full stout.
9. ¹⁷The belly Gods and flattering train,
at feasts did me deride,
They gnashed their teeth with great disdain
and ride their mouth aside.
¹⁸Lord, when wilt thou amend this gear?
Why dost thou stay and pause?
Oh, rid my soul, replete with fear,
out of these lions' claws.
10. ¹⁹So then will I give thanks to thee,
before thy church always,
And where in praise the people be,
there will I show thy praise.
²⁰Let not my foes prevail on me,
which hate me for no fault,
Nor yet to wink or turn their eye,
that causeless me assault.
11. ²¹Of peace no word they think or say,
their talk is all untrue:
They still consult and would betray,
all those that peace ensue.
²²With open mouth they run at me,
they gape, they laugh, they leer,
"Well, well," say they, "our eye doth see
the thing that we desire."
12. ²³But Lord thou seest what ways they take,
cease not this gear to mend,
Be not far off nor me forsake,
as men that fail their friend.
²⁴Awake, arise, and stir abroad,
defend me in my right,
Revenge my cause my Lord, my God,
and aid me with thy might.
13. ²⁵According to thy righteousness,
my Lord God set me free,
And let not them their pride express,
nor triumph over me.
²⁶Let not their hearts rejoice and cry,
"There, there, this gear goeth trim."
Nor give them cause to say on high,
"We have our will of him."

⁵ A trap or snare for catching animals.

⁶ To repay, discharge by payment.

⁷ Or sackcloth.

14. ²⁷Confound them with rebuke and shame,
that joy when I do mourn,
And pay them home with spite and blame
that brag at me with scorn.

²⁸Let them be glad and eke rejoice,
which love mine upright way:
And they all times with heart and voice,
shall praise the Lord and say,

15. ²⁹“Great is the Lord and doth excel.
For why? He doth delight:
To see his servants prosper well,
that is his pleasant sight.

³⁰Wherefore my tongue I will apply,
thy righteousness to praise:
Unto the Lord, my God, will I
sing lauds with thanks always.”