

## Psalm 35

### Of David

<sup>1</sup> Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me;  
fight against those who fight against me.

<sup>2</sup> Take up shield and armour;  
arise and come to my aid.

<sup>3</sup> Brandish spear and javelin  
against those who pursue me.  
Say to me,  
'I am your salvation.'

<sup>4</sup> May those who seek my life  
be disgraced and put to shame;  
may those who plot my ruin  
be turned back in dismay.

<sup>5</sup> May they be like chaff before the wind,  
with the angel of the LORD driving them away;

<sup>6</sup> may their path be dark and slippery,  
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.

<sup>7</sup> Since they hid their net for me without cause  
and without cause dug a pit for me,  
<sup>8</sup> may ruin overtake them by surprise –  
may the net they hid entangle them,  
may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.

<sup>9</sup> Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD  
and delight in his salvation.

<sup>10</sup> 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.'

<sup>11</sup> Ruthless witnesses come forward;  
they question me on things I know nothing about.

<sup>12</sup> They repay me evil for good  
and leave me like one bereaved.

<sup>13</sup> Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth  
and humbled myself with fasting.  
When my prayers returned to me unanswered,

<sup>14</sup> I went about mourning  
as though for my friend or brother.  
I bowed my head in grief  
as though weeping for my mother.

<sup>15</sup> But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee;  
assailants gathered against me without my knowledge.  
They slandered me without ceasing.

<sup>16</sup> Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked;  
they gnashed their teeth at me.

<sup>17</sup> How long, Lord, will you look on?  
Rescue me from their ravages,  
my precious life from these lions.

<sup>18</sup> I will give you thanks in the great assembly;  
among the throngs I will praise you.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> They do not speak peaceably,  
but devise false accusations  
against those who live quietly in the land.

<sup>21</sup> They sneer at me and say, 'Aha! Aha!  
With our own eyes we have seen it.'

<sup>22</sup> LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent.  
Do not be far from me, Lord.

<sup>23</sup> Awake, and rise to my defence!  
Contend for me, my God and Lord.

<sup>24</sup> Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God;  
do not let them gloat over me.

<sup>25</sup> Do not let them think, 'Aha, just what we wanted!'  
or say, 'We have swallowed him up.'

<sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> 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.'

<sup>28</sup> My tongue will proclaim your righteousness,  
your praises all day long.