

Psalm 7 — “Responding to the Slanders of an Unbeliever”

To slander and accuse is the devil’s property ... it is the devil’s work. (Thomas Manton)

Slander is the spreading of false information about someone with an intent to harm him or her. Simply:
Slander is the murder of someone’s character.

When you’re on the receiving end of slanderous assaults, how do you respond?

Psalm 7 background:

- **Author:** by David
- **Type of Song:** It’s a Shiggaion - an agitated song (maybe emotionally; or irregular meter)
- **Setting:** He sang to the LORD concerning “Cush: a Benjamite” (probably an unknown emissary of Saul)
- **Postscript** (heading of Ps 8): For the choir director on the (instrument of the) Gittith.

Spurgeon called Psalm 7 - The psalm of the “slandered Saint”

THESIS — *Here is God’s Prescription for when you’re Down & Out from being slandered...*

My Affirmation! (1-2)

God – Deal with **Me!** (3-5)

God – Deal with **Them!** (6-16)

My Adoration! (17)

1. My Affirmation (vv.1-2)

- God is a PERSONAL God - O Lord MY GOD
- God is a PROTECTING God - You are My refuge

2. O God — Deal With ME (vv.3-5)

How to get & maintain a “clean conscience”—

- Confess sin
- Ask forgiveness.
- Make restitution / get it right.
- Don’t Procrastinate.
- Instruct your conscience.

2’ O God — Deal With THEM (vv.6-16)

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The Righteousness of God:

Definition: *God's righteousness is the natural expression of His holiness. If He is infinitely pure, then He must be opposed to all sin, and that opposition to sin must be demonstrated in His treatment of His creatures.*

- he acts always in a way that is consistent with his own perfection.
 - 1) He tries/examines the inner parts (9b) [Jer 17.10; & Heb 4.13]
 - 2) He is the unswerving righteous Judge (11a)
 - 3) He has legal indignation every day (11b)

v.12-13

1. God prepares his deadly weapons
2. God pursues the unrepentant sinner
3. God punishes with eternal condemnation

This is the frightful militaristic image of Yahweh as a Warrior. This well drawn portrait stops just short of release — "bow stringing, eye on the target; Yahweh is posted, aimed and ready to shoot!" (Gerald Wilson)

But! Isa 53.11—By his knowledge, the Righteous One, my Servant will JUSTIFY (*literally*: "Make Righteous") the many! How? Thru faith in Jesus Christ alone (Rom 4.1-5; Philippians 3.9).

The Righteousness of God does not have to DELAY.

The righteousness of God should lead us to REPENT

The righteousness of God should lead us to EVANGELISM.

My Affirmation! (1-2)

God – Deal with **Me!** (3-5)

God – Deal with **Them!** (6-16)

My Adoration! (17)

1' My Adoration (v.17)

So in the moment: what do you do? You put off retaliation & spitefulness, but what must you put on?

- GIVE THANKS
- SING PRAISE [LORD MOST HIGH - speaks of the Universal Rule of God — who governs all his creation.]

The slanders of the wicked are preparatives to death, as the sepulcher when opened is prepared to receive the dead carcass. Men first slander and then molest. The devil is afraid to meddle with unstained innocency. A good report is a great security against open violence ... And it is a usual practice of Satan and his instruments to blast the repute of religious persons, to clothe them with the livery of reproach, and then prosecute them as offenders (Thomas Manton).

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
 There is no more for heaven now to give
 He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
 My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
 To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 For my life is wholly bound to His
 Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
 For by my side, the Savior He will stay
 I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
 For in my need, His power is displayed
 To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
 Through the deepest valley He will lead
 Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
 The future sure, the price it has been paid
 For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
 And He was raised to overthrow the grave
 To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
 Jesus now and ever is my plea
 Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
 For He has said that He will bring me home
 And day by day I know He will renew me
 Until I stand with joy before the throne
 To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 All the glory evermore to Him
 When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

Psalm 7: *The Psalter***Tune:** Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

1 Jehovah, my God, on Thy help I depend;
 From all that pursue me O save and defend;
 Lest they like a lion should rend me at will,
 while no one is near me their raging to still.

2 When wronged without cause I have kindness
 returned;
 But if I my neighbor maltreated and spurned,
 My soul let the enemy seize for his prey,
 My life and my honor in dust let him lay.

3 O Lord, in Thy wrath stay the rage of my foes;
 Awake, and Thy judgment ordained interpose.
 Let peoples surround Thee and wait at Thy feet,
 While o'er them for judgment Thou takest Thy seat.

4 All nations of men shall be judged by the Lord;
 To me, O Jehovah, just judgment accord,

As faithful and righteous in life I have been,
 And ever integrity cherished within.

5 Establish the righteous, let evil depart,
 For God Who is just tries the thoughts of the heart.
 In God for defense I have placed all my trust;
 The upright He saves and He judges the just.

6 The Lord with the wicked is angry each day,
 And if they repent not is ready to slay;
 By manifold ruin for others prepared
 They surely at last shall themselves be ensnared.

7 Because He is righteous His praise I will sing,
 Thanksgiving and honor to Him I will bring,
 Will sing to the Lord on Whose grace I rely,
 Extolling the Name of Jehovah Most High.