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The
Songs

17

PSALMS - The SONGS

Seventeen

I Am Righteous - Deliver me from the Wicked!

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 17** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 17** and mark every reference to the psalmist, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "R+".

Read through **Psalm 17** and mark every reference to the wicked, along with all pronouns and synonyms, by using an orange capital "W".

Read through **Psalm 17** and underline in red everything the psalmist says is true of the LORD.

Read through **Psalm 17** and underline in blue everything the psalmist says is true of himself.

Read through **Psalm 17** and underline in orange everything the psalmist says is true of the wicked.

Read through **Psalm 17** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 17** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. I am righteous
2. Deadly enemies have surrounded me
3. Deliver me from the wicked

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 17:1-5

This Psalm is considered to be a prayer of David's. What does David ask the LORD to do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How does he define his cause?

What does he say is true about himself?

Without going any further, what does it seem has happened to David?

What does David want to come forth from God's presence?



The Hebrew word for “judgment” is *mishpat* and refers to a judicially pronounced verdict, or vindication.

**David wants justice.
David wants vindication.**

The Hebrew word for “equity” is *mesar* and means evenness or straightness.

**David knows that God judges rightly.
David knows that God judges according to the way things really are—
not by the way his enemies say things are.**

Evidently David has been wrongly accused and unfairly judged. What does David propose God has already done concerning the situation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How has the LORD tested David's heart? (Consider the context of David's prayer and situation.)

How has the LORD visited David? (Consider the context of the Psalm.)

How did the LORD test, or refine David? (Once again, consider the context of the Psalm.)

What does it mean that the LORD found nothing after refining David?



**The Hebrew word for “tried” is *bachan*
and means to test or try.
It is a primitive root which has the idea of investigating or examining
for proof of substance, as when testing metals.**

**The Hebrew word for “visit” is *pachad*
and means to number, appoint, punish, visit
It is a primitive root which has the idea of overseeing, or caring for.**

**The Hebrew word for “tested” is *tzaraf*
and means to refine
It is a primitive root which has the idea**

of refining metals by purging away dross by melting until pure.

What has been David's commitment?



The Hebrew word for “transgress” is *avar* and means to pass over, through, or by.

What exactly, is David committing to not transgress? (Remember, he is determining that his mouth will not transgress.)

What subject does David bring up?

Are the deeds of the men he is referring to righteous or wicked?

How do you know?

Does David seem to have a singular enemy or many?

How has David kept himself from the paths of the violent?

What is the connection between David's mouth and the word of God's lips?

Who is on the paths that David has shunned?

What paths has he stayed on?

Do you see the contrast between the paths of the violent and the paths of the LORD?

Has he wavered at all from staying on God's paths?

Psalm 17:6-12

Why does David say he called upon the LORD? What does David believe?

Once again, what does David ask of the LORD in regard to his prayer?

1.

2.

What does David ask God to do once He hears his prayer?



The Hebrew word for “wondrously” is *palah* and means to distinguish.

In other words,
David wants God to show His lovingkindness in a marvelously extreme way.

The Hebrew word for “lovingkindness” is *chesed* and means kindness.

Lovingkindness is a Covenant word and refers to God's Covenant commitment, both to Israel and to David. David, as the King of Israel, is asking God to honor His unbreakable agreement in a spectacular way.

What does he call the LORD?



The Hebrew word for “Savior” is *yasha*. It is a primitive root which means to be open, wide, free, or safe.

The Hebrew word for “take refuge” is *chasah* and means to flee for protection.

Who does David say is delivered by the Savior?



The Hebrew word for “right hand” is *yamin* and means the right hand or side. It has the idea of being stronger and more capable.

From what, or who, are they saved?

What does David ask God to do for him?

- 1.
- 2.



The Hebrew word for “keep” is *shamar* and means to keep, watch, and preserve. It is a primitive root which has the idea of hedging about with thorns in order to guard and protect.

The Hebrew word for “hide” is *satar* and means to hide by covering, or conceal.

David wants God to watch over him as if he were the pupil of God’s Own eye. David wanted to be cared for by God as his ever-watching overseer. Did David really believe God would watch over him in such an intimate and caring way?

How do you know?

If you are a Christian, do you believe God will watch over you in the same way?

How do you know?

What does it mean to hide David in the shadow of God's wings?



Deuteronomy 32:10-11

***He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness;
He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.
Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young,
He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions.***

From whom does David want God to protect and hide him?

1.

2.

What do the wicked do?

What do the deadly enemies do?



The Hebrew word for “despoil” is *shadad* and is a primitive root that means to be burly and powerful, and to ravage.

The Hebrew word for “deadly” is *nefesh* and means a breathing creature, or animal of vitality. The idea is that David’s enemies are not superficial, but they long to kill him from deep within their soul.

The Hebrew word for “enemies” is *ayav* and means to hate and be hostile.

The Hebrew word for “surround” is *naqaf* and is a primitive root that means to strike with violence or to knock together.

What is an unfeeling heart?

Despite the fact that the enemies' hearts were already hard, unfeeling and callous, what do they do above and beyond their indifference to any emotions of kindness or compassion?

What do David's enemies do with their "mouth"?

David's enemies (plural) speak with their mouth (singular). What does this tell you about the unity of their hatred against David?



**David's enemies pridefully rage in their speeches against him.
Can you see the picture David is painting for us
of his enemies' hatred against him?
This is not an ordinary disagreement—these people are out for blood...
David's blood...**

**As a type of Christ, I am reminded of those who hated our Savior...
They wanted Jesus' blood...**

What have David's enemies done?

David's enemies are surrounding him in his steps. Was David alone?

How do you know?

David and his companions were being relentlessly pursued by blood-thirsty enemies who were breathing down their necks. What was the enemies' goal?

It seems David's enemies were not even aware of anything else except to cast him and his companions to the ground—to lay him in the dust through death. What picture does David give that shows the intensity of their hunt?

How is the lion described?

- 1.
- 2.

What is this young lion doing? (You might recall this same picture from **Psalm 10**.)



Notice that, while David's enemies have been plural throughout the entire prayer, there is now a change to singular in the word, "he". It will continue to be singular in verse 13, but will change back to plural in the same verse.

This is possibly explained by an inference of Saul, himself, in the singular references, and Saul's henchmen in the plural ones.

Whether it was Saul or not, we can know that David's enemies were many and at the same time we can logically reason his enemies had a ferocious leader.

Psalm 17:13-15

As David is being hunted down by his enemies, who lie in wait for him, Who does David cry out to?

What does David want the LORD to do to his enemy?

- 1.
- 2.



The Hebrew word for "confront" is *qadam* and means to come before or meet.

The Hebrew word for "bring him low" is *kara*

and means to bend the knee, to sink, or to prostrate.

**What a picture!
David sees his enemies as lurking in hiding places eager to tear him to pieces—
so he calls on God to bring on an offensive attack in his defense.**

**David is not just asking God to send events to bring his enemy down—
He is asking God to do it personally!
David is asking God to encounter his enemies face to face!**

Somehow I don't think David's enemy is ready to meet his God!

What does David want God to deliver?

From whom is David asking God to deliver him? (Notice that the singular enemy has now reverted back to plural.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How does David suggest for God to deliver him from his enemies?

- 1.
- 2.

If God were to deliver David from his enemies with His sword, what would that mean regarding their existence?

How does David identify his enemies?

How does David describe men of the world?

- 1.
- 2.



The theme of Psalm 16 is that the LORD, Himself, is David's portion in this world. Now, in Psalm 17, he is referring to men whose portion in life is the world, itself.

What a stark contrast.

**What is your portion?
Who is your portion?**

What does it mean that God fills the belly of the men of the world with His treasure?

What good things has God filled the belly of the men of the world with?

- 1.
- 2.

Will they be able to keep their children forever?

Will they be able to keep their abundance forever?

What contrast is seen in **verse 15**?

What will David behold forever?

While the men of the world had more than enough children (were satisfied), what is David's satisfaction?

Who will be David's satisfaction forever?

When will David be satisfied with God's presence or likeness?

READ AND REASON

When, exactly, will David be satisfied with God's presence or likeness?

Is this talking about each morning when David awakes from sleep?

Or is this talking about the time of David's resurrection from the dead, when the Old Testament saints will rise to everlasting life?

The Hebrew word for "awake" is *qayits* and means harvest.

It comes from a primitive root which means to clip off.

Isaiah 26:19

***Your dead will live; their corpses will rise.
You who lie in the dust,
awake and shout for joy,
for your dew is as the dew of the dawn,
and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.***

Daniel 12:2

***Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake,
these to everlasting life,
but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.***

~ Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-5

Verses 6-12

Verses 13-15

~ Purpose of Psalm 17

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 17.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

~ Theme of Psalm 17

**Try giving Psalm 17 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
