

SUPPORT IN HURTFUL TIMES

Thursday, March 15

Reading: Psalm 35:19-28

Psalm 35:21 *They sneer at me and say, "Aha! Aha! With our own eyes we have seen it."* **22** *LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent. Do not be far from me, Lord.* **23** *Awake, and rise to my defense! Contend for me, my God and Lord.* **24** *Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God; do not let them gloat over me.* **25** *Do not let them think, "Aha, just what we wanted!" or say, "We have swallowed him up."*

In almost every hero story there is that moment when the good guy has been captured by the villain. But before he delivers the final blow, the bad guy will customarily gloat over his victory and spill his entire plan to the hero. This delay usually allows the hero time to escape to fight another day.

David is in a similar situation in Psalm 35. His enemies have him "on the ropes" and they are gloating over their apparent victory (35:19, 24, 26). They have no reason to hate him or attack him, but they gleefully wink at each other and say "Aha! We've got him right where we want him! We have swallowed him up!" (35:19, 25).

They even spread false rumors about David's conduct saying they have seen his wickedness with their own eyes. However, the Lord HAS seen all this and he is confident that God will vindicate him from all the lies and attacks of those who gloat over him (35:21-24). David knows he is not alone in his struggle. God is on his side!

David also knows that there are many people in Israel who support him and pray for his deliverance (35:27). "Those who live quietly in the land" (35:20) refers to these people who are on David's side which makes them a target of false accusations and persecution as well. But David knows that in the end the Lord will be exalted and he will "proclaim Your righteousness, Your praises all day long;" for God delights in His people (35:27-28).

Have you ever felt alone; like no one is on your side? Have the gloating of those around you discouraged you in your walk with God? Remember that you are never alone! If Christ is your Savior, you have the powerful presence of God Himself by your side. In the final analysis it does not matter what others say or think about you. Only God's opinion and love truly matters. He delights in His people. In every circumstance we can boldly proclaim, "The Lord be exalted!"

We must also remember that we have our Christian family to love and support us in trying times. Seek out those trusted allies in Christ on whom you can lean when you feel like falling down. Together we can rejoice as we see God work.