

Text: **Psalm 35:1-8**

A STUDY OF AN IMPRECATORY PRAYER I

1. This is a valid prayer
2. It has to be carefully studied before attempting to apply it in life

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT

1. Historical

- a) Enemies of David
- b) Enemies of the state
- c) Enemies of the LORD

2. Notation of the Enemies and their wicked activities

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| a) They are those who strive with David | (Psalm 35:1) |
| b) They fight against him | (Psalm 35:1) |
| c) They pursue him | (Psalm 35:3) |
| d) They seek to dishonour him | (Psalm 35:4) |
| e) They seek to take his life | (Psalm 35:4) |
| f) They plot his hurt | (Psalm 35:4) |
| g) They have sought to lay a trap without cause | (Psalm 35:7) |

ELEMENTS OF THE IMPRECATORY PRAYER

1. With reference to God

- a) That God would plead his cause (Psalm 35:1)
- b) That God would fight for him
And against the enemies (Psalm 35:1)
- c) That God would put on His battle armour
 - i) Stand up for his help (Psalm 35:2)
 - ii) Take hold of shield and buckler (Psalm 35:2)
 - iii) Draw the spear (Psalm 35:3)
- d) Stop the pursuers (Psalm 35:3)
- e) Speak to David for assurance
“I am your salvation” (Psalm 35:3)

2. With reference to the enemies

- a) Let them be put to shame (Psalm 35:4)
- b) Let them be turned back (Psalm 35:4)
- c) And be brought to confusion (Psalm 35:4)
- d) Let them be like chaff before the wind (Psalm 35:5)
- e) Let the angel of the LORD chase them (Psalm 35:5, 6)
- f) Let their way be slippery and dark (Psalm 35:6)
- g) Let destruction come unexpectedly (Psalm 35:8)
- h) Let his net catch himself (Psalm 35:8)
- i) Let him fall to his own destruction (Psalm 35:8)