

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalms 17

10/8/12

Vs. 1-2 show David's appeal to be heard by God;

Vs. 3-5 show David's reason he should be heard, that he has obeyed God;

Vs. 6-9 show David's confidence in God's judgment;

Vs. 10-14 describe his enemies;

Vs. 15 shows David's satisfaction with God's action.

"Hear," "attend," "give ear," "let my vindication come," "let Your eyes look," are all ways of describing God's interest in an individual's needs with human terms we can recognize. God has no physical body (John 4:24; Luke 24:39), but we do, and thus we must "personalize" God to understand our communication connection with Him.

In verse 3, David is not arguing his sinlessness for he says, "I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me" (Psalm 51:3). He is stating that, no matter what has happened, his resolve has always been to be right with God. This should be true of Christians today (1 Peter 1:6-9).

In **verses 4-5**, David has overcome temptation, with God's help (God's word and ways).

In **verses 6-9**, David will be heard because God's practice is to save those who trust Him by focusing His attention on them ("apple of Your eye," is the expression used), and "shadow of Your wings" presents the tender picture of a hen gathering her chicks as God had done for Israel (Deuteronomy 32:8-12), David wanted to be (Psalm 17:8-9), and Jesus had wanted to do for Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37). A question for all today: "To whom will you flee for help?" (Isaiah 10:3). *David was being "bullied," but knew no counselors, advisors, teachers, social workers, or psychotherapists help like God!*

In **verses 10-14**, David is the "prey" and his wicked, deadly enemies are "hunters" who, like lions, surround, boast ("roar" Isaiah 31:4), concentrate ("set their eyes"), desire ("eager to tear his prey"). David requests God to confront, cast down, deliver with His sword by His hand "from men." To accomplish His purpose, God can use (and has used!) worldly people who live only for their own existence, enjoy God's blessings, but leave their possessions to children they taught to be as worldly as they have been (Deuteronomy 32:41; Ezekiel 30:24-25; 32:10). *It is a sad sight to see so many live only for this life and have nothing to show for it in eternity!* When people are abundantly blessed, they forget the God who blessed them (Deuteronomy 8:11-18; Nehemiah 9:24-27)! Agur's request of God is pertinent:

"Two *things* I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny *You*, And say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God" (Proverbs 30:7-9).

All Scriptures and comments, unless otherwise noted, are based on the New King James Version.

The Fellowship Room

In **verse 15**, David is confident that, after this life, he will be satisfied to be with God. Job expressed a similar belief (Job 19:26-27), and so today should Christians (1 John 3:2-3).
~~~~~

*All Scriptures and comments, unless otherwise noted, are based on the New King James Version.*