

I depend upon God to deliver me.

¹ My Lord and my God,

“I have trusted You for protection in the past, and I am trusting You now. Please save my life by liberating me from all those who are trying so hard to destroy me and from the destructive results of their lies and harassment. ² If You don’t rescue me they will tear me apart like a lion tears its prey, and then they will drag me away to some isolated place where no one can come to my aid. There they will finish me off for good.”

If I’m guilty, let my enemy win. (sarcastically stated)

³ Lord Jesus, my God,

“If I have done what they claim, if there are violent or unjust deeds that I am guilty of committing with my own hands, ⁴ if I have caused pain, unhappiness, or misery <evil> to my friend in exchange for the good he has done to me, or if I have returned evil to a friend who through no fault of his own has become a hostile opponent in my mind <adversary>, ⁵ then give my enemies good success in chasing me down, and allow them to catch me in their trap. Yes, let them trample me into the ground until I am dead, and let them destroy my honor and good reputation so that they also lie in ashes in the dust.” Now, people, stop what you are doing, and take a few minutes to ponder the depth of the truths I just shared with you <Selah>. This kind of attitude is a valuable asset.

Since I’m innocent, please come to my aid.

⁶ Lord Jesus,

“Those who hate me are pouring out their fury upon me, and it is making my life miserable. Show them what real fury is like by pouring out Your vengeance upon them in return for what they have done to me. Since You have already judged the whole situation and found my enemies guilty and me innocent of the things they claim, please rise up to defend me. ⁷ When You do, incite the people of God to rally behind You in defense of my cause, and make them see You once again as the one true God who is exalted above all. ⁸ It is only right that I should expect You to help me, because You judge the people of every nation, both the oppressed and the oppressor. You not only punish the guilty, but You plead the cause of those who are oppressed and defend Your righteous children when they cannot defend themselves. Therefore, vindicate me as a result of the way I have lived morally and ethically pure <my righteousness> and have followed sound moral principles in doing what is right instead of what is convenient or pleasurable at the moment <my integrity>. ⁹ Lord, cause the evil acts of the wicked to come to a quick and complete end, but firmly establish those who practice doing good, just, and lawful deeds <the righteous>. I believe You will come to my aid because You are a God Who is good, just, and always does what is right <the righteous God>. In addition, You judge the motives and actions of all men to see whether they do good or evil. ¹⁰ Therefore, I am trusting You to be my shield and my defender because You are the God who saves all those who from the heart live in a manner pleasing to the Lord <the upright>.”

God will destroy the wicked.

¹¹ Because God is a good, just, and lawful <righteous> Judge, He will not tolerate those who practice sinning. In fact, He is angry with sinners every day. ¹² If they do not repent, it will not be long before God will sharpen His sword and cut them down in their tracks. Quite frankly, He has already loaded his weapons, removed the safeties, and taken aim. ¹³ He even has an unending stockpile of other deadly weapons to be used at His will. Each of them is ready to be used in hot pursuit of the unrepentant sinner, and some of them belch the kind of fire that destroys everything in its path.

The wicked will trap themselves.

¹⁴ These same wicked men labor [<travail>](#) over their plans and dreams to do all sorts of troubles and mischief, and then they try to cover up their intended deeds with all sorts of lies and deceptions. ¹⁵ They have set a trap hoping to catch some unsuspecting victim, and they have done their best to work out all the details so that it should go off without a hitch. The major problem with their little scheme is that the trap they have set for others will end up catching them and holding them fast. ¹⁶ Yes, the evil they carry out against others will come back upon their own heads, and their violence will catch them in the same kind of disaster they have brought upon others.

The Lord takes care of His own and punishes the wicked.

¹⁷ Since I know that the Lord defends the innocent and punishes the offender, I will thank and praise Him for the way He is always just, fair, and good [<His righteousness>](#). Yes, I will sing praises to the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ the Messiah₁, my God and the Most High of all.

₁ Jesus Christ said in John 5:22-23a, "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. " Therefore, "Jesus Christ the Messiah" has been used for "LORD."

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