

Introduction

1. Do you agree w/this statement? **Life Is Not Fair.¹** No question many injustices in the world.
 - a. One of most unfair things to my family was when parents tried help lady in trouble at church.
 - b. Let me remind. Dad was slandered, reported to Gov where worked & had be investigated.
 - i. Came home fr. camp at 16 to find woman staying w/us in complete fear of husband.
 - ii. He admitted her Psych Hospital when he was one mixed up. She afraid go home.
 - iii. Called new pastor at church so dad went with & offered sign her out. That = wrath.
 - iv. Husband accused Dad of impersonating minister & reported him to Gov.
 - v. Had go thru investigation of charges. Same time someone broke into files at church.
 - c. Never forget day Dad came home w/letter exonerating him of all charges. Did end it? No.
 - i. About 15-yrs later same man sweet-talked way into heart of widow I was the pastor to.
 - ii. Tried convince her not marry. He was no good. Invited me & other pastor over to meet.
 - iii. **Your father broke up my marriage!** Quoted Bible verse. Shocked. She fully trusted him.
 - iv. Pastor w/me taken in & said man **was just hurting.** I felt powerless clear Dad's name.
 - d. 6-mon. later she had get restraining order against man. **You were absolutely right, she said.**
 - e. I sad for what woman went thru. But never felt so relieved see someone loved exonerated.
2. Have you ever been slandered or unfairly treated in some way? Are you still waiting for justice?
 - a. **Life is not fair; get used to it.²** Is that the best we can do? Just resign ourselves to it?
 - b. Christians have a much better option. We can pray. **(Title/Text)** 3 truths must believe.

I. Believe your powerful deliverer is the Lord, your God, vv. 1-2

A. David Circumstances Hunted by Saul, title.

1. Psalm 7 written when David fleeing from King Saul wanted to kill. David anointed king.
 - a. This great. Taken from herding sheep going be next king. Wait. Not for 8-yrs.
 - b. Meantime hunted, pursued like wild animal by an insanely jealous, maniacal king.
 - c. **Cush** very possibly one of Saul's loyalists who slandered David fueling Saul's rage.
 - d. Called David conniver, manipulator & assassin. Total pack lies. David fully loyal.
2. David felt completely helpless and at the mercy of these character assassins, v. 2.
 - a. Been a while since you have seen a pack of lions attacking water buffalo?³ **(Show)**
 - b. This how David felt – alone, savaged, hunted down, betrayed, helpless. You?
 - c. Saul = 3000 soldiers, 1 Samuel 24:2; 26:2. David = 600 men, 27:2; 30:9. 5—1 odds.
 - d. And there was no letter coming from the government to clear his Name.
3. 3 problems w/slander: 1) Not true, can't repent (disprove neg?; Some believe; can't convince; 3) Cast shadow ruin career or keep under cloud of suspicion for yrs.
4. What do you do? I suggest just getting **used to it** won't help. That pain needs answer.

B. David Prayed.

1. 1st time **Yahweh Elohim** appears in Psalms. 2xs, v. 3. **God = Elohim** = powerful Creator.
 - a. **LORD** = covenant name of God given only to believers. *My* = intimacy.
 - b. As Christians we have intimacy w/God. We can draw near to Him.

¹ http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2011/07/21/article-2017184-0D19252500000578-372_964x472.jpg. Accessed 9/3/15.

² Charles J. Sykes, WDMJ, Milwaukee radio talk show host. www.izquotes.com. Accessed 9/13/15.

³ <https://blurburbia.files.wordpress.com/2010/11/zebra.jpg>. Accessed 9/13/15.

- c. When do that find God is our **refuge = cave where find shelter from storm.**⁴
- d. Prf. tense = past relationship w/perm. results. When believe, God = refuge all times.
2. This not fox hole religion. **Lord, get me out of trouble & serve you.** Forget when over.
 - a. This = prayer of believer knows intimate relationship w/God who always refuge.
 - b. **The Lord cannot forsake those who make Him their refuge.**⁵ Can you affirm?
3. Yrs. after when Dad see man who tried get fired in store, reach out and shake his hand.
 - a. Amazed. **Why do that? Know can't stand. I didn't wrong him. Why not be friendly?**
 - b. At least be bitter Dad! Why do you have to set such a good example?! Stop it!
4. When **Yahweh Elohim** is refuge gives great peace. No need bitter or afraid.

II. Believe you must pray in authenticity, not hypocrisy, vv. 3-5.

A. David Protests His Innocence with Oath.

1. This is a lengthy protest of David's innocence. Why does he do this?
2. Even takes an oath. If not innocent, let me pay the price. If did, don't let get away.

B. Psalm 66:18 & Proverbs 28:13.

1. This is one of the most important verses on conditions for answered prayer.⁶ (**Show**)
 - a. **Regard = cherish or look upon w/pleasure or favor.**⁷ Means enjoy what God hates.
 - b. We can't pray for God's help while pursuing that which God hates. Hypocrisy.
2. Here's another verse on conditions for prayer that is very similar, Prov. 28:13.⁸ (**Show**)
 - a. **How important it is that we are open & honest w/both our Lord & ourselves.**⁹
 - b. God is open & honest w/us. If we conceal our sins we block His help.
3. If we are fully or partially to blame for trouble we are in, deal w/it. Face it. Be nonest.
4. God is a forgiving God. **He will give us mercy.** Can't help if we pursue or conceal.
5. They say that no one is ever guilty in prison. Many excuses why not their fault.
 - a. Yet I've never met prisoner who didn't want prayer. Doesn't work that way.
 - b. One of favorite prisoners was Willie. Led one of services at MBP for several yrs.
 - c. One day Willie said in chapel, **I'm guilty. I did what they said I did. Deserve be here.**
 - d. **Thot, Willie, there is real hope for you. God loves to help us when we come clean.**

III. Believe God is just despite the evil we experience, vv. 6-17.

A. One of Strongest Defenses of Justice of God in Bible.

1. Many people reject Bible because cannot square evil with God's justice. Personal hard.
2. **I don't believe in God...if it's true that God is a God who intervenes, he intervened for the Exodus, he intervened for the salvation of Christ, he intervened for the apostles, he does miracles, he helps people, he answers prayers; if that's true, why is it that it doesn't seem to be true?**¹⁰

⁴ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁵ Leupold, Herbert C. (1959). *Exposition of the Psalms* (p. 92). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

⁶ http://bibleencyclopedia.com/kjv/KJV_Psalm_66-18.jpg. Accessed 9/5/15.

⁷ Brown, F., Driver, S. R., Briggs, C. A. (1977). *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, p. 907.

⁸ <https://thebeausejourpulpit.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/proverbs-28.jpg>. Accessed 9/5/15.

⁹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful* (1st ed., pp. 37-38). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

¹⁰ Warren Cole Smith (2015). "A conversation w/Bart Ehrman" (world-leading Greek scholar). www.wng.org. Posted 1/9/2015. **Ehrman once pastored Baptist Church and sermons heard over radio in New Jersey. Scholars listened.**

B. How Answer? (Four Takeaways from Psalm 7)

1. God's justice is certain though delayed, vv. 6-9.
 - a. It is clear that David wants justice now. He calls on God to act speedily.
 - i. Promised would be king; had to run for life for 8 yrs. Don't know when written.
 - ii. If at start or end of 8 yrs, clear David wants enemies stopped.
 - iii. With someone not long ago prayed, **Lord, stop ISIS.** Don't all feel that way?
 - b. What David has no question about is that God will bring about justice.
 - i. God is angry w/all wrongdoing, v. 6. God's judgment will be all-inclusive, v. 8.
 - 1) (People who thought they got away with it will not.)
 - ii. God has all the facts, v. 9. God's judgment will be entirely just, v. 9.
2. God's justice is delayed so we may repent & be saved, vv. 10-12.
 - a. Notice that God wants people to repent & turn to Him, v. 12. Quote 2 Peter 3:9.
 - b. When do He **saves the upright in heart = pure in heart.**¹¹ He becomes our **shield.**
 - i. **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God, Matt. 5:8.**
 - ii. Only one perfectly pure in heart was Jesus. He went to cross paid our sins.
 - iii. Judgment of God fell on Him. Now all repent/believe shielded in Him.
 - c. I wasn't saved until teenager. Glad God waited so I could come to know Him.
3. God's justice happens now actively & passively, vv. 12-16.
 - a. Vv. 12-13 = God's active judgment. Sometimes intervenes & judges people now.
 - i. The Flood, 10 Plagues, Destruction of the Canaanites all God's active judgment.
 - ii. Very things happened to King Saul. Tried to kill David twice w/spear.
 - iii. In end Saul shot w/**arrow** in battle & then fell on **sword** as a suicide.
 - iv. Been at least 3 occasions when wondered if God judged someone w/death.
 - v. Vv. 12-13 speak of judgment that is in process, ready at any moment.
 - b. Vv. 14-16 = God's passive judgment. Let's consequences of sin take their course.
 - i. We were all shocked when drug dealers burned 3-people in car in Gladstone.
 - ii. Alleged mastermind was young woman whose grandmother = devout Christian.
 - iii. ISIS is setting people on fire. That's how evil that is. Woman hanged self.
 - iv. Evil she plotted for others she ultimately perpetrated on her own self, vv. 14, 16.
 - v. Unable live w/consequences of sin, she destroyed her own life in despair.
4. God's justice is cause for thanks & praise, vv. 17.
 - a. One day evil will be dealt with in God's time and God's way. David found joy in.
 - b. But there is an even greater reason we can be thankful for God's justice.
 - i. Because God is just and we are not, He devised the plan of salvation.
 - ii. He satisfied His justice by punishing His own Son, Jesus Christ.
 - iii. God is now **just & the justifier of those who believe in Jesus,** Rom. 3:26.
 - c. Because God is just we have a Savior who we will praise forever & ever, Rev. 5:12-13.

¹¹ Biblical Studies Press. (2006). *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.*; Psalm 7:10, note 30.