

1 Keep silent no longer, O God of my praise, □

for the mouth of wickedness and treachery

is opened against me.

2 They have spoken against me with a lying tongue; □

they encompassed me with words of hatred

and fought against me without a cause.

3 In return for my love, they set themselves against me, □

even though I had prayed for them.

4 Thus have they repaid me with evil for good, □

and hatred for my good will.

5 They say, 'Appoint a wicked man over him, □

and let an accuser stand at his right hand.

6 'When he is judged, let him be found guilty, □

and let his prayer be counted as sin.

7 'Let his days be few □

and let another take his office.

8 'Let his children be fatherless □

and his wife become a widow.

9 'Let his children wander to beg their bread; □

let them seek it in desolate places.

10 'Let the creditor seize all that he has; □

let strangers plunder the fruit of his toil.

11 'Let there be no one to keep faith with him, □

or have compassion on his fatherless children.

12 'Let his line soon come to an end □

and his name be blotted out in the next generation.

13 'Let the wickedness of his fathers

be remembered before the Lord, □

and no sin of his mother be blotted out;

14 'Let their sin be always before the Lord, □

that he may root out their name from the earth;

15 'Because he was not minded to keep faith, □

but persecuted the poor and needy

and sought to kill the brokenhearted.

16 'He loved cursing and it came to him; □

he took no delight in blessing and it was far from him.

17 'He clothed himself with cursing as with a garment: □

it seeped into his body like water

and into his bones like oil;

18 'Let it be to him like the cloak

which he wraps around him □

and like the belt that he wears continually.'

19 Thus may the Lord repay my accusers □

and those who speak evil against me.

20 But deal with me, O Lord my God, according to your name; □

O deliver me, for sweet is your faithfulness.

21 For I am helpless and poor □

and my heart is disquieted within me.

22 I fade like a shadow that lengthens; □

I am shaken off like a locust.

23 My knees are weak through fasting □

and my flesh is dried up and wasted.

24 I have become a reproach to them; □

those who see me shake their heads in scorn.

25 Help me, O Lord my God; □

save me for your loving mercy's sake,

26 And they shall know that this is your hand, □

that you, O Lord, have done it.

27 Though they curse, may you bless; □

let those who rise up against me be confounded,

but let your servant rejoice.

28 Let my accusers be clothed with disgrace □

and wrap themselves in their shame as in a cloak.

29 I will give great thanks to the Lord with my mouth; □

in the midst of the multitude will I praise him;

30 Because he has stood at the right hand of the needy, □

to save them from those who would condemn them.

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