

When you face the scheming attack of the tongue, Psalm 64

The background to Psalm 64.

A man in distress cries to the Lord for deliverance from his foes who work insidiously. It may be in effect, a general prayer that was prepared for the use of individuals who encounter unprincipled foes. One principle distinctive in this psalm is that the overthrow of the ungodly opposition is exclusively the operation of God and not the ingenuity of man. Character assassination is the issue with this.¹ It is like snipers shooting at you from the dark bushes. It hurts, it is clever, it is concealed. Psalm 63:11 ends with "liars," and Psalm 64 discusses them more fully.

The weapons _____, 3,4

Verse 3, Slander has ever been the master weapon of the good man's enemies, and great is the care of the malicious to use it effectively. As warriors grind their swords, to give them an edge which will cut deep and wound desperately, so do the unscrupulous invent falsehoods which shall be calculated to inflict pain, to stab the reputation, to kill the honor of the righteous. What is there which an evil tongue will not say?²

A well-conceived attack...

- ³ **They sharpen** their tongues like swords
And aim their words like deadly arrows.
⁴ **They shoot** from ambush at the innocent man;
They shoot at him suddenly, without fear.
⁵ **They encourage** each other in evil plans,
they talk about hiding their snares;
they say, "Who will see them?"
⁶ **They plot** injustice and say,
"We have devised a perfect plan!"
Surely the mind and heart of man are cunning.³

You'll see depravity at its best with the tongue (James 3:2).

From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks, 64:5-6.

Good men are frequently discouraged, and not infrequently discourage one another, but the children of darkness are 'wise in their generation and keep their spirits up, and each one has a cheering word to say to his fellow villain. Anything by which they can strengthen each other's hands in their one common design they resort to; their hearts are thoroughly in their black work.⁴

God protects from enemies tongues, 7-8

¹ Leupold, *Psalms*, p. 468, 69.

² Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*, p. 82, 83.

³ *The New International Version*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House) 1984.

⁴ Spurgeon, p. 83.

God wants you to not be _____.

David rejoices when he thinks of God’s victory, v 11.

God wants you to _____ for him to deal with this.

God wants you to see that evil tongues come back to _____ the user, v 8.

“The boomerang of malicious speech.” They had aimed to shoot (v4), but God shot first. They had decided to work suddenly (v4), so did God (v 7), (With what you measure, it will be measured to you), Galatians 6:7.

God _____... he judges people who cut, plan and scheme against others.

To the best of your ability seek to set the _____, but ultimately, it is in God’s hands. We assume this person isn’t another church member. It is a Psalm 37 matter.

So what?

God, help me to _____ you in times like this. They will come.

Trust and prayer, vv. 1, 2, 10.

God, help me not to take _____ into my own hands.

God vindicates the righteous; Psalm 37:5, 6.

Ephesians 4:29 is always in order!

God, help me not to be like this!

God, help me to be _____ for the day when you will vindicate the righteous, 9, 10.

Meditate on Psalms 37: 1-8.

Who is God?	What has he said?	What has he done?	What does that mean to me?