

Psalm 140

"David's Prayer for Protection from and Judgment upon His Foes"

(For the choir director. A Psalm of David.)

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A1 A PETITION TO YAHWEH FOR RESCUE FROM EVIL, VIOLENT MEN 140:1-3

B1 His Plea to Yahweh 140:1

C1 For Rescue from Evil Men: {1} Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men;

C2 For Preservation from Violent Men: Preserve me from violent men

B2 His Description of His Adversaries' Traits 140:2-3

C1 Their Hearts: {2} Who devise evil things in *their* hearts; 140:2a

C2 Their Deeds: They continually stir up wars. 140:2b

C3 Their Speech 140:3

D1 {3} They sharpen their tongues as a serpent;

D2 Poison of a viper ¹ is under their lips. Selah.

A2 A PETITION TO YAHWEH FOR PRESERVATION FROM WICKED, VIOLENT, PROUD MEN TRYING TO TRAP HIM 140:4-5

B1 His Plea to Yahweh for Preservation 140:4a

C1 From the Wicked: {4} Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;

C2 From the Violent: Preserve me from violent men

B2 The Stealth of His Proud Foes 140:4b-5

C1 Their Objective: Who have purposed to trip up my feet. 140:4b

C2 Their Stealthy Devices 140:5

D1 A concealed trap and cords: {5} The proud have hidden a trap for me, and cords;

D2 A wayside net: They have spread a net by the wayside;

D3 Set snares: They have set snares for me. Selah.

¹ 140:3 - poison of a viper: Probably referenced in Rom. 3:13. Note similarities to Ps 64:3; 58:4. See a more complimentary metaphor in Song of Solomon 4:11.

A3 AN APPEAL TO YAHWEH, SOURCE OF SALVATION, TO THWART THE WICKED 140:6-8

B1 An Appeal to Yahweh to Hear 140:6

C1 Address: {6} I said to the LORD, "You are my God;

C2 Appeal: Give ear, O LORD, to the voice of my supplications.

B2 An Acknowledgment to Yahweh Adonai for Saving Him in Battle 140:7

C1 Accolade: {7} "O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation,²

C2 Acknowledgment: You have covered my head in the day of battle.

B3 A Plea to Yahweh to Thwart the Desires and Devices of the Wicked 140:8

C1 Desires: {8} "Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;

C2 Devices: Do not promote his *evil* device, *that* they *not* be exalted. Selah.

A4 A PRAYER THAT FIERY MISFORTUNE MAY CONSUME HIS FOES 140:9-11

B1 May the Head of Those Who Surround Me Be Bombarded with the Evil They Spoke Against Me! 140:9

C1 {9} "As for the head of those who surround me,

C2 May the mischief of their lips cover them.

B2 May They Be Cast into Pits of Fire! 140:10

C1 Burning Coals: {10} "May burning coals fall upon them;

C2 Cast into Fire: May they be cast into the fire,

C3 Inescapable Pits: Into deep pits from which they cannot rise.

B3 May Violent Slanderers Overtaken by Evil 140:11

C1 Slanderer: {11} "May a slanderer not be established in the earth;

C2 Violent: May evil hunt the violent man speedily."

A5 CONFIDENCE IN YAHWEH'S PROTECTION 140:12-13

B1 Of the Afflicted and Poor 140:12

C1 Representation: {12} I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted

C2 Justice: And justice for the poor.

² 140:7 - salvation ... covered my head: Perhaps referenced as the "helmet of salvation" in Eph. 6:17.

B2 Of the Righteous and Upright 140:13

C1 Thankful Righteous: {13} Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name;

C2 Communing Upright: The upright will dwell in Your presence.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 140

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

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WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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