

Holiday Special Series  
Independence Day-  
Psalm 35 - Part 3

July 8, 2021

Dean Bible Ministries  
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**When in the Course of human events ...**

# The *First* Continental Congress, 1774

**“Be Thou present, O God of Wisdom, and direct the counsel of this Honorable Assembly; enable them to settle all things on the best and surest foundations; that the scene of blood may be speedily closed;**



**“that Order, Harmony and Peace may be effectually restored, and that Truth and Justice, Religion and Piety, prevail and flourish among the people ...”**

## **Psalm 35**

### **Structure**

**Vss. 1–10: a cry to the Lord to come to the aid of the Psalmist to protect him and vindicate him against the unjust, unmerited, and undeserved attacks of his enemies.**

**Vss. 11–18: describes those persecuting David, the witnesses against him, how they returned evil for good.**

**Vss. 19–28: David calls upon God to punish the wicked and vindicate David according to His righteousness.**

**III. David calls upon the LORD to render justice to those who stir up strife against those who live at peace (19–28).**

**A. The petition is to stop the wicked from stirring up strife by their vicious words (19–21).**

**Psa. 35:19, “Let them not rejoice over me  
who are wrongfully my enemies;  
Nor let them wink with the eye who hate  
me without a cause.”**

## **In summary:**

- **They are liars,**
- **They have contempt for him,**
- **They belittle him,**
- **They have no cause to be his enemies,  
only their own hate,**
- **These would resonate with the colonial  
leaders.**



**Psa. 35:20, “For they do not speak peace,  
But they devise deceitful matters  
Against the quiet ones in the land.”**

**חשב *chashav***

**qal imperf 3 masc plur  
to think, account,  
imagine, or invent**

**מִרְמָה-1 *mirma-1***

**comm fem plur  
abs deceit,  
treachery**

**Psa. 35:21, “They also opened their mouth  
wide against me,  
And said, ‘Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen  
it.’ ”**

**Psa. 35:22,**

**“This You have seen, O Lord;**

**Do not keep silence.**

**O Lord, do not be far from me.”**

**Psa. 35:23,**

**“Stir up Yourself, and awake to my  
vindication,**

**To my cause, my God and my Lord.”**

**טַחַטֵּחַ *mishpat* comm  
masc sing constr  
judgment**

**Psa. 35:24, “Vindicate me, O Lord my God,  
according to Your righteousness; And let  
them not rejoice over me.”**

**שפַּט *shafat* qal  
imper masc sing  
to judge,  
vindicate, show  
me to be just**

**צֶדֶק *tzedeq*  
comm masc  
sing constr  
righteousness**

**Psa. 35:25, “Let them not say in their hearts, ‘Ah, so we would have it!’ Let them not say, ‘We have swallowed him up.’ ”**

**Psa. 35:26,**

**“Let them be ashamed and brought to  
mutual confusion**

**Who rejoice at my hurt;**

**Let them be clothed with shame and  
dishonor**

**Who exalt themselves against me.”**

# Time Line of Events Leading to Independence

1. Initial Charters and Colonies. Founded on private money.
2. 1649 Parliament acknowledged that only the House of Burgesses could tax Virginians.
3. 1650s Britain attempted to redefine the relationship to her advantage. The colonials resisted, no resolution was found.
4. **1680s James II attempted to unite all of the New England colonies under the direct control of the Crown.**
5. **1688 When William and Mary came to the throne, the English government officially recognized its dependence on the consent of the people's representatives.**



**“It seems to us that early Reformed authors on this subject are struggling with a tension, if not a quandary. On the one hand, resistance by private persons seems the natural outgrowth of the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* and the derivative understanding of a right of conscience. On the other, these authors are elites who seem to fear opening the door to chaos and disorder of the sort seen in Münster (1524–25).”**

# **Key Pastors who articulated Reformed Resistance theology:**

- **Cotton Mather**
- **Jonathan Todd**
- **Jonathan Mayhew**

**Also John Adams: “the principles and feelings which produced the Revolution” should study “Dr. Mayhew’s sermon.”**

## **Warned Parliament about the colonists**

**“are Protestants; and of that kind which is the most adverse to all implicit submission of mind and opinion. This is a persuasion not only favorable to liberty, but built upon it.”**

**~Sir Edmund Burke**

**A British officer found a Calvinist book on  
Bunker Hill:**

**“It is your G-d Damned Religion of this  
Country that ruins the Country; Damn your  
religion.”**

**“Mr. Otis’s black Regiment, the dissenting  
Clergy, who took so active a part in the  
Rebellion.”**

**~Peter Oliver**

## **What is Nature's Law?**

**When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.**



**“This will of his maker is called the law of nature ...**

**“This law of nature, being coequal with mankind and dictated by God himself, is of course superior in obligation to all other. It is binding over all the globe, in all countries, at all times, no human laws are of any validity, if contrary to this.”**

**~Sir William Blackstone**

***Commentaries in the Law of England***

**We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.**



**“These words reflect arguments long made by patriots in New England, many of whom likely never read Locke and almost all of whom were serious Calvinists. Of course, their primary drafter, Jefferson, definitely read Locke and was most certainly not a Calvinist. Jefferson indisputably borrowed language from Locke, but for Roger Sherman and other Calvinist delegates, the famous paragraph quoted above predated Locke by years. There is little evidence that Sherman and the delegates with Reformed backgrounds—such as William Williams, Samuel Huntington, Oliver Wolcott, Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton, John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, William Ellery, William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, John Hart, Abraham Clark, James Smith, James Wilson, Thomas McKean, and Lyman Hall—viewed these ideas through a secular Lockean lens and every reason to think that they embraced them as consistent with their Reformed convictions.”**

***Whose Rebellion? Reformed Resistance Theory in America:  
Part II ~Sarah Morgan Smith and Mark David Hall***

**Psa. 35:27, “Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually,  
‘Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.’ ”**

**Psa. 35:28, “And my tongue shall speak of  
Your righteousness and of Your praise all  
the day long.”**