

Vindicate Me, O LORD

Many commentators believe that Absalom's rebellion was the occasion for the composition of Psalms 26, 27, and 28.

Psalm 26:1–7 (1-12NKJV)

- 1 Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip.
- 2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.
- 3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.
- 4 I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites.
- 5 I have hated the assembly of evildoers, And will not sit with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence; So I will go about Your altar, O LORD,
- 7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all Your wondrous works.

Notice the similarities in Psalm 26:3-5 and Psalm 1:1,2

Many considerations indicate that Solomon wrote this psalm as a preface to Book I (a collection of psalms written mainly by Solomon's father, David). The blessedness of those who keep God's law and the cursedness of those who break God's law.

Psalm 1:1–2 (NKJV)

- 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

Re-vs1 **Vindicate**: some translations use the word judge, but whether vindicate or judge, the idea is to show to be right.

Psalm 7:6–8 (NKJV)

- 6 **Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up** because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded!
- 7 So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high.
- 8 The LORD shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me.

Show me to be right by defeating their efforts to bring harm
Bring harm to them - Your Enemies

Psalm 35:23–26 (NKJV) This Psalm also is considered to have been written during Absalom's rebellion.

23 Stir up Yourself, and awake to my **vindication**, To my cause, my God and my Lord.

24 **Vindicate** me, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness; And let them not rejoice over me.

25 Let them not say in their hearts, “Ah, so we would have it!” Let them not say, “We have swallowed him up.”

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.

Psalm 25:1–3 (NKJV)

1 To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me.

3 Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; **Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.**

Psalm 43:1 (NKJV)

1 Vindicate me, O God, And plead my cause against an ungodly nation; Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!

It doesn't take long in considering the need for “Vindication” to realize, “Is this where the Lord desires us to remain”? In this state of despair?

Think about Job. In his affliction, it was an affliction that affected his whole being, physical, mental, and spiritual self. However, the change that transpired from his previous state of health and wealth in all of the aforementioned aspects of his life indicated a shift.

Think now of creation itself (Genesis 1:1–2:7); was it formed in brokenness and degradation? No, God created it in beauty, and His estimation of creation was good (Genesis 1:4 (NKJV))

4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

Creation was an extension of Himself. **The creation of man was His opportunity to manifest His goodness.**

And God sent His Son to justify us. To restore life where death had prevailed. To give life and that more abundantly.

Romans 8:34 (NKJV)

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:38–39 (NKJV)

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 26:2b...prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.

2 **Examine** me, O LORD, and **prove** me; **Try** my **mind** and my **heart**.

Examine: to test - to put to the test in order to ascertain the nature of something, including imperfections, faults, or other qualities.

Try: to test/refine - separate out impurities

mind: conscience - knowing right from wrong

heart: the locus of a person's thoughts (mind), volition, and emotions.

David doesn't assume he's in the right or wrong but desires the clarity of God's mind.

3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.

Psalms 52:1–5 (NKJV)

1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually.

2 Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

3 You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah

4 You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue.

5 God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah

Psalms 85:10–13 (NKJV)

10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

11 Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven.

12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good; And our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness will go before Him, And shall make His footsteps our pathway.