

SIRACH 35.11-20

For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you sevenfold. Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it; and do not trust to an unrighteous sacrifice; for the **Lord is the judge**, and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and **he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged**. He **will not ignore the supplication of the fatherless, nor the widow when she pours out her story**. Do not the tears of the widow run down her cheek as she cries out against him who has caused them to fall? He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him, and does justice for the righteous, and executes judgment. **And the Lord will not delay**, neither will he be patient with them, **till he crushes the loins of the unmerciful and repays vengeance on the nations; till he takes away the multitude of the insolent, and breaks the scepters of the unrighteous**; till he repays the man according to his deeds, and the works of men according to their devices; **till he judges the case of his people and makes them rejoice in his mercy**. Mercy is as welcome when he afflicts them as clouds of rain in the time of drought.