

My Defense Is God

Douglas Yates — inspired by Psalm 7 • Key: G major • 137 BPM • 4/4

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INTRO (A LONE JANGLING 12-STRING RINGS OUT OVER A LOW HAMMOND SWELL -- HALF-SPOKEN, ROAD-WORN, UNBOTHERED)

G C G C
They came with a whisper, they came with a lie,
G C G C
words I never spoke, held up to the sky;
G G D D Em
but I know where I run when the hunt draws near --
Em C C G
to the One who won't leave me. He's right here.

VERSE 1 (DRIVING BACKBEAT KICKS IN, JANGLING 12-STRING BRIGHT AND DEFIANT -- THE CHASE)

G G D C G
There's a shadow on the road, teeth set in the dark,
G G G G
a lyin' tongue on my trail and a lion's heart;
G G D D
he'd tear my soul in two on the open ground,
Em Em C C G
drag me low to a place where there's no help around.
G D D C D
O Lord my God, it's in You that I hide --
D G G G
save me from all of 'em, deliver me tonight.

VERSE 2 (HAMMOND SWIRL RISES, BAND LEANS IN -- THE CLEAN-HANDS OATH, ONE HAND RAISED)

D D Em Em C
If there's blood on these hands, if the charge is true,
C G G D D
if I paid back a friend with the worst I could do,
C C C C G
if I robbed the very man who was at peace with me --

G G G G
then let the hunter take me; I'll make no plea.

D Am Am C C
Let him tread my life to dust, lay my honor in the ground.

D D G G G
But You try the heart, Lord -- You know what You found.

PRE-CHORUS (BUILD -- HAMMOND CLIMBING, SNARE PUSHING TOWARD THE LIFT)

D Em Em C D
So arise, O Lord, in Your anger -- lift Yourself high,
G G D D
to the judgment You commanded; let the liars' rage die;
Em Em C C G
let the false word fall, and their arrow miss the mark --
G G
'cause my defense is--

CHORUS (THE SHOUTED DOWNBEAT, THEN THE WHOLE ROOM IN -- BIG AND HOLDABLE)

G D D
God! You're my refuge and my shield,
Em Em C
the righteous Judge who will not yield;
C G G G
my defense is God, my defense is God --
D C
He saves the upright heart.
C D D G
So try me, Lord -- arise and judge my cause;
G D D Em
I won't raise my hand, I lay my weapon down.
Em C D G
Though the lions come circlin' and the arrows fly,
G D D Em
I got nowhere else -- I run to You.

VERSE 3 (TELECASTER AND 12-STRING TRADING, GRITTY THEN RINGING -- THE JUDGE WHO ARMS HIMSELF)

Em C D G
God judges right, and His anger burns each day
G G G D
at the man of blood who will not turn away;
D Em Em C C
if he won't turn back, the Lord will whet the sword,
G G D D Em
bend the bow, make it ready, speak the final word --
Em C C G G
He has aimed His arrows true at the ones who hunt the just;
D D Em Em C
so I keep my two hands empty -- I put it in His trust.

CHORUS (EVERYBODY IN NOW -- THE WHOLE ROOM SINGING IT)

C Am Am
God! You're my refuge and my shield,
D D D
the righteous Judge who will not yield;
D G D D
my defense is God, my defense is God --
Em Em
He saves the upright heart.
C C D G
So try me, Lord -- arise and judge my cause;
G D D Em
I won't raise my hand, I lay my weapon down.
Em C D D
Though the lions come circlin' and the arrows fly,
D C D D
I got nowhere else -- I run to You.

BRIDGE (HALF-TIME, ORGAN CHURNING, HANDCLAPS BUILDING -- THE BOOMERANG, KEPT IN GOD'S HAND)

D D D D G
He was heavy with a lie, and he labored to deceive,

D G D G
 conceived his little mischief, brought forth what none believe;
 D D D G G
 he dug himself a pit in the dark, dug it deep,
 C G C G C
 covered it over, laid low, and waited for me to fall --
 G C G G D
 but the ground caved in on the one who was diggin',
 D Em Em C C
 and he went down in his own ditch, sling and sword and all.
 G G G D
 All the mischief that he made comes rollin' back home,
 C G G G
 right down on the crown of his own head.
 G G G G
 (He fell in) -- in the trap that he laid,
 D D Em Em
 (He fell in) -- and the Lord was my shade;
 C C G G D
 I never raised a hand, no -- the Lord, He raised His instead.

FINAL CHORUS (EVERYTHING IN, DEFIANT AND GLAD -- TURNING FEAR INTO WORSHIP)

D C D
 God! You were my refuge and my shield,
 D G G
 the righteous Judge who would not yield;
 G D D Em
 my defense was God, my defense was God --
 Em C
 He saved the upright heart.
 C G G D D
 So I'll praise the Lord for the right that He has done,
 C C C C
 sing to the name of the High and Holy One;
 G G G G G
 I was hunted and hidin' -- now I'm liftin' up my hands,

D **Am** **Am**
singin' praise, singin' praise to You.

**OUTRO (12-STRING RINGING OUT OVER A WARM HAMMOND SWELL --
COMMUNAL, HANDS RAISED)**

C **C** **D** **D**
Sing praise to the name of the Most High --

G **G** **G** **D** **Em**
(I run to You) -- sing praise to the Most High;

Em **C** **D**
He was my refuge when the lions came,

G **G** **D**
so I'll sing to the Most High.

D **Em** **Em**
Oh -- I run to You...

C **C** **G** **G** **G**
(I run to You) -- sing praise to the Most High.