



THE BOOK OF PSALMS: Psalms 58

Wednesday Night Series | Pastor Ely Reynolds | September 23, 2020

PSALM 58 = _____ FOR THE UNJUST

- *Al-taschith* = “Destroy not”
- This is a Psalm dealing with wickedness in leadership: unjust rulers and judges.
- This is an _____ psalm.

“IMPRECATORY” PSALMS

- *Imprecate* = “To invoke or call down evil or _____ upon a person”
- These are Psalms where it seems the Psalmist (most often David) is asking God to bring judgment upon a person or a group of people.
- There is much debate as to whether or not David was right for praying this way, whether or not these Psalms belong in the Bible, and whether or not Christians should pray this way.

PSALM 58

1. A Cry against _____. (vv. 1-5)
 - a. David is saying that they are leading not to justice, but injustice; not to peace, but to violence!
 - b. V. 2 = Notice the order = “...your heart... your hands...” = What the hands do was first in the heart!
 - c. Vv. 3-4 = Towards man, they spoke lies and poison = Towards God, they turned a _____
 - d. Vv. 2-4 = Wicked, unjust rulers are _____ and dangerous
 - e. David compared these people to snakes and lions. Both of those animals have been used to picture the _____!
 - f. Proverbs 28:15, “As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.”
 - g. Proverbs 29:2, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”
2. A Cry for _____. (vv. 6-9)
 - a. David was angry that people were _____ because of unjust rulers.
 - b. “There is a righteous anger that ought to show itself whenever innocent people are condemned or helpless people are abused.” – Wiersbe
 - c. V. 6 = A lion without teeth cannot do as much damage
 - d. V. 7 = Waters cannot destroy after they have ran into the ground = Arrows that are dull or broken will not hurt their target
 - e. V. 8 = A snail leaves behind a moist trail as it goes, giving it the appearance of melting
 - f. V. 8 = *Untimely birth* = “A _____” = Their plans and designs would never come to fruition
 - g. V. 9 = Brambles are put under the pot to set on fire in order to heat it, but the wind comes and blows it away!
 - h. How do we deal with the “imprecatory” Psalms?
 - i. It is right to hate _____.
 1. Jews in the OT took right and wrong more serious than we do!
 2. “For if we look at their railings we find they are usually angry not simply because these things have been done to them but because these things are manifestly wrong, are hateful to God as well as to the victim.” – C. S. Lewis
 3. “...he who does not rejoice at the triumph of good over evil is not righteous.” -- Scroggie
 - ii. It is right to want _____.
 1. These psalms were written from a deep yearning for justice.

2. The Jews were promised that God would protect them as long as they obeyed. God promised Abraham that He would bless those who bless Israel and _____ those who cursed them.
3. When the Jews asked God to see justice done, they were asking Him to fulfill His covenant with them.
 - iii. It is wrong to want _____ or personal retribution.
 1. Romans 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." = This is quoted from Deu. 32:35 and used again in Heb. 10:30.
 2. There should be no personal thirst for revenge!
 - i. Consider this: the _____ that David lived under is not equal to the _____ that we live under.
 - j. **Matthew 5:43-48**
 - k. Nowhere do we see these prayers condemned in the New Testament, not even from Jesus. In fact, some of them are _____!
 - l. If we have problems with these Psalms, we will also have to deal with the fact that other people prayed these prayers. People like Jeremiah, John the Baptist, the martyrs in Heaven, and Jesus.
 - m. Jesus turned our attention to _____ warfare instead of the physical fight against people.
 - n. Eph. 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
 - o. **Pray _____ your spiritual enemies; pray _____ your physical ones.**
3. A Cry of _____. (vv. 10-11)
 - a. We saw the sin, then the sentence, and now the _____!
 - b. V. 10 = Vivid picture! = "When victorious soldiers walked around the field and picked up the spoils of battle, their feet were stained by the blood of their enemies... walking in blood was a picture of great victory." -- Wiersbe
 - c. V. 10 = Rejoicing at vengeance? = Who is dispensing the vengeance? _____! = Who is rejoicing when vengeance is dispensed? _____
 - d. **Ps. 11:7; Isaiah 63:1-6**
 - e. "Most modern readers find this language off-putting, but most modern readers have not suffered the violence and cruelty of wicked people as the psalmist apparently had. And to the psalmist, the death of the wicked is just and an indication that there is a God of justice." – Tremper Longman III
 - f. **Revelation 14:17-20; Revelation 19**
 - g. The Book of Revelation talks about the garments of _____ being stained with blood. He will bring justice to the unjust.

How are you dealing with enemies right now?

Are you blessing them and praying for them?

Leave the vengeance up to God! He is a righteous Judge Who will judge righteously!

Genesis 18:25, "...shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"