

PSALMS Notes (Continued)

F. Imprecatory Psalms

1. The meaning of Imprecatory?
 - a. The word "imprecate" means to _____.
 - b. Imprecatory psalms are a group of psalms in the Hebrew Bible that ask God to bring judgment, misfortune, or curses on God's enemies.
2. Homework: Read & Study the following imprecatory Psalms & passages

35, 58, 59, 69, 83, 109, 137
5:10; 6:10; 28:4; 31:17,18; 40:14,15, 41:10; 54:9,15; 70:2,3
71:13; 79:6,12; 129:5-8, 140:9,10; 141:10; 149:7-9
3. Is there evidence of the imprecatory attitude in the New Testament?
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:14
 - b. Galatians 1:8-9
4. FIRST MENTION PRINCIPLE OF STUDY
 - a. Let's apply this principle – The first mention of any given subject provides the key to all references that follow.
 - b. Psalm 5:10 – The imprecation is against rebellious sinners.
 1. It is against them solely because they are rebellious
 - a. They are the words of a man who has identified himself with God against sin.
 - b. See 139:19-22. Then note vs 23 and 24.
 - c. It is important to notice here the _____ of the psalmist
 - d. 2/3 of the imprecatory psalms are specifically against sinners; evil doers as such
 - e. Even the remainder seem to have the same _____ by implication
 - c. 16 of the 21 passages are from David
 1. David was a king of a nation that was meant to be a _____
 - a. What does that mean?
 2. I believe he struggled with the idea that he was a _____
 - a. I think he believed he was to be a representative of God, like an _____ rather than a _____ for God as ruler.
 - b. He never set himself up above the law or perverted the law for his benefit. (Some might conclude that he did in the case of Bathsheba but he humbled himself and yielded to the Law of the Lord.)

- c. I believe he fully realized that he ruled _____ God, not _____ of God.
- d. I believe he saw those fighting him, were in essence fighting God.
 - 1) He was God's anointed
 - 2) A type of Christ
- e. THUS, the positional approach of these passages are not so much a personal plead for God to act on David's behalf, but are rather "Theocratic" – acknowledging God's attitude.
 - 1) If we reflect on Moses vs Pharoah, his actions were not personal, but rather on behalf of God and nation.
 - 2) What if David spent a great time reflecting upon the relationship of Moses and God?
 - 3) Is there a significant difference in the relationship Moses had with God and the one David had?

5. Forgiving vs Condoning

- a. How do we distinguish the difference between _____ and _____?
 - b. As NT Bible believers we should forgive acts of wrong against us.
 - 1. Process: Luke 17:3 – trespass, rebuke, repentance, forgiveness.
 - c. However, when forgiveness is taken advantage of and the wrong-doing persists, continued forgiveness degenerates to the point of condonement when condemnation is called for.
 - 1. Distinguish between forgiving a wrong "act" and a wrong "attitude."
 - 2. The 'spirit' of these passages appear to be correctly applied after much good had been done. 35:13; 69:4; 109:4
6. Imprecatory Prayer and Psalms appear to have solid grounds when we consider the _____
- a. Certain crimes call for intense indignation – Nero, Herod, Hitler, etc.
7. Psalm 137 – Future reference to "Babylon the Great" is fallen. (Revelation 18:2-6)
- a. "Reward her even as she rewarded you and double unto her double according to her works." (vs 6)
8. Rev. R G Lee, pastor and pulpiteer of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, from 1927-1960 – "Pay -day someday!!"
- Numbers 32:23 "...be sure your sin will find you out."