

Psalm 109

If you are like me, you have experienced the feeling of looking at this world and being overwhelmed with... anger. There are so many things about this life that are simply “not right”. Every person knows what its like to be treated unfairly, we all are aware of abuses of power, abuses of people and just plain old sin in our immediate lives and in the world at large. There are many who live on this planet (that God created by the way) and curse God, hate His people and abuse Him image bearers. These realities should bring a level of righteous indignation but today’s Psalm reminds us what our response to such sinful deeds should be.

God reminds us that “vengeance is mine” (Deuteronomy 32:35) and this means that our desire should be for justice to be given out by the all just judge, God Himself.

1. The situation

- a. Notice here the list of grievances are long
 - i. We have examples of personal attacks (v. 2-4)
 - ii. Corporate injustices (v. 16-18)
- b. All of the items listed are expressly condemned by God
- c. There is zero doubt that God disdains these acts of sin against His children and in abuse of His image bearers in general and yet the reaction of the Psalmist tells us very much about how to respond

2. The prayer

- a. You will see here that the Psalm is written in a spirit of dependency
- b. The Psalmist understands that he is unable to render any kind of justice (see v. 22-25)
 - i. Sometimes we overestimate our capabilities
 - ii. The simple truth is that we are far more helpless and needy than we often think
 - iii. We are all prone to exaggerate the tools at our disposal and this can lead to some proud and uninformed responses
- c. The Psalmist also understands that God is able
 - i. Notice here that the expectation is that God will intervene
 - ii. While the enemies are real and much larger than any one mortal can take on, the God of the Bible is more than capable of levying justice

3. The justification for the prayer

- a. Some people are less than comfortable with the imprecatory Psalms (a big word that just speaks about Psalms that cry out for an enemy’s ruin or justice) but they shouldn’t be
- b. Our God’s love and grace does not minimize the severity and gross nature of sin
- c. God does not offer salvation through ignoring our sin, God offers salvation by satisfying His justice in atoning for our sin
- d. Every sin that has been committed and every sin that will be committed WILL be judged

- e. God will see to it that the sinner is punished and this means that praying for that punishment is in keeping with God's character and desire
- f. However... the good news of the Gospel is that God made a way for judgment to fall on another
 - i. In a real sense, God has answered this prayer, even in His dealings with us
 - ii. His Son was cut off so that our posterity didn't have to be
 - iii. Jesus was clothed with the dishonor of our sin so that grace may come
 - iv. Jesus was put to shame so that we can be redeemed
- g. These realities mean that the prayer of the Psalmist was good and right, and our prayers can often reflect the same ideas
- h. Should we want to see people suffer? No! But we should desire to see rebellion against God punished, our prayer should be that people find their refuge in Christ but our prayer should also be that the Lord would come quickly to judge the evil that abounds