

Psalms Handout Week Sixteen

Review: Imprecatory psalms

Isa. 65: "I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,'
To a nation which did not call on My name. "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,
A people who continually provoke Me to My face,

What is different for us? The _____ and a _____

The imprecatory psalms should remind us to
Maranatha

Acts 17:30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed....

So was it OK for them to pray the imprecatory psalms?
Is it OK for us?

Caveats

- Is your focus _____
- Have you tried _____ Are you still _____
- Are you trusting in God's will? How do you know?
- Have you voiced your pain...
Why does that matter
- Do you have clean hands and a pure heart?

Ps. 139:17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.

19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God... [followed by]

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me

*Note: Imprecatory psalms are always songs of the _____

Rev. 6:10 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

What is comforting here? God_____. God_____. God_____. God has_____

-Are you leaving room and time for God's judgement? Do you seek just relief or God's glory?

Ps. 83: O God, do not remain quiet; do not be silent and, O God, do not be still. For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones... 13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like chaff before the wind. Like fire that burns the forest and like a flame that sets the mountains on fire, so pursue them with Your tempest and terrify them with Your storm. Fill their faces with dishonor, That they may seek Your name, O LORD. Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever, and let them be humiliated and perish, that they may know that You alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

Rev. 2:5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place...16 Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth...22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

Here is Paul

1 Cor. 5:5 I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

-Are you praying according to scripture and your knowledge of God's character and promises?

-Is your prayer dominated by

-Even as you pray, are you practicing

Why the long list of caveats?

1 Pt. 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but *kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously*

Rev. 6:12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Here's why and how we should pray them

-Pray against kingdoms

-Pray against

Eph. 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

-Pray

Deut. 27:28 Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Rom. 8:12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

-Pray against

Gal. 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Mat. 18:6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

-Praying them helps in two different ways...

2 Thes. 1:4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God *for your perseverance and faith* in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and *to give relief* to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, *when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.*

Finally, denying the need for imprecation is ultimately denying the

One more imprecatory psalm. The best way of all.

Ps. 69 Psalm of David. Shoshannim-song of lilies
Lament/Imprecation/Hymn

1 Save me, O God, For the waters have threatened my life. 2 I have sunk in deep mire, and there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me.

3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

4 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies; What I did not steal, I then have to restore.

5 O God, it is You who knows my folly, And my wrongs are not hidden from You.

6 May those who wait for You not be ashamed through me, O LORD God of hosts. May those who seek You not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel,

7 Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Dishonor has covered my face.

8 I have become estranged from my brothers And an alien to my mother's sons.

9 For zeal for Your house has consumed me,

And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Jn. 15:25 But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

Isa. 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Mat. 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?"

Jn. 7:5 Therefore His brothers (uterine brothers) said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

Jn. 2:16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume me."

Rom. 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

Who are the strong? Why are we strong, what do we have? How does this enable us to bear insult and injury without the need for vengeance?

Acts 5:41 after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing

10 When I wept in my soul with fasting, It became my reproach.

11 When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.

12 Those who sit in the gate talk about me, And I am the song of the drunkards.

13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, *at an acceptable time*; O God, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness, Answer me with Your saving truth.

14 Deliver me from the mire and do not let me sink; May I be delivered from my foes and from the deep waters. 15 May the flood of water not overflow me Nor the deep swallow me up, Nor the pit shut its mouth on me. 16 Answer me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness is good; According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me, 17 And do not hide Your face from Your servant, For I am in distress; answer me quickly. 18 Oh *draw near to my soul and redeem it; Ransom me* because of my enemies!

Eph. 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

1 Pt. 1:18 Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ

19 You know my reproach and my shame and my dishonor; All my adversaries are before You. 20 Reproach has broken my heart and I am so sick.

Before the cross—

Heb. 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, *so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

And I looked for sympathy, but there was none, And for comforters, but I found none.

Mat. 26:56 But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

Jesus on the cross--

21 They also gave me gall for my food And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Jn. 19:19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

Mat. 27:33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, 34 they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink.

Jn. 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth.

22 May their table before them become a snare; And when they are in peace, may it become a trap.

23 May their eyes grow dim so that they cannot see, And make their loins shake continually. 24 Pour out Your indignation on them, And may Your burning anger overtake them. 25 May their camp be desolate; May none dwell in their tents. 26 For they have persecuted him whom You Yourself have smitten, And they tell of the pain of those whom You have wounded. 27 Add iniquity to their iniquity, And may they not come into Your righteousness. 28 May they be blotted out of the book of life And may they not be recorded with the righteous.

29 But I am afflicted and in pain; May Your salvation, O God, set me securely on high.

Lk. 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”

The hymn of 69

30 I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.

31 And it will please the Lord better than an ox or a young bull with horns and hoofs.

32 The humble have seen it and are glad; you who seek God, let your heart revive.

33 For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise His who are prisoners.

34 Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

35 For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah, that they may dwell there and possess it.

36 The descendants of His servants will inherit it, and those who love His name will dwell in it.

Discussion

Read Psalm 58, another rough imprecatory psalm.

David is being prophetic here just like he was in psalm 69.

What time period is he looking forward to? What is he prophesying regarding Jesus?

Do you think there is a way you could ever feel the emotions of verse 10-11?

What realization do we have to come to in order to pray this?

Name a few of the consolations/encouragements built into these verses.