

# **Bible Study on Psalms**

## **Imprecatory Psalms – Judge between Me and Them**

### **Psalm 35**

1. Specific attacks mentioned included physical attacks (v. 4); unjust persecution (v. 7); slander (vv. 11, 15, 20); mockery (v. 16); and hatred (v. 19).
2. Both David and Jesus suffered undeserved hatred. David's attacks came from those whom he had befriended. Jesus truly suffered undeserved hatred as he showed nothing but love for his enemies.
3. Both David and Jesus prayed for God's help. They looked to God for justice. Neither took matters into their own hands.
4. The answer for this will vary based on your lot in life.

### **Psalm 58**

1. The poor and disenfranchised suffer most under evil or corrupt governments.
2. The images in verses 6-9 further stress the wickedness of ungodly rules. It also shows their total helplessness when the almighty God confronts them in judgment. God can and will call them to account.
3. God's children will not endure persecution forever. Satan and his allies will one day be defanged, and dethroned. This can bring comfort and, yes even joy to the hearts of suffering believers. Our joy will be complete when Jesus returns on Judgment Day to put a total end to sin and Satan.

### **Psalm 69**

1. Psalm 69 is one of the psalms most frequently quoted in the New Testament. The sufferings expressed by David foreshadow the sufferings experienced by Jesus. As you read through the psalm, write down the events foreshadowed by David and fulfilled in Jesus. See:
  - a. In Ps. 69:12 David prophecies about the abandonment and mockery Jesus endured as described in Matthew 27:29-31.
  - b. John 2:17 quotes verse 9a of the psalm regarding the zeal Jesus showed for his Father's house in cleansing the temple.
  - c. John 7:5 is foreshadowed in verse 8 of the psalm regarding the fact that Jesus' brothers didn't even believe in him.
  - d. John 15:25 corresponds with Ps. 69:4 concerning the hatred of Jesus' enemies.

- e. John 19:28-30 matches verse 21 of the psalm; it speaks about the thirst of Christ on the cross and the vinegar the soldiers offered him.
2. God faithfully keeps his word. He knew what he would do to secure our salvation in Jesus, and he told his servants, the prophets – including David, about it. Then he did all he promised. We, too, can trust him to keep his promises to us.
  3. We want others to see God’s goodness, mercy, and love; we want our thoughts and actions to bring glory to him. Above all, we do not want anything we do to cause another person to fall into sin or to keep someone from coming to faith in our Lord and his saving love.
  4. Jesus took our curse at the cross. We have become – in him – God’s friends and recipients of his blessings.

### **Psalm 137**

1. Years of captivity in Babylon and the sorrows of this exile provide the background for Psalm 137. The psalmist expressing longing for Zion (Jerusalem). How does the psalmist express this longing?
  - a. In verse 1, the psalmist says the Jew “sat and wept.”
  - b. In verse 2, he describes them hanging up their harps.
2. Among other things we would miss the Gospel and receiving the Sacrament. The hymns which comfort us as well as the prayers.
3. Knowing God as both our Savior and our Judge, we can be confident that he will defend us. we can count on him to punish those who unjustly accuse and harm us. even though we see evil flourishing in this world, we can be certain that God will ultimately destroy Satan and his power. Rev. 18:5 assures us that God remembers all the crimes Satan and his evildoers have committed against us. God promises “in one day...She [Babylon – evil world system] will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her” (Rev. 18:8). As those who believe in Jesus our Savior, we need not fear God’s judgment. God sees us as his righteous, holy people in Christ Jesus. In his mercy he will protect us now and take us to heaven forever someday. In his justice, he will condemn all those who do not believe in him.

After reading and rereading a psalm, ask yourself these questions. What words or phrases stick out to you? How do these words or phrases reveal the poet’s purpose for the psalm? What effect does this psalm have on you as you meditate on it?