

“THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE”

Psalm 35

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INTRODUCTION

There has been much “weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth” over the years concerning the imprecatory Psalms. These are Psalms where David cries out for vengeance against his adversaries. Many tell us that the Psalms do not portray the attitude that Christians should have toward those that harm them.

Psalm 35 is one of those psalms, along with psalms 7, 35, 69, and 109. The imprecatory element of this Psalm can be understood once we realize that these obviously wicked, ruthless, and unjust persons manifest their opposition not only to David but to the God of David Who has placed David in his position and supports him.

We must not fail to notice the presence of some imprecations in the New Testament. *The God of the New Testament is still the God of the Old Testament because he will violently and extensively punish sin and sinners and they will pay with the fire of eternal torment.* Grace has not eliminated divine holiness and divine holiness must be vindicated. True, a believer should pray along with our Savior, “Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.” But the believer must also be willing to pray “Father, judge unrighteousness and destroy it – if not completely now certainly at the last judgment.”

But there is another very important point that we must understand and take to heart: God hates our sin also and wants us to eradicate that sin from our lives! We must not play with our sin: let us not tolerate it!
God Hates And Punishes Sin.

But one emphasis that rings out consistently in this Psalm is the uncaused hatred that David’s wicked opponents had for him, and therefore David’s God. Twice in verse seven David says that his persecutors did so “without cause”; again in verse 19 David says that his enemies are “wrongfully” so and that they “hate me without cause.” It is at this point that the Psalm takes on a messianic tone, where Jesus used these words in reference to himself in John 15:25. In this same passage Jesus states that the world will hate his disciples also: “if the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

So we see that God hates and will punish sin because sin has brought about the crucifixion of his only begotten Son, and the persecution of his Son’s followers. In the Old Testament nation of Israel, David was God’s representative, and the world hated him. Therefore God must oppose those who hate him and punish them.

YOU MUST BELIEVE IN, ACCEPT, AND PRAY FOR GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT AGAINST SIN.

- I. THE SCHEMING OF THE ENEMY (1-10)
 - A. Fight with them, Lord (1-3)—And say to me, “I am your salvation.”
 - B. Embarrass them and ruin them, Lord (4-6)—And let the Angel of the Lord be against them.

- C. Let them be destroyed by their own schemes (7-8)--For they persecute me **without cause**.
- D. My soul and bones shall rejoice and exult (9-10)—Lord, who is like Thee? No one is too strong for you!

II. THE MOBING OF THE ENEMY (11-18)

- A. They bear false witness against me (11)
- B. They reward my good with evil (12-16)—My soul is childless, like a bereaved mother.
 - 1. I mourned and expressed sympathy when they had problems (13-14)-- I prayed without ceasing (13) and treated them as a close friend, brother, or mother (14)
 - 2. They rejoiced in my troubles (15a).
 - 3. They gathered together as a mob and plotted together against me with vicious slanders-- like godless jesters at a feast (15b-16).
 - 4. Their viciousness was shown in their gnashing on me with their teeth (16b); see Stephen in acts 7:54.
- C. Lord how long? Rescue me from them! **My one and only life** is in danger. (17)
- D. I will praise you in the great and mighty assembly of God's people (18).

III. THE GLOATING OF THE ENEMY (19-28)

- A. They hate me without a cause – they want to gloat over me and wink maliciously! (19)
- B. I am peaceful but they plot deceitful words, and words of mockery (20-21)—“Aha, aha, our eyes have seen it!”
- C. But Lord **You** have seen it – don't be silent, and don't be far away from me! (22)
- D. Stir up yourself and awake to my righteous cause-- give me justice (23-24).
- E. Don't let them gloat and to see their desire fulfilled—“Aha, our desire.” (25).
- F. Put them to shame and humiliate them – they magnify themselves (26).
- G. God's true people rejoice in seeing my vindication; they say continually, “**The Lord be magnified!**” (27)
- H. Though the enemy delights in my ruine, the Lord delights in my prosperity (27b).
- I. My tongue will praise you ALL DAY LONG; I will declare your righteousness! (28)

CONCLUSION

David's enemies hated him without a cause; Christ's enemies hated him without cause; God's enemies will hate you without a cause. **God hates sin with a cause and will punish sinners.**

The world may scheme, the world may band together as a mob against righteousness, the world may gloat about its wickedness, **but God will be vindicated and he will vindicate his servants!**

The same Jesus who cried out, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”, said “Your house is left unto you desolate.” Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. Jesus will return with a mighty judgment against this sinful world (Revelation 19). Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that he is Lord!

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