

## PSALM 109

This Psalm is one of the imprecatory psalms and is not the ravings of a malicious egotist or the execrations of a hot, revengeful spirit, for David would not kill the man who sought his blood, and he frequently forgave those who treated him shamefully. To read this psalm in a bitter, revengeful sense would be foreign to the character of David. We all would pray for the conversion of our worst enemies, and David would do the same. But there is a difference when we view the adversaries of God. As incorrigible doers of iniquity, we cannot wish them well. On the contrary, we desire their overthrow and destruction. The most gentle heart burns with indignation when they hear of barbarities to women and children, of crafty plots for ruining the innocent, of cruel oppression of helpless orphans. We wish well to all mankind, and for that very reason we sometimes blaze with indignation against the inhuman wretches who trample down every law meant to protect us and who cast aside every dictate of humanity. Resentment against the wicked is so far from being sinful that we find it manifested by the Holy and Just One himself, when, in the great day of his wrath, he shall say to all workers of iniquity, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41).

### For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

- 1 O God of my praise, do not be silent!
- 2 For they have opened the wicked and deceitful mouth against me;  
they have spoken against me with a lying tongue.
- 3 They have also surrounded me with words of hatred,  
and fought against me without cause.
- 4 In return for my love they act as my accusers; but I am *in* prayer.
- 5 Thus they have repaid me evil for good and hatred for my love.
  
- 6 Appoint a wicked man over him, and let an accuser stand at his right hand.
- 7 When he is judged, let him come forth guilty, and let his prayer become sin.
- 8 Let his days be few; let another take his office.
- 9 Let his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.
- 10 Let his children wander about and beg;  
and let them seek *sustenance* far from their ruined homes.
- 11 Let the creditor seize all that he has,  
and let strangers plunder the product of his labor.
- 12 Let there be none to extend lovingkindness to him,  
nor any to be gracious to his fatherless children.
- 13 Let his posterity be cut off;  
in a following generation let their name be blotted out.
  
- 14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before YAHWEH,

- and do not let the sin of his mother be blotted out.
- 15 Let them be before YAHWEH continually,  
that He may cut off their memory from the earth;
- 16 Because he did not remember to show lovingkindness,  
but persecuted the afflicted and needy man,  
and the despondent in heart, to put *them* to death.
- 17 He also loved cursing, so it came to him;  
and he did not delight in blessing, so it was far from him.
- 18 But he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment,  
and it entered into his body like water and like oil into his bones.
- 19 Let it be to him as a garment with which he covers himself,  
and for a belt with which he constantly girds himself.
- 20 Let this be the reward of my accusers from YAHWEH,  
and of those who speak evil against my soul.
- 21 But You, O GOD, the Lord, deal *kindly* with me for Your name's sake;  
because Your lovingkindness is good, deliver me;
- 22 For I am afflicted and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.
- 23 I am passing like a shadow when it lengthens; I am shaken off like the locust.
- 24 My knees are weak from fasting, and my flesh has grown lean, without fatness.
- 25 I also have become a reproach to them; when they see me, they wag their head.
- 26 Help me, O YAHWEH my God; save me according to Your lovingkindness.
- 27 And let them know that this is Your hand; You, YAHWEH, have done it.
- 28 Let them curse, but You bless;  
when they arise, they shall be ashamed, but Your servant shall be glad.
- 29 Let my accusers be clothed with dishonor,  
and let them cover themselves with their own shame as with a robe.
- 30 With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to YAHWEH;  
and in the midst of many I will praise Him.
- 31 For He stands at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who judge his soul.

## PRAYER

*Almighty Father, your love has been shown to all mankind in giving your only Son as a propitiation for sin. Yet you are righteous and just, and all who will not have Jesus reign over them will surely perish without mercy. Open the eyes of the unrepentant, that they may see that today is the day to call upon you for mercy, for no one can be assured that death will not take him away at any moment. Your Holy Spirit does not strive forever with hardened sinners, but they are permitted to go their own way in their deeds of evil until they shall reap that reward which they so justly deserve,*

*everlasting death. Oh, it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God! Yet you do not take delight in the death of the wicked, but would have all men come to repentance. Therefore, move us with sincere compassion for the lost that we might bring to them the words of eternal life, that Jesus died and rose again that whoever calls upon him shall be saved. No one will be cast out, for Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. In the name of our great Redeemer we bring our prayer before your throne of grace. Amen.*