

## Psalm 109

Prayer: Lord God, You judge and rule everything in heaven and on earth. The Bible shows us how You forgive sin, and also how You punish sin. Your word about judgment is hard for us to read. Help us read and understand what it means that You are Judge. Help us trust You as Judge and as our Savior. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Psalm 109 is a hard psalm to read. This kind of psalm is named an "Imprecatory Psalm." Imprecatory means cursing, a psalm that curses wicked people. How can this be God's word? We will see what this psalm means and how God's people can pray this.

Psalm 109:1-5. The problem.

- What is wrong? What did David say his enemy was doing to him?
- What were David's actions to his enemies? Did he do something wrong?

Psalm 109:6-20. Praying for punishment.

- What does David want to happen to his enemies?
- Who will do the punishing? God or David?

Psalm 109:21-31.

- What does David want God to do for him? How should God treat David?
- What did David want his enemies to know (verse 27)?

Can Christians pray this way? We will look at several other Bible verses to see. John 8:7-11, Romans 2:1-3. Don't judge because you also \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 7:1-5. Many people take this to mean we should never judge another person for their sin. But Jesus' main point is that we shouldn't judge because we are full of \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 5:43-44. Jesus said we should \_\_\_\_\_ our enemies and \_\_\_\_\_ for people who persecute us. If we love someone, will we pray and ask God to hurt them?

So far, this looks like we shouldn't judge and we shouldn't pray for God to punish anyone. We should only love all people. But... there are more Bible verses.

Luke 18:1-8. What did the woman want from the judge? What did Jesus say God's people ask God to do?

Galatians 1:8-9. What did Paul say about people who rejected the gospel?

Revelation 6:9-10. What do the saints in heaven ask God?

### Summary

The imprecatory (cursing) psalms are hard to understand. Two final questions will help make them a little more clear.

1. In an imprecatory psalm, are we asking God to judge, or are we making ourselves the judge?

Answer: We ask God to judge. We are not the judge, and we don't decide who God will punish and who He will save. That is God's decision. When we speak, we want to speak the same as God speaks. Also, we ask God to do the judging, the same as the angel Michael did (Jude 9).

2. These psalms are against who? Normal everyday enemies? Or people who are very stubborn against Christ?

Answer: These psalms are against the very stubborn unbelievers who hate Christ. Remember Jesus' prayer on the cross? "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34) The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders hated Jesus very much. Jesus had nothing good to say to them (Matthew 23:13-39). God wants us to love all people. But we can ask God to save us from those enemies who try to destroy the church, and we can ask God to judge them.