

THE BOOKS OF PSALMS



THE BIBLE'S HARSHEST PRAYERS:

- **PSALM 35:4-8** — “Let destruction come upon him”
- **PSALM 58:6-8** — “Break the teeth in their mouths”
- **PSALM 69:22-28** — “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living”
- **PSALM 83:13-18** — “Pursue them with your tempest”
- **PSALM 109:6-15** — “May his days be few”
- **PSALM 137:7-9** — “Dashes your little ones against the rock”
- **JEREMIAH 18:21-23** — “Do not forgive their iniquity”
- **LAMENTATIONS 3:64-66** — “Pursue them in anger and destroy them”
- **REVELATION 6:9-10** — “How long before you will judge and avenge our blood?”

WHAT IS *IMPRECATION* AND IMPRECATORY PRAYER?

IMPRECATION: CALLING DOWN CURSES OR DIVINE
JUDGMENTS ON SOMEONE.

IMPRECATORY PRAYER IS PRAYER THAT ASKS GOD TO
BRING HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT UPON EVIL AND THOSE
WHO PERSIST IN IT.

PSALM 35:1-10

CALL ON THE DIVINE WARRIOR

Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me!

² Take hold of shield and buckler
and rise for my help!

³ Draw the spear and javelin
against my pursuers!

Say to my soul,

“I am your salvation!”

PSALM 35:1-3

Let them be put to shame and dishonor
who seek after my life!

Let them be turned back and disappointed
who devise evil against me!

5 Let them be like chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the Lord driving them away!

6 Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the Lord pursuing them!

IMPRECATIONS

PSALM 35:4-6

For without cause they hid their net for me;

without cause they dug a pit for my life.

8 Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it!

And let the net that he hid ensnare him;

let him fall into it—to his destruction!

PSALM 35:7-8

Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord,
exulting in his salvation.

¹⁰ All my bones shall say,

“O Lord, who is like you,
delivering the poor
from him who is too strong for him,
the poor and needy from him who robs him?”

PSALM 35:9-10

PSALM 35:11-18

THE TROUBLED SOUL

Malicious witnesses rise up;

they ask me of things that I do not know.

¹² They repay me evil for good;
my soul is bereft.

¹³ But I, when they were sick—I wore sackcloth;

I afflicted myself with fasting;

I prayed with head bowed on my chest.

¹⁴ I went about as though I grieved for my friend or my brother;

as one who laments his mother,

I bowed down in mourning.

PSALM 35:11-14

But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered;
they gathered together against me;
wretches whom I did not know
tore at me without ceasing;
¹⁶ like **profane mockers** at a feast,
they gnash at me with their teeth.

PSALM 35:15-16

WHERE JESUS SPEAKS OF WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH



MATTHEW 8:11–12 — Jesus says that while many will enter the kingdom, the “sons of the kingdom” who reject him will be thrown into **“the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

MATTHEW 13:41–42 — In the parable of the weeds, the Son of Man sends his angels to gather evildoers and throw them into **“the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

MATTHEW 13:49–50 — In the parable of the net, the wicked are separated from the righteous and thrown into **“the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

MATTHEW 22:11–13 — In the wedding feast, the improperly dressed guest is bound and cast into **“the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

MATTHEW 24:48–51 — The wicked servant receives judgment and is assigned a place with the hypocrites, **“where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

MATTHEW 25:30 — In the parable of the talents, the worthless servant is cast into **“the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

LUKE 13:27–28 — Those excluded from God’s kingdom see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets inside while they themselves are cast out. Jesus says, **“In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

How long, O Lord, **will you look on?**

Rescue me from their destruction,
my precious life from the lions!

¹⁸ I will thank you in the **great congregation;**
in the mighty throng I will praise you.

PSALM 35:17-18

PSALM 35:19-28

PRAYER FOR VINDICATION

Let not those rejoice over me
who are wrongfully my foes,
and let not those wink the eye
who hate me without cause.

²⁰ For they do not speak peace,
but against those who are quiet in the land
they devise words of deceit.

²¹ They open wide their mouths against me;
they say, "Aha, Aha!
Our eyes have seen it!"

PSALM 35:19-21

“

Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: **‘They hated me without a cause.’**

JESUS - JOHN 15:23-25

Let not those rejoice over me
who are wrongfully my foes,
and let not those wink the eye
who hate me without cause.

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but against those who are quiet in the land
they devise words of deceit.

²¹ They open wide their mouths against me;
they say, "Aha, Aha!
Our eyes have seen it!"

PSALM 35:19-21

You have seen, O Lord; **be not silent!**

O Lord, **be not far from me!**

²³ Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication,
for my cause, my God and my Lord!

²⁴ Vindicate me, O Lord, my God,
according to your righteousness,
and let them not rejoice over me!

²⁵ Let them not say in their hearts,
“Aha, our heart's desire!”

Let them not say, “We have swallowed him up.”

IMPRECATIONS

PSALM 35:22-25

Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether
who rejoice at my calamity!

Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor
who magnify themselves against me!

Let those who delight in my righteousness
shout for joy and be glad
and say evermore,

“Great is the Lord,
who delights in the welfare of his servant!”

PSALM 35:26-27

Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness
and of your praise all the day long.

PSALM 35:28

LIVE THE TEXT

A stylized illustration featuring a light-colored path that leads from the foreground through an open gate into a landscape. The gate is formed by two dark blue pillars with tan-colored bases and tops, connected by a dark blue metal railing. The pillars are inscribed with text. Beyond the gate is a green field, and in the background, there are dark blue mountains under a pale yellow sky. A large, bright red sun is rising between the mountains, with several light-colored rays emanating from it. The overall style is flat and geometric.

PSALM 1:
**THE WAY
OF THE
RIGHTEOUS**

PSALM 2:
**THE REIGN
OF THE
KING**

1. **Receive** the imprecatory psalms as God's Word.

- *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness // [2 Timothy 2:16](#)*

2. **Bring** your anger and desire for justice to God.

- *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' // [Romans 12:19](#)*

3. **Pray** for God to restrain evil.

- *Deliver us from evil. // [Matthew 6:13](#)*

4. **Pray** for God to bring repentance.

- *"The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, **and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil.**" // [2 Timothy 2:24-26](#)*

“

Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

ECCLESIASTES 5:2