

Psalms 94

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 94 - and as we make our way to the 94th Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that this Psalm is the second of eight Psalms...

...that have been called by some - the theocratic Psalms.

As I pointed out last week - the theocratic Psalms ultimately point to the enthronement of the One - Who is the King of kings.

And as we make our way through this series of Psalms - we're going to consider the kingly authority of the LORD our God.

As we turn our attention to the 94th Psalm - we find the anonymous Psalmist - asking the King of kings...

...to execute justice on the Earth - by punishing the wicked.

And as we consider the lyrics of this song - we'll soon see that the righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth...

...has a providential plan to punish those who refuse to repent.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 94th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 94:1 O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs—

O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!

Psa 94:2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth;

Render punishment to the proud.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the anonymous Psalmist - referring to the LORD - as the Judge of the earth.

That word - Judge - found there in verse 2 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which - in this context - was used of the Divine adjudicator - Who will vindicate the righteous...

...and Who will execute vengeance on those who refuse to repent of their wickedness.

It's for this reason that the psalmist referred to the Lord...

...as the God to whom vengeance belongs.

Look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where the psalmist declared...

Psa 94:1 O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs—
O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!
Psa 94:2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth;
Render punishment to the proud.

Now - that word vengeance - found there in verse 1 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which - in this context - refers to the righteous judgment that that results in revenge.

The Lord used the root of the same Hebrew word - in Deuteronomy chapter 32 - it's beginning at verse 35 - where he declared...

Deu 32:35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense;
Their foot shall slip in due time;
For the day of their calamity is at hand,
And the things to come hasten upon them.'
Deu 32:36 "For the LORD will judge His people
And have compassion on His servants,

When He sees that their power is gone,
And there is no one remaining, bond or free.
Deu 32:37 He will say: 'Where are their gods,
The rock in which they sought refuge?
Deu 32:38 Who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
And drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise and help you,
And be your refuge.
Deu 32:39 'Now see that I, even I, am He,
And there is no God besides Me;
I kill and I make alive;
I wound and I heal;
Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.
Deu 32:40 For I raise My hand to heaven,
And say, "As I live forever,
Deu 32:41 If I whet My glittering sword,
And My hand takes hold on judgment,
I will render vengeance to My enemies,
And repay those who hate Me.

From this - we can see that - the King of kings - is also the righteous judge of Heaven and Earth.

And as such - we can rejoice in knowing that there's coming a day...

...when He will render vengeance on all of His enemies -
as He repays those who hate Him.

And it's at that point in time - when He will Rise up
and Judge the earth...

...as He renders punishment on the proud.

The question that we should ask is - - what's taking so long?

Why is He allowing the wicked to celebrate - - while we wait for
the day of judgment?

And when will He rise up and repay those who hate Him?

With all of this in mind - we should consider the point that the apostle Peter made - in 2nd Peter chapter 3.

It's beginning at verse 7 - where he declared...

2Pe 3:7 ...the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Christian - listen - the righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth is patiently enduring the wickedness of His enemies...

...and the reason why is because - He is giving people the opportunity to repent - and trust in Jesus...

...so that they might be saved from the day of judgment.

That being the case - those who truly trust in the Lord should also trust that He has a righteous reason...

...for why He has yet to rise up - and render vengeance on His enemies.

And at the same - we can be certain that the Judge of Heaven and Earth...

...is patiently putting off the day - when He will render punishment on the proud.

In order explain my point - let's consider the complaint that the Psalmist presented - here in the 94th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 3 - where he cried out...

Psa 94:3 LORD, how long will the wicked,
How long will the wicked triumph?
Psa 94:4 They utter speech, and speak insolent things;
All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves.
Psa 94:5 They break in pieces Your people, O LORD,
And afflict Your heritage.
Psa 94:6 They slay the widow and the stranger,
And murder the fatherless.
Psa 94:7 Yet they say, "The LORD does not see,
Nor does the God of Jacob understand."

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - helping the Lord to understand that wicked people were doing wicked things.

And not only did they seem to be getting away with all of their wicked ways...

...but - they were also defaming the name of the Lord - by insisting that He either can't see what they're doing...

...or - He doesn't understand how wicked they actually were.

In light of this laundry list of wickedness - the Psalmist asked the Lord - how long He was going to allow the wicked triumph?

That word - triumph - found there in verse 3 - was translated from a Hebrew word - - which was used of those who jump for joy.

It's for this reason that the scholars who created the Christian Standard Bible rendered verse 3 in this way...

Psa 94:3 LORD, how long will the wicked —
how long will the wicked celebrate?

How long will the wicked - celebrate their wicked ways?

The chances are - we've all wondered the same thing.

As we consider the wicked ways of this world - it's difficult to understand why the Lord is allowing the wicked to celebrate.

Whether we're talking about those who murder the most innocent amongst us...

...or we're talking about those who are kidnapping - and trafficking minors...

...I have no doubt that we all struggle to understand why God is waiting to punish the wicked.

And let's not forget that millions of our brothers and sisters in Christ are being persecuted in many areas of the world.

According to a recent report from International Christian Concern...

...militant Hindu groups in India have targeted Christians with mob violence...

...while Buddhist nationalism remains a threat to believers in Myanmar.

The same report helps us to see that China has targeted those associated with unregistered Christian groups overseas.

And at the same time - Muslim terrorists continue to threaten Christians in nations like Nigeria - Mali - and Somalia.

As a result - thousands of Christians have been killed or displaced...

...in attacks that are designed to eradicate Christians from these contested territories.

With all of this in mind - I can't help but to ask - how long oh LORD - How long will the wicked triumph?

And while we can't say for how long it will be - before the Lord rises up to judge the wicked...

...what we can say for certain is that - those who think that the Lord doesn't see what they're doing...

...are confused about the infinite nature of our God.

In order to explain what I mean - let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - here in the 94th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 8 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 94:8 Understand, you senseless among the people;
And you fools, when will you be wise?

Psa 94:9 He who planted the ear, shall He not hear?
He who formed the eye, shall He not see?

Psa 94:10 He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct,
He who teaches man knowledge?

Psa 94:11 The LORD knows the thoughts of man,
That they are futile.

Here in these verses - we find the psalmist - describing those who think that the LORD can't see what they're doing - as fools.

And while this might seem a bit harsh - he's exactly right.

The Lord Who created the ear - is most certainly able to hear everything whispered behind closed doors.

And the God Who created the eye - is able to see what happens in the dark.

Simply put - the judge of heaven and earth knows every sin that every person has ever committed.

Proof of my point was presented by the apostle John - in Revelation chapter 20 - - it's beginning at verse 11 - where he declared...

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

The works of every unbeliever are being recorded in the books that the Lord is keeping in heaven.

And those who will not repent will eventually find themselves standing before the great white throne of Jesus...

...where they will receive a righteous judgment - for every single sin they ever committed.

And yes - this includes the sins that they committed in secret.

This was the point that Paul was making - in Romans chapter 2 - it's verse 16 - where we pointed forward to...

Rom 2:16 ...the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ...

From this - we can see that the secret sins of every unbeliever will eventually be brought to light...

...as they stand before the great white throne judgement of Jesus.

And it's at that point in time when the the LORD will judge the futile thoughts of every unbeliever.

We can also rejoice in knowing that the righteous judgment of the Lord will provide rest for those who trust in Him.

With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of the 94th Psalm - beginning there at verse 12 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 94:12 Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD,
And teach out of Your law,

Psa 94:13 That You may give him rest from the days of adversity,
Until the pit is dug for the wicked.
Psa 94:14 For the LORD will not cast off His people,
Nor will He forsake His inheritance.
Psa 94:15 But judgment will return to righteousness,
And all the upright in heart will follow it.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - singing the praises of the One...

...Who is able to give us rest from the days of adversity - Until the day when the wicked will be cast into the pit.

And while this doesn't solve the problem of evil TODAY...

...this does help us to see how believers can be blessed - as we wait for the day of Judgment.

I like the way that the scholars who created the Christian Standard bible rendered verses 12 and 13 - - they put it like this...

Psa 94:12 LORD, how happy is anyone you discipline
and teach from your law

Psa 94:13 to give him relief from troubled times
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

As we wait for the day when the Lord will solve the problem of evil...

...those who will receive the discipline - and the instructions of
of the Lord...

...will find hope - and rest - - as we patiently wait for the
day of the Lord.

This was the point that the psalmist was making - there in verses 14 and 15 - where he directed our attention to the day...

...when the Lord will administer justice - by casting the wicked into
the lake of fire.

And what this means is that - there's coming a day - when the righteous judge of Heaven and Earth...

...will solve the problem of evil.

I like the way that the scholars who created the Christian Standard bible rendered verses 14 and 15 - - they put it like this...

Psa 94:14 The LORD will not leave his people
or abandon his heritage,

Psa 94:15 for the administration of justice will again be righteous,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

As we consider the carnality occurring in the world today - it might feel like the wicked are winning.

And while it might seem like the Lord is failing to administer justice - according to His righteousness...

...we can rejoice in knowing that there's coming a day -
when He will establish everlasting justice...

...according to providential promises.

This was precisely the point that Paul was making in Acts chapter 17 - it's beginning at verse 30 - where he declared...

Act 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Act 17:31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Christian - listen - the Lord has already appointed a day - when He will judge the world in righteousness.

And so - while it might seem like things have run amok - we can rejoice in knowing that...

...the King of kings is on the throne - and He will accomplish His will - according to His timing.

Until that day comes - we can rejoice in knowing that - the Lord is ready to help those who trust in Him.

Let's consider how the psalmist explained it - here in the 94th Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 16 - where he asked...

Psa 94:16 Who will rise up for me against the evildoers?

Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?

Psa 94:17 Unless the LORD had been my help,

My soul would soon have settled in silence.

Psa 94:18 If I say, "My foot slips,"

Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up.

Psa 94:19 In the multitude of my anxieties within me,

Your comforts delight my soul.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - proclaiming the praises of the One Who was protecting him from the workers of iniquity.

And while it's true that he was struggling to take a stand against the evildoers...

...it's also true that the Lord was helping him to stand in the strength of our Savior's mercy.

We should also notice that the Psalmist was wrestling with a multitude of anxieties.

That word - anxieties - found there in verse 19 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which was used in reference to the disquieting thoughts that fill our minds with fear.

And what this means is that - the Psalmist's mind was filled with disquieting thoughts...

...as he considered the way in which the workers of iniquity...

...were engaging in all manner of wickedness.

I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 19 - they put it like this...

Psa 94:19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me,
Your comforts delight me.

From this - we can see that - the comforts of the Lord are able to turn anxiety - into delight.

And knowing that many of us wrestle with the anxieties of this wicked world...

...I encourage you to take your anxieties to the Lord - so that you can receive the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

I like the way that Paul put it in Philippians chapter 4 - it's beginning at verse 6 - where he declared...

Phl 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Phl 4:7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phl 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Phl 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Christian - listen - we don't have to live with the disquieting thoughts that fill our minds with fear.

And while I realize that there are many reasons for why our minds are filled with a multitude of anxious thoughts...

...Paul invited us to overcome our anxieties - by spending time - presenting our prayers to the Lord.

And as we fix our focus on the Lord - He will fill our hearts with the peace that surpasses understanding.

Not only that - but - we should also spend time - focusing on the prophetic promises of the final judgment.

Let's consider how the Psalmist explained it here in the 94th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 20 - where he asked...

Psa 94:20 Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law,
Have fellowship with You?

Psa 94:21 They gather together against the life of the righteous,
And condemn innocent blood.

Psa 94:22 But the LORD has been my defense,
And my God the rock of my refuge.

Psa 94:23 He has brought on them their own iniquity,
And shall cut them off in their own wickedness;
The LORD our God shall cut them off.

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find the psalmist - taking comfort in the fact that...

...there's coming a day - when the King of kings will cut off those who devise evil - by law.

And those who establish a throne of iniquity - here on the earth...

...will eventually be dethroned - by the One Who sits on the great white judgment throne...

...that John described in Revelation chapter 20.

Those who gather together against the life of the righteous - will eventually receive the just judgment of Jesus.

This of course includes those who persecute the church - and those who have murdered the servants of our Messiah.

They will eventually receive the punishment they deserve.

We should also notice what the psalmist wrote - there in the second half of verse 21...

...where he referred to those who condemn innocent blood.

Now - when it comes to subject of condemning innocent blood - I can assure you that...

...there is none more innocent - than the pre-born baby - living in the womb of their mother.

Just in case you didn't know - Blood cell production begins around the 7th day of embryonic development in the yolk sac.

That's right - by the 7th day of embryonic development - Blood cell production has already begun.

I should also remind you of something the Lord said in Leviticus 17 - verse 11 - where we learn that....

Lev 17:11 '...the life of flesh is in the blood.

That's right - the life of all flesh is in their blood - not the breath.

And it's for this reason that there are more than 20 verses in the Bible...

...about the guilt that is applied to those who shed innocent blood.

For example - it's in Proverbs chapter 6 - where we learn that the Lord hates the hands that shed innocent blood.

And it's in Deuteronomy 19 - where we learn about the guilt of bloodshed - that is upon those who shed innocent blood.

With all of this in mind - we can be certain that those who engage in the barbaric practice of abortion...

...are guilty of condemning innocent blood.

According to the latest data from the World Health Organization - roughly 73 million induced abortions occur worldwide - every year.

Think about that for a moment - the innocent blood of 73 million pre-born babies is shed - every year.

And seeing how the just judge of heaven and earth hates the hands of those who shed innocent blood...

...then - we should encourage those who abort their babies to repent of their sins...

...and receive by faith - the free gift of forgiveness that Jesus extends to every sinner.

We should also warn the wicked about the day of judgment - - because - it's at that point in time...

...when the Lord will Rise up and Judge of the earth - as he renders a righteous punishment - upon those who were too proud to repent.

And it's at that point in time - when He will render vengeance to His enemies - and repay those who hate Him.

And it's for this reason that He encouraged those who trust in Him...

...to refrain from seeking vengeance for ourselves.

Let's consider how Paul put it - in Romans chapter 12 - - it's beginning at verse 17 - where he declared...

Rom 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Rom 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Rom 12:20 Therefore
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Christian - listen - it's not for us to avenge ourselves.

Please trust me when I tell you that - the believer who spends their time - plotting to get revenge...

...and scheming to get even with those who have hurt us -
are failing to overcome evil - with good.

Without debate - the world is filled with evildoers - who are engaging in all manner of wickedness.

And I have no doubt that we are all affected by this in one way or another.

And knowing how easy it is - to think that we need to avenge ourselves...

...I encourage you to remember that - the Lord has promised to avenge us - - according to His righteous standard.

That being the case - let's learn to overcome evil with good...

...as we patiently wait for the One - to whom vengeance belongs.

And in His perfect timing - He will rise up and Judge the earth in righteousness...

...by the Messiah whom He has ordained - our Savior - Jesus Christ.

But until that day comes - let's overcome evil with good - by encouraging every unbeliever...

...to repent - and trust in Jesus Christ - so that they too can escape the day of judgment.