

The Prayers of the Psalms
Discover Church
Justice for All
Mark Phillips
August 25, 2024

Imprecatory

Imprecatory = the act of calling down a curse that invokes evil, Containing a prayer for evil to befall a person.

How Do I Read Them?

1. They are ***ancient poetry***
2. God is ***holy***
3. They are not ***normal*** prayers

“Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be their downfall. Banish them for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you.” Psalm 5:10

“Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them.” Psalm 54:5

“Do you rulers indeed speak justly? Do you judge people with equity? No, in your heart you devise injustice, and your hands mete out violence on the earth. Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies. Their venom is like the venom of a snake, like that of a cobra that has stopped its ears, that will not heed the tune of the charmer, however skillful the enchanter may be. Break the teeth in their mouths, O God; Lord, tear out the fangs of those lions! Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short. May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along, like a stillborn child that never sees the sun. Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns—whether they be green or dry—the wicked will be swept away. The righteous will be glad when they are avenged, when they dip their feet in the blood of the wicked. Then people will say, “Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth.” Psalm 58

- ***Wicked*** people are truly ***wicked***

“Do you rulers indeed speak justly? Do you judge people with equity?”

“Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies. Their venom is like the venom of a snake, like that of a cobra that has stopped its ears, that will not heed the tune of the charmer, however skillful the enchanter may be.” Psalm 58:3-5

- God has the **power** and **authority** to condemn the wicked

“Break the teeth in their mouths, O God; Lord, tear out the fangs of those lions! Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short. May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along,” Psalm 58:6-8

Power is the strength to do something. Authority is the right to do something.

“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.” Romans 12:19

- God will **condemn** the wicked

“The righteous will be glad when they are avenged, when they dip their feet in the blood of the wicked. Then people will say, “Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth.” Psalm 58:10-11

The Imprecatory Prayer for Today

1. Pray for **God’s Will** to be done

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

“If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:19-24

2. Pray against **Satan**

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 6:12

3. Pray for **Justice for All**

“Works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.” Psalm 103:6

4. Pray for my own **sinfulness**

“For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.” Romans 8:13

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How Do I Read Them?

1. They are _____
2. God is _____
3. They are not _____ prayers
 - _____ people are truly _____
 - God has the _____ and _____ to condemn the wicked
 - God will _____ the wicked

The Imprecatory Prayer for Today

1. Pray for _____ to be done
2. Pray against _____
3. Pray for _____
4. Pray for my own _____

Scripture: *Psalm 5:10; Psalm 54:5; Psalm 58; Romans 12:19; Matthew 6:10; Psalm 139:19-24; Ephesians 6:12; Psalm 103:6; Romans 8:13*