

## Deaf Cobras

Prayer: Women's Retreat.

### I. Slide1a **DEAF COBRAS (1-11)**

A. **Intro:** *Deaf Cobras* (sounds like a metal band)

B. **Psalm 58** - is a corporate lament.

C. **Imprecatory psalms** - *to invoke a curse upon someone or some thing.*

1. Some say these psalms were OT thought, **but** now been replaced with a loving spirit of the NT. **Nope. 1st**, the OT calls for the people of God to **love their enemies**. **2nd**, the NT quotes the imprecations of the OT 13x's.
2. **So how do we understand the psalms?** The answer is not looking at them as the individual child of God seeking personal vengeance against his enemies. **But rather** as him yearning for *the only true God to Triumph over his enemies*.
3. **Slide1b** But these seem so harsh - well keep these in mind: [1] it's for **divine justice** *rather than* human vengeance. [2] they asked for **God** to punish the wicked and thus vindicate his righteousness. [3] they **condemn sin**. [4] even Jesus brings down curses on several cities **and** tells his disciples to curse cities that do not receive the gospel.
  - a) Mt.10:14,15 *If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. 15 I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.*
4. So let's **not** just dismiss these songs **or** write them off. *What they are doing is voicing a zeal and passion for God's glory, and for the triumph of His cause and His righteousness, which far exceeds ours.* J.I.Packer

D. **Slide2** **THE CORRUPT RULERS (1,2)** *read from the NLT*

E. *For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be sung to the tune "Do Not Destroy!"*

1 Justice - do you rulers know the meaning of the word? Do you judge the people fairly? 2 No! You plot injustice in your hearts. You spread violence throughout the land.

F. David's angry at the corrupt leaders.

G. *Slide3 A Letter From Ukraine*. From MP coordinator Galina: (3/21/22).

*Chronicles of the besieged Mariupol by Nadia Sukhoru-kova*

1. **I go outside in between bombings.** I need to walk the dog. She constantly whines, trembles and hides behind my legs. I want to sleep all the time. My yard, surrounded by high-rise buildings, is quiet and dead. I'm no longer afraid to look around.

**Opposite**, the entrance to the 105th house is burning down. The flames have devoured 5 floors and are slowly chewing on the 6th. In the room, the fire burns gently, as in a fireplace. Black charred windows stand without glass. From them, like tongues, curtains gnawed by flames fall out. I look at it calmly and doomed.

**I'm sure I'll die soon.** It's a matter of days. In this city, everyone is constantly waiting for death. I just wish it wasn't too scary. 3 days ago, a friend of my older nephew came to us and said that there was a direct hit in the fire department. The rescuers died. One woman had her arm, leg and head torn off. I dream that my body parts will remain in place, even after the explosion of an air bomb.

**I don't know why**, but it seems important to me. Although, on the other hand, they will still not be buried during hostilities. This is how the police answered us when we caught them on the street and asked what to do with the dead grandmother of our friend. They advised to put her on the balcony. I wonder on how many balconies are dead bodies?

**Our house on Mira Avenue is the only one without direct hits.** It was hit twice tangentially by shells, windows flew out in some apartments, but it was almost not injured and, compared to other houses, looks fortunate.

**The entire yard** is covered in several layers of ash, glass, plastic and

metal fragments. I try not to look at the iron fool that flew to the playground. I think it's a rocket, or maybe a mine. I don't care, it's just annoying. In the window of the third floor I see someone's face and I twitch. It turns out that I'm afraid of living people.

**My dog starts to howl** and I understand that now they will shoot again. I am out on the street in the daytime and around me is the silence of a cemetery. There are no cars, no voices, no children, no grandmothers on benches. Even the wind died. There are still a few people here. They lie on the side near a house and in the parking lot, covered with outerwear. I don't want to look at them. I'm afraid I'll see someone I know.

**All life in my city is now smoldering in basements.** It looks like a candle in our compartment. It takes nothing to extinguish it. Any vibration or breeze, and darkness will come. I try to cry, but I can't. I feel sorry for myself, my family, my husband, neighbors, friends. I go back to the basement and listen to the vile iron rattle there. Two weeks have passed, and I no longer believe that there was once another life.

**In Mariupol**, people continue to sit in the basement. Every day it gets harder for them to survive. They have no water, food, light, they cannot even go outside because of the constant shelling. Mariupol residents must live. Help them. Tell others about this. Let everyone know that civilians continue to be killed! [doesn't that make you angry at Putins [war crimes](#)?]

#### H. Slide4 THE WICKED (3-6)

- I. 3 These wicked people are born sinners; even from birth they have lied and gone their own way. 4 They spit venom like deadly snakes; they are like cobras that refuse to listen, 5 ignoring the tunes of the snake charmers, no matter how skillfully they play. 6 Break off their fangs, O God! Smash the jaws of these lions, O Lord!
- J. (3) **The wicked** - they are *evil from birth*. Their *wickedness* is like poison. They are as dangerous as *cobras that ignore their charmers*.
1. Jer.8:17 **For behold, I am sending among you serpents, adders that cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you," declares the Lord.**

2. **There is such thing as righteous indignation.** Babies being aborted. The poor being exploited. People being trafficked. Gangs selling fentanyl to our youths.

K. (6) If God fails to punish the wicked, His righteousness, justice, and power may come into question.

L. **Break the teeth** - means destroying the effectiveness of an enemy.

M. **Slide5 THE PRAYER** (7-9)

N. 7 **May they disappear like water into thirsty ground. Make their weapons useless in their hands.** 8 **May they be like snails that dissolve into slime, like a stillborn child who will never see the sun.** 9 **God will sweep them away, both young and old, faster than a pot heats over burning thorns.**

O. **Slide6 THE RIGHTEOUS** (10,11)

P. 10 **The godly will rejoice when they see injustice avenged. They will wash their feet in the blood of the wicked.** 11 **Then at last everyone will say, “There truly is a reward for those who live for God; surely there is a God who judges justly here on earth.”**

## II. **Slide7a A GOD OF WRATH?** *developed from John Mark Comer*

A. **I can't Believe in a God of Wrath. Yes you can!** (yes you must)

1. **Don't you hate:** murder of the innocent, genocide in Myanmar, war crimes in Ukraine? **These are just plain evil.**
2. **God is a person not an idea.** He has **feelings**, and He feels **anger** over evil in the world. **Yet He is slow to anger.** He doesn't have a temper or throw temper tantrums. **He hates when a man walks into a children's classroom and just starts randomly shooting children. And so should you.**
3. **There are times where the healthy, emotionally mature response to evil ... is anger.**

4. Slide7b A good definition for **God's wrath** is - *a steady, unrelenting, unremitting, uncompromising antagonism to evil in all its forms and manifestations.*<sup>1</sup>

B. God's anger, is very different from our anger. *We don't want justice we want revenge!* (*Prove it?* we eat up Liam Neeson's movie of somebody abducting his daughter and so he kills like 30 men)

1. Our anger is usually from a wounded ego. Somebody hurt us, or made us feel stupid, took advantage of us, or didn't do what we wanted. It's apparently selfish, even narcissistic.
2. But Yahweh's anger is from a parent like love for their children. Angry at a drug dealer trying to sell dope to our children.
3. God's punishment fits the crime. My anger flares up. I don't wanna wait for the whole story to come out I want justice now. Our anger is impatient.
  - a) God's anger is on tempo, patiently waiting. It builds up to the rt time & place.
4. So God does get angry, but it is unusual. His baseline is compassionate and gracious, *s-l-o-w to anger*.
  - a) God is *not mean but dangerous*. Like gravity, or nuclear power, or a hurricane.
5. There is a final judgment - which is either good or bad, depending upon which side of it you are on. Either, *finally, wrongs made right!* or *oh shoot!*

C. Slide8a Yahweh's wrath has 4 axis points: *present, future, & active, passive.*<sup>2</sup>

1. Present - that's when God deals with wrath this side of judgement (eg. Nineveh). *He steps in and stops evil dead in its tracks. But it's rare.*
2. Future - God's future wrath is when He deals with judgment later. AKA, The day of Yahweh. *All the wrongs of human history will be undone.*
3. Active - His active wrath is where He steps in and stops evil. *Like when Israel, instead of using the poles to move the ark of the cov, put it on a ox*

<sup>1</sup> John Mark Comer, *God Has a Name*, chapter 5.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

cart instead (*easier, faster, better*). It hit a pothole & Uzzah reached out & steadied it, and he was struck dead. It's God saying enough is enough. Or Acts 5, with Ananias and Sapphira both falling over dead for lying.

a) Active wrath, God killing people gets all the air play, **but** they are the exception to the rule. *Most of the time it is ... passive wrath.*

4. **Passive** - is when God **does not act** and that **is** the judgment. **And this is how God usually deals with evil.** He no longer protects their nation, and lets the ruling power step in and takeover, *i.e.* Babylon coming in to destroy Nineveh (later Israel). [**Abraham Lincoln thought that our civil war was God's wrath on slavery**] fascinating theory.

a) Let's take it down from the **national level** to **you and me**. Gods passive wrath is when He **doesn't act** to keep us from evil. Usually it's when he lets us royally screw up our life. It's Paul's, *God gave them over to ...the sinful desire of their hearts sexual impurity. To shameful lusts. To a depraved mind.* It's when He pulls back and allows Babylon to over take Nineveh. It's your body torn apart by drugs. It's you getting fired for cheating. It's your marriage wrecked by an affair. We think it's God's wrath it's not that's God's mercy. God's wrath is when he hets away with it.

b) **Slide8b Sin is its own punishment. Obedience its own reward.** John Mark Comer

D. **Slide9a** (10,11) Doesn't it seem that the **righteous** seem to **suffer** **but** the **wicked** seem to **escape suffering**? - Have you ever gotten *the bad end of a deal* **while** somebody else came out on top after doing something they shouldn't have done?

1. **Slide9b 1st**, realize there is no real justice in the world today. Of course there's *some justice*. We are grateful for the laws we do have. **We must accept we live in a broken world. This - isn't - heaven!**

2. **Slide9c 2nd**, we must leave the situation with the Lord. Usually, we want an immediate resolution to right the wrong **and** punish the wrongdoer, **but** we must leave it with God. *Vengeance is His, He will repay.*

3. Slide 9d 3rd, wait on the lord. Your reward is yet to come. A believers heaven is yet to come. *Heaven is a place of unmixed joy; hell is a place of undiluted sorrow.* Warren Wiersbe

E. Food for thought - Are Christ's enemies my enemies? If they are not, you do not love the Lord as you should.

F. Do you have a holy anger against sin? I do ... yours! Not mine so much :(

1. *Be angry and do not sin.* (Ps.4:4; Eph.4:26)

G. Keywords: abortion, glory, God, heaven, hell, justice, law, sin.