

Rhema Christian Center Triumphant Bible Study

Tuesday 5 /28/2024 & Wisdom Wednesday 5/29/24

Presenter- Willie Bryant

Psalm 140 NKJV: Prayer for Deliverance from Evil Men

A Psalm of David: To the Chief Musician.

Introduction: David wrote this Psalm as he did many other Psalms. It “seems the circumstances behind this Psalm occurred during David’s years as a member of King Saul’s official staff, when Saul’s envy and paranoia were developing.

In an attempt to please the King, some of Saul’s officials spread lies about young David and tried to set traps to make him look bad.

In 1 Samuel 19:1 Saul urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David.

After receiving confirmation of Saul’s “murderous intent, David fled the high king’s court, knowing that he had to get away before Saul could capture him and kill him. 1Samuel chapter 20.

From that point until the death of Saul, David was on the run, a fugitive trying to escape “Saul’s madness.

David's prayer for Deliverance from evil men can be viewed in four parts

- **Cry out for God's deliverance-His protection from the wicked vss 1-5**

"Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."Romans 12:19-21 NLT

- 1) Deliver me, O Lord, from evil men; Preserve me from violent men,
- 2) Who plan evil things in *their* hearts;
They continually gather together *for* war.
- 3) They sharpen their tongues like a serpent;
The poison of asps *is* under their lips. *Selah*
- 4) Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked;
Preserve me from violent men,
Who have purposed to make my steps stumble.

5) The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords;
They have spread a net by the wayside;
They have set traps for me. *Selah- think about this.*

Verse 2 they planned evil

V3 they spoke evil

Vss 4-5 they practiced evil

What David needed from the Lord was wisdom to avoid their traps and protection from their violent plans” (warren Wiersbe)

God’s word in **Proverbs 6:12-19 NKJV says:** “A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. Therefore, his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy. These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”

NOTE We as God’s people may have experienced similar situations as David did. We live in an evil world with much opposition of the enemy. We should not retaliate against those that lie or slander us. Like David, we must pray and trust God to enable us to overcome our trials.

We must remember we are actually fighting a spiritual battle.
Spiritual can only be won with spiritual weapons'

II Corinthians 10:3-4 NKJV "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,"

- ***Ask God for mercy vss 6-8***

6) I said to the Lord: "You *are* my God;

Hear the voice of my supplications, O Lord.

7) O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation,

You have covered my head in the day of battle.

8) Do not grant, O Lord, the desires of the wicked;

Do not further his *wicked* scheme,

Lest they be exalted. *Selah*

Here in verse 6, David addressed God as the Lord (Yahweh, Jehovah) He appealed to God on the basis of his covenant relationship with him.

When David "found himself in this situation he prayed to God to God for wisdom to know what to do and the strength to do it"

He also, prayed to God to protect him from deception and danger (Warren Wiersbye)

Vs 7 Here David “declared that God was the strength of his salvation, his strong deliverer. The Lord would be a helmet that covered his head-protect his life in the midst of trouble.

Isaiah 59:17 NLT says “For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.”Isaiah 59:17 KJV

David had faith in God. He remembers how God had protected him as a young shepherd boy and many other battles.

VS 8 David “knew only God could stop his wicked enemies and their poisonous lies”. He prayed to God to thwart their devious schemes and prevent their plans from succeeding”.

NOTE: like David we must recognize our inability to control evil people. The wisest thing we can do is commit the matter to the lord and trust Him to protect and deliver us.

Pray for the evil and violent to be stopped and brought to justice Vss 9-11

9) “*As for* the head of those who surround me,
Let the evil of their lips cover them;

10) Let burning coals fall upon them;
Let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

11) Let not a slanderer be established in the earth;
Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow *him*.”

In vs 9 “As for the head of those who surround me,
Let the evil of their lips cover them;

David prayed that the trouble they plotted against him would fall back on their own heads, that their evil slanderous words would destroy them rather than him.

Proverbs 26:27 TPT says “Go ahead, set a trap for others— and then watch as it snaps back on you! Start a landslide and you’ll be the one who gets crushed.”

Psalms 7:15-16 MSG “See that man shoveling day after day, digging, then concealing, his man-trap down that lonely stretch of road? Go back and look again—you’ll see him in it headfirst, legs waving in the breeze. That’s what happens: mischief backfires; violence boomerangs.”

vs 10 Let burning coals fall upon them;
Let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

The NLT says let the burning coals fall upon their head.

Burning coals are mentioned several times in the Bible.

Burning coals of fire has an image of literal burning coals as we see in John 21:9.

In ancient Egyptian propitiation ritual in which a person guilty of a crime was made to carry a basin of burning embers (coals) on his head as a symbol of repentance.

In the Bible, "hot coal is often used symbolically to represent transformation, strength and overcoming obstacles.

Isaiah 6:6 says: One of the "fiery serpent" seraphim angels flies toward Isaiah with a burning-hot coal from the altar of atonement or incense. He places the coal against Isaiah's mouth. He tells Isaiah that when the coal touched his lips, his personal guilt was taken away and his sin paid for.

God's plan was to use Isaiah as His prophet to His people.

However, this verse 10 the burning coals and pits are probably Metaphorically as an expression associated with judgment and punishment.

In Romans 12:9-21 Paul taught we overcome evil through love and goodness "bless those who persecute you, don't curse them; instead pray that God will bless them. Never pay back evil with more evil. (Remember the world is watching you.)

Romans 12:19-21 AMPC says: "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath; for it is

written, Deut. 32:35 nkjv Vengeance is Mine, I will repay (requite), says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing, you will heap burning coals upon his head.

[Prov. 25:21, 22.] Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome (master) evil with good.”

The goal of treating our enemies with kindness is to bring them to a place of conviction about their wrongdoings, that could or hopefully cause them to repent.

11) Let not a slanderer be established in the earth; Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow *him*.”

This speaks of the ones whose tongue walk through the earth, and speak evil of all men especially David.

David is asking God the evil of these violent men intended against him would hunt them down and bring disaster to their lives.

NOTE: we should not pray for destruction of evil people that cause us harm. Instead, we see the as sinful souls, we should pray for the light of the gospel to break through their harden, evil hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:4 NLT says “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t

understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

God does not desire that any perish, but all should come to repentance and accept God's gracious gift of salvation. Titus 2:11 NLT says: "For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people."

Have Confidence in God's Deliverance verses 12-13

12) I know that the Lord will maintain
The cause of the afflicted,
And justice for the poor.

13) Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name;
The upright shall dwell in Your presence.

David finished this Psalm by his strong confidence of the Lord.

Here he is expressing his full persuasion and assurance that the Lord will maintain the right of the poor and afflicted people both within and without by men and the devil.

He knew (Yada, to know personally and from experience) that God himself stands up for the afflicted. God "will help and secure justice for those who are persecuted.

Psalms 9:4 NLT says "For you have judged in my favor; from your throne you have judged with fairness."

Finally, what can we learn from this Psalm?

When we are going through trials of life, whether it be, betrayal back stabbers, people lying on you, marital or children's problems, finances or problems on the job.

Remember God's word says Isaiah 43:2 NLT says:

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you."

In summary, Psalm 140 "teaches us that even in times of trouble and opposition, we can trust in God's justice and find refuge in Him. The righteous will ultimately give thanks and dwell in His presence"

Sources used: NKJV

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