



SERMON NOTES

July 5, 2009

Scripture: Psalm 35:1-10 (NAS)

Topic: "A Psalm of Imprecation"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 1 Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me.
- 2 Take hold of buckler and shield And rise up for my help.
- 3 Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me; Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."
- 4 Let those be ashamed and dishonored who seek my life; Let those be turned back and humiliated who devise evil against me.
- 5 Let them be like chaff before the wind, With the angel of the LORD driving them on.
- 6 Let their way be dark and slippery, With the angel of the LORD pursuing them.
- 7 For without cause they hid their net for me; Without cause they dug a pit for my soul.
- 8 Let destruction come upon him unawares, And let the net which he hid catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall.
- 9 And my soul shall rejoice in the LORD; It shall exult in His salvation.
- 10 All my bones will say, "LORD, who is like You, Who delivers the afflicted from him who is too strong for him, And the afflicted and the needy from him who robs him?"

III. WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THESE PRAYERS?

- A. We See Prayers Based On God's Promises
- B. We Glean A Greater Distain For Evil
- C. David Prayed As The King As God's Chosen Representative *Psalm 139:21*
- D. These Prayers Do Not Contradict Christ's Teaching *Matt. 5:39;44-45*

I. HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPRECATORY PSALMS?

- A. Definition Of Imprecation
- B. They Seem Unjustly Harsh *Psalm 35:1, 4, 8, 19, 25-26*
- C. They Are Not Confined To The Old Testament *Galatians 1:8; 5:12; II Thessalonians 1:6-8; Luke 10:10-16*
- D. Our Lord Taught Us To Prayer This Way *Matthew 6:10*

II. HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THESE HARSH VERSES?

- A. They Are Unequivocally The Word Of God *Revelation 22:18*
- B. They Are Not Prayers For Personal Vengeance *Romans 12:19*
- C. David's Example Of Dealing With His Enemies