



**PSALM 35 AND  
IMPRECATORY  
PRAYERS**

# IMPRECATORY PRAYERS

- Imprecatory means cursing
- Key elements in **Psalms 35, 55, 58, 59, 79, 109, 137** among others
- Not limited to Psalms- **Num. 16:15; 1 Sam. 24:12; Neh. 4:4-5; 6:14; Jer. 11:18-20; 20:14-18**

# KEY IDEAS OF PSALM 35

- The Psalmist mistreated, persecuted- **35:1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26**
- Calls down curses on the wicked- **35:1-8, 26**
- Lex talionis- punishment fits crime- **35:1, 7-8, 21-22**
- Notes of Praise- **35:9-10, 18, 28**

# ARE THESE PRAYERS ACCEPTABLE TODAY?

- OT- Love Enemies- **Lev. 19:18, 33-34; Ex. 23:4-5; Prov. 25:21-22; Ps. 35:13-14; 109:4-5**
- OT condemns personal vengeance- **Prov. 20:22; 24:29; 1 Sam. 24, 26**
- NT has curses- **1 Cor. 16:22; Gal. 1:8-9; 5:12; Rev. 6:9-10**

# ARE THESE PRAYERS ACCEPTABLE TODAY?

- NT quotes OT curses- **Acts 1:20;**  
**Rom. 11:8-10**
- NT rejoices at the fall of the wicked-  
**Rev. 18:20; 19:1-6**

# LESSONS FROM THE PSALMS

1. Evil is real- **Isaiah 5:20**
2. We must be outraged by evil- **Ps. 119:104, 128, 163; 139:19-22**
3. We do not avenge ourselves- **Prov. 20:22; I Peter 2:23; 4:19; II Tim. 4:14**
4. Desire God glorified- **Ps. 58:10-11; 59:13; 79:9-10, 12; 109:27**

# **JESUS RECEIVED THE TREATMENT PSALMIST AND MORE**

- **35:7, 7, 19** without cause- **Jn. 15:25**
- **35:11** False witnesses- **Matt. 26:60**
- **35:12** Evil for good- **Acts 10:38; Lk. 22:51**
- **35:13-14** mourned and grieved- **Matt. 23:37-39**
- **35:23** committed case to God- **1 Peter 2:23**

# JESUS TOOK CURSE UPON HIMSELF

- **Luke 23:34** He called for mercy instead of judgment
- **Gal. 3:10-13** quotes **Deut. 21:22-23**  
“Cursed is everyone who hangs on tree”
- Eventually the curse would swallow us all had He not died for us- **Ps. 14:1-3** in **Rom. 3:10-12**