

## God Will “Take Care of” the Wicked

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

### Introduction:

- A. Farther Along - “Why others prosper living so wicked year after year”
  - 1. Jer. 12:1-4 - Jeremiah wanted to know if God was aware of the injustice of the prosperous, happy lives of the wicked and the poor, miserable state of the righteous. Occasionally, it is a matter of our perception; the wicked only appear to prosper
  - 2. Jer. 12:5, 14-15 - God’s answer is in two parts:
    - a. It is not up to us to correct this injustice; it is our lot to bear with it
    - b. God will deal with it according to His own wisdom in His own time
- B. Can we accept that answer?
  - 1. The Psalmists teach us how
- C. Imprecatory Psalms - How can the righteous pray for harm on the wicked?
  - 1. A. F. Kirkpatrick: “Men need to beware lest in pity for the sinner they condone the sin, or relax the struggle against evil”
  - 2. C. S. Lewis: “The ferocious parts of the Psalms serve as a reminder that there is in the world such a thing as wickedness and that it is hateful toward God”
  - 3. Alexander McClaren: “Perhaps, it would do modern tenderheartedness no harm to have a little more iron infused into its gentleness, and to lay to heart that the King of Peace must first be King of Righteousness”
  - 4. Sin has not disappeared, and there are still enemies of the redemptive plan of God. God feels the same today toward rebellion as He did in David’s time.
  - 5. The Bible is not in conflict with itself over truths written in plain prose in both Testaments, namely, the righteous will be rewarded, and the wicked shall be punished - Psalm 1; Matt. 25:46.
  - 6. If these prayers of malediction were intrinsically sinful, one would have a difficult time explaining the Lord’s “curse” upon Capernaum (Matt. 11:23-24), Paul’s prayer of anathema upon false teachers (Gal. 1:8-9), the apostle’s denunciation of Alexander the coppersmith (2Tim. 4:14), and the prayer of those martyrs who, under the altar of God, asked for vengeance from the Lord (Rev. 6:10).
  - 7. Probably the most important key to understanding this issue is this: David is not praying to God out of malice and vindictiveness, against someone he dislikes personally. It is not a matter of personal revenge; rather, these “harsh” statements reflect David’s awareness of God’s justice and his intolerance for sin.
  - 8. Walter Kaiser: “They are not statements of personal vendetta, but they are utterances of zeal for the kingdom of God and his glory. To be sure, the attacks which provoked these prayers were not from personal enemies; rather, they were rightfully seen as attacks against God and especially his representatives in the promised line of the Messiah”
- D. Praying for God to punish the wicked is an authorized petition.
  - 1. We pray that God’s will be done, and punishing the wicked is God’s will

2. "But what if I am mistaken about wishing for God to punish evil persons? Am I guilty of judging them?"
3. Do you pray for God to heal the sick, only to discover that He had other plans and you were mistaken in your request?
4. God wants you to pray all of your heartfelt petitions and trust Him to answer according to His wisdom and will.
5. Punishing evil doers is His will; He has promised to do so in His time. Praying for Him to punish them is just pleading His promises

### **I. GOD STOPS THE PLANS OF THE WICKED**

- A. Psalm 146:2-5, 7-9, 18:26
- B. No man out thinks, out plans or out-runs God - Jonah and Haman

### **II. GOD CAUSES THE WICKED TO FEAR**

- A. Psalm 53:4-5
- B. Lev. 26:14-18, 23-24, 27-28 - God won't give up

### **III. GOD TURNS THE WAY OF THE WICKED BACK ON THEM**

- A. Psalm 109:1-5 - David is opposed for doing good
- B. What will happen to the wicked for his unjust treatment of the righteous?
  1. He will get the same kind of treatment he planned for the righteous - Psalm 109:6-8
  2. He loved cursing so it came to him; he did not delight in blessing so he received none - Psalm 109:17
  3. He will be filled with his own sins - Psalm 109:18-20
  4. He will see God bless the one he cursed - Psalm 109:27-29.
  5. He will see evidence of God's care for the righteous and be even more ashamed - Psalm 86:17.
  6. He will see the good works of the one he cursed and be filled with even more anger - Psalm 112:9-10.
  7. God will clothe the wicked with dishonor - Psalm 35:24-26
  8. Eventually, God will shut their mouths - Psalm 107:40-43

### **IV. GOD UNCOVERS THE TRAPS OF THE WICKED**

- A. They continually stir up trouble - Psalm 140:2.
- B. They devise traps - Psalm 140:4.
- C. They do this to gain an advantage - Psalm 140:8.
- D. Evil will return to hunt the evil for every act of wickedness - Psalm 140:9-11.
- E. They fall into their own snares, while the righteous escape - Psalm 141:8-10
- F. When they are too strong for the righteous, God will break the snares for them Psalm 142:6-7
- G. God will show the wicked that they are mere men - Psalm 9:20
- H. God demonstrates His power over them - Psalm 35:4-8

## **V. GOD OVERTHROWS THE SECRET COUNSELS OF THE WICKED**

- A. They attack from concealment without fear of God - Psalm 64:2-4
- B. They encourage one another as they talk of their plans - Psalm 64:5
- C. They carefully perfect their plans - Psalm 64:6
- D. Just when they think their evil is working, God takes it apart - Psalm 64:7
- E. Suddenly, they are wounded and afraid and there is no one left to brag to - Psalm 64:8.
- F. Those who see and understand will declare it to be God's work - Psalm 64:9
- G. The righteous will be glad and trust in God - Psalm 64:10
- H. The Lord favors those who fear Him - Psalm 147:11.
- I. Some of the wicked can be brought to know the truth by means of the defeat of their plans - Psalm 83:16-18
- K. The wise will pay close attention to these things - Psalm 64:9, 107:43
- L. "No matter how hard evil tries, it can never quite match up to the power of good, because evil is ultimately self-destructive. Evil may set out to corrupt others, but in the process corrupts itself." (John Connolly)
- M. Psalm 2:1-4