

THE ENEMIES OF GOD - September 20, 2020

We're taking a couple of weeks to see what the book of Psalms says about sinful, evil, and wicked people, and we see that it's a major subject in this book. Now the main reason we want to look at this is because it affects everything in this sin-cursed world - your personal life, your family, your relationships, your health, the society, and our government.

Psalm 11. What do we learn? That the wicked don't like the righteous, and that's because they see the lives of the righteous, and it makes them feel guilty. And if the righteous speak to them about their sin, they hate them all the more and may try to hurt them. John 7:7 - But in this Psalm, we learn that God sees and examines the wicked. He knows exactly what they are doing, and how they are sinning against people, but ultimately against Him. When people sin, they are sinning against God, and God is the judge.

And God will judge them for their sin. It says, *"Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup."* This may relate to the Day of the Lord in the end-times and it may also be speaking of the eternal judgment, the lake of fire. Matt. 25:41, 46 - But the righteous, the believers, you and me, we will see Jesus' face, we have an eternal relationship with the Lord, and we will literally see Him in heaven.

Psalm 12. David was saying there weren't many godly people around. And that's what's happening in our country, in our world, for wickedness and evil are increasing. David talks about their speech, and says they are lying to one another, and flattering one another, that is, saying nice things about someone else to gain an advantage, but they're hypocritical, for they don't really mean what they're saying about the person. The sinners believed they could prevail, could get what they wanted by lying, by flattering people, by boasting. By their speech they could put down others so as to make themselves look good. And this happens all the time. Of course, now we see this with all the political ads now going out. It's really hard to believe many of the political ads, isn't it?

Then there's the wicked who strut about, which means they are proud, and think they are better than others. It says vileness, that evil is being exalted. And this is true in our country - it seems like sin is abounding, that people are emboldened, are more openly sinning, and are feeling like they can do whatever they want, and get away with it. It seems like no one cares anymore about what's right and wrong. There is freedom to do or say evil things. And we're supposed to tolerate people, to let people do what they want. But God's words are pure, and He will judge the wicked, and protect the righteous.

Psalm 14. We continue to learn about the wicked. And what is the main sin of a sinful person, of a person who is evil and is not saved?

- He says in his heart that there is no God. Now this can mean a couple of things. It can mean there is a person who actually believes there is no God, and says to people that there is no God, and we call this person an atheist. Rom. 1:18-32
- Or it can mean a person who may say with his words that there is a God, but he doesn't live like it. He may even be a church goer. But he doesn't pray to God, doesn't obey God, doesn't love God, and doesn't know and understand God. He doesn't have a relationship with God, for he is not a child of God, but instead is a child of Satan.

And this person is a fool, and he is corrupt in his heart, and he does evil deeds. He doesn't do good - now he may put on a front and do things that look good, but it's not coming from a godly heart, from a heart that trusts God. That is, he's a hypocrite.
- In essence then, he is not a worker of righteousness but a worker of wickedness. And God will put the evil person to shame, and he will be judged. Matt 23:25-28

Psalm 17. Here we learn that the hearts of the wicked are unfeeling, are calloused. Their consciences have been seared. They sin and do evil and don't even think about it, don't care, aren't ashamed, and don't even know it is evil. We read that they're violent, that is, they physically hurt people. They don't know how to be loving in their speech - they can't win an argument with their speech, and so they try to win by their violent actions. We see this in the riots on the streets. Proverbs

We read that these people are worldly. It says these people are *"men of the world whose portion is in this life, and whose belly You fill with Your treasure; they are satisfied with children, and leave their abundance to their babes."* All these people love their food, and are living for food, for that next meal. One of their main joys in life is going out to eat. They love their children, but their children are like idols, for they are not loving God. And when they die, all they have will be left to their children, for they won't take anything with them. Psalm 49:16-20, Phil. 3:18-19, Psalm 17:15

Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19. Here we learn that we need to pray for God to deliver us from our enemies, for God to protect us from evil people. And we see that evil people are too strong for us, but they are not too strong for God. Matt. 6:13
- Now in this church age, this doesn't mean you won't be persecuted, that you'll never encounter evil people, but we still need to pray, and ask God for protection. John 17:15

Psalm 22. This Psalm is mainly about Jesus when He was on the cross. It's interesting to see that Jesus refers to His enemies as animals. There were strong bulls who surrounded him, ravening and roaring lions, and packs of dogs and wild oxen. And these "*animals*" were vicious, cruel, violent, and wanted to kill Jesus.
- And they did kill Jesus. But God was sovereign over the death of Jesus, for He wanted Jesus to die so He could pay for people's sins, so we could be forgiven, so we could be made righteous, so we could be with God and Jesus in heaven someday. Acts 2:22-24

Psalm 27:1-3. Here are these people who opposed David, and he calls them evildoers, and adversaries, which means they were against him. He calls them a host, which is like an army. Then he speaks about war arising against him, which means lots of armies. And he wasn't afraid, but why?
- Psalm 27:4-7. David wasn't afraid because he trusted in the Lord; he prayed and was looking to the Lord, and focused on the Lord, and knew that the Lord would save him and protect him. Psalm 27:11-14. David then was depending completely on the Lord.

Psalm 28:3. We see that David is praying to the Lord, for he wants to be protected from his enemies. But notice that he says "*they speak peace with their neighbors, while evil is in their hearts.*" Enemies can be deceptive, can be very charming, can talk with a smooth tongue, with flattering speech. This is a lesson to you, that you can't just trust anyone you meet. Be wise, be discerning, be careful. Matt 7:15-17

Psalm 31. Again we read about David, and it says he had adversaries, and they were slandering him, and conspiring against him. And David had lots of enemies, and it wasn't because he was a bad person, but because he loved God so much. Oftentimes, the more you love and serve God, the more you'll be opposed by enemies. 2 Tim. 3:12. Psalm 31:7-8, 12-21. Again, you see that David trusted in the Lord, that he really believed that God would help him and deliver him.

Psalm 32:10-11. Here we learn that the wicked have sorrows. Evil people may look like they are doing good, but they have sorrows, they have problems, both inwardly and outwardly, and they're not experiencing God's love. But those who trust in the Lord are the righteous ones and are loved by the Lord. And they should be glad in the Lord, and rejoicing.

Psalm 35:1-3. David's enemies are fighting against him and he asks God to fight against them, for David knew only God could defeat his enemies. When you read about David, you see that he was involved in many battles and had many enemies, but he sought and trusted the Lord, for he knew that his enemy was too strong for him. 1 Sam. 18:14 - Psalm 35:4-9, 11-12, 20-21. We see that God used angels to defeat David's enemies. But notice how wicked and evil God's enemies, and now David's enemies, were. Never be surprised at how much the devil and his enemies hate God and His people. - Matt. 24:9. During the great tribulation, Christians and Jews will be greatly hated, but God will deal with them at the right time. Day of the Lord, Hades, Lake of Fire

Psalm 36. This Psalm contrasts the wicked with the righteous. In verses 1-4, 11-12, we read about the wicked. And they don't fear God, and therefore don't even detect their sin - they don't know when they sin. Therefore, they don't hate their sin, but rather, they love their sin. And therefore, they don't reject their sin, but are gladly doing it, and are often encouraging others to join with them in their sin, evil and wickedness. - Vss 5-9 tells us how much God loves the righteous, and that He will satisfy their lives, and will protect them from their enemy. Verse 12

Psalm 37. This Psalm relates to the Jews, and how God will defeat their enemies, and that in the end, they will inherit the land, a phrase mentioned four times. Vss 9, 22, 29, 34. But this is true for Christians as well. Matt. 5:3 - we will inherit the land. We will reign with Christ over the whole world during what's called the millennial kingdom. And we will be co-heirs with Christ in the eternal kingdom as well. - All the trouble we have with enemies during this life is small so compared to how we will be blessed in the future. And that's what God is telling us in Psalm 37. - Psalm 59:1-10, 13-17 - Romans 3:21-28