

4. By seeing the Kingdom behind the Individuals

- Our battle is not against flesh and blood but the powers of darkness which have enslaved them (Eph 6:12)

5. By understanding the Goal of Redemption

- Redemption, by definition is the rescue of creation which is under a curse. (Gal 3:10)
- Jesus bore the curses of the law (Gal 3:13)
- The curses stand as the instrument God uses to drive us to the cross (Romans 7:7, 13; Gal 3:24)

ONE OBJECTION ANSWERED

We are taught to love our enemies (Luke 6:27)

Yes. And how shall we do that biblically? (John 3:16)

- Love pursues the eternal welfare of others

In fact, the wickedness that brings down the curse in Psalm 109:4-5, was rejecting love. Love to God is seen in our allegiance to His Kingdom. It is a false tenderness which seeks to placate others by smooth words at the expense of declaring the whole counsel of God. Mercy warns, it never condones.

A final thought...

We all struggle to join with Israel and add our voices to the "Amen" of Deuteronomy 27. Jerome (3rd century AD) commented that when visitors came into his church, they were often frightened by the "Amen" given in accent to the New Covenant. It had the sound of thunder and made them shudder. We should shudder too, especially at the unspeakable horror of sin which brought about the curse.

The death and resurrection of Jesus purchased the **redemption of creation** so that we would be freed from the curse. The churches mission, and ours in prayer, is to pursue the redemption (not destruction) of the wicked. Amen!

The gospel preached (and not the sword wielded) is the merciful instrument that will drive men to the freedom of the Cross. Therefore, in view of the curse, preach the gospel. Amen!



SINGING THE PSALMS



JUDGEMENT IN THE PSALMS PART TWO

PRAYING THE HARD SAYINGS

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Col 3:16)

Singing the Psalms - Judgement in the Psalms

WHAT WE HAVE SAID SO FAR

- Judgement for sin is a necessary part of God's Covenant of Grace with all of Mankind.
- Jesus bore the curse of His enemies so as to redeem them.
- Those who reject this redemption remain under the curse.
- Without a judgement for sin Christ died in vein.
- We grant that the Psalmist, as an infallible witness, called down curses upon *God's* enemies in harmony with the Covenant. (Mk 12:36; Acts 1:16; 4:25)
- We are not infallible witnesses and must defer to scripture for instruction on how to pray.
- The people of God were also subject to these judgements and came under it's curses (Deut 27:15-26).
- Jesus called for the overthrow of the kingdom of darkness and taught His disciples to do the same.
- The goal of this overthrow being:
 - The removal the wicked
 - Redemption through repentance of the wicked
 - Fulfilment of the Covenant promises to His own
- The foundation for the Covenant is always Mercy (Ex 20:2; 34:6; Jer 31:33; Ja 2:13).

ALL OF LIFE IS COVENANTAL

If a man becomes a citizen of this country, he places himself under a Civilian Covenant with attendant blessings and penalties. If He pays his tax, he will be blessed with a refund. If he is fraudulent, he will go to jail. And if his family is assaulted he will call for the penalties of the Civil Covenant and demand justice (removal of the wicked) for the sake of those he loves.

Likewise, God's Covenant of Grace, with it's attend blessings and penalties is, in the final analysis, invoked upon law breakers as an act of love toward His children.

WE ARE SAVED FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW BY GRACE, THEREFORE:

- To pray for the blessings of the Covenant is to surrender all attempts to procure them by our own effort or merit and,
- To pray for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Darkness is to surrender all rights for personal vengeance.

HOW THEN SHALL WE PRAY?

1. With Gravity.

- Ironically, the bible calls down curses on those who love to curse from wicked motives (Ps 109:1-2, 16-18)
- We do not rejoice over personal injury (Prov 24:17)
- We are motivated and taught to pray for the goodness of God's Kingdom to prevail (Matt 6:10)

2. By asking God to deal with His Enemies.

Questions from Psalm 83

- Whose enemies are spoken of in verse 1-2?
- How have they revealed their opposition? (vs3)
- What is their intention? (vs4-8)
- Who will hand out the retribution? (vs1, 9-15)

3. By identifying the Purpose behind the Imprecation

What is the purpose of curse? (vs16-18)

THEREFORE,

We don't define the enemy, nor do we pray our personal vendetta's. Even under the Old Covenant this rule applied (Deut 32:35; Rom 12:19-21).

Our prayers are for the overthrow of opposition to the gospel in the hearts of people that they may turn and be saved.

While the concrete language of the Psalmist is often shocking, divine justice is the hope. Psalm 137:5-9 would sound appropriate if it read, "May God use alien warriors to bring the wicked, arrogant and oppressive Babylonian dynasty to an end", which is what it means. If Jerusalem is to reign, Babylon must go.