

G. How to Live With Your Enemies, Psalm 109

(a pressing problem, especially for those in the area of testimony....a number of distinctions must be made about the nature and character of enemies but the overall pattern seems understandable.)

1. Introductory notes on the Psalm

a. Outline:

- the situation, vss 1-5.
(The writer is surrounded by a group of thankless enemies)
- the prayer of imprecation, vss 6-20
(The writer asks vengeance on his enemies, life, goods, family, and reputation)
- the prayer of dependence, vss 21-31
(The writer in near total weakness casts himself on God for help and concludes that only His help is right or enough.)

b. Significant features:

- (1) Psalm 109 is one of the imprecatory or "our-sin" Psalms. It is one of the most strongly worded. Many liberal theologians have felt it unworthy of a place in the Bible and have felt its inclusion a blunder. Even more conservative brethren shrug their shoulders and feel it has little meaning. But nothing in God's Word is meaningless. It is our job to see what it means.
- (2) The prayer of imprecation overshadows the opening note on the conduct of the Psalmist. But the thoughtful student will see that before David says anything ill of the foe he has a clear testimony himself.
- (3) Vs. 8 is cited predictively or applicable at least to Judas Escariot in Acts 1:20.
- (4) Of this we can be sure, the Psalmist knows how to ask for vengeance, but he also knows who will execute it.

2. Our Message: In the presence of your enemies:

- a. Have a solid relationship with God.
- b. Give no cause for personal reproach.
- c. Love your enemies
- d. Do good for evil
- e. Ask God to honor His Word.

3. Some observations: