

Psalm 109

Written by K B Napier
Monday, 18 January 2021 11:39

When preparing a Sunday study, I use current examples that show the link between what scripture says and what modern life is like, with biblical answers. Invariably, this will incorporate political movements and figures at times. This is not done by searching through news items to find something suitable – God prompts me to use whatever examples are obvious at the time. They either arise spontaneously or they do not. How much closer can scripture get to what is happening today?

Verses 1-3

1.

(To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise;

2.

For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue.

3.

They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause.

David wrote this Psalm for the chief musician and choir leader to put into use. President Trump immediately came to mind here. He is certainly no Christian icon, but what is happening to him is perfectly described in this Psalm. Of course, it was written primarily by David about his own predicament, but we see how ancient situations are not unique in their application. This is the point of teaching scripture – so that readers and hearers can see how their lives intertwine with what God said thousands of years ago. There is nothing new under the sun! And no better solutions for mankind to note.

Many, both external to, and within, David's court, tried to undermine his rule (as other Psalms note); they were wicked and deceitful. They lied continuously about him even though his rule was for the greater good. He had to endure persistent and continuous hate, and fake friends attacked him at every opportunity with no reason whatever. Is this not what we now see, and have seen for four years, against president Trump? And not just him, but against every genuine Christian in the world? Apart from his approval of homosexuals, Trump's work and aims are

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good (in terms of politics), but even what is good is hated by those against him, in favour of extreme and communistic evils. And the same hate is now being aimed at all who dared to vote for him, as well as those in other countries who are believers in God. Trump may not be saved, but the same evils are cast in the face of him and genuine believers. Such is the work of the great accuser, Satan.

Trump is attacked because he wanted to get rid of political wickedness, but we are attacked simply for believing God: "For my love they are my adversaries". No other reason exists, except for their inward wrath against the one true Lord. David's answer was simple: "but I give myself unto prayer". This is our answer... constant prayer from a heart faithful and true to His laws and commands. No matter what happens to us, this must be our stance in life. Truth is truth – lies are not!

Verses 4-10

1.

For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.

2.

And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

3.

Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.

4.

When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin.

5.

Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

6.

Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow.

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7.

Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places.

The statement “For my love they are my adversaries” appears to be very odd. What is David really saying here? The word he uses is *‘ahabah*, meaning, in this text, human love towards other humans. That is, his enemies hate him though he shows them love and respect. It might surprise readers to know that the word for his human adversaries, in this text, is –

satan

(said

sar-tairn

); those who oppose, resist and act as adversaries.

The person we call Satan (capital S) is pronounced sar-tarn, so there is a slight difference in pronunciation. Though referring to the Satan we know of as the (chief) Devil, the meaning remains the same – an adversary who stands against God and/or persons or even nations. We can, then, use both – *satan* used for humans is the verb of the masculine noun for the Devil. There is no practical difference. This is why, in the New Testament, we can readily refer to a human who acts like the Devil as satanic or devilish. One acts because of the influence of the other.

Though these enemies, acting on behalf of their demonic master, live thus, David prays. He sees this as his only real defence. We must see this to be true in our own day... not campaigns, plans, or allegiances or human friends. In the USA, the country is about to be led by Democrats, who, throughout the Trump presidency, have acted demonically. In the rest of the West, we see the same demonic control being assumed in many guises – ‘the Green deal’, homosexuality, Islamism, refusal of politicians to represent those who voted for them, godless destruction of all that is godly and true, destroying children with lies and sexual evils... all of it coming from Satan. When human movements reject and blatantly ignore truth and facts, we know there is another influence at work, and not just human thinking. It is a removal of truth, replacing it with fantasy and previously-disproved hypotheses.

Today, these drastic and heinous actions take place because God has removed His presence for a while... but that ‘while’ may last a very long time. Is this, then, a reason to give up and

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become morose or afraid? No, it definitely is not! David simply relied on prayers to Almighty God! To become continually afraid and anxious is to give in to demonic influence; it rejects God's way, to trust Him. In many ways I see panic in the words and eyes of Christians as they see what is good being replaced by what is evil. This should never be the case. We are God's people, not meagre prisoners of our own humanity! We are warriors wearing the armour of righteousness, not cattle waiting to be slaughtered! **So – show it!**

David, then, gives himself over to prayer. Enemies of truth use bullets and human weapons. Christians, rightly perceiving the true cause of evil, simply use prayer, the unseen but more powerful weapon of God. (See my book on Prayer). In this text David uses a specific word for prayer (there are several others), *tephillah*. The word merely states that David enacts prayer in a general sense, but also in a psalmic sense. However, the verb version of *tephillah*

,
palal

, asks God to intervene, to intercede, to mediate a situation because He has judged a need for it. This tells us that while David could easily resort to charging his closest enemies (in his own court) with treason and putting them to death, he relied instead on God's judgments and what HE wished David to do. David chose the spiritual path.

Meanwhile, his enemies drove themselves into even more hatred, though he treated them with love and friendship (we see this in several other Psalms, when his closest friends turned out to be wolves in sheep's clothing). It is a fact that when an enemy is shown love or friendship it spurs them on to even worse hatred. We can discern this phenomenon in our own lives. It is as if hate and love are two different opposing magnetic poles... instead of being attracted to offered friendship the enemy turns the other way and increases his hatred. In itself this proves their demonic source.

So, those who hate God and David (and us) have a "wicked man over (them)" (verse 6). Satan stands at his right hand, prompting him to do evil and to hate. In my own life I have known this kind of hate towards me. In some cases, people have shown utter contempt and hatred to me even when I first stepped into their presence! The hate was on their faces, and their actions were continually oppositional. This is not normal - it is satanic. And the hate increased even when I showed equality and friendship. So, David and I are good housemates!

David then uses imprecatory prayer. Most Christians today are afraid of this kind of prayer, because it seeks to depose and maybe even destroy our enemies. Such Christians insist that we MUST 'love everybody', though this is not an idea founded on scripture. David, however,

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uses imprecatory prayer (verse 7) – let the enemy be judged and condemned; let his own prayers be deemed evil; let him live a short life and let someone else take his place in office. Today, Christians should use imprecatory prayer against our enemies, especially those who use their official office to destroy God’s word and people. This can be the only kind of prayer we should utter against present governments and other rulers. They cannot be sustained in their offices or ways when what they stand for is hate, lies and godless actions. The most odd thing to note is that while such misled Christians pray for the rulers outwardly in their hearts they know what they are praying is not meant in their hearts! Thus, they are not even truthful to their own selves.

What? Pray for the physical demise of an enemy? Where are we told to do that?! Try verses 7-9 for a start! “Let his days be few”, “Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow”! These are plain words seeking the death of an enemy.

Furthermore, let the wicked man’s children always be “vagabonds”, *nuwa’*, who will never reach positions of authority or influence. They should be subdued as a penalty for their fathers’ sins of hatred and subterfuge, continually thrown aside and about in their lives, never to gain anything good. No doubt some who read this will feel sick to their stomach as cherished thoughts of always praying for the wellbeing of foul rulers is in their minds, despite these very clear rebukes. David writes from God, and God Himself therefore says of such enemies, “let (them) be condemned”. Do you have the courage to accept these words from God? If not – why?

Verses 11-16

1.

Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour.

2.

Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children.

3.

Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

4.

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Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.

5.

Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

6.

Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart.

In the USA today, Democrats especially are enemies of the people and of God, but their evils extend to their own kind, like ravenous wild animals who turn on their own members. This is the nature of the godless, and we see it playing out even as I write this comment. They do not support each other out of kindness or love, but are ready to kill, maim or destroy them at will, such is the evil heart. They support each other because they all want the same wicked, sinful goals of satanic beings... but that support evaporates if there is the merest hint of opposition. And belief in God and scripture is a BIG threat to their evils.

This is why Christians in particular are to be cast aside and crushed. But, God says to let extortioners obtain everything they can from the wicked ones. Let the same criminals who the enemy themselves are, act against them. Let thieves eat thieves! Do not show mercy to such evil people (even though this is what modern Christians do all the time). And do not show mercy to the evil person's children. Still reading this with disgust or condemnation? Again, ask yourselves why! It is God's own word!

I have said many times that Christians should not send charitable money to Islamic countries, even if it is to be used for children. David speaks against this false love for an enemy, because he speaks from Jehovah. DO NOT show mercy to the enemy, DO NOT show mercy to his children. Let his children be few (verse 13) and "cut off" and let them be "blotted out" so the current generation does not live. These are very powerful words from God against an enemy, words that most Christians today will find repugnant... but beware, for what you refer to as repugnant is from God! The question must be asked – should we follow this condemnation by God, or act differently? If differently, on what basis?

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An enemy of David (or of God) deserves no recognition or help. Rather, bear witness to the sins of the enemy, as a warning to others; and let the mother who bears his children, knowing his sins, also be remembered as an enemy. God remembers their evils and will ensure their memory is “cut off (in the) memory)”. Why? Because, as enemies, they did not themselves show mercy; they persecuted the poor and needy, and killed the “broken in heart”. This is what jihadists are doing every day in many parts of the world. Such should be blotted out not just in memory but in action. Make no mistake, David is telling us what God is saying. And what He says is not how we act today. Instead, Christians give a fake love and support for enemies, so bringing God’s condemnation upon their own heads. If a Christian is to show love for an enemy, it must ONLY be on an individual basis, shown to him by the Holy Spirit in an unmistakable way. And, we are NOT free to accept any sins they commit. Anything else is spiritual treason.

Verses 17-20

1.

As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him.

2.

As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.

3.

Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually.

4.

Let this be the reward of mine adversaries from the LORD, and of them that speak evil against my soul.

Until about the 1970s swearing in public was uncommon. Men who swore thought it to swear in front of a woman! Then, a trickle of it started, quickly turning into a raging river. Nowadays, swearing, even of the worst kind, is heard everywhere, in the home, the workplace, the stores,

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the street... and it is not unusual for people to insert a foul word in between other normal words so a sentence is filled with horrible utterances. It is also on TV, even in mid-day programmes, and we can hear small children use the very same foul language. The ten o'clock 'watershed' soon became the nine o'clock... and now it has almost disappeared as swearing is used in just about everything. I cringe every time I hear it. David must have felt the same way.

People curse so easily! And they have no problem making the name of Christ or God part of their foul language. Worse still, they think nothing of their words no matter how sickening they are to saved souls... indeed, they love the reaction. And when such people speak, every other word a curse word, they make the atmosphere foul, too. But, almost everyone else says the same things, so they have no qualms; "he loved cursing" so let him live in his own foul atmosphere, like rotten flesh continuing to rot in a pit of evil. For him it is acceptable and normal, but those with sanctified heart and mind shudder every time he speaks. With such evil language there is no blessing. It is as far from him as the west from the east. Cursing is so natural to him it is like a garment he puts on to walk amongst decent men. So natural it is like water to the body and oil to his bones. That the water is contaminated and the oil stale makes no difference, because foul people live in a foul way; they are used to it.

The ways and thoughts of evil men come from an evil heart. It is what they enjoy and practice. It is as grubby and wicked as can be expected, making the very air they breathe corrupt and stinking. How could any Christian live that way, or be amongst the evil ones? It is not possible without becoming corrupt themselves. It saddens me that social workers who work continually with unsaved clients stay at their posts... they are immersed in the foul language and sinful thinking and practices of their clients. This WILL affect them!

They can go home and pray or attend their churches, but the stinking mess they work in will erode their souls. This is because God commands us NOT to be amongst such people, or to help them. There is no point whatever in 'helping' the unsaved in evil situations which they themselves create or live in, because they are unsaved! Helping such to continue in their corrupt state is against God and reason. It is a lost cause. As verse 20 tells us, God has given them their horrible, corrupt circumstances as a reward for their sins! They will and do turn against their helpers, even if the helpers believe they are doing what is right. It is what sinners do. What are Christians doing, helping those God says are corrupt, when their circumstances are SENT by Him as a penalty? It means those Christians are working against God's judgments and thus are opposing His will. What might seem 'good' then becomes what is evil in God's eyes. As I have said before, some jobs are not possible for Christians. To do them is to commit sin. Yes, these are very heavy words, but they are necessary in days when Christians deny or defy God's commands.

Verses 21-27

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1.

But do thou for me, O GOD the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me.

2.

For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.

3.

I am gone like the shadow when it declineth: I am tossed up and down as the locust.

4.

My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness.

5.

I became also a reproach unto them: when they looked upon me they shaked their heads.

6.

Help me, O LORD my God: O save me according to thy mercy:

7.

That they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, LORD, hast done it.

So, those who are unsaved and/or doing evil against us, receive their reward from God – bad circumstances. We have no business helping such people. David looks at what his enemies are doing and asks God to deal with him in the opposite way: “But do thou for me, O God the Lord... deliver thou me”!

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David asks God to be with him because of Who God is... “*Jehovih* (Jehovah) the ‘Adonay’; the latter is a title not a name, used to show reverence for Yahweh. David, after speaking of the evil nature of his enemies asks God to show him mercy, because of Who God is and because it is God’s nature to help His own. His mercy is good, and David relies on it to deliver him. The word ‘deliver’, *natsal*, has the meaning of a sudden snatching away from the danger, a swift rescue. Very often, when we feel we are in dire straits, God waits and then acts at the last moment, probably to show that all our own efforts are in vain... He can deliver or save us in the blink of an eye. The very swiftness and completeness proves Who has saved us.

Despite being king, David does not pretend to be all-powerful. Here he falls on his knees in submission, admitting his errors and sins, and seeking with all his heart for God’s aid. David is poor and needy, even amidst his worldly wealth and power. His heart is wounded. On other occasions he groans that even his closest friends stab him in the back. As king he is isolated and maligned even by those he has given much to. This is what ‘friends’ are really like when they are unsaved.

His sinner-grief causes him to become like a mere shadow of himself. In public he is the epitome of strength and power, but in his room he is filled with fears and woe. And even as a shadow he is diminishing! He is like the locust that is shaken away from clothes and plants, as if of no use at all. Have you ever felt like this? I have. David evidently fasted many times and he says that in the weakness that follows fasting, he loses weight and strength.

Such was his anxiety, others looked upon him and shook their heads. Here was the king, losing weight and looking in low mood. How easy it is to be critical when we have no responsibility! The king had to combat both external enemies and enemies amongst those who pretended to be his friends. He was alone. Those who murmured did not help at all, but were more like Job’s friends! David needed for others to see God’s hand on him, that they may know it was God, not human help.

Verses 28-31

1.

Let them curse, but bless thou: when they arise, let them be ashamed; but let thy servant rejoice.

2.

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Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

3.

I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude.

4.

For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

David calls on the Lord to bless him even when he is cursed by enemies. Let them be struck down in the midst of their cursing and evils, with disconcerting and disappointing circumstances, so David can rejoice. It is true that when we are under constant attack from enemies, it is good now and then to see them fall by the hand of God in this life, that we might rejoice.

The adversaries should be "clothed in shame"! When they act against us, let them be totally shattered and dispersed, wearing their evils and 'rewards' like a cloak. And in all this, David wants to praise God in his own room as well as before the public. David could do so because God is intimately with those who are poor in spirit, such as David, saving them from enemies who condemn their souls.

This is for us today, as we enter into the last days, fearful and not knowing what the near future holds. Like David we will be afraid, but also like David let us praise God constantly and seek His divine help and encouragement, even when the enemy and bad circumstances surround us like a dark cloud. Amen

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