

**Psalm 58 — “Praying for the Punishment of the Wicked!”**

“This psalm is a bold protest against unrighteous judges” (JJ Stewart Perowne)

“Men are not sinners because they choose to sin; they choose to sin because they are sinners.”  
(Walter Chantry)

★ **We are living in Dark & Depraved days. - a ‘crooked and perverse generation’ (Phil 2.15)**

- Psalm 58 is one of the seven imprecatory psalms (Psalms 6, 35, 58, 69, 83, 109 and 137).
- 4 simple introductory thoughts on this song of vengeance:
  - 1) it is **INSPIRED**
  - 2) it is **IMPORTANT**
  - 3) it is **COMMUNAL**
  - 4) it is **MEMORABLE**

**THESIS** — DAVID PRAYS FOR THE PUNISHMENT, THE DESTRUCTION, THE DOWNFALL, THE DOOM OF THE WICKED — the corrupt leaders.

> *David exposes their evil & prays for their downfall.*

1) the **Grave iniquity** of the wicked (1-5) (*the rebellion*)

2) the **God-oriented imprecation** on the wicked (6-11) (*the retribution*)

**I. THE GRAVE INIQUITY OF THE WICKED (1-5)**

★ *THIS IS THE \*REBELLION\**

Defied (v.1)

Described (v.2-5)

**II. THE GOD-ORIENTED IMPRECATION ON THE WICKED (6-11)**

★ *THIS IS THE \*\*RETRIBUTION\*\**

★ What is an **Imprecation**: it is a curse, a prayer of judgment to fall upon God's enemies.

**A. Imprecation on evildoers (6-9)**

5 graphic pictures of judgment (v.7-9)

1. **Runaway water**
2. **Headless arrows**
3. **Slow destruction**
4. **Premature death**
5. **Great whirlwind**

**B. Anticipation of believers (v.10-11)**

**1. *The Greatest Example of Evil Rulers & Injustice!*** Rejection of & trials from those who Crucified Christ!

**2. *Your Glad Hope!*** God's Wrath averted toward you; Christ quenched it in your stead!

Note: God is a righteous God who *will* Judge.

- **That God is a Righteous Judge who *WILL* Judge** is also well known in Scripture:
  6. **Psalm 135:14** For the LORD will judge His people and will have compassion on His servant.
  7. **Ezekiel 33:20** "O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."
  8. **Ecclesiastes 3:17** I said to myself, "God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man," for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.
  9. **Acts 17:31** Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.
  10. **Romans 2:16** On the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.
  11. **Hebrews 13:4** Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the *marriage bed is to be* undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
  12. **1 Peter 4:5** But they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
- **Mitchell Dahood writes:** "*God still governs the world and will vindicate the just man*".

*John Piper gives a sample way to pray this prayer in our modern day (in the realm of the evils of abortion):*

We Pray: "*Knock the fangs out of their mouths, O Lord (v. 6). May they disburse like water running away (v. 7a). May their machetes be dull and never find their mark (v. 7b). May the rising sun melt them like a snail, too slow to do its deadly work (v.8a). May they arrive at the house of the innocent like a stillborn child (v. 8b). O God, save the poor from the violence of the wrong.*"

And what if God answers? What if, by some amazing intervention, instead of dismembered babies, the violent themselves lie fallen in the street?

What will the righteous do? They will rejoice (v. 10).

"This rejoicing must not spring from malice, nor from gratified impatience. It must be that God is honored, innocence vindicated, wickedness put down, and the cause of truth rendered triumphant!" (William Plumer)

Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing. What will some of you do when you get to heaven, if you go on grumbling all the way? Do not hope to get to heaven in that style. But now begin to bless the name of the Lord.

— Charles Spurgeon

## PSALM 58: PSALTER

*Tune: "Dear refuge of my weary soul"*

You rulers, do you speak what's just? Judge rightly among men?

No, in your heart's unrighteousness, violence is in your hand.

The wicked go astray from birth; speak lies right from the womb;

Their words like venom of a snake that sends you to the tomb.

Their venom's like a cobra who will stop its ear so well,

That it can't hear the charmer's voice, or caster of a spell.

O God, come shatter all their teeth, let their mouths speak no more;

Break out the fangs of lions, God, and shut their mouths, O Lord.

Let them be like the water that runs off and flows away;

When they shoot arrows, let them be made dull along the way.

Like slugs that melt, like stillborn birth that never sees the sun

Before pots feel the heat of thorns, they're swept away and gone.

The righteous will rejoice when they God's vengeance do observe;

They'll wash their feet in blood of wicked ones who did truth spurn.

Then men will say, "Now we can see the fruit of righteousness;

There surely is a God who'll judge the earth in faithfulness."

*Words: Timothy and Julie Tennant; Seedbed; permission granted for public worship*

*Music: "Dear refuge of my weary soul", Matt Merker, 2010*