

Psalm 64:1-10

Introduction

We often talk a lot about that which is happening in our lives. This was so for King David. The fact that he mentions his enemies so often gives us some idea of how many enemies he had and what his life, as the king of Israel, was like.

The descriptions of David's adversaries teach us about the kind of opposition we, as Christians, can expect to face in this world. We also learn what to do in such circumstances in turning to God as an ever-present help in time of trouble.

Summary

In Psalm 64, David denounces his evil oppressors, yet it is only God who can save him, reminding us that when God alone is our refuge, Christians may appeal to the Lord in prayer and find safety.

1. Voiced Complaint vs. 1

The psalm begins by David asking God to hear his complaint.

The idea is that of a legal appeal: David files a complaint in the court of heaven, seeking redress from those who are doing him harm.

What do we do when in a similar situation?

Retaliation is not only wrong (**Rom. 12:19; 21**), it is particularly ineffective in the specific circumstances here; that of secret slander. So David does the only wise and effective thing, and that is to bring his complaint to God.

We would be wise to do the same (**1 Peter 5:7**).

2. Analyzed Enemies vv. 2-6

These verses, vv. 2-6, provide an insightful analysis of David's wicked enemies.

First, we see the particular nature of their wickedness: the "secret plots" or a "conspiracy" (**Psalm 64:2**).

Secondly, we see the weapons that are used by David's wicked enemies (**64:3**). The weapons deployed here are words.

Thirdly, the methodology of David's wicked enemies was secret, sudden assaults (**Psalm 64:4**). The key word here is suddenly.

Fourthly, David documents the thoughts of his enemies (**Psalm 64:5-6**):

- The gloating of the wicked, when certain of the success of their conspiracy
- The mental effort they invest in their wicked plans.

3. Sudden Intervention vv. 7-9

Opposed by such a sudden and deadly assault, David realized that he had no hope apart from the intervention of God.

In verse 7, David celebrates God's ability to strike more effectively in defending his people than his enemies can strike in attacking them, loosing arrows more suddenly than the shafts that flew from those who plotted so carefully.

David anticipates that God will suddenly and swiftly turn the tables on the enemy.

Psalm 64 describes the redemption of God's people: particularly focusing on the Lord's sudden appearing with power to save.

The past examples of God's sudden interventions warn us of the coming final judgment promised in Scripture (**1 Thess. 5:2-3**).

Three important lessons:

First, the folly of thinking that God does not know what we think and plan in secret. **Heb. 4:13**

Secondly, God often strikes in judgment by employing the sinner's own weapons against him.

Thirdly, God is perfectly able to judge all sin just as He is perfectly able to protect and preserve His children.

4. Celebrated Refuge vs. 10

What can we do about the problem of God's knowledge of our sin and his perfect ability to judge us?

The wrong answer is to attempt some moral reformation of our own.

The right answer is found in vs. 10; the sinner escapes from God by taking refuge in God.

David concludes this psalm, "Let all the upright in heart exult!" (**Psalm 64:10**).

He exults in the righteousness he received through faith in Christ and His Gospel.

David found a refuge great enough for everyone who needs forgiveness for his or her sins. Through faith in Christ, the sinner may be declared upright before God, justified in the righteousness of Christ.

Declared just before God through faith, David no longer feared the slander of the world and its evil scheming, but gloried in the gospel grace of God.