

Psalm 5

Title: Prayer for Judgment Upon the Wicked

Author and Date: David

Key Verse: Psalm 5:10

Outline

- A. Hear me: the prayer of the psalmist (verses 1-3).
- B. Separate me: the righteous God of the psalmist (verse 4-7).
- C. Lead me: the worship of the psalmist (verse 8).
- D. Vindicate me: the indignation of the psalmist (verses 9-10).
- E. Defend me: the joy of the psalmist (verses 11-12).

Notes

Title: “For the Chief Musician; with the Nehiloth. A Psalm of David.” For the reference to the “Chief Musician”, see the notes on Psalm 4. The “Nehiloth” is a musical term meaning to play with wind instruments or it could be the name of a wind instrument such as a flute (see “for the flutes”, RSV).

Verse 1: “My meditation” is literally “my groaning” (NSAV, ESV, etc). See also Psalm 39:3. The Lord hears even our inward groanings (Rom. 8:26ff).

Verse 3: “In the morning will I order...” (NASV, ASV) refers to an orderly argument presented by the psalmist in prayer form (see “I will present my case to you,” NET Bible).

Verse 7: “Fear” means to worship in reverence and awe (NASV, NIV, NLT, etc). “Lovingkindness” (Heb. *hesed*) is a very common word in the psalms and refers to God’s steadfast love, mercy, goodness, and kindness toward his people. “House” and “holy temple” are not references to Solomon’s temple. “House” is a reference to the tabernacle (Ex. 23:19; 1 Sam. 1:9) and “holy temple” to God’s throne in heaven (Psa. 11:4).

Verse 9: A portion of this verse is quoted by Paul in Romans 3:13 to make his point that all have sinned, both Jew and Gentile.

Verse 10: This psalm is the first of many imprecatory psalms – “Hold them guilty...”

Questions

1. What does the psalmist request of the Lord and what does he promise to do in the morning (verses 1-3)?

2. What kind of people does God abhor and reject (verses 4-6)?
3. What does the psalmist promise to do “toward thy holy temple” (verse 7)?
4. What does the psalmist request of the Lord because of his enemies (verse 8)?
5. How does the psalmist describe his enemies (verse 9)?
6. What does the psalmist want God to do to his enemies (verse 10)?
7. What are the righteous called upon to do and what blessings do they have from the Lord (verses 11-12)?

Applications for Today

1. Go to God in prayer in times of distress (verses 1 and 2). What are Christians to do with their anxieties and cares (1 Pet. 3:12; 5:7)?
2. Don't start your day with sin, pride, selfishness, or scheming. Start the day off right by going to God in prayer in the morning before you do anything else (verse 3). Morning prayer is to the day what the rudder is to the ship. When did Jesus pray (Mk. 1:35)?
3. Watch and pray (verse 3). What do Jesus (Mt. 26:41) and Paul (Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2) recommend regarding prayer?

4. The Lord abhors the wicked and does not tolerate evil and we must do the same (verses 4-6). What is God's attitude toward the wicked (Prov. 6:16-19; Mt. 7:23; 25:41)? What attitude must Christians have toward evil (Rom. 12:9)?

5. Lies and deceit are sins of the tongue. When people lie about you, continue to trust in God (verses 6 and 9). What sins of the tongue must Christians put away (Eph. 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:1-2)?

6. We must come in fear (respect) when we come to worship the Lord (verse 7). What does the Hebrew writer say about the Christian's attitude toward God (Heb. 12:28)?

7. When we are surrounded by wickedness, keep praying and keep coming to worship (verses 1-3, 7). What admonition does the Hebrew writer give Christians (Heb. 10:24-25)?

8. Let us always be willing to be led by God in righteousness (verse 8). How does God lead us (Psa. 27:11; 43:3; 143:10)?

9. Wicked people are deceitful and God will hold them accountable (verses 9-10). What does Paul say about deceitful people (Rom. 3:9-20)?

10. Let us always be willing to be led by God in righteousness (verse 8). How does God lead us (Psa. 27:11; 43:3; 143:10)?

11. Rejoice in the Lord always because the Lord is your protector (verses 11-12). What admonition does Paul give Christians (Phil. 4:4-6)?