

Equipping Night

January 24, 2024

Tonight's Topic: *What Do We Do With the Imprecatory Psalms?*

1. Imprecatory Psalms in their original context

(Psalm 137)

- a. Not a prayer for personal vengeance, but a cry for God to act and keep his promises.

2. Imprecatory Psalms in light of the New Testament

- a. The NT is never embarrassed of the Imprecatory Psalms (Psalm 69 is the 2nd most quoted psalm in the NT)
- b. The NT has its own Imprecations too (Matt 23, 26; Gal 1:8-9; Rev 6:9-10)
- c. The NT provides safeguards to not abuse these prayers (Matt 5:38-44, Luke 9:51-56)
- d. Romans 12:19 shows us how to reconcile loving our enemies with God's wrath

3. Imprecatory Psalms in the Church Today

- a. We learn from them. They tell us about God.
- b. We imply them in our prayers more often than we think ("Thy Kingdom Come")
- c. We pray them, with caution
 - i. Never for Personal Revenge
 - ii. Pray for the Persecuted Church

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Discussion Questions

1. What is something helpful you learned about imprecatory psalms in their original context?
2. What is something helpful you learned about how the New Testament views imprecatory Psalms?
3. What is something helpful you learned about how Christians might use the imprecatory psalms today?
4. What is something you are still wrestling with or unsure about regarding the imprecatory psalms?
5. How might you incorporate these kind of psalms into your prayer life?

Prayer Time

Spend time praying together in your group for the following:

1. For the Persecuted Church
2. For God's justice towards those who are oppressed
3. For God to thwart Satan's schemes
4. For Christ's Return

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