

# WAR PSALMS OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE

## Psalm 139

*God's kingdom cannot come without Satan's kingdom being destroyed. God's will cannot be done in earth without the destruction of evil. Evil cannot be destroyed without the destruction of men who are permanently identified with it. Instead of being influenced by the sickly sentimentalism of the present day, Christian people should realize that the glory of God demands the destruction of evil. Instead of being insistent upon the assumed, but really non-existent, rights of men, they should focus their attention upon the rights of God. Instead of being ashamed of the Imprecatory Psalms, and attempting to apologize for them and explain them away, Christian people should glory in them and not hesitate to use them in the public and private exercises of the worship of God.*

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**Some material adapted from James E. Adams,  
War Psalms of the Prince of Peace (Phillipsburg: P&R, 1991).**

I. **COVENANTAL CONTEXT:** Worshipping anything besides God makes you His enemy

The "main" imprecatory psalms: 35, 58, 69, 83, 109, 137, 139

- 58 – against wicked rulers who misuse their God-given authority
- 35, 69, 109 – against brazen evildoers who reject God
- 83, 137, 139 – against the persecutors of God's covenant people

What about the New Testament? Just a few examples:

- Mark 3:5 – Jesus' anger and grief at Israel's hardness of heart
- Matthew 23 – Woes to the Pharisees: "sons of Hell" "blind fools" "hypocrites"
- Gal 1:8-9 – Anathema, literally "go to Hell, be eternally condemned"
- 2 Tim 4:14-15 – Alexander's retribution for harming Paul's witness

What are we to understand here? What is the common thread? *A Zeal for God*

II. **CHRISTOLOGICAL CONTEXT:** Jesus Christ is the Lord of all the Psalms

Christ is the Speaker (Ps 6:8//Matt 7:23; Jn 15:25//Ps 35:18; Heb 10:5ff)

Christ is the Savior (Ps 83:16; Matt 21:43-44//Ps 137:9)

Christ is the Judge (2 Thess 1:5-12)

III. **CULTURAL CONTEXT:** The Principles of the OT Imprecatory Psalms remain relevant

Pray for Jesus' kingdom to advance in all the world.

Pray for the conversion of the wicked and evildoer.

Pray for justice.

Pray for your own renewed faith and repentance (Ps 139:23-24).