

THE EVIL AND WICKED – September 13, 2020

We are going through the book of Psalms and are looking at some important topics. Our subject today is about people who are sinful, are evil, or are even very wicked, and are therefore enemies of God, and oftentimes then your enemies. Now I have to make a correction about something I said two weeks ago. I told you that praising the Lord is the single biggest subject in the book of Psalms, but it's not. It's this subject of sinners, of people who are enemies of God. When I began studying this area a couple of weeks ago, I was surprised by how big a subject it is. Close to 60% of the chapters had something to say about sin, which means it's very important, something God wants us to understand.

Now I want to look at a number of Psalms that talk about this subject, but first I want to make a number of statements about it.

1. There are degrees of sinfulness. Much of what we read in the book of Psalms is about those who are very evil, who are wicked. Now you all know non-Christians, and they are all sinful, but some are more sinful than others. 1 Tim. 1:20, 2 Tim 2:17, Rom. 1:28.

Some people are depraved, or as we have said, out of their minds, spiritually speaking. You read about some mass killer and he has lost his mind, he is crazy, he is insane.

2. The Bible tells us that there are degrees of judgment in hell, and that those who are very wicked will be judged more severely in hell than those who are not. Hitler

3. Those who are our enemies, are also, and more importantly, enemies of God.

It's important to know that your enemies, first and foremost, are enemies of God.

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you." John 15:18

4. God is the one who will judge and punish your enemies. That is, it's not up to you.

Sometimes we get angry and mad at those who are our enemies, but we need to know that they are God's enemies too, and He will deal with them, and deal with them justly.

Rom. 12:20 *"Never take your own revenge... 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay', says the Lord."*

5. The final judgment of all the sinners is described in Rev. 20:11-15. From the least to the greatest, they will be judged, and then cast into the lake of fire. Matt. 25:46

6. Some of what we read in Psalms relates to the sinfulness of an individual, but other passages relate to the sinfulness of nations. Psalm 9:19-20. And God will judge both sinful nations and sinful people. But our focus today is on the sinfulness of individuals.

7. We see that sinners can get worse and worse. Romans 1 talks about this, and

2 Tim 3:13 talks about this too. And nations can get more sinful too, and we are seeing this in our own country in the past 50-60 years.

8. Right now we live in what's called the evil age, a time period that began with the sin of Adam and Eve in Gen 3. Gal. 1:4. And it's the devil who is now the ruler of this world. 1 John 5:19

9. Much of the evil that we see relates to the devil and his work in the life of a person, or in a city, state or country. Now when we talk about a person who is a sinner, the sinner can't blame the devil for his sin. But what we do know is that the devil tempts people to sin, to do what is wrong. Rev. 2:9, 13

10. God is sovereign over sin, and it is hard to understand this, but it is true. This doesn't mean God is responsible for sin, for that would make Him a sinner, but He's not a sinner, but He's sovereign, meaning He could stop the sin. Acts 2:24, 4:27-28

11. God protects us from sinners and evil people. We should never worry about sinners, and how they may try to hurt us - we need to know that God is our heavenly Father, and we are His children, and He loves and protects us much more than we could ever realize, and we should be encouraged by this fact. 2 Tim. 4:17-18

12. We know God protects us, but it's important to pray for God's protection. John 17:15 That is, we don't want to be naïve or foolish, and think we can do whatever we want. Not only that, but God will often allow us to get into trouble and suffer the consequences of our sin, our foolishness.

Let's now look at some Psalms that talk about sin, evil and wicked people. Psalm 1. This talks about the wicked, the scoffers, the sinners, and one reason they are evil is because they wrongly influence others, particularly the naïve. Stumble. Sinners don't love God's words, and therefore don't listen to or read His word. They listen to and love the words of men, and specifically, the words of sinful men. Sinners are like chaff, and will be judged by God and found guilty of their sins. Sinners won't be in heaven, in the assembly of the righteous, but will perish, will be in hell, and will be there forever and ever.

Psalm 2. We learn that sinners are against God and Christ, are opposed to Them. Sinners don't want God to have authority over their lives – they want to *"tear their fetters apart."* Sinners want to be in charge, they want to control their own lives, and they don't want God telling them what to do. Sinners are supposed to worship God, to fear Him, but they worship themselves or other people or things. Sinners need to realize that God is angry at them, and will terrify them, and will judge and pour out His wrath upon them if they don't repent of their sins. Sinners who oppose God will realize when they die how much God hates sin, and hates their sin, and that they will then be punished for it. J. Edwards, Heb. 10:31

Psalm 5:4-6, 9-10. What do we learn from this Psalm? We see that no evil can dwell with God, for He is holy and perfect and sinless. We learn that God hates evil and all who are sinning, those who are deceitful, those who are liars, those who are boastful, those who are proud, those who are violent and shed blood. It says sinners will be destroyed, or we can say, will perish. It says you can't trust what sinners say, that their throat is an open grave, for what comes out of their mouth comes from a heart that's evil, that's spiritually dead, that's spiritually disgusting. We read that their *"inward part is destruction itself."*

God will declare these people who rebel against Him as guilty and will judge them. But one more thing about sinners, and we read this a lot in the book of Psalms, and it says, *"By their own devices they fall."* That is sinners fall into their own traps, are trapped by their own sin. They roll a stone and it will roll back on them. If they try to hurt someone, then oftentimes they will be hurt in the same way. Haman

Psalm 7. We read that the enemy comes after the righteous, the enemy wants to hurt believers. It says, *"He will tear my soul like a lion."* And it's not just that they want to physical hurt us, but to spiritually hurt our soul, our spirit. What we also see in this Psalm is that we need to pray to God for deliverance, and trust Him to protect us from sin and from sinners. And this theme of praying to God for help is found all over the Psalms. When it comes to evil doers and sinners, you can't fight them, you have to trust God to fight them for you. Psalm 18:3-4, 17

Vss. 6-10. And so you need to pray that evil comes to an end, and it will, and it is God who will bring it to an end, and in His own time, not in your time. And when it comes to the government and politics, you may get upset or worried about some situation, and you may think about what you can do to stop the evil, but you need to be praying, and asking God to help you in whatever situation you are in.

Vss 11-16. Now God is the judge, and He has indignation every day. God sees all the evil every day. If people don't repent of their sin and turn to Him, then God will oppose them. Sometimes we see God judging people in this life, but for sure, God will judge the unrepentant sinner after his life on earth, for then the sinner will pay for all his sins.

Psalm 9. Vss. 1-2. David is thankful and is praising God, and why? Because he knows that God is a judge, a righteous judge, and that He will judge the enemies, and in fact, this chapter talks a lot about how God judges entire nations.

- Vss. 7-8. We see that God's throne is established for judgment. God isn't just sitting around doing nothing, and He's not acting on behalf of the believers. His eye is also on the unrighteous, and He will execute judgment on individual people, and upon the entire world. Gen 6-8., Rev. 8-9

Vss. 5-6. And so God rebukes nations, entire nations. And right now I believe God is judging this nation, and a lot of the bad things we see happening in our country relate to His judgment of us for our sins, our pride, greed, immorality, and our lack of love and respect for one another. And we read that their name is blotted out forever. This doesn't mean that unbelievers go out of existence after their life on earth.

- Vs. 6 says they come to an end in perpetual ruins, which means unending ruin, unchanging ruin, eternal ruin. Vs. 17

- Vs 9. As for us, we need to remember that God is our stronghold, our refuge in times of trouble. We need to seek Him and trust Him, and He will help us and deliver us.

Psalm 10. This says a lot about the character and work of the sinner. Let me summarize it. It says the wicked are proud. It says they boast of their heart's desires. It says they are greedy, that they curse, they deceive, and they don't seek God. It says they plot mischief and wickedness, that they plan to do evil. It says they believe there is no God. It says they don't believe they can be moved, can be stopped from doing what they want to do. And even if there is a God who exists, then God forgets what they do, or He doesn't see what they do. And even if God does see their sin, they don't believe He will judge their sin.

Vss. 14-15. But God does see the wickedness and will judge the sinners.

We also see that God will help the needy, the orphan, and the unfortunate.

- Vs. 16-17. Indeed, the Lord is a King forever. And again, we see that He judges the nations, and the individual sinner. But He is kind and merciful to those who are humble, to the orphan and the oppressed.

God now rules in the heavens, and in the future, in the millennial kingdom, we will see Him as King over the entire earth. Psalm 47. And we know He is a judge but not forever, for the final judgment will take place at the Great White Throne Judgment, which takes place at the end of the millennial kingdom. At that time, all sinners from all time will be thrown into the lake of fire, but all the righteous will be with God and Christ in the eternal kingdom. Rev. 20:15, 21:1-4