

By Steven J. Hogan

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The subject of God's enemies, of people who hate God and therefore hate you must be understood (John 15:18-21). It's imperative that you know what God says about sinners who are against Christians. You don't want to be naïve with regards to this subject. In the end-times, the enemies' opposition to Christians will increase, culminating in the great tribulation, the last years of this age when the Antichrist is ruling the world and persecuting Christians. Thankfully, those days of suffering will not last very long, and then Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, will gloriously return to rapture the church. Matt. 24:9, 21-22, 29-31

For this study of our enemies, I'm looking at the Psalms because it is so extensive in what it says about them. *Over 80 Psalms* speak of these evil sinners, of who they are, what they are doing, and how we are to get the victory over them. *"O give us help against the adversary, for deliverance by man is in vain. Through God we shall do valiantly, and it is He who will tread down our adversaries"* (Ps. 60:11-12). In today's post I am looking at several Psalms that

describe our enemies and God's judgment of them.

Psalm 2:1-3 - *"Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed One, saying, 'Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their deeds from us!'"* Evil rulers are opposed to and are working together against God the Father and His Son - they do not want to be under His control. These truths from Ps. 2 are present day realities - devilish nations are now uniting as a globalist force, which will soon lead to the arrival and rule of the Antichrist. At the right time, Christ will come back and crush the Antichrist, and then begin His glorious 1000-year reign on earth. Speaking of this most certain future, God said, *"I have installed my King on Zion."* Ps. 2:6

Psalm 10 - *"The wicked boasts of his heart's desire. And the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord. The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, 'There is no God'"* (3-4) ... *"His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression; under his tongue is mischief and wickedness"* (7) ... *"He says to himself, 'God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it.'" (11).* Many of the wicked do not believe there is a God, and thus, have no knowledge of Him. Others believe there is a God but that He doesn't see the evil they are doing. They are proud, greedy, cruel, hateful, and deceitful people. But *"The Lord is King forever and ever; nations have perished from His land."* (16). In the end, *"man who is of the earth will no longer cause terror."* (18)

Psalm 14:1-2 - *"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God."* Many sinners do not believe there is a God. So they believe they can do whatever they want and get away with it. But they are dead wrong, for God sees all evildoers and all their evil, and He will justly judge them, and then eternally punish them.

Psalm 36:1-4 – *“Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes, for it flatters him in his own eyes concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it. The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. He plans wickedness upon his bed; he sets himself on a path that is not good; he does not despise evil.”* The sinner is a fool for he does not fear God and he has no love for God. The sinner is known by his proud thoughts, wicked words, and evil paths, a life of sin. But he does not even know his sin, and thus he does not despise or hate his sin. Here is the true and sobering future of sinners – *“The doers of iniquity have fallen; they have been thrust down and cannot rise.”* Ps. 36:12

Psalm 52:1-5 – *“Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? ... Your tongue devises destruction, like a sharp razor, O worker of deceit. You love evil more than good, falsehood more than speaking what is right. You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.”* The evil man is deceitful, he speaks lies – you cannot trust what he says. He is destructive and devouring, not wanting to help people but instead wanting to hurt them. So what happens to the proud person who trusts, not in God but in his money, who thinks he has all this power, who is determined to do evil (7)? *“God will break you down forever; He will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent, and uproot you from the land of the living.”* (5)

Psalm 59:12-13 – *“On account of the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, let them be caught in their pride, and on account of the curses and lies which they utter. Destroy them in wrath, destroy them that they may be no more, that men may know God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth.”* A sinner, a proud, cursing, lying person, is usually judged in two ways: 1<sup>st</sup>, he is caught in his sin and suffers while he is on this earth; and 2<sup>nd</sup>, he will suffer eternally in hell, where he will be rightfully and severely punished.

Psalm 73:6-9 – *“Pride is their necklace; the garment of violence covers them. Their eye bulges from fatness; the imaginations of their heart run riot. They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; they speak from on high. They have*

*set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue parades throughout earth.”* The wicked are proud, violent, and oppressive. Their thoughts run wild – they think they can do whatever they want. They speak against God and mock man. So what happens? *“You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. How they are destroyed in a moment. They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors”* (18-19). The wicked person will be utterly shocked when his earthly life suddenly ends, and he appears before his Maker and Judge. Without warning, he will go *“into eternal punishment”, “into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil.”* Matt. 25:46, 41

God has chosen you to be on this earth for such a time as this. Be a good soldier for God, one who is strong and courageous! (Josh. 1:7-9). If you have enemies, God wants you to love them, pray for them (Matt. 5:44), and tell them the good news about Christ. Now it may happen that *“they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you to synagogues and prisons, and bring you before kings and governors for My name’s sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony”* (Luke 21:12-13). God wants you to tell your enemies that Christ is the only way they can be forgiven of their sins and have eternal life. May God have mercy on some of them, and save their souls from suffering His eternal wrath.

We learn so much about the enemy from the Psalms. Now that we’re in the end-times and are seeing the increasing activity of the enemy, we must know these things. I will say it again – we must know these things. Know also that God is sovereign, that the enemy can only do what God lets him do. (Daniel 4:34-35). And if he doesn’t repent while he’s on earth, then God will punish him forever in hell. Rev. 20:15

In a *related article*, I list out most all the Psalms that speak of God’s enemies, and ours too. Finally, here is God’s promise to you – *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.”* Matthew 6:11

P.S. We live in extremely dangerous times, spiritually difficult times. As Christians, we must not just be in “*work*” mode but in “*war*” mode (Nehemiah 4). The enemy is raging, but our Lord and Savior, our great and glorious God, is winning the war. My sermon this past Sunday was, “*The United States and the Need for the Gospel.*” In this message, I am very open and direct about the terribly sad condition of our country, and the need to vote, pray, and share the gospel. May God have mercy on our country. I would also encourage you to read my more *extensive article* on this same subject, our enemies.

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