

PRAYING PSALM 58

“...Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth.”

This is a bitter cry against judicial corruption. It represents a time in Israel when justice was neglected. Three subjects are dealt with in the psalm. 1. SIN (1-5). First, the psalm addresses the Work of Wickedness: Men don't judge uprightly. They don't speak against injustice. Second, the psalm addresses the Workers of Wickedness: They work wickedness in their hearts. They are estranged from the womb. They go astray as soon as they are born. They speak lies. They are poisonous serpents. They refuse to hear. 2. SENTENCE (6-9). This is David's suggestion of how God could sentence those who work wickedness. Break their teeth (shut them up). Let them flow away like waters. Let his arrows (weapons) be broken. Let them melt away like a snail. Let them be like a still-born child. 3. SATISFACTION (10-11). The righteous shall rejoice when they see vengeance. They shall wash their feet in the blood of the wicked.

Injustice is the ultimate outcome of rebellion against God's revelation. The Old Testament is replete with duties and responsibilities toward the needy. The natural tendency is for the haves to use the have nots for their own benefit. Pray against the injustices in this world, knowing you won't see everything you pray for in your life time, but God will judge the earth. Some injustices you pray against may be made right. Pray knowing that a reward for the righteous is promised, and the Judge of all the earth will do right. Cry out against judicial corruption in solidarity with the oppressed. Cry out to God against the workers of iniquity and their works. Be satisfied in knowing that vengeance will come, and you will rejoice whether in your life or after.