

# WHEN GOD'S MERCY IS GOOD

Meeting God in the Psalms: Psalm 109

October 3, 2021

*But you, O Sovereign Lord, deal well with me for your name's sake;  
out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.  
For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.  
Psalm 109:21-22*

## Learning from imprecatory psalms

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

<sup>1</sup> *O God, whom I praise, do not remain silent,  
<sup>2</sup> for wicked and deceitful men have opened their mouths against me;  
they have spoken against me with lying tongues.  
<sup>3</sup> With words of hatred they surround me;  
they attack me without cause.  
<sup>4</sup> In return for my friendship they accuse me,  
but I am a man of prayer.  
<sup>5</sup> They repay me evil for good,  
and hatred for my friendship.  
<sup>6</sup> Appoint an evil man to oppose him;  
let an accuser stand at his right hand.  
<sup>7</sup> When he is tried, let him be found guilty,  
and may his prayers condemn him.  
<sup>8</sup> May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership . . . .  
<sup>20</sup> May this be the LORD's payment to my accusers,  
to those who speak evil of me.*

Psalm 109

1. Even this lament psalm has “Hallelujah!” bookends
2. This Christ-centered psalm invites us into the Jesus' experience with Judas and Satan (see 109:4, 8)
3. The middle section (109:6-20) express the Righteous One's experience of evil – it really is Satan!
4. This psalm invites us to be wrapped in the garment of praise rather than bitterness

## The good mercy of God

- <sup>21</sup> *But you, O Sovereign LORD, deal well with me for your name's sake;  
out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.*
- <sup>22</sup> *For I am poor and needy,  
and my heart is wounded within me . . . .*
- <sup>25</sup> *I am an object of scorn to my accusers;  
when they see me, they shake their heads.*

Psalm 109

1. God's *hesed* mercy (or, faithful love) is equal parts affection, generosity and covenant (thanks, Nick!)
2. God's mercy is *tōv* because it fulfills his purpose in our lives
3. This "first person" account only makes sense in the shadow of the cross

## A new way of seeing God

- <sup>26</sup> *Help me, O LORD my God;  
save me in accordance with your love.*
- <sup>27</sup> *Let them know that it is your hand,  
that you, O LORD, have done it.*
- <sup>28</sup> *They may curse, but you will bless;  
when they attack they will be put to shame,  
but your servant will rejoice.*
- <sup>29</sup> *My accusers will be clothed with disgrace  
and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.*

Psalm 109

1. This strophe begins with *Yahweh, El, yasa'*, and *hesed* all in one line of verse
2. Even in an imprecatory psalm, there is still room for the lost to respond to what God is doing
3. We are either wrapped in Jesus' righteousness or wrapped in our own shame

<sup>14</sup> *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

Romans 13:14

# Getting to praise

- 30 With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD;  
in the great throng I will praise him.
- 31 For he stands at the right hand of the needy one,  
to save his life from those who condemn him.

Psalm 109

1. This is praise *m'ōd* that draws me into the community of "Hallelujah!"
2. In Book 5, we don't get to the Hallel, the Torah, the Ascents or the doxology until we meet Messiah! (see the poster below)
3. The salvation here points directly to Jesus, *Yeshu'a* – and he comes to stand at my right hand!

**150 Hebrew Poems**  
 DAVID (73)    HEMAN & ETHAN (2)  
 ASAPH (12)    SOLOMON & MOSES (3)  
 SONS OF KORAH (11)    ANONYMOUS (17)

MANY WRITTEN FOR CHOIR... BUT NOT A HYMNBOOK

**PSALMS**  
 Torah & Messiah    Lament & Praise    Faith & Hope

**LAMENT**  
 - PRAYERS OF PAIN, CONFUSION, & ANGER  
 - DRAW ATTENTION TO LIGHTS CLARKING IN THE WORLD  
 - ASK GOD TO DO SOMETHING

**PRAISE**  
 - PRAYERS OF JOY & CELEBRATION  
 - DRAW ATTENTION TO LIGHTS GOOD IN THE WORLD  
 - RETELL THE STORY & THANK GOD  
 - GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD

**LAMENT & PRAISE**    **PRAISE & LAMENT**

**BOOK 1** (3-41)  
 1. BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO MEDIATES ON THE TORAH  
 15. CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS  
 16-18. DAVID'S POST-BELIEVANCE ILLUMINATION AS KING  
 19. PSALM 19 TORAH  
 20-23. BRIDGE KING'S BELIEVANCE KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS  
 24. CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

**BOOK 2** (42-72)  
 12-17. HOPE FOR A FUTURE RETURN TO THE TEMPLE IN ZION  
 18. FUTURE REIGN OF THE MESSIANIC KING  
 19. RECAPS THE PROPHECIES - ISAIAH 11, 95 & 603 - ZECHARIAH 9  
 20. FULFILLMENT OF GODS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM (13, 72-17 - GEN 12:3 & 22:17)

**BOOK 3** (73-89)  
 80. PROMISE OF A MESSIANIC KINGDOM  
 81. EXILE & DOWNFALL OF DAVID'S KINGDOM  
 82-89. DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE

**BOOK 4** (90-106)  
 90. HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SERVANTS!  
 91-97. THE LORD REIGNS AS KING  
 98. LET THE TREES CLAP, LET THE MOUNTAINS & RIVERS SING

**BOOK 5** (107-145)  
 107-110. THE MESSIANIC KING DEFEATS EVIL & BRINGS GODS KINGDOM  
 111-118. THE HALLEL  
 119. PSALM 119 TORAH  
 120-134. THE SONGS OF ASCENTS  
 135. MESSIANIC KINGDOM  
 136-139. 'GOD HAS RAISED UP A HERO FOR HIS PEOPLE' (136-139)  
 140-145. SEE 1 SAM 2:10 & PS 132:17

**146** HALLELU-YAH  
**147** HALLELU-YAH  
**148** HALLELU-YAH  
**149** HALLELU-YAH  
**150** HALLELU-YAH

**PSALMS: THE PRAYERBOOK OF GODS PEOPLE WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE TORAH AND CLINGING FOR THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM**

MAY THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL BE BLESSED FOREVER, AMEN AND AMEN

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