

WHEN GOD ACTS IN RETRIBUTION

PSALM 64

Introduction:

The evil in the world is real. Evil men attempt to do evil things to innocent people. They try to intimidate them and ultimately to destroy them.

David was aware of such conspiracies against his life several times in his journey. He surely knew the reality of such evil when he was pursued by Saul. He knew it again in a painful way when Absalom plotted his overthrow.

The godly can anticipate such encounters in their pursuit of godly living. But this Psalm is about God acting in retribution. It is intended to be an encouragement to any who may find themselves in the crosshairs of a determined enemy. In such a situation, it is time to look to the God of the covenant who acts in history in judgment.

I. WHEN GOD ACTS IN RETRIBUTION, HE ANSWERS THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE.

1. He has heard their complaint (v.1)

David carefully tells God about his situation as he sees it. He gives a rather graphic description of the wicked—their plots, methods, and intentions. God hears him. We are encouraged by this to tell God our complaints.

2. He preserves His own. (v. 1)

David asked to be preserved and to be hidden from the destructive plots of the wicked. God does this when He acts in retribution.

II. WHEN GOD ACTS IN RETRIBUTION, HE OVERTHROWS THE PLOTS OF THE WICKED.

1. He causes the plots of the wicked to become their snare. (v. 8)
2. He reveals His righteous character and power.
3. He provokes men to fear (v. 9)

III. WHEN GOD ACTS IN RETRIBUTION, HE BUILDS THE FAITH OF HIS PEOPLE. (v. 10)

Our faith grows and abounds as we observe the ways of the Lord. Just watch and see what the Lord does! He will answer the cry of His people in His own way and in His own time.

1. He confirms the faith of His people.
2. He encourages them to act in faith.
3. He gives them songs of gladness.