

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPRECATORY PSALMS

PSALM 109

Introduction:

Psalm 109 is not politically correct. One commentary contends that it is not appropriate for use in a worship service. On the surface it appears to be in serious conflict with the view of life set forth by Jesus, and the life lived by Jesus. Yet God preserved it in our Bibles. What are we to do with it? Are we to ignore it, or should we look for something of value in it? Surely the latter course is the wiser one.

It appears to me that there are three levels on which we can approach this psalm and others like it. There will be value in either of the approaches, and all three can be a part of our approach.

I. THE PSALM IS DESCRIPTIVE.

1. It is descriptive of an Old Testament response to evil treatment.
2. It is descriptive of the serious consequences of evil in the world.

II. THE PSALM IS PROPHEPIC.

1. It is a prophecy of the plight of the enemies of our Lord.
2. It is a prophecy of the curse of our Lord upon His enemies.

III. THE PSALM IS INSTRUCTIVE.

1. It instructs us about the maintenance of a life of prayer when you suffer injustice.
2. It instructs us to continue to praise the Lord when others curse us.
3. It instructs us to anticipate the Lord standing beside us in our difficulties.