

Series: Psalms

Title: Vengeance and Redemption

Text: Ps 94: 1-23

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Psalm 94: 19: In the multitude of my thoughts within me...thy comforts delight my soul.

That is what we see take place in this psalm. The church was being oppressed, afflicted and the enemy triumphed. But for a time God was silent. In the first half, the writer has a multitude of thoughts within his heart. But in the midst of those thoughts, a change comes. So in the second half, the Lord's comforts delight his soul.

Believers have experienced this. In the first half, we hear the multitude of thoughts we have when enemies rise up against us. In the second half, we see what the Lord does to comfort us and settle us

Listen to the multitude of thoughts in the first half.

Psalm 94: 1: O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself. 2: Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud. 3: LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? 4: *How long* shall they utter *and* speak hard things? *and* all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? 5: They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage. 6: They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. 7: Yet they say, The LORD shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard *it*.

Then his thoughts turn to the enemy and he gives a warning.

Psalm 94: 8: Understand, ye brutish among the people: and ye fools, when will ye be wise? 9: He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see? 10: He that chastiseth the heathen [whole nations], shall not he correct [individuals personally]? he that teacheth man knowledge, *shall not he know?* 11: The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they *are* vanity.

Then in the multitude of his thoughts, a change comes. The Lord did for him what he says next.

Psalm 94: 12: Blessed *is* the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law [word]; 13: That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked. 14: For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. 15: But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it. 16: Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? *or* who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? 17: Unless the LORD *had been* my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. 18: When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up. 19: In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.

The Lord comforts his people and gives us assurance to commit judgment to him by making us behold Christ crucified in place of his people.

Psalm 94: 20: Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?

Remember how the rulers in Israel framed their wickedness against the Lord Jesus, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." What were they doing?

Psalm 94: 21: They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.

They gathered together against Christ Jesus the righteous and condemned the innocent blood. But beholding Christ crucified, we behold our Refuge.

Psalm 94: 22: But the LORD is my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge.

So the Lord brings us to commit all judgment to the Lord with this assurance.

Psalm 94: 23: And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD

Psalm 94: 1: O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself. 2: Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud.

This is the first thing we must remember. Twice the Psalmist declares vengeance belongs to God alone. He is the Judge of the earth. The Psalmist asks God to shine forth, to do what is just, “*to render a reward to the proud.*” But we have to be very, very careful. When the enemy triumphs and God is silent, it is easy to grow impatient.

Psalm 94: 1: 3: LORD how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?

We know how long. It is until God has called each and everyone of his elect to faith in Christ! The longsuffering of God is salvation. His time is the right time.

Romans 9: 22: *What* if God, willing to shew *his* wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24: Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

We have to be careful because when we are personally wronged or brethren we love are wronged, it is easy for us to fall into a spirit of SINFUL, SPITEFUL REVENGE. For instance, when the Samaritans rejected the Lord Jesus:

Luke 9: 54: James and John...said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55: But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56: For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*.

God is the Judge. Christ our Savior is the Judge of the whole earth. But God's wrath and vengeance is not a sinful passion. God is holy. God's fury and vengeance is the Lord executing holy justice. He justly rewards—recompenses—upon the wicked what the sinner has earned. God knows the heart. We do not. God hears and God knows all that we will never know.

Psalm 94: 9 He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see? 10 He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know? 11 The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they *are* vanity.

So we are to commit all judgment to the Lord and wait on the Lord's time. As we do so we are to do good to our enemies rather than avenge ourselves.

Romans 12: 17: Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18: If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19: Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20: Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21: Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

CORRECTION FROM A VENGEFUL SPIRIT

How does the Lord correct his believing child from having a sinful, bitter, spiteful desire to avenge ourselves? He makes his child see that in ourselves, we deserve God's vengeance the same as every other wicked sinner.

In this description of the wicked, God makes his child see ourselves by nature: as the proud, wicked, boasting in ourselves. There is no difference in ourselves, in our sinful nature, than any other sinner deserving of God's vengeance. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Where do we behold this? We behold it the same place we behold all Light, in the face of Christ crucified. God makes his child behold that we earned God's just vengeance by making us behold Christ on the cross bearing the wrath and fury of God's vengeance in our room and stead. We get all Light from Christ. So we behold this at the cross. For every elect child, God poured out the fury of his vengeance on us by pouring it out on Christ our Substitute, and at the same time, he redeemed us and restored us in Christ.

Isaiah 61: 1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; 2: To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and THE DAY OF VENGEANCE OF OUR GOD; to comfort all that mourn

God poured out the *vengeance* his elect deserved on Christ on the cross. *AND it was the acceptable year of the Lord.* It was the jubilee when all our debts were cleared and we were restored in and by Christ. When Adam and Eve sinned, in type, God poured out vengeance on them and redeemed them with the same sword of justice by slaying a substitute in their place and covering them with the skins. Isaiah 63 speaks of what Christ did for his people when he came the first time and what he shall do to his enemies when he comes again.

Isaiah 63: 1: Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

This is Christ returning to glory from this earth—from this Edom. The Edomites were descendants of Esau—God's worst enemies. All God's elect Jacob's were sinners exactly like Esau and the Edomites. Comparing Esau's descendants with Jacob's descendants, we find Israel full of idolatry same as the Edomites. The only difference is the grace of God in Christ.

Isaiah 63: 1: 2: Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3: I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4: For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, AND the year of my redeemed is come.

The cross was the winepress that Christ tread alone. As God, the vengeance was his fury and wrath poured out. And as Man he bore vengeance in place of his people.

Isaiah 63: 4: For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, AND the year of my redeemed is come. 5: And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6: And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth. 7: I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, *and* the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

It is beholding this in Christ that he makes his child commit all judgment to him. It is beholding his righteous judgment on the cross and the result.

Isaiah 51: 22: Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God *that* pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, *even* the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: 23 But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.

Revelation 19: 11: And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12: His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13: And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14: And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15: And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16: And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

For all who reject Christ, the wrath of God abides on them. The vengeance of God awaits all who meet God without faith in Christ alone. Believe on Christ and thou shalt be saved!

COMMIT ALL TO HIM

Beholding Christ crucified, God gives his believing child rest in these days of adversity. He gives us rest by making us willing to believe on Christ and commit all to him.

Psalm 94: 14: For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. 15: But judgment shall [IT HAS] return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it....

The Psalmist was filled with a multitude of thoughts but the Lord chastened and taught him and made his judgment return to righteousness. God gave him rest to commit it all to Christ and wait on him.

Psalm 94: 17: Unless the LORD *had been* my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. 18: When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

Psalm 38: 16: For I said, *Hear me*, lest *otherwise* they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify *themselves* against me. 17: For I *am* ready to halt, and my sorrow *is* continually before me. 18: For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin. 19: But mine enemies *are* lively, *and* they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied. 20: They also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow...good. 21: Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. 22: Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

God works good by making his child confess our iniquity to the Lord. He makes us sorry for our sin. But the enemy would use it to render evil for good. Confess your sin to the enemy and they will use it against you. Confess it to God and he has mercy! When our Savior walked this earth, Christ committed all judgment to the Father that judges righteously and the comforts of his justifying righteousness make us do the same.

Psalm 94: 19: In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul...22: But the LORD is my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge.

He has saved us from every enemy. And he shall. Vengeance is his. Commit all judgment to him.

Amen!