

If our life is on track with God and His Word, we will have some enemies who will do and say some negative things against us. There will be times when we will have done nothing to deserve it and there will be times when we will not be able to do anything to stop it.

But there is a secret weapon we have which is far more powerful than any enemy we will ever face. **The one weapon we have is the weapon of prayer.** This is the one weapon David used when he had no other weapon to use.

Psalms 109 is a Psalm of David. David wrote it and he wrote it for the choir director. This Psalm was not only to be taught, it was to be sung. **This is one of the imprecatory Psalms in which David asks God to destroy his enemies.** So this Psalm that calls on God to avenge enemies is a truth God's people need to be taught and they need to know.

Now there is a famous statement that is often used in evangelistic meetings. The statement is "God hates the sin, but loves the sinner." David did not draw a distinction between the two. He not only hated the sin but he also hated the one committing this sin and he asks God to destroy that person. **David actually prays that God will destroy the sinner.**

One might ask, how could a person pray such a prayer? There are three reasons why one could pray such a prayer: 1) Such a prayer leaves vengeance to God; 2) Such a prayer honors God because it appeals to His righteous character and justice; 3) Such a prayer is legitimate because when one attacks God's faithful servant, one attacks God. Anger against sin and a desire to see it punished is not contrary to a proper spirit of spirituality.

Now of all of the Psalms that asks God to pour out His judgment on people, this Psalm has been called the "most awful." Spurgeon called this Psalm one of the hardest places in all of Scripture.

Some have suggested that this is the specific prayer from Jesus concerning Judas, because Peter specifically applied this to him in Acts 1:16-20. Some have said this is the specific prayer from David concerning one of his enemies. What we do see from this Psalm is this:

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE ARE BEING ATTACKED BY ENEMIES WHO ARE TRYING TO HURT US FOR NO REASON, WE ALWAYS HAVE A LEGITIMATE WEAPON IN THAT WE MAY PRAY AND ASK GOD TO DESTROY OUR ENEMIES.

As we have traveled through this book of Psalms, we have seen this kind of prayer before (Ps. 35, 52, 55, 58, 59, 79). Now what these Psalms tell us is that God did not remove all enemies at once. He did not instantly have all enemies of David drop dead. David had to pray multiple times. So this teaches us that we do have a right to pray this prayer at various times.

Now this Psalm breaks down into four main sections:

SECTION #1 – David asks God to answer his prayer for vengeance. **109:1-5**

Notice how **verse 1** begins, David was still praising God. He obviously is personally hurting, but he is still praising God and he asks God to answer his prayer for four personal reasons:

Reason #1 - David's enemies were speaking against him by making up lies about him. **109:2**

One of the best satanic weapons is a deceitful tongue. The greatest wounds against faithful people have been caused by lying tongues. Jesus taught when you are being slandered on earth, you are being praised in heaven.

Reason #2 - David's enemies were stirring others against him to hate him. **109:3a**

David's enemies were influencing people with their hateful distorted words. He was being totally misrepresented.

Reason #3 - David's enemies were fighting against him without any cause. **109:3b**

David had done nothing to bring this on. He did not deserve what was happening to him.

Reason #4 - David's enemies to whom he had ministered had accused him and hated him. **109:4-5**

David truly loved these people. He prayed for these people and in return the people accused him, hated him and did evil against him.

The most hurtful enemy you will ever have will be one that you loved and cared for who turned against you.

SECTION #2 – David specifically asks God to do negative things to his enemies. **109:6-15**

Someone observed it is far better to agree with God's curses than to agree with the Devil's blessings. What David prays for is very scary if you are the one against whom the prayers are made. There are fourteen requests David makes:

Request #1 - Let a wicked man dominate his enemy. **109:6a**

David specifically asked God to permit a proud, wicked person to rule over his enemy.

Request #2 - Let an accuser be continually at his right hand. **109:6b**

David asks God for a real accuser, not a false accuser to accuse his enemy all the time.

Request #3 - Let him be judged guilty. **109:7a**

David does not want this person acquitted at judgment. He was God to judge him guilty and not pardon him.

Request #4 - Let his prayer be judged as sinful. **109:7b**

Now this tells us that this person went to religious services and prayed. David asks God to view his prayer as sinful, not spiritual.

Request #5 - Let his days be few in number. **109:8a**

David asks God to shorten his enemies' impact and life.

Request #6 - Let another person replace him. **109:8b**

In the Greek Septuagint, the pronoun "another" (heteros) means another of a different kind. David is asking God to remove a leader and put into office another leader who is not like this evil enemy.

Request #7 - Let his children become fatherless. **109:9a**

David is asking God to end the life of this enemy. He did not want this lineage to develop at all. He asks God to let his family come to total ruin.

Request #8 - Let his wife become a widow. **109:9b**

David wants this enemy gone.

Request #9 - Let his children not prosper. **109:10**

David did not want these children excelling in anything. He wanted them to be beggars. He wanted them to have to move out of the area to beg.

Request #10 - Let him suffer total financial ruin. **109:11**

He wanted creditors to seize everything and he wanted strangers dominating everything they owned.

Request #11 - Let no one show lovingkindness or mercy to him. **109:12**

This is a scary request. David asks God to show no mercy to this enemy or to any member of his family.

Request #12 - Let his posterity be completely cut off. **109:13**

David prays that the memory of this enemy and the memory of his family be completely erased.

Request #13 - Let his parents suffer because of what he has done. **109:14**

David even wants judgment against the ancestors of his enemy. He is asking God to judge this person's entire lineage. Sometimes the evil stems from parents and grandparents.

Request #14 - Let his memory be removed from the earth. **109:15**

David does not even want this person remembered. This is a serious prayer. These are scary prayer requests.

SECTION #3 – David gives God more reasons why he wants God to do these things to enemies.
109:16-20

In **verses 2-5**, David gave personal reasons why he wanted God to answer this prayer. Now he gives social and spiritual reasons why he wants God to answer these prayers:

Reason #1 - His enemies did not show mercy. **109:16a**

Reason #2 - His enemies persecuted those needy and afflicted. **109:16b**

This person was so ruthless, he attacked those already low.

Reason #3 - His enemies killed those hurting in their hearts. **109:16c**

Reason #4 - His enemies loved cursing. **109:17a, 18**

This person continually cursed God and His Word.

Reason #5 - His enemies did not delight in the blessings of God. **109:17b**

David says let his enemies' life which cursed God be a garment that covers him forever and let this be his reward (**109:19-20**).

SECTION #4 – David asks God to do specific things for him. **109:21-29**

Just as David asks God to do certain things to his enemies, so also he asks certain things for God to do concerning him:

Request #1 - David asks God to deal kindly with him. **109:21-25**

There are six reasons why he asks God to deal kindly with him:

(Reason #1) - Because of God's name. **109:21b**

(Reason #2) - Because he is afflicted. **109:22a**

(Reason #3) - Because he has a hurting heart. **109:22b**

(Reason #4) - Because time is passing and his life is not accomplishing much. **109:23**

(Reason #5) - Because he is weak. **109:24**

(Reason #6) - Because he has become a reproach. **109:25**

Request #2 - David asks God to help him. **109:26a**

Request #3 - David asks God to save him. **109:26b**

Request #4 - David asks God to let his enemies know God's hand is on David. **109:27**

Request #5 - David asks God to let his enemies continually curse, while he is continually blessed. **109:28**

This is fascinating to think through. David did not want these enemies repenting and being saved. David assumes God has sovereign power to curse and condemn and to save and bless.

Request #6 - David asks God to let his accusers be dishonored and shamed. **109:29**

David concludes this Psalm by saying that he would continually thank God and praise God because God stands ready to help him and save him.

PARTING THOUGHTS

- 1. At some point, if you are godly, you will be attacked (Matt. 5:11-12).**
- 2. Believers do have a right to pray for their enemies and sometimes this may be the kind of prayer that needs to be prayed (Matt. 18:15-20).**
- 3. Love and forgiveness are not God's only attributes. He is righteous and just and He can pour out wrath.**
- 4. The believer's greatest weapon is prayer.**