

Lament Psalms

Asking God the Hard Questions

“May the enemies be blotted out!”
Imprecations –
Is it okay for us to Pray that Way?
Session 10 – 21 November 2021

1st Baptist Church – Regina, SK

L4L Fall 2021

Instructor: Kelvin Friebel

“By the Rivers of Babylon We Sat and Wept” (1938) by Moshe Rynecki

<https://rynecki.org/wp-content/themes/rynecki/images/npi1938nr32-e1418056288987.jpg>

Imprecation
= “spoken curse”

***“Imprecations” in the Psalms
are when the Psalmist
Petitions God to bring harm
upon the Enemies***

Lament Psalms

Complaint

Petition + Motivation

Asking God to Help + Reason Why

Imprecations

Trust / Confidence

Affirmation to Praise

IMPRECATIONS in the LAMENT PSALMS

1) Generic Requests for God to Intervene Against Enemies & Repay them for their Actions

Individual Lament Pss:

Ps 5:10
Ps 7:1, 6, 9a
Ps 10:2, 15
Ps 17:13
Ps 22:20
Ps 25:2
Ps 28:4
Ps 54:5
Ps 56:7
Ps 59:5, 11-13
Ps 94:1-2
Ps 141:10
Ps 143:12

Community Lament Pss:

Ps 74:22-23
Ps 79:6, 10, 12

Ps 17:13 (NIV)

Rise up, LORD, confront them, bring them down;
with your sword rescue me from the wicked.

Ps 143:12 (NIV)

In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;
destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.

Ps 28:4 (NIV)

⁴Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work;
repay them for what their hands have done
and bring back on them what they deserve.

IMPRECATIONS in the LAMENT PSALMS

2) Requests for Specified Actions

Individual Lament Pss:

Pss 31:17-18

Pss 35:1-9, 24, 26

Pss 55:9, 15

Pss 58:6-10

Pss 69:22-28

Pss 109:6-19

Pss 140:9-11

Community Lament Pss:

Pss 83:9-18

Pss 137:7-9

Psalm 35 – Petitions (KGF)

<p>1 (Legally-)contend Yahweh, with those-who-(legally-)contend with me; fight with those-who-fight with me.</p> <p>2 Seize (large)-shield and (small)-shield, and rise-up in my help.</p> <p>3 And draw out spear and javelin to encounter those-who-pursue me; say to my soul, "Your salvation am I".</p>	<p>17b Restore my soul from their devastations-- from (the) young-lions, (restore) my only-thing (i.e., my life).</p>	<p>22 (Since) you have seen, Yahweh, do not be silent! Lord, do not be far-away from me!</p> <p>23 Rouse-yourself and wake-up for my judgment! My God and my Lord, to (legally-)contend (for) me.</p> <p>24a Judge me according to your righteousness, Yahweh, my God!</p>
<p>4 May they be shamed and may they be humiliated, those-who-seek my soul; may they be turned back and may they be ashamed, those-who-devise my evil-(calamity).</p> <p>5 May they be like chaff before the wind, and the Angel of Yahweh pushing (them).</p> <p>6 May their way be dark and slippery, and the Angel of Yahweh pursuing them.</p> <p>7 For without-cause they hid for me a pit; their net, without-cause they dug for my soul.</p> <p>8 May devastation come upon him without (his) knowing; and his net that he hid, may it capture him; into devastation, may he fall into it.</p>	<p>19 Let them not rejoice over me, my enemies (who are so) false; the ones-hating me without-cause, may they (not) maliciously-wink (the) eye.</p>	<p>24b And let them not rejoice over me!</p> <p>25 Let them not say in their heart, "Aha, we have our soul's-desire." Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up."</p> <p>26 May they be shamed and ashamed, those-who-rejoice at my evil (calamity); may they be clothed with shame and humiliation, the ones-magnifying-themselves against me.</p>

Psalm 69:22-29 (KGF)

Petition
“Imprecations”

22 May their table before them become a snare;
and for their peace, (may it be) a bait-trap.

23 May their eyes be darkened from seeing,
and their loins always slip.

24 Pour out upon them, your indignation,
and may the burning of your nose (i.e., anger) overtake them.

25 May their encampment be desolated;
in their tents, may there not be (any) dwellers.

Complaint
“they”

26 For (the one) whom you have smitten, they persecute,
and about **the pain** of those who you have wounded, they recount.

Petition
“Imprecations”

27 Place iniquity upon their iniquity,
and may they not come into your righteousness.

28 May they be blotted-out of the book of life;
and with the righteous, may they not be written.

IMPRECATIONS in the LAMENT PSALMS

Cries for Divine Justice based on the Covenant



<https://www.euroweeklynews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/life-1280x720.jpg>