

Songs of David: *A Prayer for Deliverance*

Psalm 140

The Title (v. 0)

- Individual Lament: A cry to God for help in times of distress
- Imprecatory Psalm: Psalms that contain curses against enemies (Ps 5; 17; 28; 35; 40; 55; 59; 70; 71; 79; 80; 94; 129; 137; 139; 140)
- “To the leader”: To congregational song
 - LXX, “For the end”: It has a prophetic theme in it
- “Of David”: Written by David

Lament over Enemies (v. 1-5)

- Unlike Ps 12, which was about injustice towards others, Ps 140 is about experiencing personal injustice
- David calls out to God to rescue & protect him from the plans of those who seek his harm
- The enemy schemes with their minds (v. 2)
- They use their words to wound (v. 3)
 - Either with direct insults
 - Or by attacking his reputation with lies
- They attack with their hands (v. 4)

Confession of Trust (v. 6-8)

- David turns to the LORD to deal with the enemy
 - His repeated use of God’s covenantal name shows that his hope for deliverance is founded on God’s faithfulness to the covenantal relationship
 - This is also seen in the phrase, “You are my God” (v 6; cf. Ex 6:7; Jer 11:4; 30:22; Ezk 36:28)
- David’s call not to take the side of the wicked (v. 8) is not a declaration of his own righteousness
 - It is a call on God to judge the hearts & actions of those involved and to execute justice

Curse on the Enemies (v. 9-11)

- These are calls of imprecation
 - Calling down curses on one’s enemies
 - Bless: God placing His hand of protection on someone
 - Curse: God removing His hand of protection, resulting in someone experiencing the full force of their actions
- David is *not* asking for injustice to befall those who have treated him unjustly
 - But rather that they receive what their actions warrant; that is, justice
 - This is not in opposition to Jesus’ & the OT’s teaching on love for our enemies
 - It is a call for God to take action, not us
 - And God may say ‘no’
- Paul refers to this passage (Rom 12:19-21)
- We are called to treat our ‘enemies’ with kindness & love, and let God deal with them
 - Would we rather see vengeance or repentance?
 - David’s prayer is leaving it to God to deal with those who oppose him

Declaration of Faith (v. 12-13)

- David rests in God's character of compassion & justice
 - Trusting Him to care for those who are oppressed, especially when it is us

So What?

- Do we cry out to God when we suffer injustice and attacks?
 - Or do we try to take matters into our own hands?
- Would we rather see our 'enemies' receive judgment or repent?

Meditation Verse: *Psalm 140:12*