

“Praying the Psalms” (2)

“...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16 NLT)

Asking for Final Justice

Psalm 82:8 – “Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!”

Responses to “Delayed” Justice

(1) Exasperation & Frustration

Malachi 2:17 – “You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, ‘How have we wearied him?’ By saying, ‘Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.’ Or by asking, ‘Where is the God of justice?’”

(2) Persistent Petitioning

Luke 18:1-8 – ¹ “And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’ ⁶ And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’”

(3) Emboldened Evil

Ecclesiastes 8:11 – “Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.”

Reason for “Delay”

2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

Relief Will Come

Revelation 6:9-17 – ⁹ “When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, ‘O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ ¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. ¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?’”

Psalm 98:8-9 – ⁸ “Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together ⁹ before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.”

“Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!” (Psalm 82:8)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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