



**Betrayal
When Trust is Used Against You
Psalm 54**

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Psalm 54:title-7

“For the music director; on stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, “Is David not keeping himself hidden among us?” **Save me, God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your power. Hear my prayer, God; Listen to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen against me And violent men have sought my life; They have not set God before them.** Selah Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul. He will pay back the evil to my enemies;



Destroy them in Your faithfulness. Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, LORD, for it is good. For He has saved me from all trouble, And my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies.” (NASB 2020)

We are in the section of the psalms where David provides us a look at the antichrist, over 2,000 years in advance. And here in Psalm 54, he uses an event in his own life to provide us what it is the remnant of Israel will go through at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

This arises from an event where rescue and trust are there, but wickedness abounds. A lot like what we see around us today unfortunately.

I have experienced this several times in my life. Usually, it starts off with someone having a serious issue they are unable to resolve.

As you listen to them, you realize you have the resource to help and after praying about it you go ahead and provide the assistance in the name of the Lord. They thank you and then you hear nothing for a few weeks. When you follow up with them and also try to get back that thing you loaned them to help, not only do they not even acknowledge that you helped them, but they deny you ever provided them anything to assist them. The real problem, at least what I have experienced over the years, each and every time I helped, it was a brother in Christ. And each and every time they not only denied I ever helped at all, not only refusing to return the loaned item, but they also turn around and attacked instead. Welcome to Ziph.

By the way, about the meaning of the word Ziph, the meaning feeds into what this psalm points to, that period of time where the remnant of Israel is in exile from the Antichrist and relying on the Lord for protection. Zechariah talks about that time.

Zechariah 13:9

“And **I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested.** They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’” (ESV)

Ziph means “refining place; melting place. Borrowed.” (Smith and Cornwall 1998, 253)

We tend to get upset at those who are used by the enemy to attack us, but we seldom look at them as someone that the Lord is using to test and refine us so we can be further used by Him in His service.

First, we learn how to pray for them since Jesus says “bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.” (Luke 6:28, ESV)

Then we move onto growth.

James 1:2–4

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (ESV)

Here though, it is the Lord using Ziph, the refining place, to further refine David. And He will use them at least twice in that role. The remnant of Israel, at the midpoint of the Tribulation, will indeed enter a time of refining. All leading to the repentance of the nation and the return of Jesus Christ.



Hosea 5:15

"I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me." (ESV)

There are several things happening here in this psalm but the biggest has to do with the refining and dealing with betrayal from someone you placed trust in, kinda like thinking your internet provider will really do what they promised to do when you first signed up but then discover, no, not anytime soon. So much for the betrayed trust.

This is a picture of what is happening to the remnant of Israel at the midpoint of the Tribulation. They thought they were protected by this world leader who signed an agreement to protect them for seven years, but they have now been betrayed by that same individual who is now hunting them down to kill them instead.

Sounds a whole lot like Saul with David.

David also had this happen to him more than once. And it stung each time. And as we have learned, being tested is not a lot of fun.

First David and his men went to fight the Philistines, after asking the Lord about it, in Keliath (1 Samuel 23:1-5). It was there the last remaining living member of the High Priest's family escaped with an ephod to David. But Saul found out about it and began taking steps to conduct military action against David; and Saul was willing to destroy the people of Keliath to do so.

David found out and asked the Lord if the people would give him up, and the Lord affirmed that they would betray him. So, David and his men left.

David was not interested in risking the lives of all the people there in Keliath that he had just rescued, since Saul would kill all of them and David knew that. David, we also must remember, is a type of Jesus Christ and many times reflects the Holy Spirit in his decision making. This is one of those times.

Now that there is an ephod in the camp and a priest, he can make inquiries of the Lord and get an answer as well. He asks and the Lord says the people will give him and everyone else up to save themselves. David leaves to save the people of Keliath from this.

David and those with him remained in the wilderness of Ziph. There is actually a small town there called Ziph southeast of Hebron in the hill country. The people of Ziph took it upon themselves to curry favor with King Saul and not only gave David up once in betrayal but also did a second time.

1 Samuel 23:19–23

"Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeath, saying, **"Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand."** And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, for you have had compassion on me. Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning. See therefore and take note of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." (ESV)

How bad is this? The people of Ziph are of the same tribe as David. He is staying in and near the town. They gave him up to Saul here and then will do so yet one more time in the future (1 Samuel 26:1).



The first time resulted in God providing the miracle of the Philistines attacking just as Saul's forces were surrounding David around a mountain and Saul having to go and do his day job (1 Samuel 23:26-29).

The second time resulted in David sneaking into the camp of Saul at night and refusing to kill him, but he was okay with embarrassing him publicly instead (1 Samuel 26:6-25).

Both of these were indeed refining events in the life of David.

But the overall impact each time was the same, David had established a level of trust in his brothers in Ziph. But there were some who did not David as King.

I, for one, am still blown away by the obvious God talk used by Saul who is no longer living for the Lord and living entirely for himself.

What Saul does by the way is a common thing we see in our culture today. Those who are no longer interested in following Jesus play act at it and make assumptions about His grace and wind up doing crazy things like praying over abortion clinics.

The Religious Community for Reproductive Choice says the following on their website. The practice of blessing abortion clinics is central to the work that RCRC does because it speaks to our core mission: dismantling and healing religiously-fueled stigma and shame around our reproductive lives. (Religious Community for Reproductive Choice 2024)

This too is betrayal by those who really should know better but are blinded by the enemy and serving Satan. Before I go further, if you have been involved in an abortion, maybe even more than one, the Bible says you have sinned.

But all is not lost. God stands ready to pardon and forgive.

Psalm 103:11–12

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us.” (NASB 2020)

Where we are though, on the overall prophetic timeline, shows us the timeliness of what it is David is writing about. Betrayal is now becoming morally acceptable in our culture and shows up as abortion and euthanasia. Francis Schaffer and C. Everett Koop have the following observation.

“There is a “thinkable” and an “unthinkable” in every era. One era is quite certain intellectually and emotionally about what is acceptable. Yet another era decides that these “certainties” are unacceptable and puts another set of values into practice. **On a humanistic base, people drift along from generation to generation, and the morally unthinkable becomes the thinkable as the years move on. By “humanistic base” we mean the fundamental idea that men and women can begin from themselves and derive the standards by which to judge all matters. There are for such people no fixed standards of behavior, no standards that cannot be eroded or replaced by what seems necessary, expedient, or even fashionable.**

Perhaps the most striking and unusual feature of our moment of history is the speed with which eras change.” (Koop and Schaeffer 1983, 2)

We see betrayal and refining take place as David goes into hiding as well as a continuous hunt on the part of the now godless Saul who wants him dead. But God continues to step in and prevent David from being captured as He will also do for the remnant at the end of the age.



After or around the same time as the rapture, things take place that firms up the antisemitism we see today. Many will try to return to Israel and do so, but there are those who want Israel gone. Many of them are the same players we see today.

After the church is gone in the rapture, which all on its own will be a huge destabilizing impact on the planet, there will be new alliances as well as old ones which get carried over. Zechariah tells us what is now becoming the current state of affairs in Israel.

Zechariah 12:3

"It will come about on that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will injure themselves severely. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it." (NASB 2020)

Once the church is removed, it is all about God and His dealing with His people, Israel again. The Old Testament calls this time Jacob's Trouble, not the churches trouble, but Jacob's meaning it is a time of refining for His people.

Jeremiah 30:7

"Woe, for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, Yet he will be saved from it." (NASB 2020)

The Gog/Magog War of Ezekiel 38 & 39, I believe, will take place because of the void caused by the disappearance of many in the rapture, but it is hard to be overly dogmatic about timing. We are told in Ezekiel that prior to the invasion, Israel is at peace and in recovery from the war we are seeing take place presently.

Ezekiel 38:8

"After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them." (ESV)

God himself will deal with this invasion to show to Israel and the world, that He is God.

Ezekiel 39:1-7

"And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel. Then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand. You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. **You shall fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD. I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD. "And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel." (ESV)**

God's people are now serious about their relationship with the Lord and the natural outcome is a rebuilding of the Temple but they also need protection from the nations and in comes the antichrist with a deal.

Relationships between nations, as we are seeing today, can change suddenly and possibly, after the Lord saves His people, Israel looks to align with a rising power in the world at the time who has aligned 10



different regions all together. You would hope they would read Daniel to get a sense of who they are trusting.

Daniel 7:7–8

“Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had ten horns. As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.” (NLT)

But Israel will believe that this one will provide them the safety they are looking for.

Daniel 9:27

“And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.” (NASB 2020)

One of the first accomplishments of Antichrist as head of the federation will be to take Israel under his political wing. He will successfully negotiate a treaty with the Jewish people that will guarantee them certain rights: political security and certain religious freedoms. (Ryrie 1981, 37)

Revelation 6:1–2

“I looked on when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a thunderous voice, “Come!” So I looked, and here came a white horse! The one who rode it had a bow, and he was given a crown, and as a conqueror he rode out to conquer.” (NET 2nd ed.)

The one sitting on the white horse who rides forth conquering, and to conquer is the Antichrist. He is the first seal of judgment of the Seven-Sealed Scroll, the scroll of the judgments of the Great Tribulation that begins to be poured out on the earth as a result of the signing of the Seven-Year Covenant. The very First Seal Judgment is that the Antichrist will use this covenant relationship with Israel to begin his movements toward worldwide conquest. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 8)

When will the Temple be rebuilt? Anytime actually but most likely “under the religious aspects of the treaty, Israel will be guaranteed the right to establish worship once again in a temple at Jerusalem. A dream nearly two thousand years old will finally come true, and it will be the Antichrist who will make it happen. (Ryrie 1981, 37)

The Temple must be reestablished in order for the betrayal referred to here in Psalm 54 and the need for protection from the betrayal among the remnant can take place. Jesus warns of the event.

And before we look at what Jesus says, He is not only warning of the impending event. He also makes a technology statement that makes has only made sense recently. And as the people of Ziph engaged more than once in their attempts to betray and destroy David, Jesus warns of the same for the remnant after they first go into exile.

Matthew 24:15–27

““The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” **(Reader, pay attention!)** “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For there will be



greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones. **Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' don't believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones. See, I have warned you about this ahead of time. So if someone tells you, 'Look, the Messiah is out in the desert,' don't bother to go and look. Or, 'Look, he is hiding here,' don't believe it!** For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes." (NLT)

When the Antichrist commits this crime at the midpoint, it is violent.

Looking back at Zechariah 13:9, we see that of His people in the land at the time the Antichrist goes into the Holy of Holies, only a third will be successful in making it to the place the Lord has prepared for them. John provides us some background about this individual and tells us some of the events at the midpoint of the Tribulation that leads to the betrayal.

Revelation 12:17–13:6

"Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. **And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.** And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. **And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"** And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. **It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.**" (ESV)

It is after that mortal death like wound, which coincides with Satan and his minions being cast out of heaven to earth, that leads to the event Jesus talked about. Satan wants God's people dead.

Revelation 12:13–17

"And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, **he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.** Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea." (ESV)

With the remnant now in exile in the southwest of Jordan and being supernaturally protected by God, the events David dealt with with Ziph now come into play. And their prayer begins.

Psalms 54:1–3

"Save me, God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your power. Hear my prayer, God; Listen to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen against me And violent men have sought my life; They have not set God before them. Selah" (NASB 2020)



David was betrayed by Saul and by the people of Ziph. The remnant has been betrayed by the Antichrist. We know that the Lord warned about increases in betrayal taking place prior to the Second Coming, so consider the Tribulation as a time where it is normal to betray another.

Matthew 24:10

“And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another.” (NASB 2020)

The prayer begins, as we would expect it to, with three calls for God to act and act now. To save, to defend and to hear.

And when the prayer takes place there is a reliance on God’s reputation and character, His attributes. To save by His name. You hear the desperation.

Fleeing from Jerusalem for your life with the army of the Beast hunting you down would indeed change one’s viewpoint. Jesus, in His warning, made it very clear and personal as He reiterated, “let the reader take understand.” There will be those who will be looking at the New Testament trying to understand what is going on and Jesus already knows many will be reading prior to these events taking place. And when they see them take place, will remember the warning and head for the hills

Revelation 12 shows that those who are escaping will be provided supernatural assistance to get to the place of exile that the Lord has for them, somewhere near Bozrah thanks to the prophecy we read in Isaiah 63:1 and elsewhere. Jesus also said that where the nation is, that is where He will return to. “Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.” (Matthew 24:28, NASB 2020)

Also, that is where all of the armies of the world will gather to. The corpse, the nation of Israel, will be there as bait in order to draw the world’s armies into a small space for Jesus to deal with.

The prophets Micah and Jeremiah provided these details centuries before Yeshua’s prophecy. The remnant of Israel will hide in the city of Bozrah, the Hebrew name for the place known today by its Greek name, Petra (Mic. 2:12–13). The Gentile armies will gather together at Bozrah to finally annihilate the Jewish people (Jer. 49:12–14). Bozrah is the place of the second coming, a fact which is further confirmed by Micah 2:12–13; Habakkuk 3:3, and Isaiah 34:1–7 and 63:1–6. (Fruchtenbaum, Yeshua: The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective 2017-2020, 355)

And before He comes in answer to their prayer, they are already looking to the Lord to save them.

Are those who are attacking still human, are they even close enough to be considered brothers? David uses the term strangers. For him, when he uses the term saying “strangers have risen against me,” he is not talking about foreigners, but about the people of Ziph, who are of the tribe of Judah and are indeed Jewish, but are not acting like it. There are those who are geographically associated with Israel, even genetically associated with it, but they are not believers. Instead, they want to assert the will of Saul which is one of death and destruction.

When you add the term stranger though with the term violent men, now you are talking about those of the nations. “These ‘aliens in spirit’, these ‘tyrants’ are the types depicted in the previous two psalms who follow their own desires as if God’s ways were of no account—‘they have not set God before them.’ “ (Eveson 2014-2015, 343)

The word David uses in verse 3 translated stranger in our text is זָרִים (zarim).



This word means strange, different, heterogeneous, illicit...unauthorized person. (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 279)

When you consider that the Beast is referred to as an it by John, implying no longer being human. And when you consider that the Lord said it would be like the days of Noah, and then you see this word, you have to consider the possibility of those who are chasing after to destroy the nation are augmented humans, no longer truly human but transhuman.

The word translated violent is עָרִיצִים (arisim). The adjective is in the masculine so the translator added men but the word for men does not appear in the Hebrew. "It means primarily someone terrifying, hence powerful and intimidating, a tyrant. It denotes the victorious warrior, whom none can despoil of his booty (Isa. 49:25, par. to gibbôr, "mighty"; also in v. 24). The 'ārîšîm are foreign nations, advancing to pillage and slay (Ezk. 28:7 and 31:12 par. to zārîm, "strangers"; 32:12 par. to gibbôrîm; 30:11)." (Kedar-Kopfstein 2001, 377)

Interesting word choice that David makes here. The prayer to save, defend and hear is predicated on the character of God. That God will listen to the prayer because the enemy is strange and different terrifying and powerful. Not only that, but these entities also don't serve or follow God at all.

Like I said, I find the word choice made by David here interesting.

The first three verses though tell of the problem. If you have ever heard anyone, say not to pray for the problem they are confronting but for the promise instead, whoever said that has never taken a deep look at the psalms.

If David is writing this from the first encounter, he is on one side of a hill with Saul's forces surrounding him and closing in him. Only the Lord could rescue him and the Lord does.

This is no difference than the remnant as they flee from the augmented humans making up the forces of the Beast. The only way they can get away and remain protected is if God does it. And He does for 3 ½ years but Jesus warns, there will be various attempts to draw people out though deceptive lies which will make their way into the hiding area of the remnant. And there will indeed be some who give into those lies and come out thinking it is safe, it isn't.

Psalm 54:4-7

"Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul. He will pay back the evil to my enemies; Destroy them in Your faithfulness. Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, LORD, for it is good. For He has saved me from all trouble, And my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies." (NASB 2020)

In the middle of all of this, David praises the Lord. Once again David sees that it is the Lord who will rescue him, one more time. The remnant will also pray the same. And they will have reason to do so.

Revelation 12:15-16

"And the serpent hurled water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon had hurled out of his mouth." (NASB 2020)

Is this a real river of water? Most likely not. This term has been used elsewhere in the Bible to describe military forces. We see this term used of a military force in Jeremiah 46:7-10, and in Jeremiah 47:2-4 it is used to describe the ebb and flow of the Babylonian military across the landscape.



Psalm 124:1–5

““Had it not been the LORD who was on our side,” Let Israel say, “Had it not been the LORD who was on our side When people rose up against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive, **When their anger was kindled against us; Then the waters would have flooded over us, The stream would have swept over our souls;** Then the raging waters would have swept over our souls.”” (NASB 2020)

So probably military force and not a flood of water. There is a unique end for those troops who try to find the remnant hiding out in the desert. Shades of Numbers 16:19-33 and Korah’s rebellion. Tough to fight when the land swallows you.

We also see the contrast between the antichrist and the remnant. The remnant is relying on the Lord. He is the one who sustains them and does so supernaturally, just as he sustained David.

For us a followers of Jesus, this is also something we need to remember as well. Jesus is our helper, sustainer, the one who takes care of us in His faithfulness to us. That is where our eyes have to be at all times.

I have learned over the years that as long as I keep my eyes on Jesus, then the garbage of this world doesn’t catch me up in it. But when I don’t, then I am miserable and more than ready to share that with others.

Psalm 54:5

“He will pay back the evil to my enemies; Destroy them in Your faithfulness.” (NASB 2020)

David knows this because he keeps his eyes on the Lord. The remnant is also learning this as they are in the position of total reliance, just like the nation was while in the wilderness after leaving Egypt.

God will indeed repay those who stand against Him. That is God’s nature to right wrongs. He does that. We forget that from time to time but He is just and righteous. That means justice to those who become our enemies, unless they repent. It also means justice to the forces of the Beast.

There are some who may take offense at what His justice in this case will look, destruction. David here is teaching us to pray as well as the remnant. We pray in accordance with His character and His attributes.

On the basis of God’s truth, the psalmist prays that his enemies would be exterminated. He’s asking God to act according to his name, his character. Praying for God to act according to his character is always right and good. And it’s the most potent praying we can do because we’re always appealing to what is true, to what God has revealed about himself. (Platt, Mason and Shaddix 2020, 37)

But does that make sense to us today, to pray that God obliterate someone, or in the case of the remnant, the armies of the Beast? For those of us who follow Jesus, we understand that we are His imagers. We were created in the image of God. That is why when you hear of a violent crime and the bad guy got away, you want that person caught. That is also why you want justice. That is you and me reflecting the God of the universe we love and serve.

Every time I hear about ISIS attacking another church in Kenya, my heart breaks and at the same moment I want justice, and I tell the Lord I want justice for those who have been killed.

Yes, we would love to see them come to Christ, but deep down inside, we want to see them get pounded for what they did. When someone offends you, or misuses you or attacks you, what is it you desire most of all, justice.



Do we pray this way? Do we shoot straight with God about the person who has offended us? Paul did.

2 Timothy 4:14–15

“Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself too, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.” (NASB 2020)

“As a good Father, he wants us to crawl up in his lap and express the deepest groaning of our heart, even if in the moment it’s the desire for our enemies to be zapped! When we are willing to come to God and pray this way, he always welcomes us and loves us, just as a father does with a child. And as we commune with him in such unguarded honesty, he responds to us with the gospel. And that gospel refines and tweaks and redeems our childish passions, motives, and desires.” (Platt, Mason and Shaddix 2020, 38-39) We eventually wind up praying for the offender.

Psalms 54:6–7

“Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, LORD, for it is good. For He has saved me from all trouble, And my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies.” (NASB 2020)

David was absolutely certain that the Lord would show up. At the point that the remnant is praying this, they have already seen Him show just to get them to safety. They too are ready to praise the Lord in anticipation of His deliverance.

When we pray and we are waiting on the Lord, do we praise Him for what He will be doing on our behalf?

Here at Calvary Chapel, we are praying for a building, and for a place to meet on Sunday April 26th and May 17th. Praise the Lord we have not had to deal with this in the past, and we know the Lord will provide us a place now and in the future. Just look at what He has already done.

All of us would agree with David, “I will praise Your name, Lord, for it is good.”

Praise is good in itself, good to us, and good to all around us. If David’s enemies are described in the third verse as not setting God before them, he here declares that he is of a different mind from them, for he resolves to have the Lord in perpetual remembrance in his sacrifices and praises. (Spurgeon n.d., 442)

Psalms 54:7

“For He has saved me from all trouble, And my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies.” (NASB 2020)

We have arrived at the end of the prayer. Yes, we have indeed been betrayed and the one we trusted as the remnant instead turned around and is now seeking to kill the entire nation. But He has saved me from all trouble.

The two verbs has delivered and has looked (which have been called “perfects of confidence”) convey what only the Spirit of God and the eye of faith can give to a believer: the assurance that what God has promised he will perform. Even in the midst of troubles, these may be spoken. (Ash 2024, 44)

Jesus will indeed return as His remnant ask Him as one to come and save them.

Zechariah 12:10

““And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of pleading, so that they will look at Me whom they pierced; and they will mourn for Him, like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.” (NASB 2020)



Zechariah 14:9–10

“And the LORD will be King over all the earth; on that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. All the land will change into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin’s Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king’s wine presses.” (NASB 2020)

Let’s pray.

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