

THE VINDICATION OF JESUS

Text: Psalm 109

INTRO: This psalm, like several of the others we have studied, is probably not Messianic in the strictest sense, but it certainly has some Messianic application as Simon Peter shows in Acts 1:20. Its title in the Syriac Version says it is "a Psalm of David, when the people, without his knowledge, made Absalom king; on which account he was slain: but to us he details the passion of Christ."

I. THE UNJUST TREATMENT OF OUR LORD AT THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES, vs. 1-5.

A. False witnesses, vs. 1-2.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward & said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" (Matt. 26:59-61).

B. Hated without a cause, vs. 3-5.

He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' (John 15:23-25).

II. JUDAS ISCARIOT, vs. 6-20.

A. Foreshadowed in other psalms.

I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.' (John 13:18, a quote from Psa 41:9)

For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.' (Acts 1:20, from

Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8)

B. Satan was Judas' adviser, vs. 6-7

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him... When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me..." Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." (John 13:2, 21, 26-17).

C. Fell from his apostolic calling, vs. 8.

Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; & 'Let another take his office.' "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed & said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias.

And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.
(Acts 1:16-26)

D. Numerous curses were to come upon Judas for his betrayal of the Lord, vs. 9-20.

III. A PLEA FOR GOD'S HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE,
vs. 21-31.

A. Remember the shame heaped upon Jesus by His enemies, vs. 21-25.

And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads & saying, "You who destroy the temple & build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."
(Matt. 17:39-40)

B. God's cause triumphs even in Christ's death, vs. 26-27.
"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- Him, being delivered by the determined purpose & foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (Acts 2:22-24)

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One & the Just, & asked for a murderer to be granted to you, & killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignor-

ance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.
(Acts 3:13-18)

The kings of the earth took their stand, & the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ.' "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.
(Acts 4:26-28).

- C. Christ's death makes possible great blessings -- even to those who cursed Him -- **if** they will repent of their sins & obey His will, vs. 28-31.

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