

Psalm 109 A Psalm of David

LORD, please help me

¹ LORD, You are my God, and I praise You. Please don't be silent when I call upon You in prayer asking for help. ² I ask for Your help because evil men are telling all sorts of lies about me, and they are doing their best to make me look like some kind of scoundrel. They lie about me over and over again by saying things that are designed to convey a false impression of my character. ³ They surround me speaking words of hatred, and they fight against me even though I have done nothing wrong. There is one man in particular among them who instigates the whole thing. ⁴⁻⁵ Even though I have loved him and them, they repay me with all sorts of accusations of wrongdoing. Though I have loved them, they repay me with evil in response to the good I have done to them.

LORD, please punish my adversaries

⁶ LORD, please punish this wicked man, and destroy him so that the others will see and fear. Please deal with him in the following way:

- ⁷ Raise up someone to accuse him of wrongdoing in the court.
- ⁷ When his case is tried, cause the judge to declare him guilty.
- Cause his prayer for leniency to be seen as a sinful act.
- ⁸ Cause him to experience a premature death a few days from now, and then raise up a good man to step into his position of authority.
- ⁹ Yes, take his life so that his children will be fatherless and his wife a widow.
- ¹⁰ Cause his children to become vagabonds, searching for food far from the ruined homes they had previously occupied.
- ¹¹ Let his creditor confiscate enough of his finances and possessions to satisfy all of his debts.
- Then let complete strangers plunder everything else he owns.
- ¹² Don't allow anyone to show kindness or pity to him or his fatherless children.
- ¹³ Cause all of his descendants to die by the end of the second generation after his death, and cause all remembrance of them to be blotted out.
- ¹⁴ LORD, remember the sins of his parents forever. ¹⁵ Let those sins be continually before You so that You will cut off all remembrance of them from the earth.
- ¹⁶ Be so severe with him because he crushed the poor and needy, along with those who had either lost hope or were discouraged. In fact, that man was so severe with them that it caused their premature death.

- ¹⁷⁻¹⁹ He never said nice things to other people because he hated doing so. He was foul-mouthed and loved cursing. In fact, he cursed so much that others could see it as though it was a coat, and it permeated his whole being. Therefore, let everyone see it as such.
- ²⁰ Let these things be the only reward my accusers receive since they speak evil of me.

LORD, please be kind and rescue me

²¹ LORD God, although I beg You to crush my adversaries, please treat me kindly for Your name's sake. Please deliver me in keeping with Your tender love and kindness. ²² Please do so, because I am experiencing all kinds of hurts and heartaches, I have several serious needs, and my heart is broken over the way I am being mistreated. ²³ I am experiencing so many ups and downs that my life is passing by like a fast-moving freight train. ²⁴ I am physically weak, and my body is mere skin and bones. ²⁵ I am the object of my enemies' scorn, and each time they walk by they shake their heads saying, in effect, "What a pathetic piece of humanity!" They simply couldn't treat me any worse. ²⁶ LORD God, please help me, and rescue me in keeping with Your tender love and kindness. ²⁷ When You rescue me, please do it in such a way that my enemies will recognize that You are the One who did it. ²⁸ All they can do is curse, but You speak blessings. At some point they will end up being ashamed of their actions, but, I am Your servant and will be glad and rejoice. ²⁹ Let my adversaries' dishonor be seen by everyone, and let these evil people come to understand how their wicked actions have made everyone look down upon them with disgust.

³⁰ LORD, regardless of what they do, I will thank and praise You over, and over, and over again. I will do it both privately and as a testimony in church. ³¹ How can I do anything else when You constantly stand ready to help those in need and save them from the man who would condemn him to death?

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