

“Hear My Prayer”

Psalm 5

Psalms - General

- Prayers that need to be understood, but also experienced
- Text, theology and spirituality all essential
- Interpretation: Messianic, historical, prophetic and type
- Used to facilitate worship and personal devotion
- Allows for full range of expression of human experiencing

Overall Interpretive Agenda

- Being attentive to God's will/law = happiness
- Summary of God's will – justice and righteousness which lead to shalom (peace)
- Judgement reserved for those who oppose this agenda

Psalm 5: 1-3 Taking Prayer Seriously

- ¹ Listen to my words, LORD,
consider my lament.
- ² Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.
- ³ In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

Psalm 5:4-6

Appeal for God's righteousness to rule over humankind

⁴ For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

⁵ The arrogant cannot stand
in your presence.

You hate all who do wrong;

⁶ you destroy those who tell lies.

The bloodthirsty and deceitful
you, LORD, detest.

Psalm 5:7-8 Attitude in Prayer

- ⁷ But I, by your great love,
 can come into your house;
in reverence I bow down
 toward your holy temple.
- ⁸ Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness
 because of my enemies—
 make your way straight before me.

Psalms – “Juxtapositions”

- Hurt – hope
- Pain – praise
- Suffering – glory

Psalm 5:9-10

Main complaint and appeal to God for redress

⁹ Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
their heart is filled with malice.

Their throat is an open grave;
with their tongues they tell lies.

¹⁰ Declare them guilty, O God!
Let their intrigues be their downfall.

Banish them for their many sins,
for they have rebelled against you.

Vengence Statements

- Acknowledge the persistence of opposition to God
- Communicate the hurtful consequences of injustice
- Victimization is given voice
- Prayers for justice, righteousness and shalom
- Prayers that God would set things right focus on God's will for the experience of well-being and peace in the world

Psalm 5:11-12

Refuge in God, and his blessing of the righteous

- ¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.
- ¹² Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Commentary

- God *opposes* his enemies, does not *destroy* them. Why???
- God's love of Creation makes him vulnerable to disobedience
- Culmination: the Incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Jesus – take up our cross and *follow*

Commentary

- The focus from the beginning is on God's will for justice, righteousness and shalom
- The prayers—
 - protest the absence of God's justice and righteousness
 - articulate the hurtful impacts of disobedience
 - and plead for God's will to be done.

Commentary

- Psalms of all kinds – praise, complaint, lament – invite all people to submit themselves to the sovereignty of God who wills their well-being and peace.
- Invited not only to bring our cries to him, but to partner with him in the bringing about justice, righteousness and shalom.
- Both: as the complainant, and as the instrument of peace

Psalm 5 - Responses

- An inward response
- An outward response