

Part 6 – The Rewards of Iniquity

In part 5 we learned how David spoke of his enemies giving him gall (poison) to eat and vinegar to drink; and this was an analogy to explain how they lied, slandered and gossiped about him. And we learned too that Jesus Christ literally fulfilled this verse (both parts of it) when He hung on the cross. And David, therefore, asked that God would let their ‘table’ be a trap (snare) to his enemies. Essentially, he asked that their lies would come back to trouble them and not do them any good. David also asked that their eyes would be darkened so they couldn’t see the truth of how they were only digging their own grave, so that they would be surprised when God’s wrath finally fell upon them. And that’s why he also asked that their loins would shake continually when God did punish them. And Paul quoted from verses 22-23 to explain how Israel refused to believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah and how that actually worked to the benefit of all mankind, even the Gentiles. For, Jesus Christ *had* to die on the cross to pay for the sins of *all* the world, not just those of Israel. And therefore, anyone who refused Jesus Christ does have their eyes darkened and their belief in lies will be a snare to them. For anyone who believes in Satan’s lies, especially when he comes to earth pretending to be God, our ‘Savior’ – and worships him and his wicked beast system – will indeed be taken in their own snares and traps when God’s wrath is poured out upon them. They *will* be punished according to their own wicked words and works. But those who remain faithful servants to Jesus Christ will be greatly rewarded when Jesus Christ returns, just as David was rewarded for his loyalty to God. We’ll now continue to study this great Psalm 69 and, as we’ll see, David is not yet done asking for God’s vengeance...

Psalm 69

24 Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them.

So, after David has been explaining the evil slanders, lies and gossip that have been poured out upon him from the wicked ones, he has been asking for God to take vengeance upon them. And he now is quite blunt about it. He directly asks that God pour out His indignation upon them. The words ‘**pour out**’ mean *to spill forth* (blood, a libation, liquid metal; or even a solid, i.e. to mound up); also (figuratively) *to expend* (life, soul, complaint, money, etc.); intensively, to *sprawl out* (#8210). And the word ‘**indignation**’ means *to froth at the mouth* and, figuratively, it means *fury, especially of God's displeasure with sin* (#2195). And the word ‘**wrathful**’ means a *burning of anger* (#2740) while the word ‘**anger**’ means the *nose or nostril from the rapid breathing of passion or ire* (#639). Keep in mind now, David is not asking these things come upon those who are seeking God and striving to obey Him. David is asking these things come upon people who are *truly* wicked; those who totally refuse to hear, or obey, our Heavenly Father. The kind of people who don’t fear God enough to refrain from doing evil. Rather, they *seek hard* to do evil; not just to David but to *anyone* who loves and serves our Heavenly Father. And truly, God’s anger **is** towards people who do this. Just think how angry you would (or do) get at those who hurt your children, and you can understand this much better.

So, it's important to remember that, if we believe in God, and are sincerely trying to obey Him (from the heart), then *His anger is not directed towards us*. His anger is *only* towards those who don't care about doing what's right; those who truly *want* to do evil things. And it's also important to remember that, *it is God's being angry at the wicked that causes Him to protect, and vindicate, those who do love and serve Him*. Many Christians seem to get very confused about God's anger, as well as His vengeance. His vengeance is *only* poured out upon those who are *truly* wicked, and there *really are* people like this in the world. As Ps 7:11 said: *God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day*. God 'judges' the righteous by punishing the wicked ones when they hurt His children who are trying to obey Him. And, He truly is angry at the wicked ones, every day, because they *continue* to refuse to do what's right, even though He has (and still does) sent His servants to warn them to stop doing evil. Further, His Word also documents, many times, that He *has* punished the wicked ones, even in very public ways. And, as Jude 7 and 2 Peter 2:4-6 explain, these examples serve as warnings to anyone who wants to do wickedly. God will *always* punish the wicked *and* reward the righteous, which are simply those who truly have faith in Him, and therefore sincerely try to do what's right, even though they do fall short at times (Rom 3:23-24).

So, David's request is quite appropriate here. He's simply asking that God would remember to (and He always does) punish those who refuse to repent and stop doing horrible things to God's innocent children. And the Scriptures do tell us God has always punished the wicked ones, in order to protect His innocent (and righteous) children throughout all time. And *He always will*. That's why He will eventually send His Son, Jesus Christ, back to the earth to put a *final end* to the wicked ones ruling the earth. That's why Rev 19:11 tells us that, *in righteousness He* [Jesus Christ] *doth judge and make war*. As Paul also reminds us...

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

2 Thess 1:6-10

Psalm 69

25 Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents.

David continues to ask that God punish the wicked ones. The word ‘**habitation**’ here means a **wall**; hence, a **fortress** or a **hamlet** (#2918) and the *Companion Bible* has a note explaining this refers to a **palace**; i.e. **a place surrounded by a wall**. And the word ‘**desolate**’ means **to stun** (or intransitively, **grow numb**), i.e. **devastate** or (figuratively) **stupefy** (both usually in a passive sense) (#8074) and the word ‘**dwell**’ means (in the context of this verse) **to sit down quietly**, to **dwell, remain** or **settle** (#3427); so it means this essentially means to live in peace. So, while the wicked ones try so very hard to protect themselves (in various ways) from any retribution from their wicked works, David requests that our Heavenly Father will not let them live in peace but to make even their home, town and/or national defenses be devastated.

Again, there are many examples of how our Heavenly Father’s righteous warfare against the wicked can reach even into the inner most part of the enemy’s life. Consider how He fought against the Egyptians, who held Israel in bondage. God not only made their only water source (the Nile) undrinkable (through making it turn to ‘blood’) but then He sent frogs, gnats (wrongfully translated as lice) and flies to annoy the crap out of them. If you’ve ever been outside where there were lots of these pets, you can appreciate how intolerable this must have been for them, when they had *tons* of them around. And then He also caused their food supply to be destroyed by plaguing their cattle (which they *worshiped*), sending hail and fire that killed *even more of them*, and then, even sending locusts to eat up what was left of their food supply. And that’s only *one* example. He also showed how easily He can entirely destroy wicked cities by ‘raining’ brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:24), which destroyed entire cities. And even when Israel was disobeying Him, God also punished them according to their wickedness. They often were plagued with droughts and invading armies as well as sicknesses they couldn’t find any healing from. So, even though the wicked ones try hard to defend themselves from calamities, they simply *cannot* defend themselves against the warfare that God Almighty brings upon them. This is a lesson that the wicked ones are really just too stupid to consider. As another Psalm so beautifully states...

6 A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

*7 When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; **it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:***

Ps 92:6-7

Now, this verse was also quoted by Peter, concerning Judas Iscariot, who was the man who betrayed Jesus Christ...

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

*16 Men and brethren, **this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas**, which was guide to them that took Jesus.*

17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.
18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.
19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.
20 **For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick** [bishop] **let another take.**
21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.
23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.
24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,
25 **That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.**
26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.
Acts 1:15-26

So, Peter himself (who was filled with the Holy Spirit by this time) pointed out that this verse here in Ps 69:25 was *directly prophesying* of what would happen to Judas Iscariot. Indeed, his place as an apostle was destroyed because he betrayed Jesus Christ. Judas ended up dying shortly after his betrayal so his ‘habitation’ did become ‘desolate and he did not dwell in his tent (flesh body) after that. And, along with this Psalm 69:25, Peter also quoted Ps 109:8 (another Psalm of David) which says: *Let his days be few; and let another take his office.* So, Judas did lose his apostleship, *and his life*, on account of his betraying Jesus Christ. And while it’s quite evident from Mth 27:3-5 that Judas repented for his grave sin in betraying the Son of God, he still lost his apostleship and his life. Which goes to show us that siding with Satan *never* ‘pays’ well. We will eventually be punished when turn our back on Jesus Christ (Heb 10:26-31). But don’t forget that it is possible that Jesus Christ forgave Judas. For while he was likely sent to the ‘hell’ part of the heavenly/spiritual dimension (that Lk 16 tells us about) Jesus went to ‘hell’ (those who were in prison for disobeying God) during the three days His flesh body was in the grave. And, as 1 Peter 3:19-20 states, the purpose was so that Jesus could preach the Gospel to them, so that they too had the opportunity to repent, and be forgiven, *so they could get out of ‘hell’ and go live in ‘paradise’ with Jesus.* So, it is quite possible that Judas accepted the gift of grace from Jesus’ blood shed for all of our sins. But that doesn’t take away from the fact that, while he was still on earth, these Scriptures were fulfilled through him. And, it is therefore a grave warning to all those who want to continue to do wickedly, without repentance...

Psalm 69

26 For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded.

The word ‘they’ still refers to *the wicked ones* and the word ‘persecute’ means *to run after* (usually with hostile intent; figuratively [of time] gone by) (#7291). And the word ‘smitten’ means *to strike lightly or severely* (literally or figuratively) (#5221). And the word ‘talk’ means *to recount* or even *to celebrate* (#5608) while the word ‘wounded’ means *pierced* (especially to death) and, figuratively, it means *polluted* (#2491). The *Companion Bible* has a note explaining that the phrase *those whom thou hast wounded* means ‘thy wounded ones’ because the word ‘thou’ is the same word as ‘wounded’ (#2419). David’s point is that, while God chastises those He loves (Deut 8:5, Heb 12:6-7) the wicked ones do *far more* than that. God only chastens us as much as is needed to cleanse our heart and mind, and teach us not to sin anymore. But, the wicked ones persecute (run after with hostile intent) and talk grief (as with slander and lies) even to those who God is chastising – thus, *they are adding much more affliction to God’s children than He wants*.

As an example of this, when God’s people Israel were sinning (both the northern kingdom of Israel and then the southern kingdom of Judah), God allowed them to be afflicted (invaded and eventually taken captive) by the Assyrians (the northern kingdom of Israel) and then the Babylonians (the southern kingdom of Judah). But, they often afflicted Israel and Judah *much more* than God really wanted. And for that, God did punish them; for neither of those nations were allowed to continue on much longer, and were eventually overrun by other nations. God brings this point out in Zech 1:15 when He said: *And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction*. In other words, the heathen – who God used to discipline His children – were much harsher than God really wanted. And *that’s* what David’s saying here; he understood he was not without fault (Ps 69:5) and knew that God chastised him, as He does for all those who he loves (Deut 8:5, Heb 12:6-7). But David is pointing out that his enemies are persecuting him *way beyond* chastisement. And that’s why he’s asking for them to be punished. And, while Jesus Christ never did have any sin (so He did not ever need to be chastised by God), He was still smitten and afflicted simply *to pay for our sins* (Isa 53:4-6, 1 Pt 3:21-24). And that *was* pleasing to God *because* it was through Jesus’ sufferings (being unjustly afflicted) that we all can have atonement for our sins (Rom 3:24-25). And, in a similar manner, God allowed David to go through the hard times so he would be a good king of Israel. But, because David’s persecutors were being *so severe*, he then asks that God would...

Psalm 69

27 Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness.

The word ‘**add**’ here means *to give* (#5414) and both words ‘**iniquity**’ mean *perversity* or *moral evil* (#5771), which refers to what he was talking about in the prior verse (26). And then the word ‘**righteousness**’ can mean either *rightness, rectitude, justice, morally virtue* or *prosperity* (#6666). And the *Companion Bible* has a note concerning the word ‘iniquity’, explaining that it’s a figure of speech (*Metonymy*, of effect, apx 6) where a name or noun is used instead of another, to which it stands in a certain relation. In this case, the word ‘iniquity’ is used for *the punishments deserved by it*. Which is why the *Moffett Bible* renders this verse as: “*Punish them for their crime, exclude them from thy favors*”. And this is truly how God works. He does not bless, or help, those who do iniquity. As we learned back in Ps 66:18, if we see iniquity in our heart, the Lord won’t hear (as in answer) our prayers. The bottom line is that our Heavenly Father will never help us to do evil and He’ll never condone our sins (iniquity). So, naturally, those who do iniquity won’t be able to come near to Him, nor will they be helped by Him. That’s why Jesus warned in Mth 7:21-23 that many people who claim they work for Him (i.e. call themselves Christians) won’t be allowed to serve in His government when He returns. They’ll be excluded from His presence, at that time, *because* they are ‘workers of iniquity’. Jesus’ eternal government is eternal because it is *incorruptible*; and that means that there won’t be *anyone* whose spirit is corrupted serving in it.

Psalm 69

28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

David continues to ask God to punish the wicked ones. And this request is quite strong too, for the word ‘**blotted**’ means *to stroke* or *rub*, even to *erase* (#4229). And the word ‘**written**’ means to *grave* or to *write, describe, inscribe, prescribe* or *subscribe* (#3789). And the word ‘**righteous**’ means the *just* (#6662). Now, the ‘book of the living’ was well known by David’s time. In fact, Moses even asked quite an astounding thing of God when he was pleading with God to forgive Israel for making the idol (golden calf) and worshiping it when they were in the wilderness...

32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Ex 32:32-33

So, the ‘book of the living’ is clearly a ‘book’ that God keeps the names of those who love, fear and obey Him in. And Moses (being an intercessor for Israel and a great type for Jesus Christ) asked God to blot him out of God’s ‘book’ if He would not forgive Israel. But God refused and proclaimed that *only* those who sin against *Him* will be blotted out of His ‘book’. And that’s why David (who had these Scriptures from Moses to read) asked that those who were doing so vile

things to him would be blotted out of God's 'book of the living'. Because David was faithfully serving God, those who were persecuting him (unjustly) were actually sinning against God. So, David's point was not to judge them, but to point out their sins and ask God exact judgment upon them, *according to His Word*. There's also another place in the Old Testament that tell us about a 'book' of God. Mal 3:16 says: *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, **and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*** So, we see the purpose of God's 'book of the living' and how you get 'written' into it.

And, while there's not much more written about God's 'book of the living' in the Old Testament, the New Testament does give us some more enlightening information about it. In Phil 4:3 Paul speaks about how his fellow laborers (in Christ Jesus) names were written in the 'book of life'. And the book of Revelations has several references to it. In Rev 3:5, we're told that: *he that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and **I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*** The word 'confess' here means *to acknowledge* or (by implication *of assent*) *agree fully* (#1843). So, those who He denies (as He warns He will do to some who claim they serve Him, in Mth 7:21-23) *won't* be in the book of life. That means they won't be given eternal life when Jesus Christ returns to earth, which is the first resurrection (Rev 20:4-6). And Rev 13:1-10 *clearly* tells us that those who worship Satan, and his wicked 'beast' governing system, do **not** have their names written in the 'book of life' (vs 8). And verse 10 declares the 'timeless truth' that the wicked will be punished according to their own wicked words and works, for it states: *he that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

And then Rev 17:7-8 also references the 'book of life' when explaining the same thing: those who worship the beast, and Satan, do **not** have their names written in the 'book of life'. And then Rev 20:12-15 tells us how, after the Millennium – which means after all people who did not make the first resurrection have been taught God's Word for a thousand years – if they still do not embrace Jesus Christ and repent wholeheartedly, they will be judge 'according to their works'. And so, if – by the end of the Millennium – they still do not have their names written in the 'book of life', they will be cast into the lake of fire, which is called the 'second death' in vs 14. Verse 15 candidly says that: *whosoever was not found written **in the book of life** was cast into the lake of fire.* So, being written in the 'book of life' is equivalent to having eternal life. Which is why Rev 21:27 states that only those who are written in the Lamb's 'book of life' will be allowed to go into "New Jerusalem". And Rev 22:19 also warns that: *if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.***

So again, **being written in God's (and Jesus') 'book of life' is equivalent to eternal life**. And all those who are not written in the 'book of life' WILL be 'blotted out' of the 'book of the living' (the 'book of life'), which means they will cease to exist forever. As David wrote back in Ps 37:20: *the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away*. **That** is how the wicked (those who are not written in the 'book of life') will be when they are thrown into the 'lake of fire' (Rev 20). They'll go up into smoke, just as the fat of lambs goes up into smoke once hitting the fire. And when the smoke goes up, it dissipates into nothing... and *that's* the fate of all those who do not accept Jesus Christ as their King and Savior. So, David is completely convinced that those who are wickedly persecuting him are truly *incorrigible* rebels and they cannot be 'reformed'. He therefore asks that God fully destroy them by blotting them out of His 'book of life'. As God told Moses in Ex 32:33, all those who sin against Him will be 'blotted out' of the 'book of Life'... that is, all those who do not repent. Which is why God gave Jesus a thousand years (the Millennium, Rev 20) to enforce His righteous Laws to the world *and* to teach (through His faithful servants who do make the first resurrection) the truth to those who did not 'make it' (the first resurrection). Because, being 'blotted out' of God's 'book of the living' is a *permanent* thing. There is no resurrecting (brining back to life) anyone after they have been fully destroyed by the 'lake of fire' (Rev 20:15).

So, our Heavenly Father (who is full of grace, mercy and compassion) will not do so until He has thoroughly separated the true incorrigible rebels from those who will repent. As Peter so well explained in 2 Peter 3:9: *the Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*. While not all will come to repentance, God is longsuffering so as many as will repent, have every opportunity possible to do so. And *that's* why God puts up with the wicked ones. So, while He has not yet blotted anyone out of His 'book of life' (not even Satan, *yet*), He will do so (in answer to David's prayer request here). But again, it won't be *until* He is totally sure there is no way they will change from their wicked ways. After all, Ezek 18 and 33 both tell us that God really doesn't want the wicked to have to die. He sincerely *wants* them to repent and turn back to Him so they can live. But the fact remains that our Heavenly Father won't put up with rebellion and wickedness *forever*. There will come a time when the wicked ones are finally blotted out of existence forever. And that is why He can promise us an eternity with peace and prosperity where He wipes away all our tears and there will never be anymore death, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev 21:4). So, we who love our Heavenly Father have great things to look forward to, even though we have to put up with the wicked ones for a while. Because, in the end, wickedness *does not pay*. They'll be fully 'done away with', eventually, and the rest of us can live in peace with our Heavenly Father, forever...

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jeus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

*21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.***

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

*24 Now **unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,***

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 17-25

We'll pick this up in part 7...

AMEN.