

God of Vengeance

Psalm 94

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Matters of Justice

II. God of Vengeance Shine Forth!

Psalm 94 teaches us four things when dealing with codified injustice, injustice that enjoys the force of law.

- **First**, _____ out to God for justice.
- **Second**, know that _____ hears, understands, and weighs everything;
- **Third**, know that God is _____ and will favor those who love justice;
- **Fourth**, _____ in the Lord, His law, and His promises.

A. Crying for Justice (vv. 1-3)

First, it is our privilege and consolation to _____ to God when suffering unjustly.
*O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs— O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!
 Rise up, O Judge of the earth; Render punishment to the proud. LORD, how long will the wicked,
 How long will the wicked triumph?*

1. Revenge vs. Vengeance

The psalmist cries out for _____. “O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs— O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!” As we consider this, we must distinguish carefully between *revenge* and *vengeance*. Barton Bouchier explains:

“I do not think that we sufficiently attend to the distinction that exists between revenge and vengeance. ‘Revenge,’ says Dr. Johnson, ‘is an act of passion, vengeance of justice; injuries are revenged, crimes avenged.’ And it is from not attending to this essential distinction that the scorner has been led into such profane remarks, as if there were a vindictive spirit in the Almighty, and as if he found delight in wreaking vengeance on an adversary. The call which the Psalmist here makes on God as a God to whom vengeance belongs, is no other than if he had said, ‘O God, to whom justice belongs!’”

2. The Proud and the Wicked

Who are these *proud* and *wicked men*? The _____ man is the one who makes himself or his society or his false god the standard of righteousness rather than submitting to the moral law of the living God. The proud man becomes _____ when he uses his power to enforce his perverted opinions of what is “just” or “right.”

B. The Folly of the Wicked and the Certainty of Justice (vv. 4-11)

Second, know that _____ hears, understands, and weighs everything.

They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves. They break in pieces Your people, O LORD, And afflict Your heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, And murder the fatherless. Yet they say, "The LORD does not see, Nor does the God of Jacob understand." Understand, you senseless among the people; And you fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall He not bear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge? The LORD knows the thoughts of man, That they are futile.

While the wicked claim to act with impunity, God sees and takes note of their injustice. They are _____ – brute beasts, fools, understanding nothing. The God of Justice sees all and will hold all accountable. Nothing escapes His notice.

C. The Blessing of the Righteous (vv. 12-15)

Third, the psalmist reminds us that the _____ will triumph in the end.

Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD, And teach out of Your law, That You may give him rest from the days of adversity, Until the pit is dug for the wicked. For the LORD will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance. But judgment will return to righteousness, And all the upright in heart will follow it.

God always favors those who, like Him, *love justice and do justly* (12-15). The blessed man is the one whom *God instructs* or _____. God uses the oppression of the wicked to teach us more about justice and to drive us back to His law. God will cause justice to reign in the earth. He will vindicate those who love justice in time and eternity.

D. Our confidence in the face of injustice (vv. 16-23)

Fourth, when those who should be upholding righteousness fail, we look in faith to the _____ who will not fail.

Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? Unless the LORD had been my help, My soul would soon have settled in silence. If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul. Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You? They gather together against the life of the righteous, And condemn innocent blood. But the LORD has been my defense, And my God the rock of my refuge. He has brought on them their own iniquity, And shall cut them off in their own wickedness; The LORD our God shall cut them off.

Do not lose heart! When suffering unjustly, we can still trust God and His promises. Though the *"throne of iniquity...devises evil by _____,"* though they use their power to perpetrate injustice, their plans will not prosper. God is the Lord.

III. Conclusion