

8. **We were God's enemies before He redeemed us (Rom. 5:10).**
9. **The devil is God's enemy and the believer's enemy (Matt. 13:25, 39).**
10. **We are to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44, 45; Rom. 12:20).**
11. **We are not to give our enemies the occasion for reproach (1 Tim. 5:14).**
12. **The last enemy to be defeated is death (1 Cor. 15:26).**

Berachah Bible Church
February 14, 2010
Dr. Howard E. Dial
Notes

Sermon

Israel's Enemies

Psalm 129

Introduction

1. **Is the Bible really true? Think about Israel.**
2. **Why is the Abrahamic Covenant so important?**
3. **What is a striking fact about Israel's history (Rev. 12:2)?**

I. Israel's enemies have inflicted the scars of Satan's hatred (vv. 1-4).

- **Israel's story is one of persecution (vv. 1-3).**
 - Egyptians, Amalekites (Ex. 17:8; Num.14:45), Canaanites (Num. 21:1), Amorites (Num. 21:23), Moabites, Midianites, Ammonites, Philistines, Edomites, Assyrians, Syrians, Babylonians, Haman (Persia), Greeks, Romans, European powers (Middle Ages), Germany, Arab nations
- **Israel's story is one of God's faithfulness to His covenant (v. 4).**

II. Israel's enemies will be afflicted with the punishment of God (vv. 5-8).

- **Imprecatory psalms** (“asking God to judge those who “hate Zion” and oppress her people” in Psalm 129)
 - It is right to desire the punishment of evil and the triumph and reward of righteous people.
 - The judgments described in imprecatory psalms (and worse) are nevertheless exactly what will come to the wicked eventually.
 - One use of the imprecatory psalms, therefore, is to warn people how seriously God takes sin, urging them to seek grace while grace is available (J. Boice).
 - The imprecation of defeat (v. 5).
 - The imprecation of failure (vv. 6-7)
 - The imprecation of deprivation (v. 8)

Summary/conclusion

- 1. Israel's existence as God's covenant people has met with Satan's opposition (Gen. 12:1-3; Rev. 12:2).**
- 2. Israel's enemies were to be defeated as Israel relied upon/obeyed the Lord (Gen. 22:17-18; Lev. 26:7, 8; Num. 10:35; Deut. 28:7).**
- 3. Israel was not to give her enemies the occasion to mock her by her having dishonored God (Ex. 32:25).**
- 4. Israel's disobedience to God (covenant violation) would result in the triumph of her enemies (Lev. 26:16, 17, 32; Deut. 28:25).**
- 5. Israel's enemies were thwarted by God in their attempts to destroy her (Esther 9:1, 5, 22).**
- 6. Israel's enemies were God's enemies (Psa. 21; 37:20; 68:1; 92:9).**
 - Israel's king, the representative of Jehovah
 - The enemies of the Israel's Messiah will be defeated (Psa. 110:1, 2; Isa. 42:13).
 - Israel will finally be delivered from all her enemies in the Messianic age (Ezek. 39:27; 38:24).
- 7. The church of Jesus Christ has its enemies (Rom. 11:28; Phil. 3:18).**

