

Finding Yourself in the Psalms
Psalm 59
A Psalm of Strength for Persecuted Believers

imprecatory Psalm

Key verse 59:4

- I. Suffering for the Sake of Righteousness. 59:1-4
 - A. Those who **“suffer for righteousness”** will be blessed. **Mat 5:10-12**
 1. The persecuted receive a **GOOD WORD**. “Blessed”
 2. The persecuted enjoy **GOOD COMPANY**. 5:12 - *“in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*
 - a. Hebrews 11:35-38
 3. The persecuted look forward to a **GREAT REWARD**. 5:10 *“for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
 - B. There is a reward for **“unjust suffering”** **1 Peter 2:19-20**
- II. The Difference between Suffering, Punishment and Trials.
 - A. **SUFFERING** = suffering for righteousness. 1 Peter 2:19-20
 - B. **PUNISHMENT** = consequences of doing wrong.
 - C. **TRIALS**= the difficulties common to living in a sin cursed world.
- III. The Proper Response to Suffering
 - A. Not to return evil for evil
 1. *“Entrusted himself to him who judges justly.”* 1 Peter 2:23
 2. (Romans 12:17) *“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.”*
 3. *“Turn the other cheek”* (Mat 5:39-42)
 - a. The Jewish law provided for retribution
 - b. Jesus gives a higher law in relation to *“an evil person”*
 - B. Confidence in GOD
 1. Confidence in **PRAYER**. Psalm 59:1,2
 2. Confidence in God’s **POWER**. **8 references to God’s Strength**
 - a. 59:5. **“O Lord God Almighty”** JEHOVAH Sabaoth - GOD of the **ARMIES** of **HEAVEN**
 - b. 59:9. **“My strength”** Hebrew, *strength, fortress*
 - c. 59:9 **“My fortress”** = **NATURAL** fortress, refuge, i.e., an inaccessible, secure place possibly up high in rim-rock where one may dwell or reside, with a focus on safety and security of the area (DBL Hebrew). (Isaiah 33:16) *“this is the man who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. His bread will be supplied, and water will not fail him.”*

- d. 59:16. **“Strength”** (same as 59:9)
- e. 59:16 “Fortress” *“A fortified wall or high tower”* MAN Made
- f. 59:16 “Refuge” A place of escape.
- g. 59:17 “Strength” same as 9, 16

C. Confidence in Gods PROGRAM. 59:11-13

- 1. Let the wicked continue as an example to the righteous
- 2. Punish them
 - a. Let them suffer for their own sins
 - b. Let them be caught in the consequence of their words (59:12)

IV. For US

- A. Suffering for righteousness
- B. Be Like Jesus