

*Welcome To*  
*Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*



*“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” **Col 1:28***

# **SNBF Summer Schedule**

Aug. 9 6-8 PM

23 6-8 PM

We will continue meeting weekly in the Fall, starting on  
Sept. 13, 5-7 PM.

# **6 categories of Psalms**

1. Royal Psalms.
2. Wisdom Psalms.
3. Lament Psalms.
4. Imprecatory Psalms.
5. Messianic Psalms.
6. Praise Psalms.

# **The Imprecatory Psalms**

**5, 7, 35, 58, 59, 69, 70, 79, 83, 109, 129, 137, 139, 140, 144**

1. They are called “Imprecatory” because they are a call for God’s wrath and judgment to fall on the enemy, the wicked and evil.

## **Ps 137:8-9**

8 O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one,  
How blessed will be the one who repays you  
With the recompense with which you have repaid us.

9 How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones  
Against the rock.

## **Ps 10:15**

15 Break the arm of the wicked and the evildoer,

## **Ps 58:6-8**

6 O God, shatter their teeth in their mouth;  
Break out the fangs of the young lions, O Lord.

7 Let them flow away like water that runs off;  
When he aims his arrows, let them be as headless shafts.  
8 Let them be as a snail which melts away as it goes along,  
Like the miscarriages of a woman which never see the sun.

## **Ps 104:35**

35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth  
And let the wicked be no more.

## **Ps 96:11-13**

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

Let the sea roar, and all it contains;

12 Let the field exult, and all that is in it.

Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy

13 Before the Lord, for He is coming,

For He is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness

And the peoples in His faithfulness.

## **Ps 94:1-2**

1 O Lord, God of vengeance,

God of vengeance, shine forth!

2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth,

Render recompense to the proud.

## **Ps 109:9-13**

9 Let his children be fatherless  
And his wife a widow.

10 Let his children wander about and beg;  
And let them seek sustenance far from their ruined homes.

11 Let the creditor seize all that he has,  
And let strangers plunder the product of his labor.

12 Let there be none to extend lovingkindness to him,  
Nor any to be gracious to his fatherless children.

13 Let his posterity be cut off;  
In a following generation let their name be blotted out.

## **Ps 139:19-22**

19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God;  
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.

20 For they speak against You wickedly,  
And Your enemies take Your name in vain.

21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

22 I hate them with the utmost hatred;  
They have become my enemies.

\*When David speaks of “hatred” for those who oppose God’s kingdom he is neither malicious nor bitter nor vindictive, nor moved by self-centered resentment. But he most certainly *is* jealous for God’s name and firmly against those who blaspheme.

# New Testament

## **Matt 11:23-24**

23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."

## **Gal 1:8-9**

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

## **2 Tim 4:14**

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

## **Rev 6:10**

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"



## **2 Thess 1:6-10**

- 6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
- 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
- 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
- 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed.

## **Acts 13:8-11**

8 But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him,

10 and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"

11 "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

# The Imprecatory Psalms

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2. The Imprecatory Psalms are *not expressions of personal vengeance*.

## **Rom 12:14-20**

- 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
- 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.
- 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
- 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.
- 20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.

# The Imprecatory Psalms

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1. They are called “Imprecatory” because they are a call for God’s wrath and judgment to fall on the enemy, the wicked and evil.
2. The Imprecatory Psalms are *not expressions of personal vengeance*.
3. The prayers of imprecation are rarely, if ever, for the destruction of a specific individual but almost always of a class or group, namely, “the wicked” or “those who oppose God”. David never asks that he be allowed to “get even” with or “pay back” his enemies. His prayer is that *God* would act justly in dealing with those that oppose him. *There is a vast difference between vindication and vindictiveness*. David’s passion was for *the triumph of divine justice, not the satisfaction of personal malice*.

4. Imprecatory Psalms are expressions provoked by the horror of sin. If David, Asaph, and others are not bothered by offering prayers of imprecation and we are, is it because they were bothered by sin and we aren't?
5. We also must remember that imprecations are nothing more than *human prayers based on divine promises*. One is simply asking God to do what he has already said he will do. "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." Is it wrong for us to pray that Jesus do precisely that? Is it wrong for us to build a prayer on a promise?
6. The people at which the Imprecatory Psalms are directed are not people of a momentary resistance to God but of unrepentant, incessant, hardened and haughty defiance of him. But if they callously and consistently refuse, our only recourse is to pray that God's judgment be full and fair.
7. When we say with John, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus," we invite and welcome His return. That prayer is recorded at the end of the book of Revelation after Christ has shown His church the horror and finality of the judgment to come. *In that prayer is embedded every imprecatory prayer of the Bible* that seeks His judgment, the vindication of His justice, the eradication of the kingdom of this age, and consummation of His kingdom in righteousness, joy, and peace.

8. We come before a God who is loving and merciful, but also holy and just, who will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, and whom we approach only through Jesus Christ. These Imprecatory Psalms remind us of the character of our God as judge and of the awful fate that awaits those who reject Him.
9. The motivation behind such prayers is zeal for *God's* righteousness, *God's* honor, *God's* reputation, and the triumph of *God's* kingdom. Is our willingness to ignore blasphemy and overlook evil due to a deficiency in our love for God and his name? Could our reaction to the imprecatory psalms be traced to the fact that we love men and their favor more than we love God and his?

“The imprecations of the Psalms disturb us. They should. They must. But for the right reasons. Not because we are offended, but because God is. They must be part of our prayer life.”

*- Stanley Gale*



*“Righteous retribution is one of the glories of divine character. If it is right that God should desire to exercise it, then it cannot be wrong for his people to desire Him to exercise it. While we as creatures are not allowed to take revenge or to take pleasure in revenge, we can take solace in God doing what He says He will do to the honor of His name.”*

**- R. L. Dabney**

“They [these hard sayings] are not statements of personal vendetta, but they are utterances of zeal for the kingdom of God and his glory. To be sure, the attacks which provoked these prayers were not from personal enemies; rather, they were rightfully seen as attacks against God and especially his representatives in the promised line of the Messiah.”

***-Walter Kaiser***

“Instead of being influenced by the sickly sentimentalism of the present day, Christian people should realize that the glory of God demands the destruction of evil...[therefore] instead of being ashamed of the imprecatory Psalms, and attempting to apologize for them and explain them away, Christian people should glory in them and not hesitate to use them in the public and private exercises of the worship of God”.

**- Geerhardus Johannes Vos**

# **There is a pattern to the Imprecatory psalms:**

1. The call to God.
2. The problem with those who oppose God.
3. The petition for God to act.

# **Imprecatory Psalm**

*“God’s Enemies Are My Enemies”*

**Psalm 83**

July 26, 2015

# Ps 83

A Song, a Psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O God, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.
- 2 For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, And those who hate You have exalted themselves.
- 3 They make shrewd plans against Your people, And conspire together against Your treasured ones.
- 4 They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, That the name of Israel be remembered no more."
- 5 For they have conspired together with one mind; Against You they make a covenant:
- 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites;
- 7 Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;
- 8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah.

# THE CALL TO GOD

1 O God, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.

“God, now is not the time to give me the silent treatment. We need you to speak, to make noise, to be loud. We need to hear from you”.

# THE PROBLEM WITH THOSE WHO OPPOSE GOD

2 For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, And those who hate You have exalted themselves.

“Your enemies aren’t silent – they’re loud. God, they hate you and have replaced You with themselves.”

3 They make shrewd plans against Your people, And conspire together against Your treasured ones.

“God, their smart, they’re cunning and want nothing more than to take us down. In simple terms they are out to get us.”

4 They have said, "Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, That the name of Israel be remembered no more."

Your enemies proclaim to the world their desire to wipe Israel and all believers off the map.

5 For they have conspired together with one mind; Against You they make a covenant:



- 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites;
- 7 Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;
- 8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah.

# Israel's Enemies Past

**HITTITES**

**ARAMEANS**

**TYRE**

**EDOMITES**

**MOABITES**

**GEBAL**

**AMMONITES**

**AMALEKITES**

**PHILISTINES**

**ASSYRIANS**

**Division of the Promised Land to the children of Israel**



# Israel's Enemies Today

**EGYPT**

**SYRIA**

**LEBANON**

**IRAN**

**JORDAN**

**TURKEY**

**THE PLO**

**HAMAS**

**ISIS**

**FATAH**

**HEZBOLLAH**

# Israel Today

## Political Map



*Mediterranean Sea*  
*(The Great Sea)*

**EGYPT**

**ISRAEL**

**JORDAN**

**SAUDI ARABIA**

**LEBANON**

**SYRIA**

**GOLAN HEIGHTS**

**WEST BANK**

**GAZA STRIP**

**JERUSALEM**

**AMMAN**

71 km  
44 mi

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Russia

Kazakhstan

Uzbekistan

Bulgaria

Black Sea

Georgia

Azerbaijan

Turkmenistan

Greece

Armenia

Caspian Sea

Turkey

Afghanistan

Mediterranean Sea

Lebanon

Syria

Iran

Israel

Iraq

Babylon

Jordan

Egypt

Saudi Arabia

Red Sea

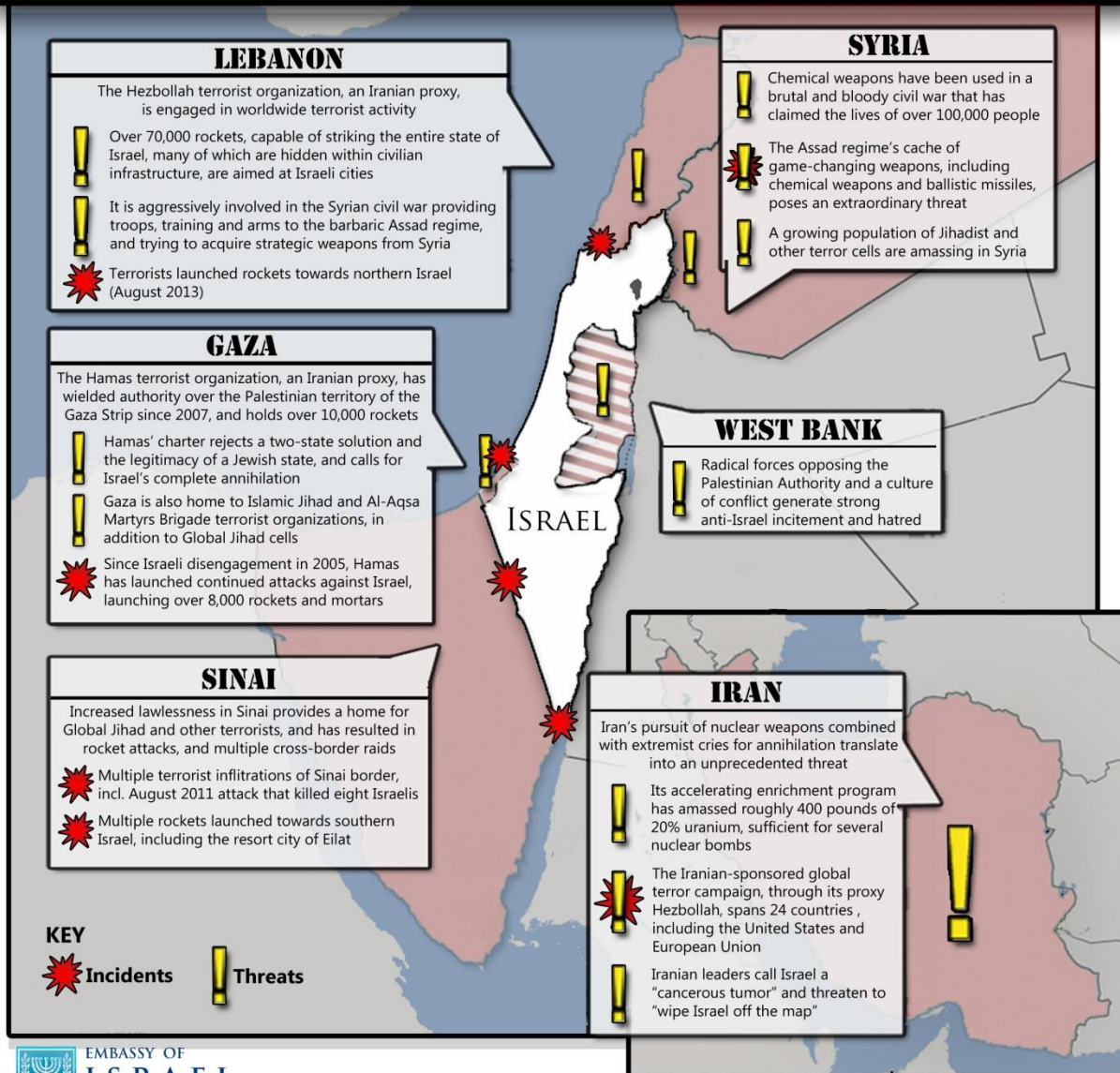
Persian Gulf

Asshur

# THREATS FACING ISRAEL

*ONGOING TERRORIST ATTACKS*  
*180,000 ROCKETS ON ITS BORDERS*

*CALLS FOR ITS ANNIHILATION*  
*ISRAELI CITIZENS TARGETED*



## **Rev 12:7-9,13**

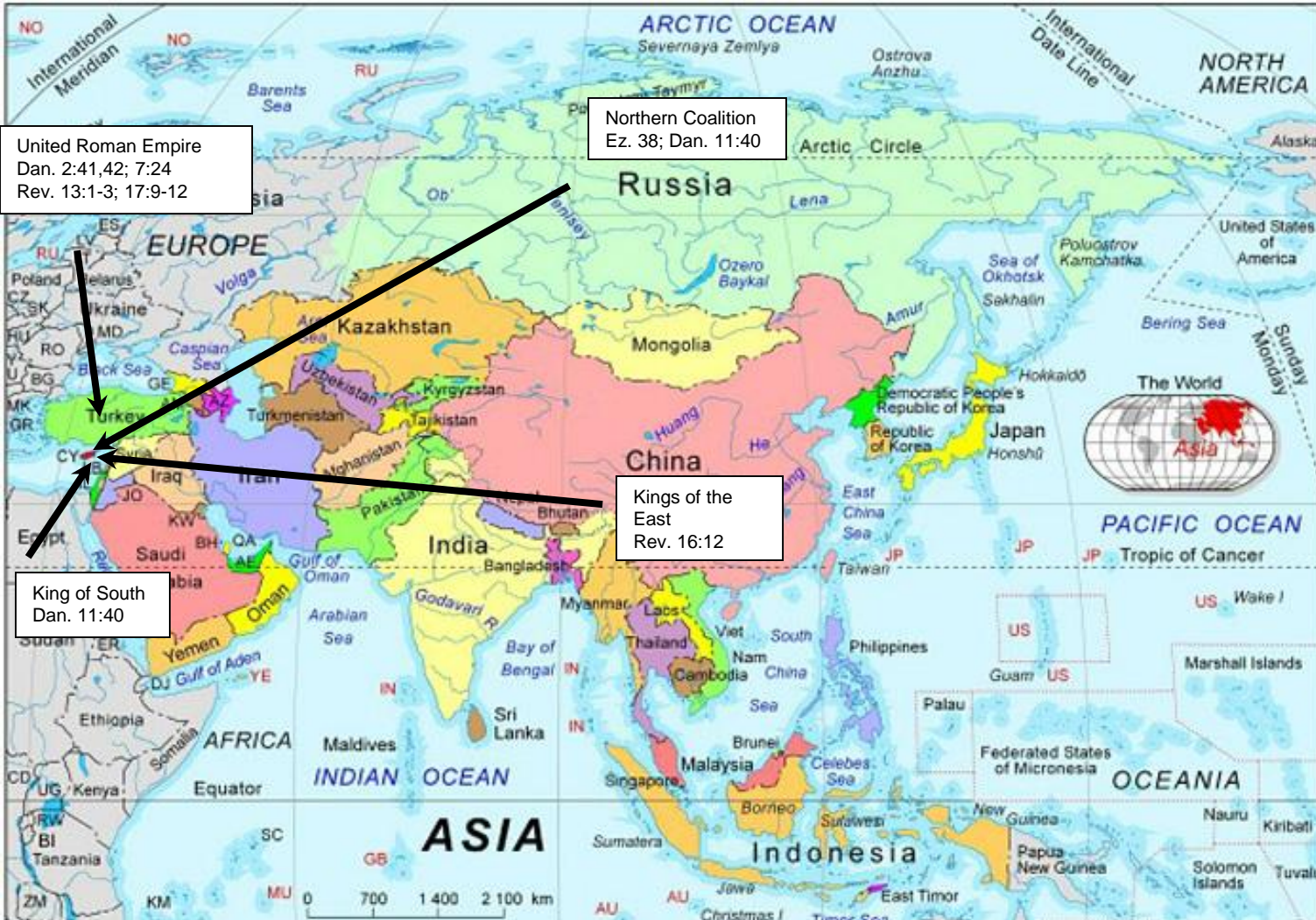
7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.





# War of Armageddon

## **Rev 16:13-16**

13 And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs;

14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")

16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

# THE PETITION FOR GOD TO ACT

9 Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera and Jabin at the torrent of Kishon,

10 Who were destroyed at En-dor, Who became as dung for the ground.

11 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb And all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 Who said, "Let us possess for ourselves The pastures of God."

“As Gideon was victorious over the enemies of Israel, God we pray for that same victory over our enemies”.

13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like chaff before the wind.

“God, blow them away.”

14 Like fire that burns the forest And like a flame that sets the mountains on fire,

15 So pursue them with Your tempest And terrify them with Your storm.

“Chase our enemies away from us as quickly as a forest fire burns through a forest and up a mountain.”

3 things affect the spread of a fire:

1. Fuel
2. Weather
3. Slope of the land





16 Fill their faces with dishonor, That they may seek Your name, O Lord.

“God, we pray that you would humble them so that they would repent and be saved.”

17 Let them be ashamed and dismayed forever, And let them be humiliated and perish,

“If they will not be ashamed and repent, let them be put to shame and perish”.

18 That they may know that You alone, whose name is the Lord, Are the Most High over all the earth.

### **Phil 2:9-11**

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

# **“O God, No Longer Hold Thy Peace”**

**Tune: “There Is a Fountain”**

**1 O God, no longer hold Thy peace,**

No longer silent be;

Thine enemies lift up their head

To fight Thy saints and Thee.

Against Thine own, whom Thou dost

love,

Their craft Thy foes employ;

They think to cut Thy people off,

Thy church they would destroy.

**2 Thine ancient foes, conspiring still,**

With one consent agree,

And they who with Thy people strive

Make war, O God, on Thee.

O God, Who in our fathers' time

Didst smite our foes and Thine,

So smite Thine enemies today

Who in their pride combine.



### **3 Make them like dust and stubble**

blown

Before the whirlwind dire,

In terror driv'n before the storm

Of Thy consuming fire.

Confound them in their sin till they

To Thee for pardon fly,

Till in dismay they, trembling, own

That Thou art God Most High. — *The Psalter, 1912*

# Application

1. The Christian life is one of balance.
2. The Bible tells us that there are things that God loves but there are also things that God hates.
3. The Imprecatory Psalms teach us that God is honored and glorified when we express our hatred for the wickedness and evil in the world.
4. We are always chased back to the question, “Why does God allow evil and wickedness to exist when He has the power to stop it?”

Answer: Because He has a purpose in allowing it to exist.

5. Our goal is always to see the salvation of our enemies which expresses God’s love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness but to those who reject that offer of salvation, they will experience His wrath, judgment, and condemnation.