

# WORD AT WORK

## VOLUME XLI NUMBER III Covenant Vengeance – God’s Path to Salvation

### MONDAY, MARCH 1

Scripture: Acts 13:22

In this passage we are introduced to an end-time pattern through the life of King David. How do we develop a Davidic heart? One answer is in this passage. Make a choice to do God’s will to the best of our ability at all times! Have we made a quality decision to spend time daily waiting on the Lord to reveal His will so we can do it? The primary message that most of us hear in our churches is mercy. We hear of God’s mercy to save sinners through Christ Who forgives sin. Mercy for sin and turning the other cheek dominate our theology from the pulpits. Have we remade God into a more acceptable image by neglecting or even denying His judgment and justice aspects of Who He is? Most of today’s church does not know Jesus the Judge. As a result there is very little fear of God in most Christian circles. Therefore there is very little fear of God in our nation. The God we hear through most of the messages preached on Sunday is a lot nicer than the God of the Bible. It is pleasant and very reassuring to think that God is an exclusively benevolent God. Let’s not forget that God killed Ananias and Sapphira in church! Do we also need to carefully study passages that call Him a Holy God, a Righteous God, a Jealous God, a God of Vengeance? What about the God Who is a Consuming Fire? Will we seek a relationship with this God who said of Himself, “*I am, that I am.*”? I suspect we have some study time ahead!

### TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Scripture: I Samuel 17:24-26

In verses 24-26 we see King David’s rise to confront a giant in the midst of adverse circumstances! When all the seasoned warriors bowed in fear of the giant Goliath, young David saw a God-opportunity. “*What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine takes away the reproach from Israel?*” Has America just suffered one of the greatest reproaches of our lifetime? Have a number of those supporting deep darkness just stolen numerous leadership roles? There is a God who kills giants! Can we pray His Hand on our adversaries and see David’s results: Are we ready to be ambassadors of glory as God releases His Words in our heart? Psalm 76:10 says, “*Human defiance only enhances your glory, for you use it as a weapon.*” NLT At times God allows the raising up of arrogant adversaries to vanquish in order to demonstrate Who is God and who is not!

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Scripture: I Samuel 17:32

David declared in verse 32, “*Let no man’s heart fail because of him, your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.*” Are we willing to fight seemingly impossible situations? How did David acquire the heart of a warrior? Do we desire this quality of heart? God is looking for those who trust Him regardless of how massive the mountain they face! As New Testament Christians, we are told to speak to the mountain and command it to be removed! Our properly positioned prayers release the angels to go forth and strike our enemies that those enemies may

either turn and repent or be subject to God's judicial sword! King Herod was eaten with worms for his attacks upon believers. A fitting judgment! God rewards people according to their works!

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Scripture: I Samuel 17:33

In the book of Revelation the severity of God in the last days ultimately is ministered through the prayers of God's people! The witnesses dispense God's judgment proving Jesus is real and opening the doors for entrance into the kingdom. The severity of God wins people back. The fear of the Lord brings the last great harvest. Learning to pray covenant vengeance opens the door to the great end-time harvest! God uses Covenant and Vengeance to both save and redeem. Divine displays of judgment prove God is real. All of us have to learn to walk with the God who is the Savior and Healer who forgives our sins but also the God Who executes covenant vengeance on those who steadfastly refuse to obey. To walk in this manner has the potential to open the door that multitudes get rescued out of the deep darkness that rules in our culture. Righteous-vengeance is a gift that saves us from giants!

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Scripture: I Samuel 17:42-45

Even as a youth, David did not shrink from facing off with the taunting giant, who arrogantly mocked God's covenant people. Young David said, *"You come to me with a sword, spear, and javelin but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied."* As an answer to prayer, God gave America a constitution to guarantee our freedom to serve Him. That constitution has been defiled with what seems to have been an organized, orchestrated election theft. The freedom to serve God and promote salvation will erode under any progressive administration. Our national calling has been defined multiple times in our original Founding Documents. Our history and these truths are now under threat of being cancelled and erased from our American History by the cancel culture. In a sense deep darkness as a 'Goliath' has risen to hijack our constitution with the intent of defying God's original purpose and stealing the destiny of a nation. May the fate of Goliath be the fate of all leaders of deep darkness who've stood in defiance of the Living God. As believers, do we find ourselves in the same place spiritually as David was physically? Just as David's trust in God delivered him and the nation of Israel, our trust in God will deliver us and America! Declare Psalm 110 over this nation!

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Scripture: I Samuel 17:46-47

To stand in faith against our 'Goliaths' as King David did is a path that has a purpose! The unbelieving world needs to see that God is real thus we read in verse 46 *"... That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."* There is such an anointing currently needed to affirm God's purpose for America! An initially important purpose is stated in verse 47: *"Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save by sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's and he will give you (Goliath) into our hands!"* The demonstration of the exploits of God will make a difference and provide a message to the assembly of believers and the unsaved! Will our faith prove God is real as David's faith did? Let's trust it will! May God visit all counterfeit rulers and remove them, in Jesus name!

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Scripture: I Samuel 18:7

There are seasons when we need to see victory as David did with Goliath. The people of Israel probably realized that something covenantal had happened as they declared, *"Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands."* Victories are essential but often don't last long. They are always followed by other mountains on the horizon ahead. Standing victorious is an ongoing process! It is built on relationship with the Lord and listening to

the voice of the Lord, always remembering that the battle is not ours but God's. David faced off with Goliath and did so because he had an assignment and an unction from the Father and he had prepared himself in the wilderness while God's fire and purpose stirred inside him. Relationship....preparation....followed by unction-each is a part of the process for possessing the anointing to defeat our 'goliaths.'

#### MONDAY, MARCH 8

Scripture: I Samuel 18:1-2

As God shapes a Davidic heart within us we start with learning to develop faith through our personal adversity. David no doubt grew in the school of the Spirit in the secret place of the Most High as he shepherded sheep. In that family assignment he learned covenantal victory over danger. Young David developed a brave and resilient heart by being tuned in to the voice of the Spirit and conquering threatening animals like the lion and the bear. Where do we learn to trust the anointing that will bring deliverance? David graduated from predatory animals to predatory people. David's great victory was short. His next major enemy was the man whom God had anointed him to replace. We will probably have to learn prudence and to discipline our tongue into silence. Jesus only did what He saw and He only spoke what He heard. That is a vital spiritual discipline! Psalm 141:3 says, "*Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.*" Embracing God's cloak of secrecy is a spiritual discipline. Can we embrace that discipline? The early church even went underground into the catacombs of Rome with secret symbols to hide their meetings and whereabouts. Under communism, the Chinese church has been forced to learn the art of faith and concealment. Recall that sometimes Jesus passed through the midst of a threatening crowd concealing His whereabouts as did the Apostle Paul. I'm sure we've all talked to believers in nations where Christians are persecuted and realize what a sacrifice they are making to proclaim the name of Jesus. We Americans have been blessed with national freedom that has even inspired other nations to fight for freedom. Let's use our freedom wisely and understand the times and seasons to resist! May the wrath of God overthrow all thieves, liars, and deceivers and give us a rebirth of freedom!

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Scripture: I Samuel 18:11

David was recruited to play comforting music for Saul! In 1 Samuel 18:11. Slowly that relationship began to change from a redemptive relationship to a dangerous one. This verse says, "*And Saul cast the spear, for he said, 'I will pin David to the wall!' But David escaped his presence twice.*" In Saul's eyes David went from hero to villain overnight. We face seasons of persecution where God is our only protection in learning to trust the Holy Spirit's preparation for the future! In the training school of shepherding sheep David was also being wooed into relationship and intimacy with God. In this place, no doubt, his heart of intimate relationship was being fine-tuned! David learned that God was his Father and that God was also his protection. As we press into God and continue to build our relationship with God and develop a hearing ear, our confidence will rise as well. What a great place for us to develop as warriors! What a place to develop in the pairing of both zeal and wisdom. May God arise within us, and His enemies be scattered!

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Scripture: I Samuel 25:1-16

We read in I Samuel 25 that David and his community of men had extended great grace and protection to the shepherds of the wealthy, influential Nabal by guarding Nabal's men and his flock. When David's circle of men hungered, he asked Nabal for a provisional offering of supplies for he and his men. David was insulted and greatly angered when Nabal haughtily refused to share from his own storehouse, even insulting David's couriers who made the request. When David heard the report his warrior heart was activated and he purposed revenge, setting off quickly to slay Nabal's entire household. Acting out of impulse and emotion, David angrily set his course on

vengeance. With David's warrior spirit activated, he had set off to **avenge himself!** We can see from this narrative why offenses have to be overcome. Offenses can lead to destructive missteps even to the shedding of innocent blood! They can be a real hindrance to appropriate covenantal vengeance! Remember we are to lean on the Holy Spirit and see and say what we see and hear the Father do and say. The anointing of the Spirit is our Guide and our Conductor. Covenant vengeance is always a Father and son project!

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 11

Scripture: I Samuel 25:17-22

The longer David thought about how Nabal had insulted him, the longer he considered the protection he had provided for Nabal's men, the angrier he got. David resolved to take revenge and he girded his sword and took off accompanied by his men with the intent of a genocidal war against Nabal's household. This was an impulsive move of revenge with potentially serious consequences for David, as he was acting in his own self-interest rather than waiting for God to intervene. Was God faithful to intervene? Did David have a hearing ear and an open heart? The Holy Spirit had a crucial job! Could God provide an intervention to save David from himself and keep him from making a foolish mistake?

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Scripture: I Samuel 25, Proverbs 1:5

David as a youth defeated the giant Goliath. Within the path of God's people there will always be spiritual giants that try to take rulership, especially the giants of self! These giants are much harder to recognize than a physical opponent coming against us through outside forces. These giants keep us self-focused and immature. We have studied these giants before, some being selfish ambition, self-righteousness, self-protection. Sometimes God has to intervene to save us from ourselves. Nabal, though a wicked man, had a wise and honorable wife named Abigail. Abigail received an alert from a servant warning of the disaster, in the form of an angry David outfitted for slaughter who was on his way to her household. In many ways she was the picture of an intercessor. One who listens, hears, acts and speaks as an ambassador of salvation. God directed Abigail's thoughts and actions. This woman did not panic but acted with divine focus and calm composure. The Holy Spirit moved on Abigail to offer a profuse apology for her evil husband and to answer David's request for provision. Proverbs 1:5 says, "*A wise man will hear and will increase learning and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel.*" Was David open to wise counsel? I Samuel 25:32-33 says, "*David said to Abigail, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hand.'*" David had an open and flexible heart and God saved him from a huge mistake!

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Scripture: I Samuel 25:32-38

Thankfully King David had a heart that was open to correction! He heard Abigail's wise words and received her correction. He replied, "*Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.*" Then it happened after about ten days, the Lord struck Nabal and he died. The God we serve has no hesitation avenging a wrong by killing evil people who mistreat us! The same God who struck the Egyptians, struck down Nabal. God said, "Vengeance is Mine..." Israel learned such a lesson watching Korah, Abiram, and Herod struck down by God in His time and way! 'Lord, we pray You would remove the wicked in Jesus name!'

## SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Scripture: Leviticus 26:1-13, Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Leviticus 26:9 says, *“For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm my covenant with you.”* Verse 13 goes on to say, *“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.”* The intended end result of covenant vengeance was salvation for the Israelites. What could God do to make us walk upright? Perhaps the Spirit will guide us to ask Him to remove specific wicked people by name. May our God-breathed prayers bring salvation to nations.

## MONDAY, MARCH 15

Scripture: Leviticus 26:14-17, Luke 18

Leviticus 26:14-17 states, *“But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.”* That is harsh and hard punishment. Here God is executing covenant judgment for disobedience of covenant. One of the first things we discover about covenant is that covenant includes vengeance. That vengeance belongs to God and it guarantees covenantal access. This means we as His family and His representatives can ask for covenant vengeance on the wicked who are defiling the land. Vengeance has a purpose and that purpose is to bring justice. At times without vengeance there is no justice. That is why Jesus Himself taught us to pray, *“Lord, avenge me of my adversary.”* What does avenge mean? It means, give me covenant justice! God desires to raise our awareness concerning the encroaching darkness and the tools that are available to us in the realm of the Spirit!

## TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Scripture: Leviticus 26:18-20

Here the book of Leviticus reveals that covenant vengeance is a mercy of God because God gives us access to five different levels of covenant judgment on the wicked. In other words we have access to five different aspects of covenant vengeance. In the first one is that covenant vengeance has a purpose and that purpose is to cause people to repent! Covenant vengeance brings terror. It restores the fear of the Lord, or the terror of God. The second fruit of covenant vengeance is that it weakens the resistance of the wicked toward repentance, when they are confronted if God softens the hard-hearted. Verse 18-19 says, *“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.”* The purpose of covenant vengeance is to gain repentance and a restoration of the blessing. Verse 20 says, *“And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.”* This is the third fruit of covenant vengeance and is only applicable if people refuse to repent when they are confronted with their sin and they move forward in rebellion. Covenant vengeance opens the door to increased difficulties!

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Scripture: Leviticus 26:21-23

In verses 21-23 we have the third sevenfold increase of covenant vengeance. This passage says, *“Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and*

*make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.”* So adversity comes seven-fold and the animals begin to attack people in level three. Have we seen that in the last 20-30 years? In Southern California, mountain lion and coyote attacks have increased. Asian hornets emerged in Seattle – a 2-4 inch flying insect with a ½ inch stinger that penetrates clothing. That level appears to be operational. We need some dramatic covenant vengeance to bring repentance and restoration to the nation.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Scripture: Leviticus 26:24-26, II Chronicles 7:14

Verse 24 says, *“Then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.”* Level four of vengeance is very serious and can no longer be ignored! In level four God demands repentance and if people refuse! God says in phase four that covenant vengeance brings a sword. That sword comes in multiple ways. God says we will be delivered into the hand of the enemy and he will cut off the supply of bread. Could America be headed that way? Our prayers move God's Hand in judgment! Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Scripture: Leviticus 26:27-33

In verses 27-33 we read, *“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you.”* That literally happened to Israel in 70 AD. And it is a warning to us! Praying covenant vengeance is our path to salvation! The remnant church has steadfastly prayed in recent years over national issues regarding the survival of our American Republic. With several suspiciously deceptive elections that have handed our nation over to the poison of God-haters and God-mockers, we need to cover our nation with prayer more now than ever. God is faithful to execute His will! Jesus' Blood bought a harvest of nations – may He start with America. Did we heed in time? I believe so, but we must wait on God for His intervention. The Judge cometh! Salvation, come forth in Jesus' name!

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-58

In Deuteronomy 28 when we go through verses 1-14 they all deal with the blessing coming to Israel for their lifestyle of obedience but then verses 15-58, which is over three times the number of scriptures is committed to covenant vengeance. At this point, one cannot help but think if the church leaders had faithfully prepared the church to pray, covenantal vengeance/salvation would have come much sooner and great devastation could have been avoided.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Scripture: Genesis 12:14-18

In Genesis 12:14-18 we see the value of covenant vengeance. Abraham went into Egypt and Pharaoh admired his wife Sarai and took her into his tent. All of a sudden Abraham became afraid they would kill him for his wife. He now found himself in the place of having to trust God to literally get his wife back. And covenant vengeance was the pathway that brought him justice and gave Abraham back his wife. We assume Abraham was praying, not to mention that Sarai no doubt was. God showed up by visiting Pharaoh, with plagues actually called *“great plagues.”* Verse 17 says, *“But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.”* That is covenant vengeance in action. Covenant vengeance brings covenant justice. Because it is

covenantal, it becomes a promise of justice to those who walk in obedience to the covenant. God said in the Abrahamic Covenant that those who bless you, I shall bless, and those who curse you I shall curse. Covenant justice is one of our major end-time blessings and is to be accessed for the harvest in the last days. What is the problem today regarding the importance of the covenant in our lives? We've never been taught this as one of the weapons of our warfare. Just because we've never been taught, it doesn't mean the Bible doesn't promise it as our path to covenant justice. In truth it does!

#### MONDAY, MARCH 22

Scripture: Genesis 20:1-7

Abraham found himself in an identical position just eight chapters later. In Genesis 20 we read that Abraham entered Abimelech's territory, and fear gripped him again about the beauty of his wife. In Genesis 20:1-7 we read that Abraham named Sarai as his sister. As with Pharaoh, Abimelech took Sarai into his tent. God shortly visited Abimelech in a dream undoubtedly because both Abraham and Sarai were praying and standing on their covenant. God visited Abimelech with a message of warning that Sarai had to be returned to her husband. He quickly obeyed! Covenant vengeance is the promise of covenant justice including divine protection. Abraham needed to repent for his fear of man which had become stronger than his fear of God. Abraham may have been given grace as he had to learn the reality of his covenant! Covenantal pioneers seem to get uncommon grace to accommodate their learning curve. God has promised that to us as well! Can we see it and can we pray it?

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Scripture: Genesis 20:7-8

How strong is this covenant? How strong and binding is covenant vengeance? It is so strong that in verse 7 God told Abimelech, *"But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."* Does that mean Abimelech's whole family, or even the whole nation? Can covenant vengeance can carry a death sentence? Yes, it can. When an unrelenting enemy will not turn, will not relent, God says, 'before I let him destroy you, I will destroy him.' As we apply covenant vengeance can we use it to save family members? Can we use it to save a nation? Ask Queen Esther who saw Haman hang on the gallows he built for Mordecai!

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Scripture: Psalm 94:1-3

In Psalm 94:1-3 we are told, *"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?"* In Psalm 94 covenant vengeance gives us relief from an enemy who is triumphing over us as believers. It becomes a heart-cry for justice! It is a heart-cry that can stop the enemy in their tracks. That is what God demonstrated in Genesis 12 and in Genesis 20. Covenant vengeance brought covenant justice. We must stop viewing the term vengeance solely as revenge and see that there is a righteous vengeance that is an agent of salvation both to the one in covenant with God as well as an offer to the offender for salvation. In both Genesis passages there was salvation for Pharaoh as that we are to declare it and call it forth. It is both real and potent!

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Scripture: Psalm 94:4-7

In Psalm 94:4-7 we are told, *"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.'"*

That is why we are to cry out *“O, Lord God to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!”* This is calling for God to manifest and bring His light and glory. Covenant vengeance is needed now. ‘Come, O Lord and shine forth. Do it to save us and do it to deliver us from the wicked!’ Abraham and Sarah certainly received their deliverance. And King David did! The Psalms tell us that covenant vengeance is an important weapon of our warfare in the last days. In order to use it, we must take hold of it and declare it as the Spirit moves on our hearts.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Scripture: Psalm 99:6-8

In Psalm 99:6-8 we are told, *“Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the Lord, and He answered them, O God. He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them. You answered them, O Lord our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds.”* What better Scripture to put covenant vengeance in context! *“You were to them God-Who-Forgives,”* But when they stepped out of line the Lord brought covenant vengeance to move them toward repentance. Covenant vengeance brought restoration to Abraham! Covenant vengeance killed the spies who rejected God’s Promised Land. (Numbers 14:37) In verse 20 God pardoned the Israelites because Moses’ prayer brought mercy that saved the nation! In Numbers 16 covenant vengeance saved Moses by killing Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Covenant vengeance will be a major blessing in the last days. It protects and saves while at the same time administering God’s dealings and His pathway through the opposition. It is a gift to the church enabling us to move through severe resistance and into freedom and relief!

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Scripture: Psalm 149:6-9

The key issue is, are we responsible for covenant vengeance? Most would say, no! That is based on the verse. *“Beloved do not avenge yourselves...Vengeance is mine, I will repay.”* God measures out the vengeance but we are the ones that may be led to call it forth. Our open ears and obedient heart are key! What does the Bible say is our part to this covenantal agreement? The answer to that unfolds in Psalm 149. We must grasp this truth in order to participate in igniting this principle into action. This is what we have overlooked. In the Old Covenant they had no problem with this. We have let important truth that originated in the Old Covenant slip out of our grasp. In some cases it has literally been preached out of people. What does the Bible have to say about our part when vengeance is needed? Psalm 149:6-9 says, *“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, to **execute vengeance** on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; To bind their kinds with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment—This honor have **all His saints.**”* As we face severe opposition, God will show us when we are to make an appeal to Him. God knows the path through the mighty waters! When our back is against the ‘Red Sea’ it is our job to appeal to Him for covenant vengeance, to cry out for covenant justice. This sounds like a double dose of Psalm 94. That is exactly what it is! **Complaining** about a situation, person, even a government is **not** productive. Here, however, is a weapon to do something fruitful and productive about the toxic situation by appealing to God and putting a demand on Him for covenant justice. Using His Own Word is powerful weaponry! *“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...”* God is waiting on us to be His trumpet, His agents of glory!

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Scripture: Psalm 149:6-8

Again Psalm 149 says, *“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, **to** execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; **To** bind their kinds with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; **To** execute on them the written judgment—This honor have **all His saints.**”* Notice that



the last three of these four verses all begin with the word 'to.' If we look at the words to execute to bind and again to execute we discover a family of words. **Assah** to execute, **assar**, to utter the sound that starts the battle. God first begins to deal with the enemy and then covenant vengeance comes on their head and if they will not relent they are in for God's dealings. This was how God worked it for Moses. That is how God worked it for Samuel. That is how God worked it for King David and for King Hezekiah! When King Hezekiah prayed covenant vengeance, God sent an angel and 185,000 enemies were dead the next day. When the 12 spies returned from surveying the land they were promised, ten of them were in so much fear that they couldn't be victorious. Joshua and Caleb saw with the eye of faith and declared what they knew to be true covenantally. They affirmed that because Israel was a covenant people. Their declaration was that the inhabitants would be bread for them. Translation, they are toast! It's time to utter the sound that starts the battle!

#### MONDAY, MARCH 29

Scripture: Luke 18:1-3

In Luke 18:1-3 Jesus taught that we need to pray and not lose heart. And this is the way He instructed us to pray, "*Avenge me of my adversary.*" He is instructing us to pray for covenant justice, covenant vengeance. That is what you and I are literally doing in Psalm 149:6-9. This New Testament passage from Luke 18 is voiced by Jesus in a very strong command form, and He said it twice! Jesus Himself is serious about us understanding this principle and using it in our prayer arsenal!

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Scripture: Luke 18:4-8

Jesus not only gave His 'avenge' command twice. The first time He said, "Avenge Me of my adversary" He said it in a verb form that was very different. That form is called the "**second-aorist-active-imperative.**" Meaning this is a command! It is not optional. We are commanded to ask God for covenant justice, covenant vengeance, to utter the sound that starts the battle. This is called an honor, a privilege. This is an honor that is available to all His saints! All authority is given unto us in heaven and on earth....ask...ask...ask...ask! We may say, well, we haven't been taught that. Could that be because our tradition has made the Word of God of none effect? Have we cast God into an image of our own personal liking, all mercy and all benevolence a god such as we feel comfortable with? Would we rather 'paint' a god we like the sound and character of, or do we desire and make a point to know the Living God for Who He Is?

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Scripture: Luke 18:1-8, Psalm 76

In Luke 18:1 Jesus taught that we need to pray and not lose heart. Is Jesus making a particular point by saying, to pray and not lose heart. Just what point is He emphasizing? Suppose we have frequently prayed the merciful, bless-them kind of prayers for people who are full of darkness. Have prayers of benevolence been helpful for those raining destruction on themselves or others, potentially many others? Unanswered prayer can cause us to lose heart. Perhaps God is prompting us to pray to execute some vengeance by our prayers. (Psalm 149) Living with the sting of relentless adversaries who are possibly hurting many and planning even more evil, He may be inviting us to add another component to our prayer armory. If praying those "Bless them....Save them..." prayers is not bearing fruit is Christ trying to nudge us toward the more war-like prayer that brings God's mighty right arm on the scene? The New Living Translation translates Psalm 76:10 saying, "*Human defiance only enhances your glory for you use it as a weapon of war.*" Psalm 76:1-3 say, "*God is honored in Judah; his name is great in Israel. Jerusalem is where he lives; Mount Zion is his home. There he has broken the fiery arrows of the enemy, the shields and swords and weapons of war.*" Is God ready to respond to those fiery arrows of the enemy? Are we ready to participate in the prayers that will initiate His response?

Only the foolish or unlearned cast God into an image of their own personal liking, all mercy and all benevolence, a god such as we feel comfortable with. Is that a wise way to acquaint ourselves with the True and Living God? Would it be wiser to make a quality decision to know Him for Who He Is? My wife at one season jumped over and neglected some of the Psalms and other places in the Word. She didn't feel comfortable with 'that God.' But because she also prayed to really 'know God' and know the truth of imprecatory mercy she ask God to give her a rhema for clarity. God gave her Psalm 5, a Psalm with a merciful number 5, the number for grace. Read it! It was transforming for her relationship with God and it was transforming for her prayer life. Our God is a holy God and He is a jealous God who deeply cares for those He created. He is in the business of saving and that includes dealing with the great, deceptive, manipulative wicked who are bent on taking hoards to hell. Psalm 5 says of the wicked, "*Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You.*" God is looking for prayer champions. Will we be those champions? "*Arise, shine; for your light has come.*" May the high praises of God be in our mouths, and that two-edged sword in our hands! May we be willing warriors, ready to utter the sound that starts the battle!

*The night is very dark indeed,  
But darker still for those in need!  
Draw close to those who shine with light.  
Those saints know shortcuts through the night.  
With ears to hear and eyes to see,  
These champions, they learned from Me!  
The Word they know, they will unfold,  
In such a way it turns to gold.  
This is an end-time strategy,  
For us to walk victoriously!*

*Jayne Houghton*