

Study Guide for Dec. 12th, '04 Songs to honor the King: Psalm 94: The Lord JUDGES.

Introduction: When have you longed for justice? When have you faced a situation where someone carried out an evil act against an innocent person and seemed to go unpunished?

- I. It's PAYBACK time Lord! (Vs. 1-2)
 - A. How does the Psalmist address God? (see Gen. 18:25, Ps. 58:11 & Heb. 12:23)
 - B. What does the Psalmist ask God to do? (see Deut. 33:2 & Ps. 80:1)
 - C. Identify some situations when it is appropriate for Christians to pray this way.
- II. Listen to their boasts and look at their actions! Isn't it enough Lord? (Vs. 3-7)
 - A. How does the Psalmist depict the words of the wicked?
 - B. Why are the actions listed deplorable? (see Ex. 22:21-22, Ps. 10:14 & Js. 1:27)
 - C. Compare the Psalmist's question (vs. 3) with that of the saints (Rev. 6:10).
- III. Listen up fools! The Lord knows your schemes will come to nothing. (Vs. 8-11)
 - A. How does the Psalmist turn the boast (vs. 7) into a warning (vs.8)?
 - B. Consider the questions here and summarize what is affirmed about God.
 - C. Futile means *breath* or *vapor*. (Ps. 39:5 & Eccl. 1:1) How should we respond?
- IV. Through such trials, the Lord instructs and delivers his people. (Vs. 12-15)
 - A. In contrast to the fools (vs. 8-11), who can experience God's blessing?
 - B. What can the Lord's people expect?
 - C. How does the outcome of the wicked (see Ps. 35:7-8) show God's control?
- V. I was at the brink of despair, but the righteous Lord rescued me. (Vs. 16-21)
 - A. What questions does the Psalmist raise in this section? How does he answer?
 - B. How does the Psalmist describe his deliverance?
 - C. Read Psalm 124. How is that deliverance similar to what is expressed here?
- VI. The Lord will protect me and destroy the wicked. (Vs. 22-23)
 - A. How is the Lord described in this section?
 - B. How do the affirmations (vs. 23) resolve the earlier appeal (vs. 2) for justice?
 - C. Write out II Thess. 1:6-7 and then reflect on the timing of God's justice.