

## PSALMS: DIARIES OF GODLY OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

### Psalm One Hundred And Nine - Handling Opposition From A Group That Was Initiated By Malicious Slander (Psalm 109:1-31)

#### I. Introduction

A. Aside from being verbally abused, one of the most difficult challenges to face is that of being unjustly **slandered** to where one's **relationships** with others are unfairly **damaged**.

B. Psalm one hundred and nine is a primer on handling one's being harmfully, painfully slandered as follows:

#### II. Handling Opposition From A Group That Was Initiated By Malicious Slander, Psalm 109:1-31.

A. David presented his plight of being unjustly slandered so that a group opposed him, Ps. 109:1-4a, 5:

1. David asked the Lord Whom he praised with his mouth not to remain silent to his call for help, 109:1.

2. His call was important as David was **unjustly** afflicted by wicked, deceitful, lying men whose hateful words had turned others against David so that David had trouble ruling his subjects as God's king, 2-4a.

B. The **solution** to this plight was **prayer**: David abruptly countered his focus on his plight with the short statement, ". . . **but I** (emphatic position, like "I myself") **am a man of prayer.**"

C. David's prayer to handle being countered by the group due to unjust slander is laid out as follows:

1. Prayer Factor One - David requested **just payback** from **GOD** upon his **slanderers**, Ps. 109:6-20.

a. Though the thought of a **vengeance** is *today* often considered sin, in reality, there is no sin in seeking for there to be **justice**. Thus, in verses 6-20, (a) David **ventilated** his hurt feelings and sense of being robbed of justice. (b) In doing so, he let **God** know his need for just recompense at length.

b. This truth is validated for our dispensation as well as David's from Romans 12:19: though it is wrong for **US** to take vengeance, a **payback** is **NECESSARY** in accord with divine justice; thus, the Christian should lay his case before God so that **He** can deal out justice, Rom. 12:19b; Deut. 32:35.

c. However, toward the **wrongdoers** themselves, the **wronged** party must give place to his wrath, not doing **anything** negative to harm him. Any harm must be meted out by God alone, Rom. 12:19a.

2. Prayer Factor Two - David requested **reimbursement** for the **cost suffered** by the **slander**, 109:21-26.

a. Directing his petition to the Lord as his Master ("Adonai"), David asked God to deal with him for the sake of upholding His own righteousness and loyal love promises to David, Ps. 109:21.

b. The basis of his request is the **cost** to David's relationships caused by the slander that in turn **countered** God's plan for David to **rule** his subjects effectively, 1 Samuel 16:13 with Ps. 109:22-26.

3. Prayer Factor Three - David requested that his **enemies** be **educated** by God so as to **stop** their efforts.

a. Since there was the need for the opponents to be **checked** from **continuing** this slander, David requested that his opponents see that **God** was taking vengeance for David, 109:27.

b. He requested that his accusers be countered by God's **blessing** David, Ps. 109:28. That would **shame** them, effectively cutting off their motivation to continue futile slander efforts, Ps. 109:29.

4. Prayer Factor Four - David expressed **confidence** that **GOD** would counter the **opposing group issue**:

a. Out of confidence in God's coming help, David claimed he would greatly extol the Lord in the **temple throng**. This meant the effects of slander on his subjects would be overturned by God, 30a,b

b. This confidence was based on David's belief that God stands ready to help the needy in such a plight who are unjustly condemned by slanderers, Ps. 109:31. **Also, based on David's appeal to God's loyal love (v. 26b), David implies God must keep His promise for David to be king, and that HAS to include good enough rapport with his subjects so he can RULE them!**

***Lesson:*** (1) God is **SOVEREIGN** over **SLANDERERS** and their **INFLUENCE** over any group of people! Thus, **RESIST** taking personal vengeance if a group turns on us as a result of slander! (2) We do so by **PRAYER** (a) for justice, (b) for a recompense of costs suffered and (c) the inhibition for opponents against continuing their slander. (d) We must trust God to reverse the unjust **GROUP** attitude against us so **HE** can fulfill His plan regarding our relationship to that group!

***Application:*** It is wise to entrust our relations with others to **GOD'S WILL** to avoid taking vengeance if slanderers misrepresent us before that group, for even **SLANDERERS** cannot do harm that overturns God's will for us in such relationships!