



Psalms 64

11/10/19 AM

AMBUSHED BY ADVERSITY

Introduction:

Superscription: "For the choir director. A Psalm of David."

I. DAVID'S DETRACTORS (64:1-6)

A. His Cry (vs. 1-2)

1. Hear Me: "hear my voice, O God, in my complaint"
2. Help Me: "preserve my life from dread of the enemy"
3. Hide Me: "hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers, from the tumult of those who do iniquity"

B. Their Cruelty (vs. 3-6)

1. Open Attack: "who have sharpened their tongue like a sword; they aimed bitter speech as their arrow"
2. Hidden Ambush: "to shoot from concealment at the blameless; suddenly they shoot at him, and do not fear"

"they hold fast to themselves an evil purpose"

*There's a lust in man no charm can tame
Of loudly publishing our neighbor's shame;
On eagles' wings immortal scandals fly,
While virtuous actions are but born to die.*

Juvenal (Roman poet, c. AD 60-120)

"They talk of laying snares secretly; they say, 'Who can see them?'"

3. Legal Aggression: "They devise injustices, saying, 'We are ready with a well-conceived plot'"

"For the inward thought and the heart of a man are deep."

II. DAVID'S DEFENDER (64:7-10)

A. God's Retribution (vs. 7-8)

"but God will shoot at them with an arrow, suddenly they will be wounded" (Psalm 7:11-13)

"so they will make him stumble; their own tongue is against them"

"all who see them will shake the head"

Message: "They double up in pain, fall flat on their faces in full view of the grinning crowd."

B. Man's Recognition (vs. 9)

"then all men will fear"

"and they will declare the work of God, and will consider what He has done"

C. David's Rejoicing (vs. 10)

"the righteous man will be glad in the LORD and will take refuge in Him"

"and all the upright in heart will glory"

Conclusion:

- 1) The righteous do not need to live in fear of the wicked if they trust the Lord for protection and relief.
- 2) The righteous may pray with confidence and then joyfully anticipate that God will turn their wickedness back on the wicked.

Food for Thought:

- 1) What do you fear? Why?
- 2) How do you respond to those fears? How *should* you respond?
- 3) How do you define "righteous indignation"? "righteous anger"?
- 4) How do we properly exult (vs. 10 - "glory") in the destruction of the wicked?