

=Story Behind the Psalm=

Psalm 109

NOTE: *These lessons are designed simply as a guideline. As a Sunday School teacher part of your job is to study the lesson and develop it for the pupils in your class according to their age and spiritual development.*

Scripture: Psalms 109/II Samuel 15-17

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The Story Behind the Psalm

Ahithophel had been David's best friend, and in David's darkest hour, Ahithophel forsook him. Because of this, he is often called the Judas Iscariot of David's life. As Judas walked with Jesus during His earthly life, so did Ahithophel walk with David. As Judas claimed to be one of Jesus' closest friends, so Ahithophel claimed to be David's closest friend. As Judas sat with Jesus at the table, time and time again so did Ahithophel sit with David in like times.

We know this Psalm refers to Judas, for Peter quoted this Psalm (Acts 1:20). It is called by some the most mysterious of the Psalms and it is by far the most harsh in its words.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

You will notice it is "To the chief musician." This means it was intended to be sung and especially to be sung in the temple service. The chief musician was given permission to set it to music and to use it in the highest of services.

LESSON:

1. **The name Ahithophel means *brother of ruin or folly*.** I would hate to have a name like that. Unfortunately many folks inherit such a name.
 - a. Judas – who brought folly to the disciples and Christ
 - b. Rehoboam (I Kings 12) – split the kingdom of Israel
 - c. Absalom (II Samuel 15) – stole the hearts of the people and eventually the kingdom from his father, David.
 - d. Saul – eventually become so disappointing to God that the LORD regretted making him king (I Samuel 15)
 - e. Parents – who will lead their children to destruction by their teachings.
 - i. Elevating sports/money/fun/etc over the things of God
 - ii. Getting bitter at God
 - f. Church members – sowing discord among the brethren (Proverbs 6:14,19)

- g. Spouse – who destroys their own marriage through lies/infidelity/stubbornness/etc (Proverbs 14:1)
2. **A true friend never forsakes you (Proverbs 17:17).**
- a. Your friendship is revealed in the darkest hour. You will find out what kind of friend you are when your friend is at his lowest point.
 - b. Your friends are revealed in your darkest hour. There are many people who will stay by your side when everything looks good, but when you face challenges and problems many of them will disappear.
3. **This Psalm shows us the attitude God has toward those who turn on Him.** Realizing this psalm is prophetic concerning Judas and the enemies of the LORD.
- a. Let his days be few and another take his office (verse 8). Judas was replaced by Matthias (Acts 1:26). Saul was replaced by David (I Samuel 15:11). When we turn from serving the LORD and fulfilling God's purpose He delights in another taking your position.
 - b. God has no pleasure in or blessings for those who hinder the work He is doing. (verses 9-16)
 - c. God rewards them with the same afflictions they give to Him (verse 17-20) (Psalm 18:26).
 - d. The heart of God is hurt and wounded when we turn on Him (verses 22-25). God has been nothing but good to people. What a shame when we turn our backs on the LORD.
 - e. God (as well as David) (verses 26-31) desire to use these circumstances of evil done to us as a testimony for god. God can get praise from even the worst of circumstances if we stay true to Him.

Memory Verse: *For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer. And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. Psalm 109:4-5*