

## PSALM 5

*Prayer for Protection from the Wicked.*

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. For the Chief Musician; with the Nehiloth. A Psalm of David.
- B. This is also called a "Morning Prayer" because of the statement in 5:3. There is not known to be any connection with this psalm with any recorded incident in the life of David, but it is appropriate for any individual in similar circumstances.
- C. "With the Nehiloth." The meaning of this word is not known, but it is usually thought to refer to some musical instrument or rendering.

### THE TEXT.

- 5:1** Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.
- 2** Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.
- 3** In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order *my prayer* to You and *eagerly* watch.
- 4** For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;  
No evil dwells with You.
- 5** The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;  
You hate all who do iniquity.
- 6** You destroy those who speak falsehood;  
The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.
- 7** But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house,  
At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.
- 8** O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes;  
Make Your way straight before me.
- 9** There is nothing reliable in what they say;  
Their inward part is destruction *itself*.  
Their throat is an open grave;  
They flatter with their tongue.
- 10** Hold them guilty, O God;  
By their own devices let them fall!  
In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out,  
For they are rebellious against You.
- 11** But let all who take refuge in You be glad,  
Let them ever sing for joy;  
And may You shelter them,  
That those who love Your name may exult in You.
- 12** For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD,  
You surround him with favor as with a shield.

### COMMENTS.

- A. **[v1-3]** Coffman points out that there is a great wealth of information about prayer in these brief lines.
  - 1. There must be "words" in our prayers. Meditation is not prayer.
  - 2. Prayer is personal. Someone else may pray on our behalf, but they cannot pray in our stead. Notice the personal pronouns in these verses.
  - 3. The final words of verse 3, "and I will look up" indicates that an answer is expected, as Jesus told the disciples to expect to receive; see Mt. 21:22.
  - 4. "in the morning I will direct it to You," does not specify any particular morning, but seems to indicate a regular practice of prayer each morning. We are to "pray without ceasing" and this seems to be what is indicated here.
- B. **[v4-6]** Notice the number of synonyms for wickedness: "evil," "boastful," "workers of iniquity," "those who speak falsehood," "bloodthirsty," and "deceitful."

“You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness,” is a contrast with the pagan gods who were worshiped with lustful practices. God not only hates all forms of wickedness, but “You shall destroy...”

- C. **[v7,8]** David draws a sharp contrast with the wicked, “But as for me, I will come into your house... I will worship toward Your holy temple.” Some have argued that the temple was not built until after David’s death, but this word was also applied to the tabernacle in Shiloh (1 Sam. 1:9; 3:3).

The word for “worship” in this passage means to fall down to the ground. David seems to cherish the privilege of worship and attributes it to the “multitude of Your mercy?” (5:7).

- D. **[v9,10]** The stanza in 5:9 has four lines giving synonymous descriptions of the unfaithful speech of the wicked.

Verse 10 is the first imprecatory statement in the Psalms. Some condemn the prayer of punishment upon the wicked, but the righteous should realize that God’s wrath is as holy and righteous as His grace and mercy. Paul acknowledges to the wicked that God’s wrath is holy; see Rom. 2:5,6. This is similar to the prayers of the departed saints in Rev. 6:10.

- E. **[v11,12]** This is an expression of a beautiful trust and confidence. It is not only for himself, but “let all those rejoice who put their trust in you.”

“You will defend them” is assurance whether the foe is an army of wicked men, or our personal temptations from which God promises us “a way of escape that we may be able to bear them” (1Cor. 10:13).