



## The “Imprecatory” Psalms

### Intro and Definition

#### Example (in extremis): Read Psalm 137

- Open discussion: how do we feel about this?
- How should we approach it?
- Apply it?

#### Other examples:

- Psalm 58:6-10... then 11
- Psalm 55:15... then 16-19
- Psalm 79:6-7... then 8-13
- Psalm 109:6-20... then 21-29

#### Conflicting (or Counterbalancing?) Passages:

- Matthew 5:43-48
- Romans 12:17-21
- Philippians 4:8

#### Some takeaways:

- Consider genre (Psalm 137, especially)
  - o Emotional honesty
  - o Figurative language
- Consider historical context (Psalm 35)
  - o Israel's covenant identity
  - o Utter reliance upon God alone
- Consider Scriptural context
  - o “Scripture interprets Scripture”
  - o Interpret the unclear through the lens of the clear
- Consider Christ
  - o How does it change when these are the words spoken by Him?
  - o How does it change when these are the words that speak of Him?

#### Some present-day considerations, then...

- Validity, even necessity, of emotions and expression
- Importance of two kingdoms framework
- Unshakable reliance on who is actually in control
- Importance of vocational understanding