

THE HOLINESS OF GOD AND THE IMPRECATORY PSALMS

There are certain Psalms which call down God's wrath on 'enemies' of the believers. When we view these, we want to remember that our God is holy. It is just as the seraphim proclaimed recorded in Is. 6:3. Our God is perfect and hates sin. He is separate from all evil. At the same time our God is perfect love as John states. 1 John 4:8 There is in God's nature both of these attributes which within us are not in balance due to sin. God beckons us to love as he has loved us in Christ Jesus. In the imprecatory psalms some have claimed that there is a contradiction. Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord. Deut. 32:35 We are encouraged to love and not take personal vengeance against our enemies. Rom. 12:19, Heb. 10:30 So in looking at verses in these Psalms what can we say to this?

- 1. It is not a personal vendetta that is called for. And nowhere am I encouraged to carry out personally God's punishment in a personal vendetta. Governing authorities exist to punish evil doers. Rom. 13
- 2. These verses exhibit a zeal for the Lord's kingdom and His glory.
- 3. I as a Christian bear His name and when the enemy assaults me he assaults God. There is such a personal relationship that an affront upon me is an affront to God, whose servant I am.
- 4. There is an appeal to God against the evil in the unbeliever's actions. Yet we always have to consider the whole context.
- 5. Evil is not just in the unbeliever. We individually acknowledge our own sinfulness just as in passages in these references do. We are to forgive our enemies as God has forgiven us. Yet they need to be brought to repentance through God's judgments. And for those who will not repent the dreadful end needs to be pointed out so others may learn.

In the following verses from the imprecatory psalms we see all these points expressed. The Psalms considered are: 7, 35, 55, 58, 59, 69, 79, 109, 137, 139. With various verses the five numbers of the points above are included in parentheses if applicable.

7:1 in Thee do I take refuge...3 if I have done wrong(5)...5 let them trample my life to the ground...6 Arise, O Lord in Thy anger(1)...9 let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish Thou the righteous(2)

35:27 Great is the Lord who delights in the welfare of His servants...(3)

55:1 give ear to my prayer(4)...9 destroy their plans, O Lord, confuse their tongues...15 let death come upon them, let them go down to sheol alive, let them go away in terror into their graves...23 men of blood and treachery(5)

58:6 break the teeth in their mouths(1)...10 the righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance ...he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked(5)

59:1 deliver me(4)...10 my God will let me look in triumph on my enemies...12 for the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips, let them be trapped in their pride(1,5)...13 that men may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth(2)

69:4 they hate me without cause(3)...5 the wrongs I have done are not hidden from Thee(5)...9 zeal for

Thy house consumes me, (2)the insults of those who insult Thee have fallen on me...24 pour out Thy indignation upon them(1)

79:6 Pour out Thy anger on the nations that do not know Thee(2)...8 do not remember against us the iniquities of our forefathers(4) let Thy compassion come speedily to us for we are brought very low...
9Help us, O God of our salvation for the glory of Thy name(4,2) deliver us, and forgive our sins(5)...
12 the taunts with which they have taunted Thee, O Lord(2)

109:4 In return for my love they accuse me(4,1) even as I make prayer or them...8 may his days be few
(5) 9 may his children be fatherless...16 for he did not remember to show kindness(5 here is effect
and cause)...17 he loved to curse

137:8 happy shall he be who requites you(Babylon) with what you have done to us(1,3)...9 takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock

139:19 O that Thou wouldst slay the wicked(1)...21 do not I hate them who hate Thee(3,2)

Following this there is a copy from Bill Warner on the internet that goes over the Muslim term 'kafir' for unbeliever. In comparison with our Bible the Muslims do say to take vengeance into one's own hands when dealing with a kafir. There is no concern of praying for them and loving them as we have in Ps. 109 for our enemies. Islam with its passages against unbelievers does express the 'holy' aspect which God has but no attribute of 'love' which our God has. When Islam allows one to take vengeance into one's own hands, it is in line with their totality concept. They do not recognize, as we know in Romans 13 and elsewhere, that God rules even unbeliever governing authorities, and so carries out His punishments through them. In the imprecatory psalms we even hear of our sin and what we deserve, Ps. 69:5, and the appeal for God to deliver us and forgive our sins, Ps. 79:9. We have God's love in Christ Jesus. This is not in the Koran and so it is not a goal of Islam to 'love', instead to 'submit' as their very name means.

KAFIR

The language of Islam is dualistic. As an example, there is never any reference to humanity as a unified whole. Instead there is a division into believer and kafir (unbeliever). Humanity is not seen as one body, but is divided into whether the person believes Mohammed is the prophet of Allah or not.

Kafir is what the Koran and Islam call the unbelievers. Kafir is the worst word in the human language.

The Koran defines the kafir and says that the kafir is:

Hated- 40:35 They who dispute the signs of Allah [kafirs] without authority having reached them are greatly hated by Allah and the believers. So Allah seals up every arrogant, disdainful heart. and despised by Allah.

Mocked- 83:34 On that day the faithful will mock the kafirs, while they sit on bridal couches and watch them. Should not the kafirs be paid back for what they did?

Punished- 25:77 Say to the kafirs: My Lord does not care for you or your prayers. You have rejected the truth, so sooner or later, a punishment will come.

Beheaded- 47:4 When you encounter the kafirs on the battlefield, cut off their heads until you have thoroughly defeated them and then take the prisoners and tie them up firmly.

Confused- 6:25 Some among them listen to you [Mohammed], but We have cast veils over their [kafirs] hearts and a heaviness to their ears so that they cannot understand our signs [the Koran].

Plotted against- 86:15 They plot and scheme against you [Mohammed], and I plot and scheme against them. Therefore, deal calmly with the kafirs and leave them alone for a while.

Terrorized- 8:12 Then your Lord spoke to His angels and said, "I will be with you. Give strength to the believers. I will send terror into the kafirs' hearts, cut off their heads and even the tips of their fingers!"

Annihilated- 6:45 So the kafirs were annihilated. All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

Killed- 4:91 If they do not keep away from you or offer you peace or withdraw their hostilities, then seize them and kill them wherever they are. We give you complete authority over them.

Crucified- 5:33 The only reward for those who war against Allah and His messengers and strive to commit mischief on the earth is that they will be slain or crucified, have their alternate hands and feet cut off, or be banished from the land. This will be their disgrace in this world, and a great torment shall be theirs in the next except those who repent before you overpower them. Know that Allah is forgiving and merciful.

Made war on- 9:29 Make war on those who have received the Scriptures [Jews and Christians] but do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day. They do not forbid what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden. The Christians and Jews do not follow the religion of truth until they submit and pay the poll tax [jizya], and they are humiliated.

A Muslim is not the friend of a kafir- 3:28 Believers should not take kafirs as friends in preference to other believers. Those who do this will have none of Allah's protection and will only have themselves as guards. Allah warns you to fear Him for all will return to Him.

A kafir is ignorant- 6:111 Even if We had sent down the angels to them [kafirs], the dead had spoken to them, and We had gathered all things before their eyes, they would not believe unless Allah had willed

it, but most of them are ignorant.

Evil- 23:97 And say: Oh my Lord! I seek refuge with You from the suggestions of the evil ones [kafirs]. And I seek refuge with you, my Lord, from their presence.

Disgraced- 37:18 Tell them, "Yes! And you [kafirs] will be disgraced." a partner of Satan 25:55 And still they worship others besides Allah who can neither help nor hurt them. The kafir is Satan's ally against Allah. Unclean- 9:28 Oh, believers, only the kafirs are unclean.

Cursed- 33:60 They [kafirs] will be cursed, and wherever they are found, they will be seized and murdered. It was Allah's same practice with those who came before them, and you will find no change in Allah's ways.

Stolen from- Bukhari 5,59,537 On the day of Khaybar, Allah's Apostle divided the spoils of war of Khaybar with the ratio of two shares for the horse and one share for the foot soldier.

Raped- Ishaq 759 [Mohammed's official biography] On the occasion of Khaybar, Mohammed put forth new orders about forcing sex with captive women. If the woman was pregnant she was not to be used for sex until after the birth of the child. Nor were any women to be used for sex who were unclean with regard to Muslim laws about menstruation.

Christians and Jews are infidels, but infidels are kafirs, too. Polytheists are Hindus, but they are also kafirs. The terms infidel and polytheist are religious words. Only the word "kafir" shows the common political treatment of Christian, Jew, Hindu, Buddhist, animist, atheist and humanist.

The word kafir should be used instead of "unbeliever", the standard word. Unbeliever is a neutral term. The Koran defines the kafir and kafir is not a neutral word. A kafir is not merely someone who does not agree with Islam, but a kafir is evil, disgusting, the lowest form of life. Kafirs can be tortured, killed, lied to and cheated. So the usual word "unbeliever" does not reflect the political reality of Islam.