

# God's responses to the way of the wicked and the way of the righteous.

## I. Introduction

Read the latest headlines

- Pastor convicted on 2 rape counts
- Former police minister was part of Cato manor arrest plot.
- 3 accomplices arrested for alleged poaching
- Man arrested for murder of his lover
- Eastern cape lawyer accused of defrauding health department

On and on the lists goes.

Day after day we read, hear and see of corruption, boastful arrogance, liars, men committing bloodshed, deceivers, smooth talkers, backstabbing and treacherous people.

We realize then that this world truly has a wicked way(lifestyle) and evil side to it.

It may leave you despondent, wanting to give up and wanting to lose hope.

It may leave you wondering how must I pray, how must I respond?

As we reflect on David's life, we discover a number of things.

- Saul had turned against David 1Sam18
- Doeg the Edomite betrayed David to Saul which brought about the innocent slaughter of all but one of the priests at Nob in 1Sam 22
- He was pursued by Saul 1Sam 23
- He had to flee and dwell among his own enemies the philistines in 1Sam 27
- He was mistrusted by the Philistines 1 Sam 29
- After His sin with Bathsheba 2 Sam 11, Absalom, his own son conspired and turned against him 2 Sam 15
- Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth accused his master of disloyalty and participated in Absalom's Conspiracy to bring down the household of David(2Sam 16)

David had many enemies that conspired to either kill David or bring his down fall.  
He faced liars, flatterers, and murderers, deceivers and liars, smooth talkers and treacherous people

How did David deal with this daily?

David prayed

*<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. Psalm 5:8 (ESV)*

Our passage comes from Ps 5 today ( **read it**)

This psalm most likely was written “a short time before **the revolt of Absalom**, when David was aware of the scheming of conspirators against him.

The Psalmist **introduces** us to **two ways of life or 2 life styles-**

- The **way of the wicked**
- the way of the **righteous**.

The main point is found in verse 8, David’s prayer.

This was David’s **heart** cry: In **essence** It was a cry of David to God stating:

**Show me you**(your righteousness- who you are and how you respond) and show me your ways. Make it **easy** to understand your ways.

Show me how **respond** to the wicked.

And show me how **You** respond to the righteous.

And show me the **path** I must follow.

Make it **clear**.

Why? because (of my enemies)the **World** is watching- My foes are watching and their **intent** is to **destroy** me.

*<sup>11</sup> Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a level path Because of my foes.*

*Psalm 27:11 (NASB95)*

**Main point today is the answer to a question**

What is the heart cry of any believer in a wicked world desiring your destruction?

**Show me You Oh Lord and lead me in your way**

*Keep me on the straight and narrow path when the broad road is beckoning.*

## II. Proposition

Two questions that reveal God's responses to the wicked and the righteous that makes it easier to follow His way.

- How does God respond to the wicked way?
- How does God respond to the righteous way?

## How does God respond to the wicked way?

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*2 truths that characterize God's response to the way of the wicked*

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Emotional & Just responses

### I. The wicked experience Gods emotional responses:

1. His displeasure,
2. His hatred,
3. His destruction
4. His loathing because He is a Holy God

*<sup>4</sup> For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. <sup>6</sup> You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. Psalm 5:4–6 (ESV)*

God's holiness compels a growing emotional crescendo towards the wicked.

*Let's look at each of these 4 emotional response from God*

Gods 1ste emotional response (His displeasure)

**Vs 4** *For you are not a God who delights in wickedness.*

He feels no attraction to it/ has no desire for him.

Evils glitter has no charm for God.

*Habakkuk 1:13*

*<sup>13</sup> Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. ...?*

### Application

Yet how often do you and I find pleasure in wickedness?

We take pleasure in taking what does not belong to us-like your brother or sisters cookies,

like the pencil or pen that belongs to the work, like using work time for leisure, like enjoying the little bits of gossip we so easily share.

**God's displeasure is seen in the fact that he does not allow evil to be with him.**

**Vs 4 evil may not dwell with you**

The Heb- **dwells**= take up an **abode**, to gather together, or to **sojourn**.

The root = the idea of **staying** with people who are not **blood relatives**.

So we see it implies both not staying with or journeying with.

The term is used in.

***4 They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn(dwell) in the land... Genesis 47:4***

Evil does not sojourn with God; it is not **protected** by God, neither on earth or in heaven shall evil share a mansion with God.

For God is an all-**consuming** fire.

**He is the burning flame for the petrol soaked evil.**

The two do not mix.

***Isaiah 33:14 Sinners in Zion are terrified; Trembling has seized the godless. "Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with continual burning?"***

### **Application**

We dwell with our sins, but God does not- you and I shelter our sins, we **hide** it from exposure, we **don't confess** it, repent of it, these sins are our traveling companions

This is not Gods way or His response to sin

**God's displeasure is seen in the fact he does not protect the wicked.**

We see an example of this:

***Vs 5 The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes***

It's the idea of a law court.

There is no protection given for the boastful.

They have no footing to stand upon.

Boastful- root:

- meaning deluded or the insane, arrogance and the false confidence
- It is describing the loud boisterous nonsensical behavior and mindset of the wicked.

But when God's eyes expose their arrogance, their sense of false confidence, and they cannot even stand before God's Holy gaze.

God's truth (His word) shatters their foundations.

They are not protected they cannot even stand in His presence

**Application:** Do you protect your sins, does your sins have a footing to stand upon-Are you boastful, arrogant, boisterous in your mind set  
-friend you're on slippery ground before a Holy God.

**God is not only displeased of the wicked, He also hates the wicked.**

Gods 2nd emotional response (Hatred)

*Vs 5b. . you hate all evildoers*

Here we see the Holiness of God in full display, His separateness of evil, His perfect justice and his hatred not only of sin but even the sinner.

*<sup>5</sup> The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates. Psalm 11:5 (NASB95)*

This is the psalmist way of calling down Gods anger and punishment on His enemies.

The terms like hate, abhors and destroys reveal God's strong revulsion of God's attitude and emotion towards sin.

God hates all- and that **all** is **defined** as **evildoers** (Who practice iniquity, refers to the practice or trouble, idolatry, wickedness)

Since God is perfectly Holy, in His justice He must reject sins and sinners.

David said that God hates all who do wrong.

God rejects those **who reject Him.**

This is a Hebraism that contrasts love and hate **which communicates acceptance and rejection.**

*<sup>13</sup> As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." Romans 9:13 (ESV)*

So inherently its only on the cross that **Justice meet mercy,**

its only through **His son and His death** on the cross that God's has justice

Its only through the blood of Christ, that forgiveness is given to the repentant sinner.

Its only on the cross that the righteousness of Christ is credited to the sinner and in their standing they are saints yet in practice still sinners.

**The enemies(rejectors of God)** of God are then transformed into accepted adopted children of the King.

Rejecting the gospel, means rejecting God and being in a condition of hated by God and will for eternity only experience His wrath, His justice and eternal punishment

### **Gods 3<sup>r</sup> emotional response (destruction)**

*6 You destroy those who speak lies;*

Since God is infinitely holy, He must judge sinners with infinite wrath

David stated: God destroys/brings to a **state of ruin** all who tell lies

I don't think the psalmist **limits** the destruction only to liars, rather he is using it as a defining character of the wicked.

Satan is the **father of liars and His children reflect the same** characteristic

Hell will be populated with more than liars alone. We read

*<sup>8</sup> "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters **and all liars**, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Revelation 21:8*

And we read

*2 Thessalonians 1:7 ... well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty **angels in flaming fire**, <sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution **to those who do not know God and to those **who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus****. <sup>9</sup> These will pay the **penalty of eternal destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

Gk the idea is **not annihilation** but **unavoidable distress and torment** for all eternity awaits the wicked.

God not only **destroys** the wicked, He **detests** the men of bloodshed.

### Gods 4 emotional response (strong aversion)

*Vs 6 the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.*

The term abhors means to **detest** or to **loathe** something, to have a **strong aversion** for something.

There is a strong aversion to those who are spotted by the blood of their **slain** victims- the murderer, the man who kills the innocent

Those who are **deceitful**, who are treacherous and deceive others.

- Used for **Jacob** who was **deceived** by **Laban** Gen 29:25
- **Joshua** who was **deceived** by the **Gibeonites** in Josh 9:22
- Soul who **deceived** the witch of **Endor** 1 Sam 28:12

God detest them

**IN summary Gods** emotional responses to the wicked is one of displeasure, hatred, destruction and loathing.

This begs judgment.

2nd truths that **characterize** God's **response** to the **way** of the wicked

## II. 2. God's justice exposes the wicked, brings about their downfall and ultimate destruction

*Psalm 5:9–10 (ESV)*

*<sup>9</sup> For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. <sup>10</sup> Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you.*

God is a **just** God. Here we see God **exercising** justice, **levelling** the injustices in the world. Confronting the wicked.

The path for the wicked has been laid out.

### 1. **First the exposure** vs **9**

The **charges** are laid:

- i. *Charge 1 Vs <sup>9</sup> For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction*

David knew first-hand how **unreliable** his enemies were.

They were **untrustworthy** (Terms of speech are used: mouth, throat, tongue)

The wicked have nothing reliable to say- Their words are **slanderous lies**, **twisted** truth.

These flows from their **inward parts** (Inmost self)

- (Inmost self)= inner **attitudes**- thoughts= a description of their hearts.
- **Described** as are filled with **destruction** (Heb- =Havah=the term for **moral failure** or wickedness)

**Their inner attitudes are a total moral failure**

Jesus stated

*<sup>18</sup> “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. <sup>19</sup> “For out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. Matthew 15:18–19*

**David was simply stating that the source of all the wickedness was an evil heart.**

The wicked are unreliable in what they say because their hearts are a moral failure- full of destruction

**Application:** your and my **words** reveal what goes on in your **heart**- the same is true of the wicked.

**ii. Charge 2 Vs 9 Their throat is an open grave;-**

Jerimiah use this to express the **murderous efficiency** in battle.

*<sup>16</sup> “Their quiver is like an open grave, All of them are mighty men. Jeremiah 5:16*

Metaphor of an open grave connects with their **inner parts** being **destruction**(Moral failures) the open grave- **capturers** its victims.

- Open grave is **dangerous** as one can **fall** in it.
- It's **intended** for the **dead**.

It implies the constant threat of **violence** and death which characterises the wicked

**iii. Charge 3 Vs 9 They flatter with their tongue**

Flatter = Heb –root= the **smoothing** of metal to make an idol by hitting it on an anvil.=

*<sup>7</sup> So the craftsman encourages the smelter, And he who **smooths** metal with the hammer .. Isaiah 41:7*

smooth speech- smoother than **butter** or **oil**.



The wicked are smooth talkers.

They can sell ice to an eskimo

**Application:** How often do we see this in the lives of people around us?

Then we see the fall of the wicked

## 2. *Their Fall : vs 10*

*i. Vs 10 Make them bear their guilt, O God;*

The wicked begin to reap the consequences

**Declared guilty:**

David calls out to God to make them bear their guilt-(declare them guilty as charged)-  
opposite of being justified.

Move them from the acts which bring guilt to the condition of being guilty.

The reason is given in the last part of the sentence:

*for they have rebelled against you.*

Their rebellion against God is the cause for them being held in the stage of guilt

**Vs 10 ; let them fall by their own counsels; NASB :By their own devices let them fall**

Measure out your justice in such a manner: that the very evil they had been planning backfire on them.

The pin they pulled from the grenade for their enemies, let the grenade drop on their feet.

*Psalm 7:15*

*<sup>15</sup> He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, And has fallen into the hole which he made.*

*<sup>8</sup> Let destruction come upon him unawares, And let the net which he hid catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall. Psalm 35:8*

That the consequences for the wicked schemes and plots would backfire and the very tools they were planning to use for the destruction of others be used against them

- Haman was hung on his the very gallows he intended for Mordecai in Ester (7)

### 3 . Finally the expulsion

*because of the abundance of their transgressions **cast them out**, for they have rebelled against you.*

There is a multitude or an abundance of transgressions

Transgressions Root meaning = **Breaches** of **relationship**, - many open rebellions against God).

The next phrase defines the nature of these breached relationships.

They **rebelled** against a holy and just God.

Not just once- but **abundantly**

#### **The execution of punishment: cast them out**

They are to be **thrust** out- **Nadach** – **forcibly** thrust out- what the **wind** does to **chaff** or **smoke**.

The wicked will be forcibly thrust out of Gods presences for eternity.

*Revelation 20:15 (NASB95)*

*<sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was **thrown** into the lake of **fire**.*

*Matthew 13:49–50 (NASB95)*

*<sup>49</sup> “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and **take** out the wicked from among the righteous, <sup>50</sup> and will **throw** them into the **furnace** of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

IN **summary** A holy God is displeased, **hates**, **destroys** and **loaths** the wicked. In God's Justice they are **exposed**, they come to a **fall** and are **forcibly thrust** out from Gods presence for all eternity

And David simply was affirming these truths and appealing to God's **Holiness** and **Justice** to take place.

Dauids cry to God

*<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. Psalm 5:8 (ESV)*

Why Because of my enemies- The treacherous watchers is the terms root meaning. Those he had been describing as the wicked ones.

David found **comfort** in **God's Holiness** as it related **to the wicked** and **Gods Justice** as it levelled out fair **retribution** to his enemies. – You too can find comfort in the fact that in the end God will bring about justice, perfect, complete and fair justice.

But David's **heart was to see God and how He responded** not just to the wicked but also to the **righteous, to himself**. This brings us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> main point.

## How does God respond to the righteous way?

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*4 truths that **characterize** God's **response** to the **way** of the righteous*

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### *1. A Sovereign all powerful God **hears** and answers their prayers*

*<sup>1</sup> Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. <sup>2</sup> Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. <sup>3</sup> O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. Psalm 5:1–3 (ESV)*

Here we see the devotional life of David.

David appeals to God to **hear** his **words** and to discern or consider his **groaning's**, vs 1  
Root - groanings = **whispers/** murmurings- indicates signs of distress.

Found in only one place in the OT- Ps 39:3 David is seen groaning in the presence of the wicked as his sorrow grew worse.

In the light David was facing distress because to his enemies, the foes

David cries out to God.

David sees God as His King and His Elohim- God

King emphasise **sovereignty** of God

**Elohim** – root= means **strong emphasising the unlimited power** of **God..** - **plural** term - emphasises a **majestic** nature of God

David calls Him **My King and My God** meaning that this is his **personal** God. There is **relationship** between David and God.

Just as David appeals to the **Sovereign majestic all powerful God**, so can you and I appeal to this amazing God in our distress.

Gods response?

**<sup>3</sup> O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;**

David expresses his confidence in the fact that **God will hears His voice?**

We're **not** told **why** in this section?

All that we know is that there is a **relationship** that David has with God

God is His King- which implies God is the **sovereign** King of Kings.- If it is God's **will** He can **hear** the prayer and **answer** it

God is all powerful (Elohim) and thus able to answer

***in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.***

Heb= Morning set in order belonging to you and watch

Notice two steps

1. Prepare
2. watch

David's devotional life was **patterned** based on the morning sacrifice

- Sacrifices were the **preparation** for the prayer
- The Tabernacle was the **place of meeting** between God and Israel
- The Sacrifices made this meeting possible.
- Hence prayer could only follow the sacrifice and its appropriate **symbol** was the burning of **incense**.
- The priest would **watch** as the cloud of incense rising up before God as he then utters a specified prayer to God.

**<sup>3</sup> Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar**

which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> **And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Revelation 8:3 -4**

Just as the priests would prepare for the sacrifices David ordered/ prepared we should prepare Just as priest burned the incense and watched the cloud of incense rise expecting God to answer, David watched with expectancy that God would answer his prayers and so should you and I pray and watch. God hears you're my prayers.

But we still ask the question why would God answer?

This brings us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> truth that characterize God's response to the way of the righteous

## ***2. God's abundant Loving Kindness provides access and worship in God's house***

***<sup>7</sup> But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Psalm 5:7 (ESV)***

The wicked do not have access but the righteous do?

Why does God then answer our prayers, it's because we are there – we have access in the throne room of God

The righteous enters and worships- bow down in reverential awe as the see the Glory of God.

- Why does David mention the term house or temple when there was no temple yet?
- Secondly what's is the basis for Him to enter into this temple.

To the first question our answer is simple. David did not have the earthly temple in mind. He was contemplating having access to the heavenly temple.

But the second question is the more important.

- Secondly what is the basis for Him to enter into this temple?

***<sup>7</sup> But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house***

It is on the Basis of Gods abundant steadfast love.

His loving kindness provides access to Himself, to meeting with God.

- Its abundant - because it needs to cover abundant sins/ because of a multitude of sins, you need a multitude of loving kindness
- Gesed= refers to *the grace, favour, mercy* of God towards men.
- The ultimate display of God's mercy would be the Messiah the one promised by by God's word and promised in the covenants

Nelsen Glueck stated that it refers to Yahwehs loyalty to his covenant obligations towards Israel. IT was His covenantal love being displayed.

God had made a covenant with Abraham promising land, name, seed and ultimately through him would come the seed that would be a blessing to all the nations.

The Mosaic covenants defined how Israel was to worship God

The Phiniatic covenant spoke of an eternal priesthood implying a future eternal High priest

The Davidic covenant God promised to establish the throne of His kingdom forever through some future descendant in the line of David

Jesus death and resurrection the ultimate display of God's favour, mercy, grace- steadfast kindness

Jesus Christ the perfect sacrifice for sins, that makes the incense rituals that followed possible.

Jesus that sacrificed that was the basis for answered prayers and access to God the Sovereign all powerful King.

Jesus who is to come in the office of eternal High priest and King on the Throne of David.

David was trusting upon Gods eternal abundant lovingkindness

This was the basis for access to God's throne room.

Its only as you and I repent and trust upon Gods mercy as displayed in Christ, that the sinner gain righteousness as Christ righteousness gets attributed towards them which gives them access and the joy of worshipping God.

This brings us to the 3<sup>rd</sup> truth that **characterize** God's **response** to the **way** of the righteous

### 3. *God's protection causes great joy and worship*

*<sup>11</sup> But let all who take **refuge in you rejoice**; let them **ever** sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may **exult in you**. Psalm 5:11 (ESV)*

David **responds to God's provision** of shelter with joy.

The wicked experience hatred, displeasure, destruction, loathing, exposure, ruin and expulsion from God's while righteous **experience God's sheltering**, His protection, conditions of eternal joy.

David shifts his **focus** from himself as **individual** to all believers over all time.

**All who take refuge**- means all who rely on, or take shelter upon God find their hearts rejoicing.

This is **not temporal rejoicing** as we see them **ever** singing for joy.

Ever =Hebr= olam, the term used for eternity.

The Heb root- singing= **idea of a ringing cry of joy**.

Joy is the **eternal privilege of the righteous**

The wicked **may laugh now and the righteous may weep** at times now but **shall rejoice eternally**.

God's protection **not only leads to** joy, but also, those who love Him **exalt Him**, ultimately worship him.

Believers you and I respond to God's protection, God,s loving kindness, God,s Holiness, God's **justice in worship**

So what awaits the righteous is **eternal joy and worship**.

This brings us to the 4th truth that **characterize** God's **response** to the **way** of the righteous

### 4. *Yahweh- the self-existing God blesses the righteous and surrounds him with favour*

*Psalm 5:12 (ESV)*

*<sup>12</sup> For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.*

O Lord – Heb= Yahweh=occurs 6823 in the Ot = most common name for God. It relates to the Hebrew verb meaning “be” as in Ex 3:14 (Iam) He is the self existing one

*Psalm 8:1 (NASB95)*

*<sup>1</sup> O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!*

Ps 8:1 He is absolutely immutable one who is independent and autonomous. He depends upon no one, yet all are dependent upon Him.

This Yahweh **bleses the righteous man/women.**

He blesses = The root means = Ot it means to **endue with power, success, prosperity,** longevity, fruitfulness.

IN David’s Day God blessed them based on their **obedience to the Mosaic covenant,** with reproduction of their animals, food, protection while traveling, security, success, holiness, identity, national welfare, position of esteem, occupation of the land (Dt 28)

and as believers were **blessed with every spiritual blessing** in Christ

*Ephesians 1:3 (NASB95)*

*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

### **III. In conclusion**

What is the heart cry of any believer in a wicked world desiring your destruction?

*Show me You Oh Lord and lead me in your way*

WE asked and answered two questions that revealed God’s responses to the wicked and the righteous that makes it easier to follow His way.



- How does God respond to the wicked way?
  - Holy God is not pleased with the wicked, he hates them, destroys them and utterly detests them
  - The Justice of God means that He exposes their sin, He brings about their down fall, and ultimately expels them from his presence
- How does God respond to the righteous way?
  - The sovereign all powerful God **hears our prayer** which the righteous can pray and should pray with an expectation of Gods answers
  - God's **abundant loving kindness provides** access to God- the ultimate display of that is Christ death and resurrection
  - God's **protection causes** great joy and ultimate worship
  - Yahweh **the self-existing God blesses** the righteous one and surrounds him with favour.

So we see David's

***Prayer Psalm 5:8 (ESV)***

***<sup>8</sup> Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.***

Encourages us to pray, reveals God's holy and just response to a wicked world out there, tells us of the basis for coming to Him is His mercy, results in great joy and worship, and every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.