

Psalm 140

Psalms 140-143 are linked as each portrays the reactions of the godly person to trouble, each Psalm showing a different facet of trouble all will face as a Christian at some time in their lives.

Psalms 140:1-3 [New King James] *“Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, who plan evil things in their hearts; they continually gather together for war. They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; the poison of asps is under their lips.”*

This is a prayer for protection from those who would slander us with evil words, the plea is repeated in verses 9 and 11.

In these circumstances the only resource is the Creator God, for the motivation behind such words and actions is Satan, [Revelation 12:10].

John 8:44 [New King James] *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”*

Satan is a liar and the “father” of all human beings who lie.

1 Peter 5:8-9 [New King James] *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”*

Only our steadfast trust in the power of the Creator God can counter such attacks from Satan and those he is using, [**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**].

Our part in overcoming this attack by Satan is total trust in the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ and being an example to others who know us as a person who lives the way of life that Jesus Christ taught that we should live, [**Matthew 5:14-16; Revelation 12:10**].

Psalms 140:7 [New King James] *“O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle.”*

When we read about the “*spiritual armour*” that the Creator God has provided for us, [**Ephesians 6:13-19**] what is protecting our head is the helmet of salvation, the process of being prepared by the Creator God to allow Him to give us the gift of eternal life, [**Romans 6:23**].

This process of salvation is our taking on the “*fruits*” of the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, [**Galatians 5:22-25**] which are the very characteristics of the Triune God.

Notice that three times in the Psalm, the Psalmist has encouraged us to pause and meditate on what we have just heard or read, that is the meaning of the word “selah.”

Psalms 140:8-11 [New King James] *“Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; do not further his wicked scheme, lest they be exalted. Selah. As for the head of those who surround me, let the evil of their lips cover them; **let burning coals fall upon them**; let them be cast into the fire, into deep pits, that they rise not up again. Let not a slanderer be established in the earth; let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow him.”*

“Burning coals” is symbolic of a purifying process that turns an ore into a pure metal, and here is a prayer that the lives of these wicked people may be purified.

The Psalmist was doing exactly what our Saviour Jesus Christ told us we should do, pray for our enemies, [**Matthew 5:43-48**].

Yet the Psalmist knew that the ultimate end of all who refused to allow the Creator God to purify their lives would be the ultimate extinction in the lake of fire, [Revelation 20:15; Revelation 21:8].

Psalms 140:12-13 [New King James] *“I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; the upright shall dwell in Your presence.”*

The Psalmist had great faith in the Creator God constantly supporting those who are slandering them and will eventually overthrow the evil motivating power behind this and all other evils in this world.

Revelation 20:1-3, 10 [New King James] *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” ... “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

This will be the end of all evil, for which we all should give thanks to the Creator God, and look forward to a new society in which only those who are reflecting the Holy Creator God will dwell.