

should be withheld from him.

Actually he pleads that the ungodly man will get what he wants.

We are reminded of the desires of the Judaeans in Jeremiah 13 when

the prophet predicst that "every bottle" will be filled with wine".

It will be what they wanted but then it will be destructive of the nation. He asks God to give this man what he seeks. When he gets what he wants and is deprived of what he despised, he can hardly complain.

It is not the intention of these paragraphs to rob the imprecation of any of its force but only to see what is being sought in prayer. The imprecation is based on the character of the wicked and so appeals to God for justice. It is more than a personal issue. In the corrupt state the wicked man has done everything contrary to God and rejected every ministration of grace. Vengeance belongs to God and the Psalmist urges that it be brought to pass. The force of the curses is not softened but it is brought into a framework of logical consideration. Now at least we know that the real request is that God should be consistent with Himself and accordingly deal with men.

The final section of the Psalm (Vss. 21-31) is a prayer of dependence upon God. In these happy verses the writer notes that he will depend on God regardless of the adversary and he is sure that he will have cause to praise God "bye and bye". His assurance is in the blessing of God and he is not worried about the cursing of man. Nevertheless he pauses (v.29) for one brief note of judgment

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| <p>19. Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually.</p> <p>20. Let this be the reward of mine adversaries from the Lord, and of them that speak evil against my soul.</p> |
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| <p>21. But do thou for me, O God, the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me.</p> <p>22. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.</p> <p>23. I am gone like the shadow when it declineth: I am tossed up and down as the locust.</p> <p>24. My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness.</p> <p>25. I became also a reproach unto them: when they looked upon me they shook their heads.</p> <p>26. Help me, O Lord my God: O save me according to thy mercy:</p> |
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