

Using the Psalms in Spiritual Warfare

Based on the Apostle Paul's use of Psalm 110:1 in Eph 1:22, and noting that he connects the "enemies" in Psalm 110:1, with spiritual powers in Eph 1:21 & Eph 6:12, we can infer that words like "enemy" or "enemies", the "wicked", sometimes "kings" or "rulers"(Ps 110:5, Ps 2:2), and sometimes even "nations" (Ps 110:6), refer not only to individuals and corporate physical enemies, but can also refer to evil spiritual demonic forces behind and influencing the physical realm—"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers...etc" (Eph 6:12)

Eph 6:16-18a also combines 3 vital pieces of armour for spiritual warfare. One is the shield of faith. One of the spoken word of God (Rhema). One is prayer.

The following verses reveal complaints of the Psalmist regarding the attacks of his enemies, giving us insight into how Satan works against believers, churches, and church movements. Believers are to speak out our complaint to God. Speaking out our complaint unmasks the "schemes" (lit "thoughts") of Satan – "*we would not be outwitted by Satan for we are not ignorant of his designs*" (2 Cor 2:11). I have highlighted insights that throw special light on Satanic activity that is revealed in these verses.

The **bold verses** reveal faith declarations (combining the shield of faith with the spoken/declared word of God) that we speak out in faith. I have highlighted insights that build faith and cover us with God's word-shield.

At our last prayer meeting, half the church faced the other half of the church. One half spoke the complaint on behalf of the church. The other half answered back with the faith affirmations. Corporate sword welding in the battle!!

1. Complaints & Faith Declarations to God during Spiritual Warfare

(Psalms 6:7, 7:2, 13:2) My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes....like a lion they **tear my soul apart**, rending it in pieces, with none to deliver....How long must I take counsel in my soul and have **sorrow in my heart all the day**? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

(Psalms 18:3, Ps 23:5) **I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies...You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

(Psalms 22:1-2, 7-8) My God, my God, **why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far** from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but **I find no rest**....All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

(Psalms 27:2-3) **When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

(Psalms 31:11-13) Because of all my adversaries **I have become a reproach**, especially to my neighbors, and an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have been forgotten like one who is dead; **I have become like a broken vessel**. For I hear the whispering of many-- terror on every side!-- as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.

(Psalms 25:15, Ps 27:6) **My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

(Psalms 35:15-16, Ps 38:12) But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered; they gathered together against me; wretches whom I did not know **tore at me without ceasing**; like profane mockers at a feast, they gnash at me with their teeth.....Those who seek my life **lay their snares**; those who **seek my hurt speak of ruin** and meditate treachery all day long.

(Psalms 21:9, 34:21, 35:6) **You will make them as a blazing oven when you appear. The LORD will swallow them up in his wrath, and fire will consume them....Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned....Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them!**

(Psalms 40:12, Ps 41:5-7) For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; **my heart fails me**....My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?" And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. All who **hate me** whisper together about me; **they imagine the worst for me**.

(Psalms 27:12-13, 37:10-13) **Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.**

(Psalms 42:9-10, Ps 44:13, 15-16) I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"...You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us....All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

(Psalms 44:3, Ps 54:7, Ps 55:18) **Not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them....For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies....He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me.**

(Psalms 55:2-5) Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan, because of the noise of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked. For they drop trouble upon me, and in anger they bear a grudge against me. My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.

(Psalms 57:3,6, Ps 59:10) **He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. My God in his steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.**

(Psalms 69:20, Ps 71:10-11) Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none....For my enemies speak concerning me; those who watch for my life consult together and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."

(Psalms 66:3, Ps 68:1-3) **Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you....God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him! As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God! But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!**

(Psalms 89:50-51, Ps 94:3-5) Remember, O Lord, how your servants are mocked, and how I bear in my heart the **insults** of all the many nations, with which your enemies mock, O LORD, with which they mock the footsteps of your anointed....O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult? They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast. **They crush your people**, O LORD, and afflict your heritage.

(Psalms 37:20, Ps 94:22-23) **But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish--like smoke they vanish away...But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge. He will bring back on them their iniquity and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out.**

(Psalms 102:8-10, Ps 109:25) **All the day my enemies taunt me**; those who **deride me** use my name for a curse. For I eat ashes like bread and mingle tears with my drink, because of your indignation and anger; for you have taken me up and thrown me down....**I am an object of scorn to my accusers**; when they see me, they wag their heads.

(Psalms 118:11-12, Ps 119:51,69-70,95) **They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the LORD I cut them off! They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!...The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law...The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts; their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law...The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies.**

(Psalms 119:110) The wicked have **laid a snare** for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

(Psalms 138:7, Ps 143:12) **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me....And in your steadfast**

love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.

(Psalms 140:5) The arrogant have **hidden a trap** for me, and with cords they have **spread a net**; beside the way they have **set snares** for me.

(Psalms 119:98, Ps 118:7, Ps 116:8) **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me...The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me....For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

(Psalms 143:3-4) **The enemy has pursued my soul**; he has crushed my life to the ground; **he has made me sit in darkness** like those long dead. Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

(Psalms 147:6, Ps 125:3, Ps 119:157, Ps 101:8) **The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground...For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous...Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies...Morning by morning I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.**