

Living under Threat of
Violence with the
Imprecatory Psalms

Michael Gembola

Plan

- Orientation to God's values
- Disorientation, with God's validation
- Reorientation to God's vindication

orientation



1. Orientation to God's values

- The **challenge** of enemies
- The **goal** of staying sensitive
- The **task** of preparation

1. Orientation - the challenge

- Loving vs. hating enemies?
- Anticipating resolution

Orientation
The goal: staying
sensitive

- To evil
- To suffering
- To the heart of God



Orientation
The task:

- Preparing for seasons of suffering

disorientation



2. Disorientation, with God's validation

- The **challenge** of confusion
- The **goal** of faithful striving
- The **task** of speaking

2. Disorientation - challenge

- The tension between God's covenant promises and delayed justice
- Anticipating resolution

2. Disorientation - goal

- Striving faithfully
- With resources God provides (2 Pet 1:3)

Validation: God affirms...

His truth vs.

- The oppressor's words
- The oppressor's world

Human dignity by

- Giving voice
- Giving access



Disorientation

The task:

- Speaking in faithful struggle



reorientation

3. Reorientation - challenge

- The tension between God's covenant promises and righteous suffering
- God's resolution in Christ

3. Reorientation - goal

- Finding danger in the world and in us
- Finding God's safety in Christ



Reorientation

The task:

- Building testimonies
- Entrusting our souls to God