

PSALM 5

**THE PRAYER THAT IS
HEARD**



Easter attendance at a record low

By Carol Hatcher PresidentialPrayerTeam.com



- “ 58% of Protestants, 57% of Catholics and 45% of nondenominational Christians planned on attending church on Easter 2013
- “One in five Americans plans to attend church to celebrate Christ’s resurrection – including Christians.
- 70% will leave the faith in college, while a mere 35% will eventually return” (Lifeway)
- Church attendance has fallen from 43 percent in 2004 to 36 percent today. (Barna, 2014)
- Is it even worth bothering to pray?

Christ was heard when He prayed

Hebrews 5:7-9 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation...



Hebrew Psalm 5:1-7

לְמַנְצִיחַ אֶל-הַנְּחִילוֹת, מְזִמּוֹר לְדָוִד.
אֲמַרִי הַאֲזִינָה יְהוָה; בִּינָה הַגִּיגִי.
הַקְּשִׁיבָה, לְקוֹל שׁוֹעֵי--מִלְכֵי וְאֱלֹהֵי: כִּי-אֵלֶיךָ, אֶתְפַּלֵּל.
יְהוָה--בִּקֹּר, תִּשְׁמַע קוֹלִי; בִּקֹּר אֶעֱרֹךְ-לְךָ, וְאַצְפֶּה.
כִּי, לֹא אֵל חָפִיץ רָשָׁע אַתָּה: לֹא יִגְרֹךְ רָע.
לֹא-יִתְיַצְּבוּ הוֹלְלִים, לְנֶגֶד עֵינֶיךָ; שָׁנֵאתָ, כָּל-פֹּעֲלֵי אָוֶן.
תֵּאבֵד, דְּבַרִי כָזָב: אִישׁ-דָּמִים וּמְרֻמָּה, יִתְעַב יְהוָה.
וְאֲנִי--בְּרַב חַסְדֶּךָ, אָבּוֹא בֵיתְךָ; אֲשַׁתְּחֶנָּה אֶל-הַיְיָכֹל-קֹדֶשְׁךָ,
בִּירְאָתְךָ.



Translation

1. For the concertmaster on the flutes, a Psalm belonging to David.

Please give ear to my words, Yahweh;

Please comprehend my meditation.

2. Please be attentive to my voiced cry, my king and my God,

because it will be

to You that I pray.

3. Yahweh, [every] morning you will hear my voice,

[every] morning I will get organized before You

and I will be expectant

4. Because You are

not a god [who] inclines toward wickedness,

Evil will not be [your] guest,

5. The praiseworthy will not position themselves before Your eyes;

You have hated all workers of iniquity.

6. You will destroy speakers of falsehood;

a man of bloodshed and deceit Yahweh will abhor.

7. But as for me, through an abundance of your lovingkindness

I will go to Your house;

I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of You.



Notes about this Psalm

AUTHOR: David

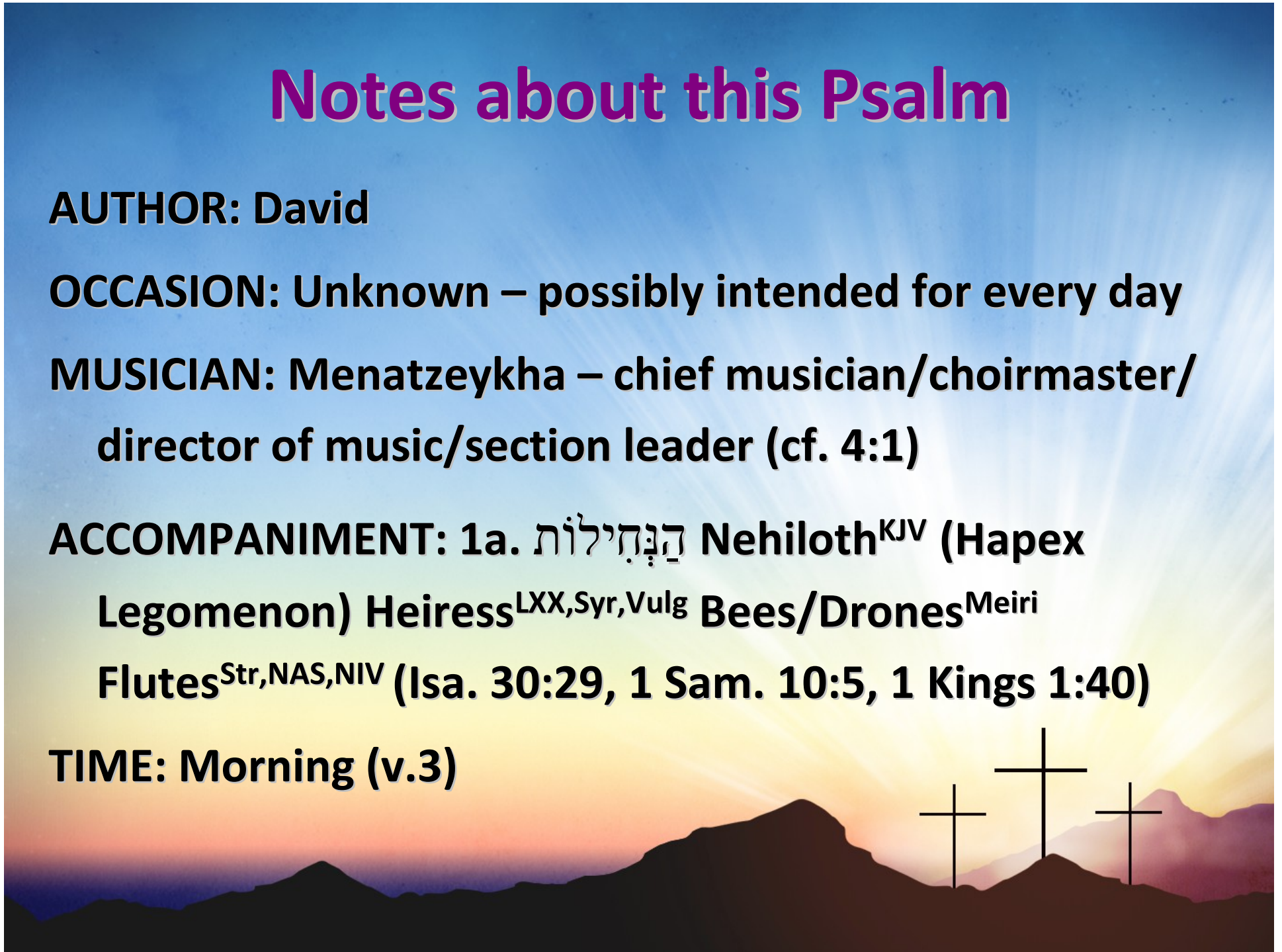
OCCASION: Unknown – possibly intended for every day

MUSICIAN: Menatzeykha – chief musician/choirmaster/
director of music/section leader (cf. 4:1)

ACCOMPANIMENT: 1a. הַנְּחִילוֹת Nehiloth^{KJV} (Hapex
Legomenon) Heiress^{LXX,Syr,Vulg} Bees/Drones^{Meiri}

Flutes^{Str,NAS,NIV} (Isa. 30:29, 1 Sam. 10:5, 1 Kings 1:40)

TIME: Morning (v.3)



vs.1-2 Three Prayer Imperatives

1. *Hoazinah* (lit. widen, Give ear) to my words

- What God tells us through His prophets – Ex. 15:26, Dt. 32:1, Job 37:14, Isa. 1:10 – reflected back to Him

2. *Biynah* (Consider, Understand)

- my meditation (cf. 1:1, 2:1)
- Inviting God into your private thoughts

3. *Haqshivah* (lit. Prick up, Hearken, Pay attention)

- To my שׁוֹעֵי Cry [for help] δεήσεώς (cf. Exodus 2:23b ...they cried out; and their cry for help because of *their* bondage rose up to God. –cf. Jer.8:19)
- Paragogic He endings (“-ah”) = respect?

Two Reasons God should Hear

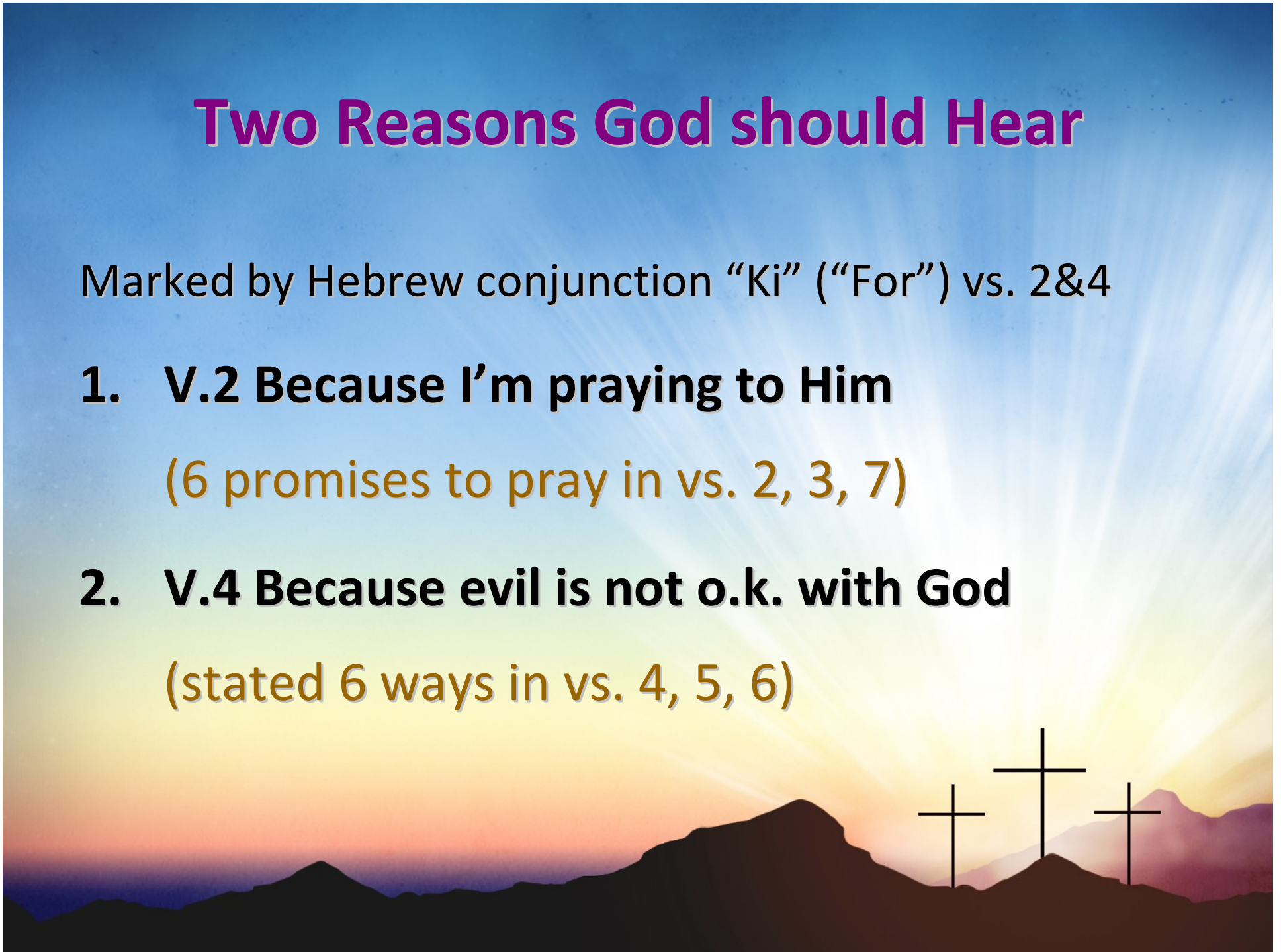
Marked by Hebrew conjunction “Ki” (“For”) vs. 2&4

1. V.2 Because I’m praying to Him

(6 promises to pray in vs. 2, 3, 7)

2. V.4 Because evil is not o.k. with God

(stated 6 ways in vs. 4, 5, 6)



Six Promises to Pray

1. v2 I will pray/I pray

- Hebrew Imperfect verb tense (all six promises) can be interpreted as English Future tense or as Habitual action.

2. v3 You will hear my voice (“resolution to pray” ~Barker)

3. v3 I will אָעַרְךָ **Put in order**^{NAS,AJV} Direct^{KJV} Prepare self^{Meiri,Metsu} Lay [my requests]^{NIV} Prepare [sacrifice]^{ESV,Del}

- **Qal** (simple action) = Organize (army - Gen. 14:8, altar for sacrifice - Gen 22:9, temple grounds - Ex. 27:21, flax harvest - Josh. 2:6, court case - Job 23:4, dinner table - Ps. 23:5)
- **Hiphil** (causative of action) = Calculate value to tax (slave, animal, or house – Lev. 27:8-14, country – 2Kings 23:35)
- Part of getting organized is reassuring yourself of the value of your prayer, and part of getting organized for prayer is asking yourself, “What can I give to my King?”

Six Promises to Pray

1. v2 I will pray/I pray
2. v3 You will hear my voice
3. v3 I will **וְאָעֲרַךְ** Put in order^{NAS,AJV} Direct^{KJV} prepare self^{Meiri,Metsu}
Lay [my requests]^{NIV} prepare [sacrifice]^{ESV}
4. V3b I will **וְאֶצְפֶּה** Lean forward^{Str} Look up^{KJV,LXX} Wait expectantly^{NIV} Watch^{NAS,ESV,BDB}
 - **1 Sam. 4:13** – Eli at gate, awaiting news from battle
 - **1 Sam. 14:16** – watchman on the city wall
 - Fig. of prophet **Ezek. 3:17** "Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.
 - **Habak. 2:1-2** I will stand on my guard post... And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me ... Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record this vision..."

Six Promises to Pray

1. v2 I will pray/I pray
2. v3 You will hear my voice
3. v3 I will אָעַרְךָ Put in order^{NAS,AJV} Direct^{KJV} prepare self^{Meiri,Metsu}
Lay [my requests]^{NIV} prepare [sacrifice]^{ESV}
4. v3b I will Lean forward/ Look up/ Wait expectantly/ Watch
5. v7 I will go to your house
 - Temporally – place of prayer: tabernacle, church
 - Eternally – heaven (Ps. 23:6)
6. v7 I will bow/worship toward your holy temple
 - Cf. Solomon's dedication prayer: **1 Kings 8:38-39**
“...whatever prayer ... spreading his hands toward this house, then hear from heaven..., forgive and act...”
 - Different direction for David (Shiloh, Nob, Gibeon)
 - Outward symbol of internal alignment with God. The outward symbol is no longer important.

Two Reasons God should Hear

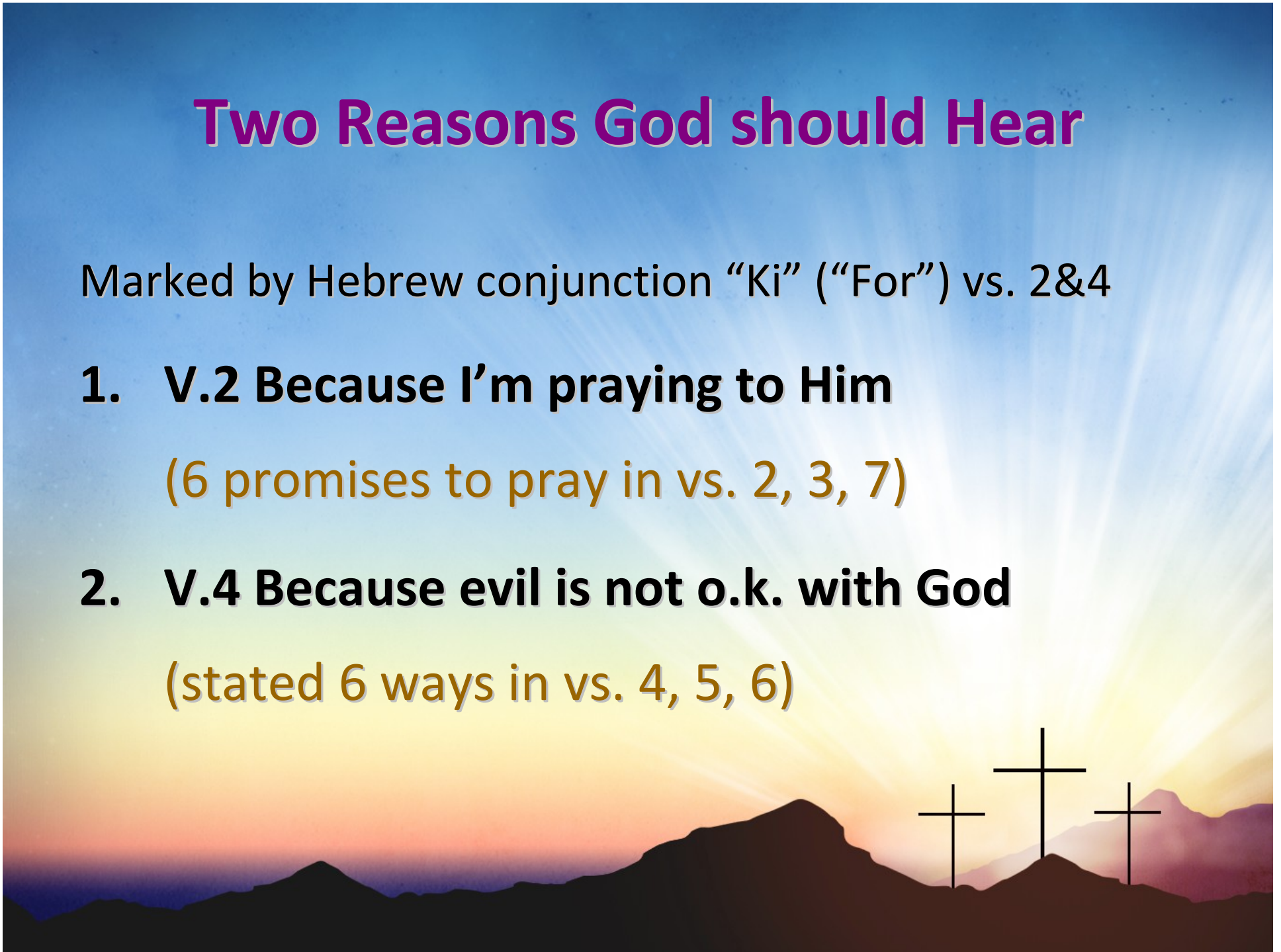
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1. **V.2 Because I’m praying to Him**

(6 promises to pray in vs. 2, 3, 7)

2. **V.4 Because evil is not o.k. with God**

(stated 6 ways in vs. 4, 5, 6)



Six reasons God must act

1. v4a. He doesn't תִּפְּץ take pleasure/delight in/lit. incline toward wickedness

- Synonym: “give ear” (v.1) / Antonym: “hates” (v.5)
- Used of attraction b/w man & woman (Gen. 34:19, SoS),
- Used of delight shared by God & His people (Num. 14:8, Ps. 1:2 – Man in God’s law, Ezek. 18:23 – God in saving)
- Used of “will” (Eccl. 8:3 – King does whatever he desires)
- Not wickedness (*rasha'* - loose, not covenanted) cf. 1:1 Jer. 9:24 God delights in mercy, justice & righteousness

2. v4b. Evil לא יגִרֶךְ will not Dwell^{KJV} Sojourn^{AJV} παροικήσει

- Psalm 15: LORD, who may be a guest [יגור] in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. He does no... evil to his neighbor... honors those who fear the LORD...

Six reasons God must act

1. v4a. He doesn't delight in/incline toward wickedness
2. v4b. Evil will not Dwell/Sojourn/Be a guest
3. Foolish^{KJV} Boastful^{NAS} Arrogant^{NIV} (הוֹלְלִים) lit. "praisers" won't position themselves (לֹא-יִתְיַצְּבוּ) in His presence
Ps. 75:4 "I said to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn;
Job 12:16-17 With Him are strength and sound wisdom... He makes fools of judges.
Eccl. 1:17 And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly...
– Who stood/positioned themselves with God?
 - Moses when he called upon the name of the Lord (Ex. 34:5),
 - Wise elders (Josh. 24:1),
 - Angels (Job 1:6),
 - Prophet Habakkuk (2:1),
 - Not rebellious kings (Ps. 2:1)

Six reasons God must act

1. v4a. He doesn't delight in/incline toward wickedness
2. v4b. Evil will not Dwell/Sojourn
3. Foolish/Boastful won't position themselves in His presence
4. **He hates all workers of iniquity**

Prov. 6:16-19 ...six things which the LORD hates, even seven...
Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,
A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A
false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife w/ brothers.

Zech. 8:17 "Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against
another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,"
declares the LORD."

Mal. 2:16 "For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and
him who covers his garment with wrong"

Rev. 2:6 "...the deeds of the Nicolaitans
[Antinomian Gnostics], which I also hate."

Matt. 7:23 And then I will confess to them, "Never did I
know you; depart from me,
workers of lawlessness!"

Workers of iniquity are at cross-purposes with God



Six reasons God must act

1. v4a. He doesn't delight in/incline toward wickedness
2. v4b. Evil will not Dwell/Sojourn
3. Foolish/Boastful won't position themselves in His presence
4. He hates all workers of iniquity

5. **He will destroy** לִבְרִי כָזָב תֵּאַבֵּד **liars** (4:2 “seek falsehood”)

Ps. 1:6b ...the way of the wicked will perish (**Judgment**)

Ps. 2:12 Kiss the Son lest... you perish in the way

Matt. 10:28b ...fear Him who is able to destroy ... in hell.

Luke 13:3 ...unless you repent you will all likewise perish

Rev. 21:8 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, the 2nd death.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



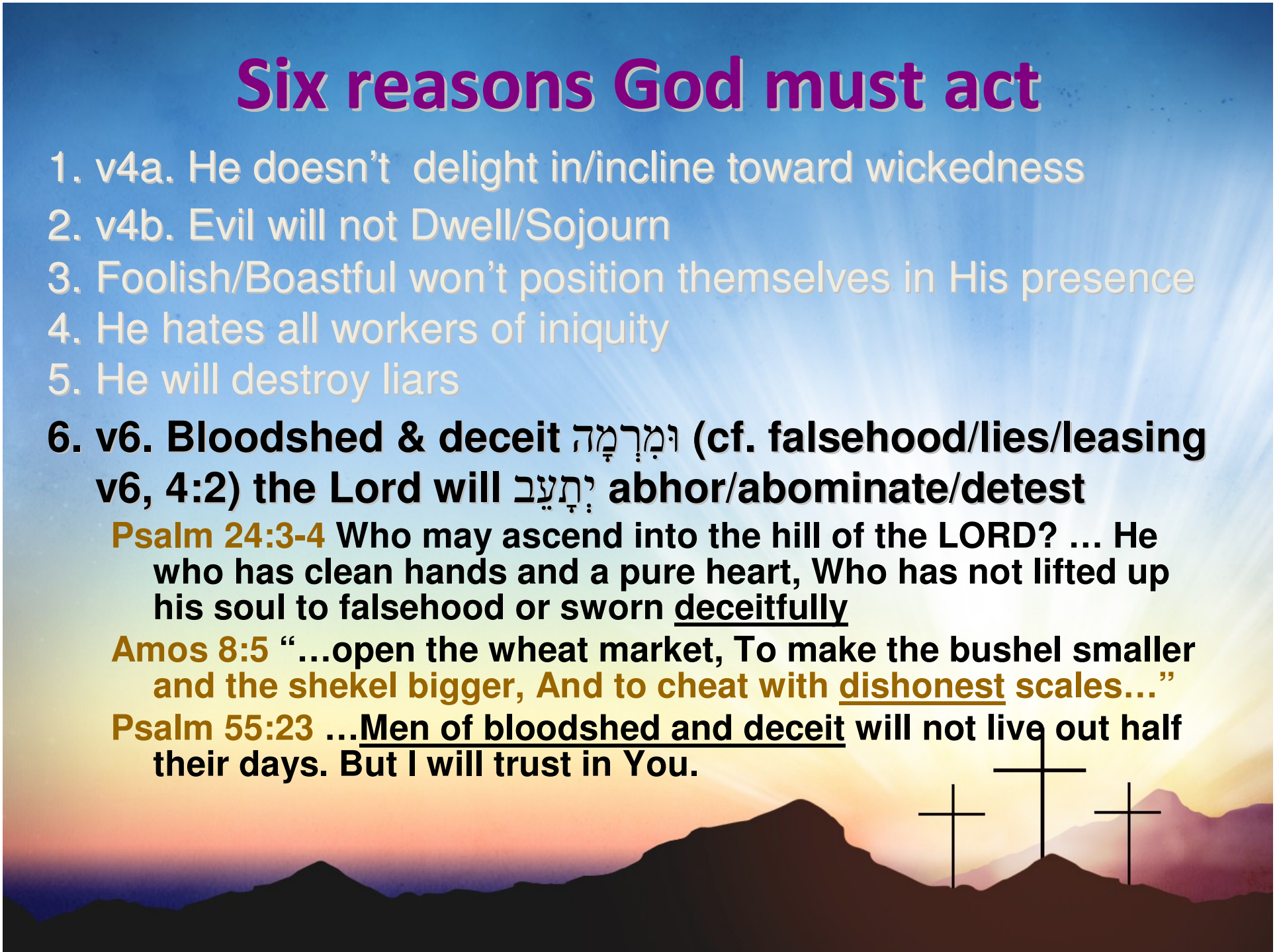
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2. v4b. Evil will not Dwell/Sojourn
3. Foolish/Boastful won't position themselves in His presence
4. He hates all workers of iniquity
5. He will destroy liars
6. v6. **Bloodshed & deceit** וּמְרָמָה (cf. falsehood/lies/leasing v6, 4:2) the Lord will יִתְעַבֵּב **abhor/abominate/detest**

Psalm 24:3-4 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? ... He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood or sworn deceitfully

Amos 8:5 "...open the wheat market, To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger, And to cheat with dishonest scales..."

Psalm 55:23 ...Men of bloodshed and deceit will not live out half their days. But I will trust in You.



God is not your problem!

Critics say, “Since bad things happen, then God is either not good or not omnipotent.”

Bible says: God is aware of the existence of evil, and although He has nothing to do with it, He is doing something to get rid of it.



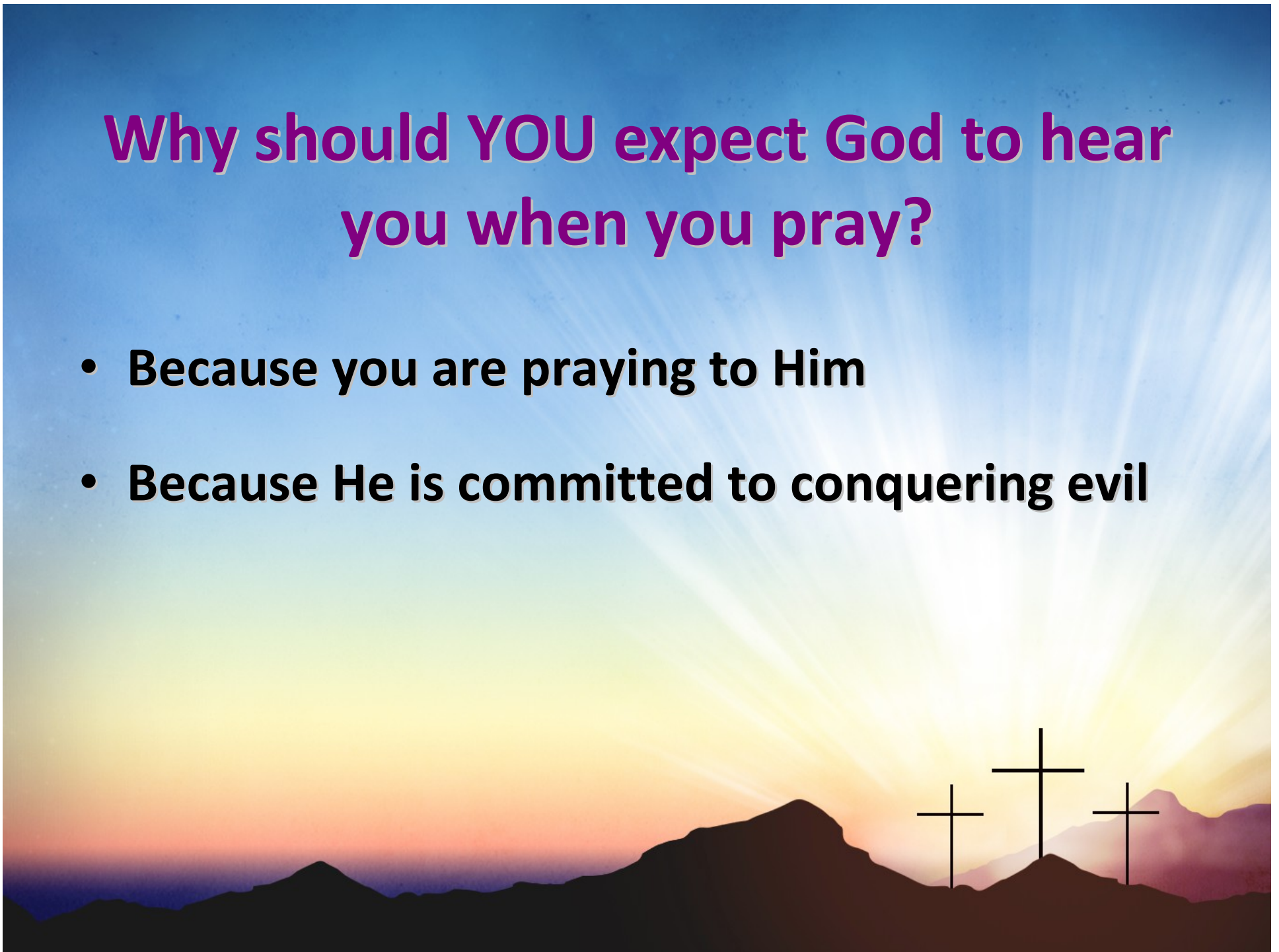
Are you one of the “Bad Guys” ?

1. *Resha'* (lit. loose, uncommitted, wicked – cf.1:1)
2. *Ra'* (evil)
3. *Holelim* (lit. praisers, foolish, boastful, arrogant)
4. *Po'alay Aven* (workers of iniquity)
5. Cezev-Speakers (falsehood/lies)
6. *Ish Damim va mirmah* (lit. Man of Bloods and deceit)
 - David was too!
 - Fellowship with God not based on our goodness but on God's mercy (v.7). Those who ask Jesus for mercy will receive it!



Why should YOU expect God to hear you when you pray?

- **Because you are praying to Him**
- **Because He is committed to conquering evil**



Applications

- **Resolve to pray; Carve out time for it (v.2)**
“As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and the business of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.” ~Martin Luther
- **Pray first thing in the morning (v.3)**
“Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night. Devotion should be both the morning... and the evening star.”
~Charles Spurgeon
- **Recognize that your prayer is valuable (v.3)**
“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”
~James 5:17
- **Pray expectantly (v.3)**
Micah 7:7 ...I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.



Applications

- Carve out time to pray (v.2)
- Pray first thing in the morning (v.3)
- Recognize that your prayer is valuable (v.3)
- Pray expectantly (v.3)
- Believe that God will conquer evil (v4-6)
Luke 18:7 “Will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones who cry out to Him day and night?”
- Humbly embrace His mercy as the only way you can be with Him (v.7)
“The covenant relationship expressed by the repeated ‘my king and my God’ gives the prayer a firm footing.” ~Derek Kidner, Commentary on Psalms
- Pray respectfully, aligned with God (v.7)
- Anticipate talking with God in heaven forever (v.7)



Credits

- **Bible translations include Psalm 5 by Nate Wilson, NASB, and some NIV quotes.**
- **Commentary Bibliography**
 - **Augustine: Expositions on the Book of Psalms By Saint Augustin, Bishop of Hippo, Edited, with brief annotations, and condensed from the six volumes of the oxford translation By A. Cleveland Coxe, D.D., 1888**
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 - **Delitzsch: Commentary on the Psalms by Franz Delitzsch (1813-1890)**
 - **Boice: Psalms, Vol. 1 by James Montgomery Boice, 1994, Baker Book House**
 - **Barker: Psalms That Give Perspective, a series of Sermons by Dr. Frank M. Barker, Jr., 2009, Briarwood Presbyterian Church**