

Psalm 141

"A Plea for Protection from the Wicked"

(A Psalm of David.)

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A1 DAVID'S PLEA FOR ACCEPTANCE AND PRESERVATION FROM EVIL 141:1-4

B1 His Plea to Yahweh for Rapid Response 141:1

C1 The Desperate Call: *{1}* O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!

C2 The Plea for a Personal Hearing: Give ear to my voice when I call to You!

B2 His Request for Acceptance of His Prayer 141:2

C1 As Incense: *{2}* May my prayer be counted as incense before You;

C2 As the Evening Offering: The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

B3 His Request for Divine Control of His Speech 141:3

C1 Guarding His Mouth: *{3}* Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;

C2 Watching His Lips: Keep watch over the door of my lips.

B4 His Request to Preserve His Heart and Deeds from Enjoyment of Evil 141:4

C1 Attitude - Preserving His Heart from Evil: *{4}* Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,

C2 Performance - Precluding Wicked Deeds: To practice deeds of wickedness

C3 Association - Preventing Corrupt Association: With men who do iniquity;

C4 Enjoyment - Preventing Perfidious Enjoyment: And do not let me eat of their delicacies.

A2 DAVID'S IDENTIFICATION WITH THE RIGHTEOUS AGAINST THE VIOLENCE OF THE WICKED 141:5-7

B1 His Identification with the Righteous against Wickedness 141:5

C1 His Request for Reproof from the Righteous

D1 Rebuke: {5} Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me;

D2 Beneficence: It is oil upon the head;

D3 Acceptance: Do not let my head refuse it,

C2 His Prayer against the Wicked Deeds of the Wicked: For still my prayer is against their wicked deeds.

B2 Because of the Disastrous Effects of Wickedness 141:6

C1 Justice Overthrown by the Evil Doers

D1 Destruction of judges: {6} Their judges are thrown down by the sides of the rock,

D2 In defiance of David: And they hear my words, for they are pleasant.

C2 Violence against the Righteous 141:7

D1 Metaphor of plowing: {7} As when one plows and breaks open the earth,

D2 Reality of violent death: Our bones have been scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

A3 DAVID'S PLEA FOR PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION FROM WICKEDNESS 141:8-10

B1 His Focused Dependence on Yahweh Adonai 141:8

C1 His Focus: {8} For my eyes are toward You, O GOD, the Lord;

C2 His Helpless Dependence: In You I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless.

B2 His Plea for Preservation from the Plots of the Wicked 141:9

C1 From Their Trap: {9} Keep me from the jaws of the trap which they have set for me,

C2 From Their Snares: And from the snares of those who do iniquity.

B3 His Request for Poetic Justice 141:10

C1 For Disaster for the Wicked: {10} Let the wicked fall into their own nets,

C2 For Personal Safety: While I pass by safely.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 141

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

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WordExplain.com

P. O. Box 527

Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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