

# PSALM 10 – THE VAIN BOASTING OF THE WICKED

## Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 10:1** – “*Why do you stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?*”
- 2) This lament psalm begins by asking – “Where are you, God, in times of trouble?”
  - a) Compare to Psalm 2:1-3ff – rage, plotting, and boasting of evil nations – how and when will God act in His righteous justice?
- 3) In this psalm, the mind of the wicked is exposed and his boasting revealed in its full vanity
- 4) In this psalm, we see the hope of godly men that God will deal with the problem of evil

## I) **A Desire for Justice against the Wicked (vv. 1-4)**

- A) Questions represent the concerns of the limited perspective of human beings (v. 1)
  - 1) God’s perceived inaction should not be interpreted as indifference (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9)
  - 2) God is not one who stands “afar off” or hides (Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:27)
- B) Wicked acts out of selfish pride – lack of love for the less fortunate (v. 2; Prov. 6:17; 16:5)
  - 1) A desire for justice – “let them be caught” in their own plots (Psa. 9:15; Prov. 16:18)
    - a) *Examples* – Haman (Esther 7:10); enemies of Daniel (Dan. 6:24)
- C) Wicked in his brash pride does not seek God and His ways – ignores lawfulness, morality, compassion, selflessness (vv. 3-4)
  - 1) God is in “none of his thoughts,” or “all his thoughts are, ‘There is no God’”
  - 2) The atheist and unbeliever have no moral basis to distinguish between right and wrong
    - a) If no God, then no absolute standard of right and wrong, and therefore, no evil

## II) **The Evil Ways of the Wicked (vv. 5-11)**

- A) His ways prosper [*are grievous* KJV] and he is self-assured in his own ways (vv. 5-6; cf. Jas. 4:16; Lk. 12:16-21)
  - 1) Keeps God’s judgments far away “out of his sight” (“out of sight, out of mind”)
  - 2) Sneers with contempt at those who oppose his wickedness
- B) His mouth reveals a deceitful, hateful, sinful heart (v. 7; Matt. 15:18; Rom. 3:14)
- C) Secretly lies in wait to crush the poor and helpless – easy prey to exploit (vv. 8-10)
  - 1) We are to help and lift up defenseless ones (Jas. 1:27; Gal. 6:10)
- D) Wicked convinces himself that God does not see (v. 11; Psa. 94:1-7)

## III) **A Cry to the Lord for Justice (vv. 12-18)**

- A) A desire for God to act – “Arise” “Lift up Your hand” (v. 12)
  - 1) Do not forget the humble – opposite of the proud (1 Pet. 5:5-6)
- B) Wicked deceives himself that God will not hold him accountable (v. 13; Rom. 14:10-12)
- C) God does see – despair turns to confidence and hope (vv. 14-15; Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13)
  - 1) God will help the helpless and repay the wicked and evil man (Psa. 9:9-10; 11:4-6; Rom. 12:19)
- D) God is King forever and ever – rules as sovereign over all (v. 16; Psa. 29:10; 47:2; 103:19)
- E) God hears the “desire of the humble” – bring justice to the helpless (vv. 17-18)
  - 1) The humble heart thinks of the needs of others before itself (Prov. 16:19; Phil. 2:3-5)
  - 2) The humble heart seeks God and His ways, not its own (Psa. 25:9; Micah 6:8)

## Conclusion

The wicked man may remove God from his thoughts, thinking that He does not see his wicked ways and will not bring him to account, but his vain thoughts and boasts will only result in an eternal judgment of God’s wrath. The humble, godly life is the only one that will bring joy and reward – **1 Peter 3:8-12**. What is your desire and goal?