

## PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

### Psalm 10:1-18 (NASB)

- <sup>1</sup> Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide *Yourself* in times of trouble?**
- <sup>2</sup> In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.**
- <sup>3</sup> For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, And the greedy man curses *and* spurns the LORD.**
- <sup>4</sup> The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."**
- <sup>5</sup> His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his sight; As for all his adversaries, he snorts at them.**
- <sup>6</sup> He says to himself, "I will not be moved; Throughout all generations I will not be in adversity."**
- <sup>7</sup> His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness.**
- <sup>8</sup> He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate.**
- <sup>9</sup> He lurks in a hiding place as a lion in his lair; He lurks to catch the afflicted; He catches the afflicted when he draws him into his net.**
- <sup>10</sup> He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones.**
- <sup>11</sup> He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it."**
- <sup>12</sup> Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand. Do not forget the afflicted.**
- <sup>13</sup> Why has the wicked spurned God? He has said to himself, "You will not require *it*."**
- <sup>14</sup> You have seen *it*, for You have beheld mischief and vexation to take it into Your hand. The unfortunate commits *himself* to You; You have been the helper of the orphan.**
- <sup>15</sup> Break the arm of the wicked and the evildoer, Seek out his wickedness until You find none.**
- <sup>16</sup> The LORD is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land.**
- <sup>17</sup> O LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear**
- <sup>18</sup> To vindicate the orphan and the oppressed, So that man who is of the earth will no longer cause terror.**

## Psalm 10: Silence of God

Psalm 10 is another psalm of imprecation, seeking God's justice. The psalmist called upon God to punish the wicked in their evil devices and rebellion. They had reached the place of thinking that God winked at evil. Men were not only doing wickedness, but boasting of their wickedness. Justice did not seem to be considered. They acted as if there were no God. The psalm portrays the extent of wickedness and **the psalmist was questioning why God did not take action against them.**

How many times we wonder why certain things happen and why God does not bring judgment on evildoers; especially when it appears that they are winning in their wicked pursuits. It is not wrong to ask **“How long, Lord?”** or **“Why?”**

Most people do this from a sense of seeing justice done, wrongs turned into rights, and God's people protected. As God's people, we must know that He is in control and that wickedness will be punished. God's people will be blessed. Payday is coming and God keeps the books. Even though the righteous suffer for a time, God will hear. His justice will prevail.

In the meantime, we are to wait. A question to ask while waiting is **“What can I do now?”** When God seems distant, what can I do? The psalmist's answer in verses 16–18 is to recall God's attributes, remembering and reminding oneself that God is King forever and ever (verse 16).

### **Psalm 10:16-18 (NASB)**

**<sup>16</sup> The LORD is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land.**

**<sup>17</sup> O LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear**

**<sup>18</sup> To vindicate the orphan and the oppressed, So that man who is of the earth will no longer cause terror.**

This psalm concludes with the triumphant assertion of faith that in spite of all, God is King. He will hear and answer the cry of the oppressed. **“Though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet”** (From the hymn—**“This Is My Father's World”**).

## **This Is My Father's World**

*The United Methodist Hymnal Number 144*

*Text: Maltbie D. Babcock*

*Music: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Sheppard*

*Tune: TERRA BEATA, Meter: SMD*

1. This is my Father's world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world:  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world,  
the birds their carols raise,  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
he shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father's world.  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let the earth be glad!