

# Preaching the Psalms Series

(44)

## Psalm 10

### *How to Deal with God's Silence and Delayed Justice, 10:1-18*

#### **A prayer for the overthrow of the wicked.**

##### **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 10:1-18) Introduction:** “*Where are the police?*” is the cry when the lawless ravage communities and cities throughout the world. Sadly, even when catastrophic disasters occur, lawless mobs steal from the victims, loot shops and other businesses, and destroy property.

Often, when we see the horrific acts of evildoers upon innocent people, we wonder, “**Where is God? Why doesn’t He do something? Why does He allow this to continue?**”

These questions are asked by David in the tenth psalm. Some scholars believe [Psalms 9 and 10](#) were originally one song. The two share a partial acrostic pattern—each verse begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

In addition, [Psalm 10](#) lacks a specific heading and both address God’s justice upon the wicked. However, other scholars believe that they were intended to be two different songs.

David’s questions remain unanswered at the end of the psalm, as they do today. [Psalm 10](#) teaches us how to respond to the fact that in “**the present age, injustice is rampant.**”

**This is, *How to Deal with God’s Silence and Delayed Justice, Psalm 10:1-18.***

1. **A basic question of life: Why does God seem so far off in times of trouble (evil and wickedness) (v. 1).**
2. **The cause of trouble and evil in the world: The wicked (vv. 2-11).**
3. **The answer to the trouble and evil on earth (vv. 12-18).**

1. **([Psalm 10:1](#)) A basic question of life: Why does God seem so far off in times of trouble (evil and wickedness).**

**[Psalm 10:1](#) (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide *Yourself* in times of trouble?”

[Psalm 10](#) is the second of nine psalms in which the psalmists ask God, “**Why?**” ([Psalm 2](#), [Psalm 22](#), [Psalm 42](#), [Psalm 43](#), [Psalm 44](#), [Psalm 74](#), [Psalm 80](#), [Psalm 88](#)). “The question is a bold expression of the true feelings of oppressed people who cry out for help.”

David’s questions are based on appearances or how things seem to be: it appears that God is ignoring the wickedness taking place within his nation.

It appears that the Lord is...

- idly *standing* rather than acting
- *far off*—intentionally distancing Himself from the oppressive activity of the wicked
- *hiding*—veiling Himself so He cannot be found in the midst of trouble

**Thought 1.** It is not always wrong to question the Lord. In fact, God invites us to question Him—to ask Him for wisdom to understand the trouble we face in our lives and in our world ([James 1:5](#)).

**James 1:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

However, we are commanded to always ask in faith, never in doubt ([James 1:6](#)).

**James 1:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> “But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”

Any question that is not of faith—a question that challenges whether God is acting consistently with His character and His Word—is a sinful question ([Romans 14:23<sup>b</sup>](#)).

**Romans 14:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*”

As we question God, we must remember **two truths**:

**First**, things are not always as they appear. It may appear that God is doing nothing to help us. It may appear that He has distanced Himself from us, that He is hiding from us and does not care. We do not, and cannot, see everything that is going on around us and above us. We do not have all the information as to what God is doing. Just because we cannot see Him at work does not mean that God is doing nothing.

**Second**, God is not accountable to us. He is God, and we are not. We are the creatures, not the Creator. God is greater, exceedingly wiser, and far more powerful than we are; therefore, He is not obligated to explain anything to us. This was God’s response to Job, the man faced with unprecedented trouble and sorrow ([Job 38-41](#)). He is wise and powerful far beyond our understanding. When He chooses to be silent, we must trust Him and the promises and teachings of His Word.

**John 16:33 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup> “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

**Romans 14:23<sup>b</sup> (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*”

**James 1:2-8 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

<sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

<sup>4</sup> And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and

complete, lacking in nothing.

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

<sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

<sup>8</sup> *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

**1 Peter 5:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup> “Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

**Job 13:24-28 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> “Why do You hide Your Face And consider me Your enemy?

<sup>25</sup> Will You cause a driven leaf to tremble? Or will You pursue the dry chaff?

<sup>26</sup> For You write bitter things against me and make me to inherit the iniquities of my youth.

<sup>27</sup> You put my feet in the stocks and watch all my paths; You set a limit for the soles of my feet,

<sup>28</sup> While I am decaying like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten.”

**Job 38:1-3 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> “Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,

<sup>2</sup> Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup> Now gird up your loins like a man, And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!”