

Preaching the Psalms Series

(45)

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)

¹ Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide *Yourself* in times of trouble?

² In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

³ For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, And the greedy man curses *and* spurns the LORD.

⁴ The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."

⁵ His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his sight; As for all his adversaries, he snorts at them.

⁶ He says to himself, "I will not be moved; Throughout all generations I will not be in adversity."

⁷ His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness.

⁸ He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the hiding places he kills the innocent; His eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones.

¹¹ He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it."

¹² Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand. Do not forget the afflicted.

¹³ Why has the wicked spurned God? He has said to himself, "You will not require *it*."

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked and the evildoer, seek out his wickedness until You find none.

¹⁶ The LORD is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land.

¹⁷ O LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear

¹⁸ 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).**

2. ([Psalm 10:2-11](#)) The cause of trouble and evil in the world: The wicked.

Psalm 10:2-11 (NASB)

²“In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

³For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, And the greedy man curses *and* spurns the LORD.

⁴The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."

⁵His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his sight; As for all his adversaries, he snorts at them.

⁶He says to himself, "I will not be moved; Throughout all generations I will not be in adversity."

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¹⁰He crouches, he bows down, And the unfortunate fall by his mighty ones.

¹¹ He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it."

God is sometimes blamed for the trouble in the world. Some people become upset, even bitter at God because He did not prevent some tragedy from occurring to them or a loved one. But God is not responsible for the rampant evil and injustice that frequently seems to prevail. Wicked people—people who follow the impulses of their fallen nature and the influence of satanic forces—are the source of violence and oppression. Note eight truths that summarize the character and conduct of evildoers:

a. The wicked pursue and take advantage of the weak (poor) ([v. 2](#)).

[Psalm 10:2 \(NASB\)](#)

² "In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised."

Pride was the original sin against the Lord. Lucifer (Satan), the highest archangel created by God, had a deep desire to exalt himself over God (see below note #1 [Isaiah 14:3-23](#), esp. [12-14](#) for more discussion).

NOTE # 1 Isaiah 14:12-14

[Isaiah 14:12-14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

¹³ But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.'

¹⁴ 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

Lucifer's fall from heaven now takes place ([vv.12-23](#)). In the Hebrew, *Lucifer* literally means *day star* or *morning star*. [Ezekiel](#) says that Lucifer was the highest being ever created by God ([Ezekiel 28:12-15](#)).

[Ezekiel 28:12-15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared.

¹⁴ You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.'"

a. This morning star was cast from his exalted position from the heights of heaven itself ([v.12](#)).

Isaiah 14:12 (NASB)

¹² **“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!”**

As will be seen in just a moment, Lucifer sought to climb to the height of heaven. Therefore, from that height he was cast down to the earth. **Note who he is:** he is the one who has weakened, subjected, and dominated the nations. Thus, he was doomed to suffer the greatest conceivable overthrow: that of falling from the heights of heaven to the depths of hell.

b. What was the sin that caused such a terrible fall, especially for one who had held such a prominent position and had been exalted so highly? His great sin was pride. In his innermost thoughts, Lucifer had set his heart upon exalting himself as high as the heavens.

He was consumed with selfish ambition...

- to exalt his throne, his position above all the stars of God ([v.13](#); see [Genesis 11:3-4](#))

Isaiah 14:13 (NASB)

¹³ **“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.’”**

Genesis 11:3-4 (NASB)

³ **“They said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly.’ And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.**

⁴ **They said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’”**

- to be the very one worshipped on the sacred mountain
- to exalt himself above the clouds, to be like the Most High God Himself ([v.14](#))

Isaiah 14:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ **“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”**

Isaiah 14:12-14 (NASB)

¹² **“How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!**

¹³ But you said in your heart, ‘**I will** ascend to heaven; **I will** raise my throne above the stars of God, And **I will** sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.’

¹⁴ ‘**I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High.’

Note the five “**I wills**” of Lucifer in these verses. Within his innermost thoughts, he was exalting himself above God. Just as people down through history have exalted themselves, ignoring and even denying the LORD, so this morning star was ignoring the LORD and exalting himself. His personal will and ambition were set against God.

c. Lucifer’s fate was sealed: he was brought down to the very pit of hell, that is, to its lowest depths ([v.15](#)).

[Isaiah 14:15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.”

His prideful defiance of the LORD challenged the LORD to act. Hence the LORD did to Lucifer just as He will do to all who are prideful and defiant.

d. Lucifer’s end will be most shameful and humiliating ([vv.16-17](#)). People will gaze at him and mock him, reflecting upon his astronomical fall.

[Isaiah 14:16-17 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ “Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

¹⁷ Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities, Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’”

They will be wondering...

- Is this the one who had caused nations and kingdoms to tremble?
- Is this the one who had so long devastated the world and its cities and enslaved its people?

Because he will have fallen so low from such a high position, all will wonder how this could have happened. How could this be the person who had possessed such immense power and been able to move across the earth so ruthlessly without being stopped?

e. This morning star will have a dishonorable burial, for his body will not lie in state like other kings ([vv.18-20](#)).

[Isaiah 14:18-20 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸ “All the kings of the nations lie in glory, Each in his own tomb.

¹⁹ But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to

the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse.

²⁰ You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.”

Instead, his body will be cast into a mass grave with slain soldiers, be discarded like a rejected branch or like the bloody clothing of dead soldiers.

Once he has departed the earth, people will totally ignore him...

- because of his destructive and brutal nature
- because he swept across the earth dominating and oppressing them

f. Even the king's offspring will never be mentioned again ([v.20](#)).

[Isaiah 14:20 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰ “You will not be united with them in burial, Because you have ruined your country, You have slain your people. May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.”

None of his sons will succeed him upon the throne. Rather, they will all be doomed because of the sins of their forefathers and the influence of these sins upon their lives ([v.21](#)). They will never again be allowed to rise up and conquer land or to rebuild and fill the cities of the world.

[Isaiah 14:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ “Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter Because of the iniquity of their fathers. They must not arise and take possession of the earth And fill the face of the world with cities.”

g. The king's empire will be utterly destroyed by God Himself ([vv.22-23](#)).

[Isaiah 14:22-23 \(NASB\)](#)

²² “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,” declares the LORD.

²³ “I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the LORD of hosts.”

Babylon will be overthrown and punished for its terrible evil. Even its name will be cut off, as will any who survive, including their children and descendants ([v.22](#)).

[Isaiah 14:22 \(NASB\)](#)

²² “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,” declares the LORD.”

Babylon will become a desolate place, a place inhabited only by animals. It will be a swamp land, swept over with the broom of destruction ([v.23](#)).

Isaiah 14:23 (NASB)

²³ **“I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the LORD of hosts.”**

END NOTE # 1 [Isaiah 14:12-14](#)

Pride is first on God’s list of abominations or sins that He passionately hates ([Proverbs 6:16-19](#)).

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB)

¹⁶ **“There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:**

¹⁷ **Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,**

¹⁸ **A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,**

¹⁹ **A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.”**

Pride is the root of most sins against other people. The wicked have inflated opinions of themselves, and they do whatever is necessary to satisfy themselves at the expense of others. Plotting and scheming to find ways to exploit other people, they especially prey on those who are weaker than they, those who do not have the resources to defend themselves. David prayed that the wicked would be caught in their own schemes, that the evil they planned for others would come upon them.