

PSALM 10

There is a considerable degree of kinship between this psalm and Psalm 9, and thus it is very reasonable to assign the authorship to David. One notable difference, however, is that in Psalm 9 we have enemies in the nations round about Israel, whereas in Psalm 10 the foes are within the nation of Israel itself. Let us take warning by this view of the depravity of man's unregenerate nature in order that we may apply with fervor for the assistance of God's Holy Spirit to enable us to subdue it and bring forth fruits suitable for repentance. Though it might seem at times as if the Lord stood afar off in seasons of affliction, yet faith assures us that in reality he is ever nigh to those who are of a humble spirit. He hears their prayers and will, in his own good time, deliver them from all their troubles. The Lord is King forever and ever.

- 1 Why, O YAHWEH, do you stand far away?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
- 2 In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;
let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.
- 3 For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces YAHWEH.
- 4 In the pride of his face the wicked 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 foes, he puffs at them.
- 6 He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved;
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."
- 7 His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.
- 8 He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent.
His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;
- 9 he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; he lurks that he may seize the poor;
he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.
- 10 The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might.
- 11 He says in his heart, "God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it."
- 12 Arise, O YAHWEH; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.
- 13 Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?
- 14 But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation,
that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself;
you have been the helper of the fatherless.
- 15 Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer;
call his wickedness to account till you find none.

16 YAHWEH is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.
17 O YAHWEH, you hear the desire of the afflicted;
 you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear
18 to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,
 so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

PRAYER

O most gracious God, you have in your wise providence allotted to mankind either poverty or riches, prosperity or afflictions. They are tests of their dependence on you, as talents committed to their care. Make us, we beseech you, duly sensible of the responsibility you have laid us under for the proper use of all your dispensations. Remove from us all pride and selfishness and hardness of heart. Subdue all covetousness, and make us delight in works of mercy and compassion toward our poorer brethren. Endue us with liberality of soul, and make us humble instruments of blessing to others. And grant that we may not seek the praise of men but your praise only, O heavenly Father, who lives and reigns in the unity of the Eternal Trinity, one God, world without end. Amen.