

## PSALM 94

The faithful, under persecution or affliction, may take comfort from this consideration, that Yahweh, the God of Israel, who made the eye and planted the ear, cannot behold iniquity with indifference. Although he allows his servants to be chastened for wise and salutary ends, and though he permits oppression and injustice to prosper for a time, yet he will at length arise and reward the proud oppressor with their well deserved justice. Happy are those who have learned the lessons of faith and patience taught in these psalms, for they will enjoy tranquility of soul in time of trouble under the conviction that God will not utterly forsake them. What seems mysterious to us now shall be made clear hereafter.

- 1 O YAHWEH, God of vengeance, God of vengeance, shine forth!
- 2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth, render recompense to the proud.
- 3 How long shall the wicked, O YAHWEH, how long shall the wicked exult?
- 4 They pour forth words, they speak arrogantly; all who do wickedness vaunt themselves.
- 5 They crush Your people, O YAHWEH, and afflict Your heritage.
- 6 They slay the widow and the stranger and murder the orphans.
- 7 They have said, "YAHWEH does not see, nor does the God of Jacob pay heed."
  
- 8 Pay heed, you senseless among the people; and when will you understand, stupid ones?
- 9 He who planted the ear, does He not hear? He who formed the eye, does He not see?
- 10 He who chastens the nations, will He not rebuke, *even* He who teaches man knowledge?
- 11 YAHWEH knows the thoughts of man, that they are a *mere* breath.
  
- 12 Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O YAHWEH, and whom You teach out of Your law;
- 13 that You may grant him relief from the days of adversity,  
until a pit is dug for the wicked.
- 14 For YAHWEH will not abandon His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance.
- 15 For judgment will again be righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it.
- 16 Who will stand up for me against evildoers?  
Who will take his stand for me against those who do wickedness?
  
- 17 If YAHWEH had not been my help, my soul would soon have dwelt in *the abode* of silence.
- 18 If I should say, "My foot has slipped," Your lovingkindness, O YAHWEH, will hold me up.
- 19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul.
- 20 Can a throne of destruction be allied with You, one which devises mischief by decree?
- 21 They band themselves together against the life of the righteous  
and condemn the innocent to death.
- 22 But YAHWEH has been my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge.
- 23 He has brought back their wickedness upon them and will destroy them in their evil;  
YAHWEH our God will destroy them.

## PRAYER

*O Lord God, judge of all the world, to you belong vengeance and the execution of righteous judgment. Have mercy upon us and chasten us with your fatherly correction when we sin against you, and be our refuge in time of adversity. Give us much patience in order that our feet do not slip. Grant that we may view all your dispensations with a perfect trust and confidence in your divine providence. In all our troubles may we look up to you as the author of all good and the fountain of all comfort. Let us not faint as we pass through present calamities, but uphold us by faith that we may go on our way rejoicing until we come to the heavenly mansions prepared for us. Former things will then have passed away and an eternity of bliss prepared for all your elect, through the merits of our great Messiah, Jesus, who washed us from our sins in his own blood. Amen.*