

# WHY, O LORD

Whenever tough times come, whenever natural disasters strike, or, like the last couple of months, we find ourselves living through a worldwide pandemic, there are many stories and examples of the kindness that people show to others. Unfortunately, there are also those who are always on the look-out for something or someone they can exploit. They don't care if their scam hurts someone else. They are greedy and only thinking about themselves.

This is not a new problem. It goes back to ancient times. Greed and pride and self-seeking actions can be found on the first few pages of the Bible. The writings which we have been studying recently, the Psalms, deal with these issues and how individuals, groups, and communities respond to the actions of the wicked.

As before, I want to encourage everyone to take some time and read Psalm 10. These songs are written as poetry, the type of literature you have to think about and meditate on in order to fully grasp it. I simply want to help in some way to trace some key thoughts through this psalm.

I am neither all-knowing nor all-powerful. So I often find myself asking why. As a believer trusting in the one who is omniscient and omnipotent, I may ask God, "Why?" If he knows what the wicked will do, why doesn't he prevent it? If he has the power to stop them, why doesn't he? These questions are what the psalmist is wrestling with in the first verse.

Verses 2-11 focus on the wicked. There are many things here to describe them, but I've generally outlined this section as the attitudes, arrogance, and actions of the wicked. They don't care about their fellow humans. They will kick a man while he is down if they can gain from it. They have no respect for nor fear of the LORD. They either don't believe in God or don't believe that he cares about what goes on down here.

Psalms like this one can start to feel depressing. What are we supposed to do about all the evil that we see around us? In verses 12-15, we see the response of the righteous. We take it to God. We believe that he exists. We know that he has not abandoned his creation and left us all on our own. We trust him to keep his promises. So, when it seems like justice is forsaken, and we start to feel like we have to do something with the wicked people, we need to be reminded to seek the righteousness of the LORD and pray that he would take action because he is the only one who does right every time.

Finally, in verses 16-18, we are reminded of the LORD's perspective. Remember that God will one day right every wrong. He will not forsake those who are his. He will ultimately deal out justice and judgment. We need to keep in mind that we are not God and cannot see everything from every side like he can.

God loves us. God hears us. God wants what is best for us. God will work everything out according to his purpose and we must trust in him!

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