

## Psalm 10 Handout

### Psalm 10

- Introduction
  - When I read this psalm I immediately thought of our present time of trouble. In the first eleven verses the psalmist, probably David as many commentators link psalms nine and ten together. They may have been a single acrostic poem.
  - In our present day the wicked described here could include the following:
    - False teachings and false religions: cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses who deny the divinity of Christ, Hindus, Moslems, liberal theology that denies such doctrines as the divinity of Christ, the existence of hell and the devil, and which promote universalism,
    - Atheists and agnostics: those who want to erase any mention of God from schools and the government; those who push a materialistic, secular, evolutionary worldview; secular humanists;
    - Communists/Marxists: deny God, believe man can save himself and form a utopian society, brutally persecute Christians and those who are perceived to be a threat.
    - The politically corrupt: those who seek political power so to dominate others or enrich themselves; those who lie in order to gain and keep office; unjust judges; those who take bribes.
    - Individuals who are only motivated for personal gain and comfort, selfish, greedy, uncaring for the poor, needy, downtrodden, orphans, and oppressed.
- Ps 10:1. David's perplexity.
  - In this verse the psalmist cries out to God, who seems far away, unconcerned about the dominance and power of the wicked.
  - This is a time of trouble and God doesn't seem to be interceding. Hasn't He made promises to come to the aid of His people and defeat the wicked?
  - Have you ever felt like the psalmist? Does it seem like the wicked are winning and the righteous losing ground?
- Psalm 10:2-4. A description of the wicked.
  - The wicked are arrogant: an attitude of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or in presumptuous claims or assumptions.
  - They make schemes to take advantage of the weak. This is in contrast to the Old Testament prophets thundering out God's concern for the weak: widows, orphans, aliens, the poor or disadvantaged, those without power.
  - Boastful, following the cravings of their hearts. But Jeremiah cries out: Jer 17:9. The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? ent. This bold statement is in stark contrast to present day false prophets who declare that man is good and can save himself and create a Utopian society.
  - Greedy, prideful, revile and deny God.
- Psalms 10:5-7. The wicked seem to prosper
  - It seems like the wicked are prospering, getting rich, gaining possessions and privileges.
  - They think that happiness comes from worldly gain, worldly power, riches and possessions.

- The wicked are full of curses, lies, threats, trouble and evil.
- Psalms 10:8-11. The wicked prey on the weak
  - The wicked are like a hungry ferocious lion, lying in ambush to savagely attack and kill a helpless, weak victim. The wicked prey on the weak for their own personal gain. They have no concern for the weak or their welfare.
  - The wicked somehow think that they have fooled God, or that God doesn't notice their evil deeds. They think that they have gotten away with their evil deeds.
- Psalms 10:12-15. David's plea.
  - David calls God to action. David has faith that God will abide by his promises. He asks God to come to the aid of the weak and helpless. Do I pray for God to aid the helpless of today? I think that I am sometimes hesitant to pray prayers like that because I know that God may want me to be at least part of the answer to that prayer. And I don't want to be inconvenienced, uncomfortable or have to make sacrifices.
  - David contradicts wicked who think that God does not see their wicked deeds.
  - God is a helper of the fatherless. In those days a woman who had children and no husband was very vulnerable to be exploited. God is a helper of the fatherless and those like them who are weak and vulnerable.
  - David displays righteous anger in calling out God to come to the aid of these oppressed victims of the wicked.
- Psalms 10:16-18. David's praise
  - David seems to know that his prayer has been answered and that God will abide by his promises and come to the aid of the weak and bring justice to the wicked.
  - God hears the cries of the victims of the wicked and will defend them.
  - Eventually all the wicked will stand before the righteous Judge to give an account of their deeds.
  - Though God may allow his people to suffer, as He did with Paul and so many of the early Christians, our future is secure. Our sins are forgiven and we are assured of an eternity with our wonderful Savior and His blood bought people.
- Summary
  - Think about who the wicked are today. Do I curse them and complain, and get discouraged, or do I pray for their salvation and reach out to them whenever possible? Scripture says that we battle not against flesh and blood but against evil spiritual forces. The wicked people are not the real enemy. Satan and his demons are. The best way to fight them is through concentrated, diligent, constant prayer. How is your prayer life?
  - Am I asking God to make me an instrument of His love in reaching out and directly helping the poor and needy and downtrodden? Or do I think it is someone else's job? Am I willing to get my hands dirty?
  - Ask God to open a door for ministry to these victims of the wicked, the poor, the weak.