

GOD AND THE WICKED

BIBLE TEXT : Psalm 10:1-18; 14:1-7; 36:1-12

LESSON 240 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear" (Psalm 10:17).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Psalm 10:1-18

¹ Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? *why* hidest thou *thyself* in times of trouble?
² The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.
³ For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, *whom* the LORD abhorreth.
⁴ The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God *is* not in all his thoughts.
⁵ His ways are always grievous; thy judgments *are* far above out of his sight: *as for* all his enemies, he puffeth at them.
⁶ He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for *I shall* never *be* in adversity.
⁷ His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue *is* mischief and vanity.
⁸ He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.
⁹ He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.
¹⁰ He croucheth, *and* humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.
¹¹ He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see *it*.
¹² Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.
¹³ Wherefore doth the wicked

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I God's Attitude Toward the Proud

- 1 God's purposes, when chastening His people, may not then be as parent, Psalm 10:1;

Job 23:10

¹⁰ But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Isaiah 48:10

¹⁰ Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

2 Corinthians 12:7

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 4:12-13

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

- 2 Pride and conceit are in the heart of the wicked, evidenced by unmistakable characteristics, Psalm 10:2-6;

Psalms 49:18

¹⁸ Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and *men* will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

Proverbs 3:7

⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 13:15

¹⁵ Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

Proverbs 21:4

⁴ An high look, and a proud heart, *and* the plowing of the wicked, *is* sin.

Romans 8:5-8

⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 12:16

¹⁶ Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

1 John 2:16

¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require *it*.

¹⁴ Thou hast seen *it*; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite *it* with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

¹⁵ Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil *man*: seek out his wickedness *till* thou find none.

¹⁶ The LORD *is* King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.

¹⁷ LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

¹⁸ To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.

Psalm 14:1-7

¹ The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good.

² The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God.

³ They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

⁴ Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people *as* they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

⁵ There were they in great fear: for God *is* in the generation of the righteous.

⁶ Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD *is* his refuge.

⁷ Oh that the salvation of Israel *were come* out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, *and* Israel shall be glad.

1 Corinthians 8:2

² And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

Galatians 6:3

³ For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

- 3 The wicked's outward conduct is far from righteousness, Psalm 10:7-11;

Psalm 37:1-2

¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Psalm 37:9

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 37:12-15

¹² The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

¹³ The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

¹⁴ The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, *and* to slay such as be of upright conversation.

¹⁵ Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

Psalm 37:17

¹⁷ For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.

Psalm 37:21

²¹ The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

Psalm 37:32

³² The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

Psalm 37:35-36

³⁵ I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

³⁶ Yet he passed away, and, lo, he *was* not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

Romans 1:18-32

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another;

Psalms 36:1-12

¹ The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, *that there is* no fear of God before his eyes.

² For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

³ The words of his mouth *are* iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, *and* to do good.

⁴ He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way *that is* not good; he abhorreth not evil.

⁵ Thy mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens; *and* thy faithfulness *reacheth* unto the clouds.

⁶ Thy righteousness *is* like the great mountains; thy judgments *are* a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.

⁷ How excellent *is* thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

⁸ They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

⁹ For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

¹⁰ O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

¹¹ Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.

¹² There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.

men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Proverbs 6:12-19

¹² A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

¹³ He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

¹⁴ Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

¹⁵ Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

¹⁶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

¹⁹ A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

- 4 God's attitude toward the rebellious is shown in David's prayer, Psalm 10:12-18;

Revelation 6:10

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Job 10:14

¹⁴ If I sin, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity.

Ecclesiastes 8:11

¹¹ Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Jeremiah 2:22

²² For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, *yet* thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁹ The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

Amos 5:12

¹² For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate *from their right*.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

II The Universal Depravity of Mankind and Israel's Kingdom-Hope

- 1 Atheism and atheists are plainly branded by God, Psalm 14:1; 10:4; 36:1;

Jeremiah 5:12-14

¹² They have belied the LORD, and said, *It is not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine:*

¹³ And the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them: thus shall it be done unto them.

¹⁴ Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

- 2 Our merciful God, desiring that everyone be saved, observes that they willfully enter the paths of wrong instead, Psalm 14:1-3;

Romans 1:21-32

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Genesis 6:5

⁵ And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Genesis 18:23-26

²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that *are* therein?

²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

²⁶ And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

2 Chronicles 16:9

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Isaiah 1:6

⁶ From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is* no soundness in it; *but* wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Isaiah 59:1-8

¹ Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

³ For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

⁴ None calleth for justice, nor *any* pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

⁵ They hatch cockatrice' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.

⁶ Their webs shall not become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works: their works *are* works of iniquity, and the act of violence *is* in their hands.

⁷ Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts *are* thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction *are* in their paths.

⁸ The way of peace they know not; and *there is* no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

- 3 An indictment is brought against certain ones, naming them workers of iniquity, Psalm 14:4-6;

Psalms 119:86

⁸⁶ All thy commandments *are* faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.

Psalms 143:3

³ For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead.

Matthew 10:17

¹⁷ But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

Luke 21:12-18

¹² But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers

for my name's sake.

¹³ And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

¹⁴ Settle *it* therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

¹⁵ For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

¹⁶ And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and *some* of you shall they cause to be put to death.

¹⁷ And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake.

¹⁸ But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

John 16:2

² They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

- 4 Here is shown the providence and mercy of the eternal God who does not show respect of persons, Psalm 14:4-6;

Acts 10:34-35

³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

5. A marvelous statement is made regarding Israel's covenant failure and their future Millennial joy, Psalm 14:7

Exodus 19:5-6

⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine:

⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 4:7-13

⁷ For what nation *is there* so great, who *hath* God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God *is* in all *things that* we call upon him *for*?

⁸ And what nation *is there* so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

⁹ Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

¹⁰ *Specially* the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.

¹¹ And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

¹² And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only *ye heard* a voice.

¹³ And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, *even* ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

Deuteronomy 4:23

²³ Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, *or* the likeness of any *thing*, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.

Deuteronomy 5:2-3

² The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

³ The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, *even* us, who *are* all of us here alive this day.

Hebrews 8:6-13

⁶ But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

⁸ For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

⁹ Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

¹¹ And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

¹³ In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

³³ But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 32:37-42

³⁷ Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:

³⁸ And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

³⁹ And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:

⁴⁰ And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

⁴¹ Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

⁴² For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them.

Romans 4:9-16

⁹ *Cometh* this blessedness then upon the circumcision *only*, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

¹⁰ How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

¹² And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which *he had* being *yet* uncircumcised.

¹³ For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, *was* not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

¹⁴ For if they which are of the law *be* heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

¹⁵ Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Romans 11:1-15

¹ I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin.

² God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

³ Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

⁴ But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal.

⁵ Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

⁶ And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

⁷ What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

⁸ (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

⁹ And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:

¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

¹¹ I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

¹² Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

¹⁴ If by any means I may provoke to emulation *them which are* my flesh, and might save some of them.

¹⁵ For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead?

III The Sinner's Lack of Hope in God

- ¹ The attitude and conduct of the evil ones prove they have no hope in God, Psalm 36:1-4;

Proverbs 12:15

¹⁵ The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 20:6

⁶ Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

Proverbs 30:12

¹² *There is* a generation *that are* pure in their own eyes, and *yet* is not washed from their filthiness.

2 Corinthians 10:12

¹² For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

- 2 Those who trust in God benefit from His mercy, faithfulness, righteousness, judgments, and loving-kindness, Psalm 36:5-9;

Psalms 63:3

³ Because thy lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Psalms 103:17

¹⁷ But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Psalms 108:4

⁴ For thy mercy *is* great above the heavens: and thy truth *reacheth* unto the clouds.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

²³ *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness.

Isaiah 63:7

⁷ I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, *and* the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

- 3 The prayer of the righteous echoes the desire of God toward the righteous, Psalm 36:10-12

Romans 4:21

²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

2 Peter 1:4

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

NOTES:

The Word of the Lord and Its Attitude Toward Sin

David, King of Israel, is known in the Scriptures as a Prophet. We also know this to be true because his writings set forth many Gospel truths and messages from the God of Heaven concerning His plan for mankind. In the three Psalms we are now considering we can see the unmistakable work of the Holy Spirit as it led this man of God to write the eternal truths that God would have us receive. In these messages we see the mercy, faithfulness, and loving-kindness, as well as the righteousness of the judgments of the eternal God who will "not at all acquit the wicked" (Nahum 1:3).

Here, in these Psalms, we see God's attitude toward sin and the sinner. Here we see that there is no middle ground between righteousness and depravity. Here we see that there are but two ways, the way of life and the way of death. Men may

temporize with sin, but all God's ways are equal. Men may make allowances and excuses for iniquity, but God labels it what it really is and punishes the one who harbors it in his heart.

There are many kinds of sin, according to man's ideas and classifications. Different punishments are meted out, in our systems of justice, for the different degrees of sin and transgression of our earthly laws. But with God, even the smallest sin brings a complete separation from His fellowship and covenant-privileges. And, having taken the way of the transgressor, there is nothing for the erring one to do but accept the results of that way unless he flees to Bleeding Mercy and asks forgiveness for his sins. Therefore, God does not classify sin, as does man, with the intent that certain eternal punishments will be meted out for certain gross sins, and judgments of less than eternal length for sins of lesser guilt. God looks at sin in the heart and sees what it truly is, and His judgments are pronounced accordingly.

The Basic Sin of Mankind

We are told that Satan fell from Heaven when he exalted himself and attempted to take the place of the Most High. Satan tempted man with pride and man fell. Pride, therefore, was the cause of the fall of man. It is the basic sin that prompts the other sins men commit. It is not confined to Satan alone, for we shall see that it is present in all unregenerated mankind. It is a constant threat to the most godly, an avenue of temptation that seems to be the most difficult for many to overcome. Being a sin, God hates it! (**Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV)** ¹⁶ These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren).

We can see, in these writings of David, what terrible sins can develop in an unrestrained, proud heart. The proud person persecutes the poor and boasts of his heart's desire. He blesses the covetous and says, in his heart, that he is self-sufficient and above all opposition. If he allows himself to continue his natural course he will actually deny the God of Heaven, and then, in his pride and arrogance, will say that he — a mere man — will never be moved or overthrown. Eventually, if he should allow himself to admit that there is a God, he will deny that that God is interested in mankind, or that He is capable of asserting Himself should He be interested. Such are the terrible consequences of unrestrained pride.

But the Prophet of God has gone farther into the matter and has proved that this seed-sin is present in the heart of all the unregenerated, because all men who are outside the fold of God are totally depraved and wholly departed into the ways of sin and error. He has stated that the God of mercy is looking down from His Heaven upon the world of sinners and that He sees that all these sinners have departed from the right way and have gone aside into the ways of their own choosing. He states that they have all become filthy. He emphasizes that there are none who do good unless they have turned from their evil ways and are pardoned, justified, born again, and received into the family of God.

These Psalms show us that the sinner who has not been touched by the Holy Spirit when He comes to convince men of their need of God, has no fear of God. This sinner, instead, flatters himself in his own eyes. There is nothing that is actually

good in the nature of such a one. He is full of iniquity and deceit and has left off from doing good. He says, "There is no God." He deliberately plans his sins and then carries them out according to his plan. He denies that God will punish him for his sin, and says that God has forgotten to look upon him and that He will not see the extent of the sin nor render a punishment for it.

This is the picture of fallen man, depraved by sin, who follows his own desires and ambitions. He is hatefully rebellious against that which is good, as well as being rebellious against the Author of all good. Surely there can be no honest contention in the heart of any that the full judgment and justice of God is not deserved by all who thus rebel against Him and who follow their own ways instead.

The Merciful God of Heaven

But we read that God has seen this sin. We are comforted with the assurance that God will be the helper of all who put their trust in Him, that the wicked will be punished, and that power and authority will eventually be taken by Him to whom it rightfully belongs. The Holy Spirit has given us assurance, in these three Psalms, that God has heard the desire of His people, that He will prepare their heart, and that the oppressed shall be set free from every bond and opposing force.

The guarantee for this deliverance is given in the fact that the Lord is King over all, and that some day He will come to set up His Kingdom and rule over the rulers of this earth. We are here given another glimpse of the glory of that Kingdom, where righteousness and equity will be the ruling principles and where the people of God will reign with their Christ and Lord.

Israel will be restored at that time, the Holy Spirit assures us, and the fullness of God's covenant-plan will be in operation upon the earth. Great joy and gladness will be upon the earth in those days of righteous rule. God's full blessings will be manifest then in a degree that is not known today. The mere contemplation of these glories has caused the Psalmist — and should cause us also — to break out into exulting praise of the God of Heaven who alone has power and goodness sufficient to do such wonderful things.

What a contrast is apparent when the evil thoughts and vile designs of the wicked, and of Satan their diabolical master, are compared with the righteousness and infinite goodness of the God of all the earth! God's mercy is boundless! His faithfulness reaches to the clouds! God's righteousness is like the great mountains! His judgments are a great deep! Here the Holy Spirit has utilized the greatest, loftiest, deepest, and most awe-inspiring things known to man to teach us the much greater fact of God's infinite power and fullness. No wonder He has also said that we can know the invisible things of God, even His eternal power and godhead, by the things which we see — the works of His hands (**Romans 1:20 (KJV)** ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse).

**"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good:
for his mercy endureth for ever."**

**"Who remembered us in our low estate: for
his mercy endureth for ever:**

**"And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for
his mercy endureth for ever."**

**"O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for
his mercy endureth for ever." (Psalm 136:1, 23,**

24, 26).

QUESTIONS

1. After studying the verses indicated in the outline, that concern our chastening by God, what would you say is the purpose of that chastening?
2. Is the full reason for God's chastening and purging always known to us at the time of the trial? If not, why not?
3. What can be called the basic sin of mankind?
4. What is the contention of an atheist as regards our God?
5. What does God call an atheist?
6. Contrast the description of the godly, as shown in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), with the description of the ungodly given in our lesson text.
7. Has God forgotten the world? Is He taking no notice of the sins of fallen mankind? Quote a verse to support your answer.
8. What is the hope of the godly, as set forth in our lesson text?
9. Upon what is this hope based?
10. 10 What great prophecy concerning Israel is set forth in our lesson?