

PSALM 10:1-18

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"God permits tyrants to rise as thorn hedges to protect His church from the hypocrites' intrusion."

(Ps. 10:1) "**Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?**"

To the tearful eye of the sufferer, the Lord seemed to stand still, calmly looking on, as if he did not sympathize with His afflicted. Even worse, the Lord appeared to stand afar off, no longer "**a very present help in trouble**" (Ps. 46:1) but an inaccessible mountain. God's presence is His people's joy. Any suspicion of His absence is distraction beyond measure. But remember, the Lord is always close; the refiner is never far from the mouth of the furnace when His gold is in the fire. The Son of God is always walking in the midst of the flames when His holy children are in them (Dan. 3:25); He knows when we are sharply tested. Yet when deliverance does not come, we think that the Lord has neglected us.

(Ps. 10:2) "**Let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.**" This prayer is reasonable, just, and natural. Even our enemies should be treated as they treat others. We weigh you in your scales and measure your corn with your bushel. Terrible will be the day, persecuting Babylon, when you will be made to drink the wine cup that you filled with the blood of saints. None will dispute God's justice when He hangs every Haman

on his own gallows (Esth. 7:10) and casts the enemy of His Daniels into their own lion's den (Dan. 6:24).

(Ps. 10:15) **Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man.** Let the sinner lose power to sin. Stop the tyrant, arrest the oppressor, weaken the mighty, and dash the wicked to pieces. They deny Your justice, so let them feel it to the full. They will feel it; God will hunt the sinner forever. Few great persecutors have ever died in their beds. The curse has manifestly pursued them; their terrible sufferings have made them acknowledge divine justice. God permits tyrants to rise as thorn hedges to protect His church from the hypocrites' intrusion. God also uses tyrants to teach His backsliding children, as Gideon did the men of Succoth with the briers of the wilderness (Judges 8:16).

(Ps. 10:16-18) **The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land. LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear: To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.**

The Psalm ends with a song of thanksgiving to the great and everlasting King. He has granted the desire of His humble and oppressed people; He has defended the father-

less and punished the nations who trampled His poor and afflicted children. Let us learn that we will run well if we carry our complaint to the King of kings. Rights will be vindicated and wrongs redressed. His government does not neglect the interests of the needy or tolerate the oppression of the mighty.

Great God, we leave ourselves in Your hand; to You we commit Your church afresh. Arise, O God, let the man of the earth—the creature of a day—be broken before the majesty of Your power. Come, Lord Jesus, and glorify Your people. Amen and Amen.
(*The Treasury of David*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

Where does the confidence of the oppressor lie? Ps. 10:2-6, 11, 13

Has God prepared the heart of the believer to ask for things that are pleasing to Him? 2 Chr. 30:12, Ps. 10:17, Rom. 8:26, Phil. 2:13