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Lesson 7: Psalm 10

Psalm 10

Author: David

Background: Unknown

Theme: The psalmist asks the Lord why he allows the wicked to continue oppressing the poor and helpless. He calls upon the Lord to punish the wicked.¹

Outline (This outline comes from Wiersbe's The Bible Exposition Commentary with additional notes from the Expositor's Bible Commentary.)

1. Questioning God (v.1)

The psalmist asks God why He's so far away during his trouble. Does God ever seem far away from you when you really need Him most? God being distant is a recurring theme throughout many psalms (2:1; 22:1-2, 11; 35:22; 38:21; 42:9; 43:2; 74:1; 88:14). Just because things aren't going the way we desire doesn't mean God is distant.

The question also introduces the riddle of the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of the righteous (cf. Ps 73). The riddle is not *resolved* but is *refocused* on the God who cares for His own (v. 14).²

2. Rejecting God (v.2-13)

¹ Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ps 10). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

² Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (125). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

The psalmist gives four statements that express what the wicked believe, because what they believe determines how they behave.

1. They believe there is no God (v.4)

Ps. 10:4 NLT The wicked are too proud to seek God. They seem to think that God is dead.³

2. They believe they shall not be moved (v. 5-7)

Unconverted people have no understanding of God's Word or His ways and, therefore, live with a false sense of security thinking nothing bad will ever happen to them.

Ps. 10:6 NLT They think, "Nothing bad will ever happen to us! We will be free of trouble forever!"⁴

3. They believe God doesn't see them (v.8-11)

Our God sees the works of the wicked. He sees the world of the righteous as well. God has not forgotten about you!

4. They believe God will not judge them (v.12-13)

Num. 32:33

3. Trusting God (v.14-18)

The psalmist turns the corner and shares a trust in God taking care of His children. In these verses, the psalmist addresses everything in the previous part of the outline.

1. God sees what's going on (v.14)

God sees, cares, and we can trust Him (Ps. 55:22).

2. God judges sin (v.15)

This answers the false claim in v.12-13.

3. God is King (v.16)

Although the wicked claim there is no God, the truth is there is a God and He rules over all (Ps. 24:7-10; 29:10)!

4. God defends His own people (v.17-18)

He hears the cries of the helpless and comforts them (v.17). Trust God to cause everything to work out (Rom. 8:28)!

³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. (2nd ed.) (Ps 10:4). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. (2nd ed.) (Ps 10:6). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.