

PSALM 94

An Evening Prayer for Sanctification and Protection.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (1-17-96).
- B. "Israel Cries Out for God to Judge the World."
- C. There seems to be no indication in this psalm of the time or whether the northern kingdom of Israel, or southern kingdom of Judah is intended. It seems that the rulers and leaders are wicked. But this was true of all of the 20 kings of Israel, and of 12 of the 20 kings of Judah. It describes the attitude that Amos described and warned about in Israel shortly before the Assyrians took them captive, especially his warning against them wanting the day of the Lord, or judgment; Amos 5:18-20.
- D. Coffman uses the paraphrasing of Delitzsch for this psalm:
 - I. A Prayer for God to Judge Rampant Wickedness (94:1-3).
 - II. What the Wicked Were Doing (94:4-7).
 - III. The Practical Atheists Refuted (94:8-11).
 - IV. Praise of the Pious Sufferer (94:12-15).
 - V. Praise of the Lord as Man's Sole Help (94:16-19).
 - VI. Rejoicing in the Prospect of Answered Prayer (94:20-23).

THE TEXT.

- 94:1** O LORD, God of vengeance,
God of vengeance, shine forth!
- 2** Rise up, O Judge of the earth,
Render recompense to the proud.
- 3** How long shall the wicked, O LORD,
How long shall the wicked exult?
- 4** They pour forth *words*, they speak arrogantly;
All who do wickedness vaunt themselves.
- 5** They crush Your people, O LORD,
And afflict Your heritage.
- 6** They slay the widow and the stranger
And murder the orphans.
- 7** They have said, "The LORD does not see,
Nor does the God of Jacob pay heed."
- 8** Pay heed, you senseless among the people;
And when will you understand, stupid ones?
- 9** He who planted the ear, does He not hear?
He who formed the eye, does He not see?
- 10** He who chastens the nations, will He not rebuke,
Even He who teaches man knowledge?
- 11** The LORD knows the thoughts of man,
That they are a *mere* breath.
- 12** Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O LORD,
And whom You teach out of Your law;
- 13** That You may grant him relief from the days of adversity,
Until a pit is dug for the wicked.
- 14** For the LORD will not abandon His people,
Nor will He forsake His inheritance.
- 15** For judgment will again be righteous,
And all the upright in heart will follow it.
- 16** Who will stand up for me against evildoers?
Who will take his stand for me against those who do wickedness?
- 17** If the LORD had not been my help,
My soul would soon have dwelt in *the abode of* silence.
- 18** If I should say, "My foot has slipped,"
Your lovingkindness, O LORD, will hold me up.

- 19 When my anxious thoughts multiply within me,
Your consolations delight my soul.
- 20 Can a throne of destruction be allied with You,
One which devises mischief by decree?
- 21 They band themselves together against the life of the righteous
And condemn the innocent to death.
- 22 But the LORD has been my stronghold,
And my God the rock of my refuge.
- 23 He has brought back their wickedness upon them
And will destroy them in their evil;
The LORD our God will destroy them.

COMMENTS.

- A. A Prayer for God to Judge Rampant Wickedness.
[v1,2] "...O God...shine forth...rise up...render punishment to the proud." There is a call for justice and for God to judge the wicked. This is a common plea of the righteous and the hosts of heaven.
[v3] "Lord...how long will the wicked triumph?" It is difficult to be patient when we are suffering, or when the wicked prosper.
- B. What the Wicked Were Doing.
[v4] "They utter speech, and speak insolent things...boast in themselves." One of the characteristics of the wicked is arrogance. The expression, "utter speech" refers to speaking idly, to chatter. "Trash talk" is one of the characteristics of the wicked today.
[v5] "They break in pieces Your people, O Lord..." In the days of Manasseh, the wicked son of righteous Hezekiah, God's people were slaughtered; 2Kgs. 21:16.
[v6,7] "They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless." They took advantage of the weakest and most innocent of society and thought that they would not be held accountable. "They say, The Lord does not see..."
- C. The Practical Atheists Refuted.
[v8-10] "Understand, you senseless...you fools..." This is speaking of those in 94:7 who did not think that God could see or hear. These fools who did not believe that God could see or hear were "among the people," or God's own nation, not the Gentiles. In refuting this error, the psalmist refers to God making the eye and ear, and that God "instructs (the translation note says, "discipline"), the nations" or the Gentiles. Therefore, correction is a part of teaching.
[v11] "The Lord knows the thoughts of man..." God does not only hear and see what man is doing, but he knows that man's thoughts are futile.
- D. Praise of the Pious Sufferer.
[v12] "Blessed is the man whom You instruct...out of Your law..." We need to understand how God instructs man. It is not by direct revelation, but through His prophets, that we might have His law and study it.
[v13-15] He then lists some of the blessings that God gives: "...rest from the days of adversity" or trouble. We will have trouble, but we can receive rest from it. "...the Lord will not cast off...forsake His inheritance." We will be tested by hardship or sometimes even by prosperity, but if we are faithful to Him, He will deliver us: "But judgment will return to the righteous..." God's judgment will punish the wicked forever, but bless the righteous.
- E. Praise of the Lord as Man's Sole Help.
[v16,17] "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers?" God is the only one who can deliver us from the wicked.
[v18,19] Our foot may slip because we are in a slippery place. God does not put us in slippery places: Satan does. Satan does not deliver us from dangerous places: God does. Our anxieties come from a lack of trust and confidence in God to deliver us. God can only bring us the comfort that we have the faith to accept.

F. Rejoicing in the Prospect of Answered Prayer.

[v20] "...the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law..." This wickedness was from those in authority, who did it by their power. It refers to wicked rulers who had no fellowship with God.

[v21] "They (the wicked rulers) gather together against the life of the righteous..." Some of the most dangerous wicked people are those in authority who use the power of government to afflict the people.

[v22,23] "But the Lord has been my defense...and shall cut them off..." The power of wickedness is Satan and the majority in the world. The power of righteousness is God, and though few really follow Him, He is the true majority (see Mt. 7:13,14).