

Psalm 10: Where is God
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The author of Psalm 10 is unknown, but since many psalms in this area of the book of psalms are written by David, it is assumed by many that he is the author. The Psalm asks the question “where is God” when we are afflicted and the righteous suffer. If David wrote this he had many adversaries. There was a king rejected by God; many Gentiles who wanted his life; he was forced to fight a rebellious son.

All of them might be described as wicked men. A wicked man is defined here with several characteristics. They act in pride, boastful and haughty; They are greedy; They do not seek God and do not believe; Their mouth is full of curses, lies and hate. But the characteristic that the writer is most offended by is this: their ways prosper!

This is the great dilemma. The wicked seem to prosper while the righteous suffer. Why is this the case if God is all powerful and God is on the side of the righteous? We all ask “where is God” from time to time. Multiple Psalms ask “where is God”. Job asked for God’s justice, which he believed was lost. Even John the Baptist doubted Jesus’ identity in Matthew 11. We can see that in these circumstances that God does not become angry with our doubt, but we also saw many examples where Jesus was sometimes frustrated by it (i.e. crossing the sea in a storm).

What is the answer? The psalmist makes two points. First, he realizes that God does not forget the righteous. He tests the righteous to perfection (James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7); they do not suffer without purpose. As well He does not permit them to be overcome by their circumstances (1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Peter 2:9). We need to remember, as the Psalmist does, that God has proven time and again His faithfulness (Psalm 34:19, 2 Thessalonians 3:3).

Second, the Psalmist also reminds us that God does not forget the wicked. The fact that they seem to prosper is because He is patient with them (2 Peter 3:3-9), not wanting any to be lost. This is because God loves the wicked too (John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8). The righteous do well to remember that once they too were wicked, and all would be lost without divine patience (Romans 3:23).

The point is this: we need to trust God when it seems He is not there. He has always been faithful to preserve us. We need to believe that He has a purpose in waiting to act. Our goal and His is that ultimately there will be justice AND mercy.