

## Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Psalm 10

This Psalm is actually a pair with Psalm 9. Both have 10 stanzas in the Hebrew, Ps 9 forming an imperfect acrostic with the first half of the Hebrew alphabet, and Ps 10 with the rest. Ps 9 is a prayer of faith, Ps 10 is a prayer in the dark. But God is still here with us, even in the darkness of a lost world.

1 Why, Lord, do you stand far off?  
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

Good question, especially now!

2 In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak,  
who are caught in the schemes he devises.  
3 He boasts about the cravings of his heart;  
he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord.  
4 In his pride the wicked man does not seek him;  
in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Good answer. People ignore God till they want to blame him.

5 His ways are always prosperous;  
your laws are rejected by him;  
he sneers at all his enemies.  
6 He says to himself, 'Nothing will ever shake me.'  
He swears, 'No one will ever do me harm.'

The self-confidence of the atheist is sadly misplaced

7 His mouth is full of lies and threats;  
trouble and evil are under his tongue.  
8 He lies in wait near the villages;  
from ambush he murders the innocent.  
His eyes watch in secret for his victims;  
9 like a lion in cover he lies in wait.  
He lies in wait to catch the helpless;  
he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net.  
10 His victims are crushed, they collapse;  
they fall under his strength.  
11 He says to himself, 'God will never notice;  
he covers his face and never sees.'

Moral decline follows spiritual decline. But no-one can hide from God.

12 Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God.  
Do not forget the helpless.  
13 Why does the wicked man revile God?  
Why does he say to himself,  
'He won't call me to account'?  
14 But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted;  
you consider their grief and take it in hand.  
The victims commit themselves to you;  
you are the helper of the fatherless.  
15 Break the arm of the wicked man; (that is, show him to be powerless)  
call the evildoer to account for his wickedness  
that would not otherwise be found out.

God is totally fair - but as in the parable of the wheat and tares, we can trust and leave justice to Him

16 The Lord is King for ever and ever;  
the nations will perish from his land.  
17 You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted;  
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,  
18 defending the fatherless and the oppressed,  
so that mere earthly mortals  
will never again strike terror.

God is eternal, nations come and go. But the eternal Lord hears us,  
even when we struggle to make sense of life's problem.  
Praise his name.

As we go through the Psalms, we see a whole range of situations  
– but always the Lord is King.  
May he reign in me!

Gordon