

PSALMS

Lyrics OF *Prophecy*

58/150

Psalm - The Songs

Psalm 58

God will Take Vengeance—The Righteous will Rejoice!

Read and Observe

Read through Psalm 58 and mark every reference to the Lord with a red triangle, including pronouns or synonyms.

Read through Psalm 58 and mark every reference to righteous or righteousness with a blue capital "R+." Also, mark all pronouns or synonyms.

Read through Psalm 58 and mark every reference to the wicked or the unrighteous with an orange capital "W." Also, mark all pronouns or synonyms.

Read through Psalm 58 and mark every comparison, such as "like" or "as," with a pink "equal sign." (I usually put the lines of the equal sign directly above, below, and attached to the word I am marking.)

Read through Psalm 58 and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The Unrighteous Wicked.
2. God will Take the Unrighteous Wicked Away.
3. The Righteous will Rejoice at God's Vengeance.

Read and Answer

Psalm 58:1-5

The psalmist asks two questions in the first verse. What are they?

1.

2.

He answers both of his questions with one word. What is it?

The word translated "gods" uses a small letter "g," and rightly so. Who are these gods? What seems to be their job?

Are they doing their job righteously or unrighteously?

What do they do in their hearts?

1.

2.

In your own words, what are these unrighteous, but mighty people doing?

What does it mean to work unrighteousness in your heart (mind)?

What does it mean to weigh out the violence of your hands?

Were these leaders accidentally doing unrighteousness?

The hearts of these cold-blooded scheming leaders are full of intrigues, plots, and strategies. They used their time to plan destructive evil against the people. Who were these people?

Who were the judges?

Who are the wicked people estranged *from*?

What, or who, do the wicked ones go astray *from*?

How long have the wicked been wicked?

1.

2.

How long have these lying judges been practicing their craft?

The psalmist uses the metaphor of a snake to describe the wicked. What does he say they have?

Although we most likely understand the word venom refers to the serpent's poison, the Hebrew word has the connotation of heat, anger, and wrath. Does that change how you view the psalmist's description of the wicked? If so, how?

Read the second half of verse four and verse five as one thought. Why is the deaf cobra said to stop up its ear?

What does it refuse to hear?

Why doesn't it want to hear charmers' voice or the sound of a skillful spell caster?

What does it want to do?

Who does the deaf cobra represent?

Reason this through, if the deaf cobra represents the wicked judges, who do the charmers, and skillful spell casters represent?

If you answered, "God," you have excellent reasoning skills! The wicked are estranged from and go astray from God and His law from the womb. They are angry and dangerous and want to harm God's people. God warns them to stop their unrighteousness. They do not want to hear what their Master tells them to do; they want to rule over themselves and continue to do evil. Scary people! The difference between the snake charmers and God is that He doesn't need anything or anybody to cause these wicked people to do whatever He wants; He can destroy them in the twinkle of an eye if He so chooses.

Psalm 58:6-9

The psalmist has an opinion on what he wants God to choose. What is it?

1.

2.

Moving from shrewd serpents to cruel, powerful young lions, the psalmist implores God to do the same thing. What does he ask God to do to the snakes?

How harmful is a snake without its teeth?

What does he ask God to do to the young lions?

What happens to a young lion without his fangs?

Apply this to what is happening to David. What is he asking God to do for him?

The psalmist has more petitions; in addition to making his enemies powerless, he wants God to go one step further. What is it?

The psalmist visualizes the demise of the wicked. What does he want his adversaries to be "like" or "as"?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What do all four analogies have in common? What is the point of each?

How can we know the psalmist firmly believes God will answer his prayer? (Hint: Verse nine.)

What is the picture in verse nine? (This can be a difficult verse to understand, so don't worry if you don't see it. Just give it a try.)

Let's look at the pronouns in verse nine and see if that helps us get a foot in the door. It is not God speaking; neither is it David's foes; instead, it is David, just as it has been. David addressed his adversaries directly in verses one and two, then he spoke to God *about* his adversaries through verse eight. Read verse nine over again and answer the question, "Who is David speaking *to*?"

If you answered, "David speaking directly to his adversaries," you would be right. Now, who must the "He" be?

Did you answer, "God"? That question wasn't too hard, but this next one might be. Who or what is "them"?

Before I commend or gently "correct" your answer, let's do a couple of word studies. The Hebrew word for pots is "*sir*" and is from a primitive root meaning to boil up; a pot; also a thorn (as springing up rapidly). Hmm... That's interesting, don't you think? The word for pot also means thorn, as in the idea of swift and speedy. The Hebrew word for thorn is "*atad*" and means bramble or thorn.

Now, let's set the scene from the text. The psalmist is giving notice to his adversaries of their future. He pictures them ready to cook a meal; food is necessary for life. They hang the pot over the area where they will build a fire. For their fuel, they have quick-burning thorns and bramble. They kindle their fire lickety-split, but immediately, before the pots can even feel the heat from the fire below it, God sweeps the thorns away with a whirlwind. Everything is gone, both the slower igniting green bramble and the thorns already engulfed in flames. The dreadful storm will come suddenly, sweeping away everything thoroughly.

Who or what is "them"? The thorns.

With all of that said, what is the point of verse 9? (As it relates to David's enemies.)

Psalm 58:10-11

What will the righteous eventually see?

Who issues the vengeance?

What is the reaction of the righteous to the demise of the wicked?

Who is the "He" in the second half of verse 9?

What does it mean, "He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked."?

Who are the men who will speak?

What will men say when they see the vengeance of God?

1.

2.

From the viewpoint of the wicked, what is the reward, or fruit, for the righteous?

What will the wicked finally understand and acknowledge?

Point of Connection

**No weapon that is formed against you will prosper;
And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn.
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,
And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.
Isaiah 54:17**

Read and Reason

The second half of verse 10 isn't easy, is it?

It might help to remember that much of the book of Psalms is intrinsically prophetic; they speak of the Christ, His first and second coming, etc. Revelation 19:11–16, below, speaks about His second coming.

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse,
and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True,
and in righteousness He judges and wages war.
His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems;
and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.
He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.
And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean,
were following Him on white horses.
From His mouth comes a sharp sword,
so that with it He may strike down the nations,
and He will rule them with a rod of iron;
and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.
And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written,
"KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

Read through two more Scriptures and see if you can identify any similarities to Psalm 58:10. Read Revelation 14:18–20.

*Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar;
and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying,*

*"Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth,
because her grapes are ripe."*

*So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered the clusters from the vine of the earth,
and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.
And the wine press was trodden outside the city,
and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles,
for a distance of two hundred miles.*

Finally, read Isaiah 63:1-6.

*Who is this who comes from Edom,
With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,
This One who is majestic in His apparel,
Marching in the greatness of His strength?*

"It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

*Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?*

*"I have trodden the wine trough alone,
And from the peoples there was no man with Me.
I also trod them in My anger
And trampled them in My wrath;
And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments,
And I stained all My raiment.
For the day of vengeance was in My heart,
And My year of redemption has come.
I looked, and there was no one to help,
And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold;
So My own arm brought salvation to Me,
And My wrath upheld Me.
I trod down the peoples in My anger
And made them drunk in My wrath,
And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."*

All three of these passages concern the second coming of Christ, the time when He will execute judgment on Israel's enemies (at that time they will be all the nations of the earth.)

He will bring justice.
He will judge.
He will wage war.
There will be blood.
The righteous will rejoice.

Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-5

Verses 6-9

Verses 10-11

Purpose of Psalm 58

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 58.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm.”**

Theme of Psalm 58

**Try giving Psalm 58 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about.”**
