

Scripture Reference: Psalm 10

Date: May 26, 2013

Title: "Why?"

Focus: What events tell us about God

Intro:

Psalms 9 & 10 belongs together. They are a couplet.

Though not apparent in the English, taken together and with a few exceptions, the stanzas form an acrostic using the Hebrew alphabet.

Both must be looked at when considering one.

Body:

In Psalm 9 David declares his intention to "*give thanks to YHWH with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.*" (v. 1)

In the remainder of the Psalm David elaborates why He is he is committed to praising God:

YHWH maintained his just cause - v. 4

God rebuked the nations - v. 5

While the "*enemy [will] come to an endYHWH abides forever.*" - vv. 6-7

YHWH will judge the world righteously, be a stronghold, and is trustworthy. - vv. 8-10

God remembers His people and lifts their afflictions. - vv. 12-13

In His actions, the Lord has "*made Himself known.*" - v. 16

Except that is, when He doesn't.

What is a person to do when it seems God isn't all David or others declare Him to be?

How is a person to react when the intimacy and faithfulness that has been known seems to dry up and vanish?

That is the question posed by Psalm 10.

"Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?"

Despite David's resolution to "*give thanks to the LORD with all [his] heart,*" he notices:

The wicked hotly pursue the afflicted - v. 2

The wicked boasts of his heart's desire - v. 3

The wicked chides, "*There is no God.*" - v. 4

The wicked prosper. - v. 5

The wicked is stubborn, continues in his wickedness, and lurks for the innocent and afflicted and draws them in. - vv. 6-10

The wicked brags of his crimes. - v. 11

There is a supposition with humanity, "*If God is who He says He is, then why does evil/bad happen?*"

Is God only worthy of praise and thanksgiving when He acts in a manner consistent with our well being?

Though God says nothing in response to David's plea, David continues to declare God's righteousness. Believing God when He seems not to move.

He continues to call on Him, "Arise, O Lord, lift up your hand." - v. 12

Though wickedness is present, God has seen it, the afflicted continue to trust, and God is a helper. - vv. 13-14

Break the Arm of the wicked and evil doer. - v. 15

YHWH is King forever and ever. - v. 16

God hears the cries of His people and strengthens their hearts. - v. 17

It is fundamental to keep in mind, circumstances do not affirm or deny God's reality or character.

There is more going on than your agenda or mine. -
Deuteronomy 29:29

Those who trust in God, even when it seems it is not affecting any profit, will be vindicated. - v. 18

Closing:

David understood that God affects circumstances, not the other way around. He would not let *reality* dictate his perception of God.

Faith demands a person continue to trust even in the face of contradictory actions.

Those who place their trust in God will see him move; their faith will be vindicated. It may take waiting into eternity, but it will be seen.