

## WHERE ARE YOU, GOD?

Monday, February 5

Reading: Psalm 10

**Psalm 10:11** *He says to himself, "God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees."* **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"?*

Psalm 10 is a continuation of Psalm 9. In the Hebrew they form an acrostic poem where each line begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. But the tone of Psalm 9 is very different. In the previous psalm, David was confident of God's triumph over his enemies and His protection of the faithful. In Psalm 10, David seems not so sure. His circumstances have caused him to ask "Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" (10:1) instead of asserting that the Lord is "a stronghold in times of trouble" (9:9).

But isn't this a common human reaction when in the thick of trouble? When we are buried in trials, it is natural to feel that God is far away, especially when we see the wicked prospering and no judgement seems to be coming.

David gives us an inside look at how the wicked think. They live their lives as if God does not exist (10:2-5). They believe their evil deeds will never be judged. In fact, they boast that God does not even pay attention. He does not care what they do (10:6-13).

Today's world is much the same as it was in David's day. Rebellion against God and His standards is the norm. Sin is seen as an acceptable lifestyle choice. And the ones who suffer most from this are the poor, the oppressed, the helpless, the orphans and widows. With David, it is easy to cry out "Where are you, God?"

Thankfully David does not leave us with doubt about the presence and power of God. He is "King forever and ever." Though the wicked believe they have gotten away with their sins, God sees and will judge either in this life or the next (10:14-15). He hears the cries of the suffering and encourages and defends those who commit themselves to Him (10:14, 17-18).

This psalm that began on such a minor key ends on a major one. It began with a note of defeat, but ends with a note of victory. In answer to the question "Lord, where are you?", God answers with a definite, "I am here and I will take care of everything in My own time and way."

Does the daily news get you down? Does what you see happening in society around you get you discouraged? Does it feel like God is far away? Look to David's example. Though the times seem dark and the wicked seem to be in charge, God has not abandoned His people. In the midst of darkness, He shines His light and reminds us that His will and purpose will triumph in the end.