

## SEARCH FOR SEEKERS

Friday, February 9

Reading: Psalm 14

**Psalm 14:1** *The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. 3 All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.*

In Sinop, Turkey you will find a statue of its most famous citizen - the 5<sup>th</sup>-century BC philosopher Diogenes. When it was erected in 2006 the politicians in the area protested because Diogenes is best known for carrying a lamp with him wherever he went "looking for an honest man." Presumably he never found one. <sup>1</sup>

About 600 years before Diogenes, King David recorded a similar search in Psalm 14. In this search it is God who is looking for a righteous person. Centuries later the Apostle Paul would quote this psalm as evidence that all are sinner (Romans 3:10-12). David colorfully describes the sinful people the Lord found in His search.

These are people who deny that God exists or at least live like He doesn't exist. The word "corrupt" here literally means to spoil, ruin, and pervert. David describes their "vile" deeds with a word that means abhorrent and detestable. The word translated "corrupt" in verse 3 is a different Hebrew word than used previously. It means filthy or polluted. It describes sinners as dependent on evil as they are on water. This is the character of the wicked.

Their actions are just as bad. They are incapable of doing good. They do not care to understand God and refuse to seek Him. In fact, they turn the opposite direction. They "devour my people" and feel no remorse; no urge to call on the Lord for forgiveness. That is the condition of the wicked.

These "fools" would be surprised that this God they deny even exists is "present in the company of the righteous." He lives to comfort and protect His people. He is their refuge - their place of safety and protection; their shelter.

The final verse of the psalm is a prayer for God's deliverance: "Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!" The Hebrew word translated salvation here is *yešû'āh*. It is the name Jesus (Hebrew = Yeshua; Greek = Jesus). His name means salvation, deliverance, rescue, victory, and prosperity.

Whether we are "good people" or the vilest of criminals, we all are condemned by our sin. But Jesus came to Zion (another name for Jerusalem) and died on a cross to bring us salvation. The last line in Hebrew literally reads "when the LORD brings back the captivity of His people." We were all slaves to sin, but Jesus has set us free. What greater reason do we have to rejoice! Jesus did not just bring salvation to Israel but to anyone who calls on His name. Are you in "the company of the righteous?"

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue\\_of\\_Diogenes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statue_of_Diogenes)