

# Psalms 36

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## Psalms 36

The reason why God allows wicked people to exist on earth

Psalm 36

The wicked are arrogant, godless, and even arrogant and boastful! We can't help but ask, if God is righteous, loving, and good, why does He allow such wicked people to remain in the world?

This poem depicts two different views of life. The life of the wicked is to live in their own world; The other is Jehovah's loving life, which is to live under God's shadow. The psalm contrasts the wicked with Jehovah's righteousness and love, and the worldview refers to how you see the world and you live in it. If you think that there is no god in the world, you are not afraid of God, and you live in an atheistic worldview. The other worldview is the Father's world, where people can be safe under God's shadow with righteousness, faithfulness, love, and divine judgment. These two outlooks on life bring out completely different ways of life. Verse 12: The wicked's worldview will not stand the test and will eventually fall, but Jehovah's world will endure forever.

The wicked feel that there is no God in this world at all. Verse 2: "They know nothing of their sins, neither do they hate their sins." Wicked people always make excuses for their sins to prove that they have not sinned, so they actively ignore their evil deeds and seek inner comfort. Satan deceived Eve with a lie, causing her to doubt the original meaning of God's Word, and thus disobey God's command to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Verses 1-4: The wicked man is tempted by sin, and sin is like the devil tempting him in the heart of a wicked man, so that he should not fear God, and do evil to the fullest, even to the point of boasting and deceiving himself: that his wickedness and iniquity will not be discovered. The words of the wicked are not truthful, but are based on lies. The wicked speak evil words from their mouths, and they continue to think evil things during the night. God's mercy is to give people a chance to repent, and the reason why God allows the wicked to remain in the world is not to let the wicked continue to do evil, but actually to

give the wicked a chance to repent. God has His time, and the wicked will eventually face the end he deserves.

A God-fearing person thinks very highly of God. A person who does not fear God thinks of God as small. The psalmist David does not feel sorry for himself because of his suffering, he sees God as greater than all his circumstances, he sees God's nature, he sees God everywhere in every environment, and he values God very much. But a person who does not fear God often ignores God in his life, and only thinks of God when he encounters difficulties in life, and David pointed out that God must treat those who know God with love and justice. The psalmist David describes God's mercy as high in the heavens, faithful to the heavens, and God's salvation to those who please God (vv.5–6). God will give to those who are God's own pleasure in the springs of the river, to be satisfied with the fat of the Lord's house, to walk in God's light, and to be guided by God all their lives (vv.8–9). Verse 8, The fatness of the temple of the Lord represents the pleasure and satiation of the temple. The water of the river is the water of the river of life, the fresh living water, and the water of this paradise can make people fresh, happy, awaken the soul, and make people have vitality, inspiration and understanding. Even if there is a heavy problem, there is confidence that you can get past it. This is the source of life, and God is constantly giving new energy, inspiration, and imagination. "In your light we shall see the light." (v.9) God is the Father of light, He looks up to us, and He delights in us. We have the ability to discern in God's light, and we have the wisdom to see through problems, and this is the life of God. When we read the Bible and worship God at a feast and drink the water of the river of Le, our lives become lively, with fresh light and inspiration. In verse 8, the psalmist uses "they", but in verse 9 he uses "we", and the psalmist is initially a detached observer, and later he becomes a part of it, also in the light. Verse 10, God always shows mercy to those who live before Him, and justice to those who are righteous in heart. Walk in righteousness, and God will lift you up. In verse 11, the psalmist uses "I" to be more committed and more trusting of God's protection, not to be trampled on by the proud, and the enemy will be overthrown, so we don't have to be too careful, hand over the wicked to God, as long as we fear God, God will repay us with His justice.

As a person who pleases God with God's heart, David expresses his experience of life in the form of wisdom poems, hoping that we can all learn wisdom from David and become people who are pleasing to God according to God's heart.

Let's pray together.

Thy mercy, O LORD, unto the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches the firmament. Thy righteousness is like a mountain; Your judgment is like an abyss. Lord, enlighten our hearts and remind us that there is something that is not pleasing to you spiritually and in life, and that we may be strengthened to be renewed by the Holy Spirit and live a victorious life. We give thanks and praise for your love, faithfulness, and righteousness, and without the Lord's guidance and support, we cannot overcome those challenges in our own strength. No matter where we are at the high or low point of our lives, no matter what stage we have reached in our spiritual life, you will always be with us, Lord, covering us with your mighty arm, and walking in your light all your life until we see your face.

Pray in the name of the Lord Jesus' victory. amen

## **Psalm 36**

### **Wickedness of Men and Lovingkindness of God.**

To the Chief Musician. *A Psalm* of David the servant of the Lord.

**36** Transgression speaks [like an oracle] to the wicked (godless) [deep] within his heart;  
There is no fear (dread) of God before his eyes.

2

For he flatters *and* deceives himself in his own eyes  
*Thinking* that his sinfulness will not be discovered and hated [by God].

3

The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful;  
He has ceased to be wise *and* to do good.

4

He plans wrongdoing on his bed;  
He sets himself on a path that is not good;  
He does not reject *or* despise evil.

5

Your lovingkindness *and* graciousness, O Lord, extend to the skies,  
Your faithfulness [reaches] to the clouds.

6

Your righteousness is like the mountains of God,  
Your judgments are like the great deep.  
O Lord, You preserve man and beast.

7

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!  
The children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

8

They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house;  
And You allow them to drink from the river of Your delights.

9

For with You is the fountain of life [the fountain of life-giving water];  
In Your light we see light.

10

O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You,  
And Your righteousness (salvation) to the upright in heart.

11

Do not let the foot of the proud [person] overtake me,  
And do not let the hand of the wicked drive me away.

12

There those who [are perverse and] do evil have fallen;  
They have been thrust down and cannot rise.

Psalm 36 is a profound reflection by David on the contrast between the wickedness of the ungodly and the boundless love, faithfulness, and justice of God. It serves as a powerful reminder of God's unwavering love and protection for the righteous, while also warning of the fate of the wicked.

**Full Description of Psalm 36**

Psalm 36 is divided into three sections:

## 1. The Nature of the Wicked (Verses 1-4)

David begins by describing the heart and character of the wicked. He reflects on their arrogance, deceit, and lack of reverence for God. The first four verses paint a vivid picture of how wicked individuals live without fear of God and engage in destructive behaviors.

- Verse 1: "An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes."
  - David starts by acknowledging the evil in the hearts of the wicked, highlighting that they lack the fear of God, which is the foundation of wisdom. This absence of reverence leads them to sinful actions.
- Verse 2: "For in their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin."
  - The wicked are blind to their sin, unable to see their own corruption because of their arrogance and self-deception.
- Verses 3-4: "The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful; they fail to act wisely or do good. Even on their beds they plot evil; they commit themselves to a sinful course and do not reject what is wrong."
  - The wicked's speech is filled with lies, and they plot evil even in their rest, showing that their hearts are continually set on sin. They have no inclination toward righteousness.

## 2. The Nature of God (Verses 5-9)

In contrast to the wicked, David exalts the character of God, emphasizing His enduring love, faithfulness, and righteousness. This section focuses on God's attributes and how they provide refuge and nourishment for all who trust in Him.

- Verse 5: "Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies."
  - God's love is boundless, reaching beyond human understanding. His faithfulness is as high as the heavens, illustrating the vastness and constancy of His commitment to His people.
- Verse 6: "Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals."
  - God's righteousness and justice are depicted as immense and unshakable, likened to mountains and deep waters. His care extends not only to humans but to all creation, highlighting His universal concern.
- Verse 7: "How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings."
  - God's love is priceless, and those who trust in Him find safety and peace under His protection.
- Verse 8-9: "They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light."

- God's provision and blessings are abundant. He provides spiritual nourishment ("the fountain of life") and enlightenment ("in your light we see light"). He satisfies the deepest needs of the soul.

### 3. Prayer for Protection and Judgment (Verses 10-12)

In the final section, David prays for God's continued mercy and protection, asking for the destruction of the wicked and the preservation of the righteous.

- Verse 10: "Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart."
  - David prays for God's love to continue toward the righteous and for His righteousness to guide their lives.
- Verse 11: "May the foot of the proud not come against me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away."
  - He asks for protection from the influence of the proud and wicked, seeking refuge in God's care.
- Verse 12: "See how the evildoers lie fallen—thrown down, not able to rise!"
  - David ends the psalm with a declaration of faith, trusting that the wicked will eventually fall under God's judgment and will not rise again.

### Important Verses from Psalm 36

- Verse 1: "An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes."
  - This verse sets the tone for the psalm, highlighting the fundamental issue of the wicked: they lack the fear of God, which leads them into sin.
- Verse 5: "Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies."
  - This verse expresses the boundless and immeasurable nature of God's love and faithfulness.
- Verse 7: "How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings."
  - This emphasizes the value of God's love and His role as a refuge and protector for His people.
- Verse 9: "For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light."
  - This verse points to God as the source of all life and spiritual enlightenment, central to understanding and living in His will.
- Verse 12: "See how the evildoers lie fallen—thrown down, not able to rise!"

- A declaration of faith in God's final judgment against the wicked, affirming that their evil will ultimately be defeated.
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## Spiritual Influence and Lessons from Psalm 36

### 1. The Importance of Reverence for God

- The psalm begins with a stark contrast between the wicked, who have no fear of God, and the righteous, who are nourished by His love and guidance. This teaches us that reverence for God is foundational to living a righteous life. Without it, we are prone to sin and self-deception, as seen in the wicked described in the first verses.

### 2. God's Boundless Love and Faithfulness

- Verses 5-9 highlight the incomprehensible nature of God's love and faithfulness. This reassures us that, regardless of the trials we face, God's love is unshakable and abundant. He provides refuge and sustenance to those who trust in Him. In times of difficulty, these verses remind us that we can always find comfort and strength in God's promises.

### 3. Trusting in God's Righteous Judgment

- The psalm concludes with a prayer for the protection of the righteous and the judgment of the wicked. This teaches us to trust in God's justice, even when it seems that evil prospers. The final victory belongs to God, and we can have confidence that the wicked will not prevail forever.

### 4. God as the Fountain of Life

- In verse 9, we are reminded that God is the source of life. All spiritual vitality comes from Him, and we must continually seek His presence for nourishment. This speaks to the necessity of a deep, ongoing relationship with God to experience the fullness of life.

### 5. The Call to Take Refuge in God's Love

- Verse 7 speaks of the refuge found in the "shadow of God's wings," symbolizing His protection. We are reminded to take refuge in God, especially when facing difficulties or when the forces of evil seem overwhelming. His protection is sure and His love is our shelter.
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## Conclusion

Psalm 36 is a powerful contrast between the wicked and the righteous, ultimately emphasizing the boundless love, righteousness, and faithfulness of God. It invites believers to reflect on the destructive nature of sin and the essential need for reverence toward God. The psalm also reassures us of God's unending love and protection, providing spiritual sustenance and security to those who seek refuge in Him. Finally, it calls us to trust in God's justice, knowing that He will one day judge the wicked and uphold the righteous.

