

Psalms 58

No copyright materials are used in this text

The summary and interpretation of the specific chapter and verses
are from the Bible, they are religious text
that is in the public domain.

Free to Copy and Distribute: Spread the Word!

(Peter Lok)駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

Psalms 58

Psalm 58: A Plea for God' s Justice
A new poetic rendering

O God, bring judgment on the wicked!

Do you speak, yet silence justice?

You who sit on lofty thrones,

Are your scales truly balanced?

Your hearts are twisted,

Your hands drip with violence,

Weighing cruelty, not righteousness,

Upon this wounded land.

From birth, the wicked stray from light,

Their first words weave deceit.

Like vipers, their tongues spit venom,

Deaf to wisdom' s call.

No plea, no warning sways them—

They stand unmoved, cold as stone.

O God, shatter their fangs!

O Lord, crush their snarling jaws!

Let them vanish like fleeting streams,
Their arrows snapped before they fly.
Like snails dissolving in their tracks,
Like unborn children, never seeing dawn,
Let them sink into the dust.

Before their fires can blaze,
A tempest sweeps them away—
Flames, fuel, and all, consumed.
Judgment storms in; they cannot flee.

The righteous will rejoice at vengeance,
Their feet washed in the wicked' s blood—
Not for spite, but for proof:
Justice still reigns in the world.

And one day, voices will rise, proclaiming:
“Yes! The upright will be rewarded!
There is a God who judges rightly on earth!”

Psalms 58

Amplified Bible

Prayer for the Punishment of the Wicked.

To the Chief Musician; set to [the tune of] “Do Not Destroy.” A Mikhtam of David. [A record of memorable thoughts of David].

58 Do you indeed speak righteousness, O gods (heavenly beings)?
Do you judge fairly, O sons of men?

2

No, in your heart you devise wrongdoing;
On earth you deal out the violence of your hands.

3

The wicked are estranged from the womb;
These go astray from birth, speaking lies [even twisted partial truths].

4

Their poison is like the venom of a serpent;
They are like the deaf horned viper that stops up its ear,

5

So that it does not listen to the voice of charmers,
Or of the skillful enchanter casting [cunning] spells.

6

O God, break their teeth in their mouth;
Break out the fangs of the young lions, O Lord.

7

Let them flow away like water that runs off;
When he aims his arrows, let them be as headless shafts.

8

Let them be as a snail which melts away (secretes slime) as it goes along,
Like the miscarriage of a woman which never sees the sun.

9

Before your cooking pots can feel the *fire of thorns* [burning under them as fuel],
He will sweep them away with a whirlwind, the green and the burning ones alike.

10

The [unyieldingly] righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance [of God];
He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

11

Men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous;
Surely there is a God who judges on the earth."

Text Overview (Psalm 58 - attributed to David)

This psalm is often classified as an **imprecatory psalm**, meaning it contains curses or prayers for divine judgment upon the wicked. It is a bold, emotional plea for justice from God, especially when earthly rulers or judges fail in their duties.

Text Breakdown (Key Verses from Psalm 58)

Verses 1–2 – A Rebuke of Unjust Rulers

*"Do you rulers indeed speak justly? Do you judge people with equity?
No, in your heart you devise injustice, and your hands mete out violence on the earth."*

David begins by questioning the integrity of those in positions of power. He accuses them of plotting injustice internally and carrying out violence externally. These lines emphasize the **gap between authority and righteousness**.

Verses 3–5 – The Nature of the Wicked

*"Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.
Their venom is like the venom of a snake, like that of a cobra that has stopped its ears,
that will not heed the tune of the charmer, however skillful the enchanter may be."*

David speaks metaphorically, describing the wicked as inherently deceitful and resistant to correction—like a deaf cobra that won't respond to charmers. This suggests **willful rebellion** and **moral deafness**.

Verses 6–9 – A Cry for Divine Justice

*"Break the teeth in their mouths, O God; LORD, tear out the fangs of those lions!
Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short.
May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along, like a stillborn child that never sees the sun."*

David calls on God to **intervene violently** to stop the wicked. The imagery is vivid—broken teeth, vanishing water, melting slugs—expressing a desire for their **complete disempowerment** and removal.

Verses 10–11 – Hope in God's Judgment

*"The righteous will be glad when they are avenged, when they dip their feet in the blood of the wicked.
Then people will say, 'Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth.'"*

The final verses celebrate the idea that **justice will prevail**. Though graphic, the imagery of vengeance reflects a longing for **moral order and divine recompense**.

Reflection and Application

1. The Challenge of Imprecatory Psalms

This psalm is challenging for modern readers because of its harsh tone. But it's a reminder that **the Bible does not shy away from raw human emotion**. David doesn't pretend away his anger—he brings it honestly before God. That teaches us the value of **authentic prayer**.

2. God's Justice vs. Human Injustice

David's lament reflects the frustration we often feel when leaders are corrupt or justice systems fail. Psalm 58 affirms that **God sees injustice** and will one day **act decisively**. It encourages us to hope in **God's ultimate righteousness**, even when human justice falters.

3. The Danger of Misusing Power

This psalm critiques rulers who use their authority for evil. It invites reflection on **how power is used today**—in governments, businesses, churches. The call is for **integrity, fairness, and accountability** in leadership.

4. A Model for Lament

Psalm 58 gives language to the deep ache many feel when witnessing **cruelty, oppression, or deceit**. It reminds us that it is **biblical to cry out for judgment against evil**, especially when we feel helpless to stop it ourselves.

Personal Meditation Questions

- Have I ever been tempted to stay silent in the face of injustice?
- When have I felt the deep longing for God to intervene in evil situations?
- How can I seek justice while also reflecting Christ's love and mercy?