

Valparaíso University

ValpoScholar

Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms

University Archives & Special Collections

2001

Psalm 10

Walter E. Keller
Valparaíso University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms>

Recommended Citation

Keller, Walter E., "Psalm 10" (2001). *Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms*. 11.
<https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms/11>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

Psalm 10

(NRSV)

¹ Why, O LORD, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
² In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor—
let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.

³ For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart,
those greedy for gain curse and renounce the LORD.

⁴ In the pride of their countenance the wicked say,
“God will not seek it out”;
all their thoughts are, “There is no God.”

⁵ Their ways prosper at all times;
your judgments are on high, out of their sight;
as for their foes, they scoff at them.

⁶ They think in their heart, “We shall not be moved;
throughout all generations we shall not meet adversity.”

⁷ Their mouths are filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under their tongues are mischief and iniquity.

⁸ They sit in ambush in the villages;
in hiding places they murder the innocent.

Their eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

⁹ they lurk in secret like a lion in its covert;
they lurk that they may seize the poor;
they seize the poor and drag them off in their net.

¹⁰ They stoop, they crouch,
and the helpless fall by their might.

¹¹ They think in their heart, “God has forgotten,
he has hidden his face, he will never see it.”

¹² Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;
do not forget the oppressed.

¹³ Why do the wicked renounce God,
and say in their hearts, “You will not call us to account”?

¹⁴ But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief,
that you may take it into your hands;
the helpless commit themselves to you;
you have been the helper of the orphan.

- 15 Break the arm of the wicked and evildoers;
seek out their wickedness until you find none.**
- 16 The LORD is king forever and ever;
the nations shall perish from his land.**
- 17 O LORD, you will hear the desire of the meek;
you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear**
- 18 to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed,
so that those from earth may strike terror no more.**

(Psalm 9 and 10 were originally a single acrostic Psalm, consisting of 22 strophes, the first strophe beginning with the first letter of the 22-letter Hebrew alphabet and each strophe thereafter beginning with the next letter. In many ancient manuscripts Psalms 9 and 10 are combined, and appear as a single composition.)

Psalm 10 continues with the same three parties (the Psalmist, the enemies and the wicked, and God) playing their roles in this Psalm (see comments on Psalm 9). In Psalm 9, the wicked were identified primarily as hostile nations; here in Psalm 10, the Psalmist expands his identification of the wicked to include ungodly Jews who are maltreating their fellow Jewish neighbors. Here in Psalm 10, there is a greater urgency because the LORD seems so far away, either indifferent to or unaware of the plight of the Psalmist. The wicked are prospering (verse 4), and they are arrogant (verse 2). They are defying the LORD and getting away with it! Yet the Psalmist is confident that in the end the LORD will hear the meek and do justice (verses 17-18).

Prayer to accompany Psalm 10:

Faithful Lord, remember your people; do not hide your face from our troubles. Father of orphans, wealth of the poor, give us comfort in times of pain, that we might proclaim the joyous news of freedom in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Linger longer over verse 14:

**But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief,
that you may take it into your hands;
the helpless commit themselves to you;
you have been the helper of the orphan.**