

How the Helpless Battle Corruption



*"Arise, O Lord! Punish the wicked, O God! Do not ignore the **helpless!**"* Psalm 10:12 NLT

- Do you recognize corruption all around you, but feel helpless in doing anything about it?

The Psalmist, who wrote Psalm 10, felt helpless about the corruption that surrounded his life. This Psalm reveals the struggle of his heart as he called out to God.

Psalm 9 and 10 used to be one psalm. Psalm 10 seems to have two parts:

- (10:1-11) **The Problem of Corruption**
- (10:12-18) **The Prayer for Correction.**

Notice that the term *"helpless"* is mention **7 times** in the NLT. Verses 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 17. The idea of helplessness is that of one who lacks resources or ability.

Central Lesson:

The Helpless Battle Corruption with Intercessory Prayer

I. Honest Questions

- (V.1) *"O Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide when I am in trouble?"*
- (V.13) *"Why do the wicked get away with despising God? They think, 'God will never call us to account.'"*
- (V.5) (Implied - why do the wicked succeed in everything they do? *"Yet they succeed in everything they do..."*)
- Similar questions from the OT prophet **Habakkuk (1:1-4)** God responded to **Habakkuk (1:5-11)**.

II. Hostile Corruption (10:1-11)

1. The wicked are **arrogant** and prey on the poor (v.2).
2. The wicked openly **flaunt** evil & curse God (v.3). (The word "brag" has the idea of "sings the praises" in Hebrew).
3. The wicked believe & act as if God is **irrelevant** or **non-existent** (v.4). (Hebrew - "there is no God anymore." Or, NIV "in all his thoughts there is no room for God.")
4. The wicked **ignore** future consequences or punishment of their evil (vs.5-6).
5. The wicked constantly spew out **insults, lies, and threats** (v.7).
6. The wicked have a **low value of human life** (vs.8-10).
7. The wicked believe & act as if God is **unaware** of their evil & **powerless** to punish them (v.11).

III. Heart-Felt Prayer

Sometimes we feel so helpless we are at a loss at what to do or how to pray. The Psalms often gives us language for prayer. The Psalms are a valuable source for praying scripture. The Psalmist realized that God is the ultimate authority over the Universe. He can intervene when we are totally powerless and helpless.

1. Ask God to let evil-people be **CAUGHT** in their own schemes (v.2).

*"2 The wicked arrogantly hunt down the poor. Let them be **caught in the evil they plan** for others."*

The book of Esther has a story that illustrates this idea of the wicked being caught in their own evil plans. Haman, who was self-centered and second-in-command to the Persian Empire, was angry at Mordecai, Esther's older cousin because he refused to bow before him in reverence. Haman determined to destroy Mordecai and all the Jews. Haman prepared gallows specifically for Mordecai. However, Esther told her husband, the king, of Haman's scheme to kill Jews, which included her, and Mordecai. Immediately the king sentenced Haman to be hung on the very gallows that Haman prepared for Mordecai. Haman was caught in his own evil plan.

2. Ask God ("Yahweh"), to **RESPOND** (v.12).

*"12 **Arise, O Lord!** Punish the wicked, O God! Do not ignore the helpless!"*

3. Acknowledge that God **SEES** injustice and corruption (v.14).

*"14 But you **see the trouble and grief** they cause. You **take note of it and punish them**. The helpless put their trust in you. You defend the orphans."*

4. Ask God to make evil-people **POWERLESS** (v.15).

*"15 **Break the arms** of these wicked, evil people! Go after them until the last one is destroyed."*

5. Acknowledge God as the **SUPREME** ruler over the universe (v.16).

*"16 **The Lord is king forever and ever!** The godless nations will vanish from the land."*

6. Declare faith & trust that...

- God knows the **hopes of the helpless** and that God **HEARS** our prayers (v.17).

*"17 Lord [Yahweh], you know the **hopes of the helpless**. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them."*

- God will bring **JUSTICE** (v.18).

*"18 You will bring **justice** to the orphans and the oppressed, so mere people can no longer terrify them."*

Suggested Prayer: "Heavenly Father, let the corrupt be caught in their own schemes. Let them fall into their own pit. Arise, dear Lord, hear our prayer and act. We acknowledge that You see all injustice and corruption around us. Deal with the wicked and make them powerless. You, Lord Almighty God, are King over the Universe forever and ever. We declare our faith and trust in You. You know our hopes and our hearts. Although we are helpless, You are All-powerful. You will bring justice to the helpless and remove our fears. We declare that You are our God and we are Your people. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen!"

Central Lesson: The Helpless Battle Corruption with Intercessory Prayer

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.