



## Psalm 10

Written over 2000 years ago, yet this psalm could have been written today. Words of lament, questions and complaint open this psalm. We can read these words as a challenge to how the poor are treated in terms of their poverty but there is a larger picture.

Why, God? Why do you keep away?  
Why hide yourself when trouble strikes?  
The wicked persecute the poor  
and become the cause of their misery.

These villains boast about what they want;  
they curse God in their desire to get more.  
Listen to their arrogance when they declare,  
'God has forgotten who we are and what we do.'

As long as they get their way,  
They think they will not be defeated.

As a group, the rich and powerful persecuted the poor in this psalm so we have heard how a small group of extremely rich abuse their positions of power.

Elon Musk, then working for the US president, Trump said it was time for US Agency for International Development 'to die'. This agency provided food and medical care as part of relief programmes. Bill Gates, the world's former richest man said of Musk 'The picture of the world's richest man killing the world's poorest children is not a pretty one.' Stark words but they make the point.

\*Peter Graystone in his reflection on Psalm 10 writes



*The question to which we don't have an answer is: why doesn't God intervene to stop injustice? (v.1). The writers of the Bible wrestled with this as much as we do. The psalm doesn't give an explanation, but it does show us how to pray on behalf of the world's poorest people. We start by acknowledging that we need God, because he is able to do things we cannot ('Arise O Lord God', v.12). We ask God to take the world's 'trouble and misery' into his hands,*

*knowing that this is something he longs to do (v.14). And we pray in confidence that the final destiny of creation is for God to take control and restore justice 'for ever and ever' (v.17).*

Rise up, God, reach out your hand!  
Spare a thought for the victims.  
They commit themselves to your care;  
The helpless see you as their helper.

Defeat the power of the wicked  
until they can do no more evil;  
put an end to the trouble they cause.

Listen to the pleas of the innocent;  
hear them, give them courage.  
Bring justice to those who are oppressed;  
So that humans cause terror no more.

Let us spend some time and respond to Peter's suggestions:

- ❖ *acknowledging that we need God, because he is able to do things we cannot*
- ❖ *ask God to take the world's 'trouble and misery' into his hands, knowing that this is something he longs to do*
- ❖ *pray in confidence that the final destiny of creation is for God to take control and restore justice 'for ever and ever'*

**Prayer:**

*When wickedness triumphs  
and the poor are betrayed,  
come to your kingdom, strong and holy God,  
destroy the masks of evil  
and reign in our broken hearts;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. (from Reflections on the Psalms)*

Click the links below to hear two versions of Psalm 10, from two different traditions, the Psalms Projects psalms often have a long introduction.



**Psalm 10, King James Version | KJV Acapella Singing**

**<https://youtu.be/o8pym9UxTwM?si=Rdu4rqO0IT8Q1iXu>**

**The Psalms Project Psalm 10**

**<https://youtu.be/vZFZ8lb87Uw?si=zR1XaGpr-u40fIiK>**

**Psalm 10**  
**New King James Version**

Why do You stand afar off, O Lord?  
*Why* do You hide in times of trouble?  
<sup>2</sup> The wicked in *his* pride persecutes the poor;  
Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

<sup>3</sup> For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire;  
He blesses the greedy *and* renounces the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek *God*;  
God *is* in none of his thoughts.

<sup>5</sup> His ways are always prospering;  
Your judgments *are* far above, out of his sight;  
*As for* all his enemies, he sneers at them.

<sup>12</sup> Arise, O Lord!  
O God, lift up Your hand!  
Do not forget the humble.

The helpless commits<sup>[a]</sup> himself to You;  
You are the helper of the fatherless.

<sup>15</sup> Break the arm of the wicked and the evil *man*;  
Seek out his wickedness *until* You find none.

<sup>17</sup> Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble;

You will prepare their heart;  
You will cause Your ear to hear,

<sup>18</sup> To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,  
That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

**Psalm 10**  
**Iona Community**

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## Acknowledgements

### Iona Community Worship Book

The Psalms selected are taken from the Psalms used by the Iona Community and are taken from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications 2017. The material can be used for non-commercial use without written permission.

**Reflections on the Psalms App** (hymnsam.co.uk), also available as a paperback  
**\*Peter Graystone** works for Church Army and has been a columnist for the Church Times and contributor to Reflections on the Psalms

### The Bible Project

<https://youtu.be/j9phNEaPrv8?si=dRDQmIMWLzRZcNGH>



**The Psalms Project**, which is independent from the **Bible Project**. It is endeavouring to produce a new sung versions of each of the psalms.

### Psalm 10

<https://youtu.be/vZFZ8lb87Uw?si=zR1XaGpr-u40fIiK>

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Candle image

White candles in the Basilica of San Domenico in Siena, Italy.  
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(Derek is an Honorary Associate Priest (All Saints & St James and St Stephen's, Elton) Prior to his ordination he was accredited as a Methodist Preacher in 1968 and served within the Methodist Church until returning to the Anglican Church in the mid 1980's)

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The dual Parishes of Kirklees Valley, Bury, (All Saints, Elton & St James, Woolfold) and St Stephens, Elton are in the Diocese of Manchester.

Vicar of the two parishes - Fr. Samuel Eccleston O.P. (Anglican Order of Preachers-Dominicans)