

Rhema Christian Center  
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Triumphant Tuesday Bible Study  
Psalms 94 (NLT)  
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## Introduction

Psalm 94 is listed among what we call the Royal Psalms, meaning that these Psalm deal with the king as God's anointed persons of leadership; many of the Psalms are prayers for the wisdom of the king, his long life or success in battle. Some of the Psalms are prophetic that point to the ideal future king, the Messiah, or the King of kings. Psalm 94 is a prayer for God to bring justice on the wicked; this psalm also offers a desperate voice of lamenting. Since the phrase "Judge of the earth" is stated in verse 2 this phase is equivalent to "King", therefore Psalm 94 is listed among the Royal Psalms. There is no known time frame or author for this Psalm. This Psalm is possibly dated to 588 BC during the time of the scripture ***Jerimiah 39:10 - ("Nebuzaradan allowed some of the poorest people to stay behind in the land of Judah, and was assigned to care for the vineyards and fields")*** the Babylonians burned down the royal palace, the Temple, and all the homes of the people. The walls of Jerusalem were leveled. The king's bodyguard, rounded up everyone that was left in the city, along with those who had surrendered, and herded them off to exile in Babylon. The poorest of the people was left behind in the land of Judah to eke out a living as best they could. To **eke out means, to make a living as best you can, to barely make it**, in today's time would be picking up change off the street (if there is any to be found).

Another possible time frame for this Psalm would be of 686 BCE, during the reign of Manasseh (**see 2 Kings 21:1-18**) his 55-year reign filled Israel not only with legal injustices but spiritual wickedness as well. Manasseh rebuilt high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed. Manasseh opposed the reforms of his father Hezekiah and he brough Judah back into idolatry. Under

Manasseh, the whole land, the whole nation, was given over to sin of unspeakable corruption and wickedness. But this is not how the Manasseh story ends. If we only read 2 Kings, we would believe that Manasseh died unrepentant, this requires further reading of **2 Chronicles 32:33-33:20**. Both Manasseh and the nation provoked God to such an extent that he would no longer tolerate them. He would bring down his just judgment upon them. "It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrew 10:31 NLT).

Psalms 93-100 are Psalms to acknowledge first that God is Israel's true King. Psalm 94, reminds the earthly king of something else- and that is that the earthly king is accountable to God for everything that happens during his reign. The psalm was probably sung by the poor in Israel, by those most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. This psalm reminds the king that God sees everything, including the king's thoughts, and that someday God would judge fully and completely.

Apostle Paul put a high priority on prayer for kings and all who are in authority (**1 Timothy 2:1-3**). We are to pray for all who are in authority. We are to pray for wisdom and direction upon our leaders and that they remember their accountability to God.

When it comes to dealing with the injustices in society, this psalm teaches us that the righteous have four responsibilities, they are as follows:

Praying to the Lord for Justice 1-7

Warning the Wicked of Their Danger 8-11

Accepting God's Discipline 12-15

Working with God for Justice 16-23

**Praying to the Lord for Justice 1-7**

*1 O Lord, the God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, let our glorious justice shine forth!*

*2 Arise, O Judge of the earth. Give the proud what they deserve.*

*3 How long, O Lord? How long will the wicked be allowed to gloat?*

*4 How long will they speak with arrogance? How long will these evil people boast?*

*5 They crush your people, Lord, hurting those you claim as your own.*

*6 They kill widows and foreigners and murder orphans.*

*7 "The Lord isn't looking," they say, "and besides, the God of Israel doesn't care."*

The psalmist has no confidence in the leaders, that should have been the avengers of all the poor, the wronged and the distressed. The psalmist has confidence in God and knows him as the Judge of the earth; he is asking God to shine forth, meaning to reveal his power and glory, he wants the Lord to act immediately to punish them. To the psalmist, this horrible treatment has been going on for too long; and the leaders are being boastful about their treatment of them!

Psalm 94:2 goes on to say, ***give the proud what they deserve***, yes, our fleshly mindset is to retaliate. **Roman 12:2** needed daily - ***"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think" NLT.***

***Beloved, don't be obsessed with taking revenge, but leave that to God's righteous justice, for the scripture say: vengeance is mine, and I will repay." Says the Lord. (Romans 12:19 TPT)***

God is holy, there is no evil mixed in with his goodness; God is both great and good. God always acts in a righteous manner

because his nature is holy. God's self-restraints are perfect and His timing is always best.

***The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think, No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (2 Peter 3:9)***

God knows that His enemies speak with arrogance and that they boast and have no compassion for others at all. They have no conscience, and they do not believe in the living God. They do whatever it takes to put them ahead, and they say anything that is convenient to say, the worst part is after they have done their dirt and been successful at it, they brag.

***He comes to execute judgement against them all and to convict each one of them for their ungodly deeds and for all the terrible words that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (Jude 1:15 TPT)***

Widows, orphans, and anybody that is from another ethnic group, no matter what category they might represent in today's terms; the Word of God has plenty to say regarding these people who are easy prey, because they have no one to stand up for them and cannot help themselves, these are the very people that God has told all believers to help.

***Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough; you've let the wicked get away with murder. You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them. (Psalm 82:3 MSG)***

***The wicked think "God isn't watching us! He has closed his eyes and won't even see what we do!" (Psalm 10:11 NLT)***

God sees everything and it is recorded for future reference, there will be punishment for all sin that has not been forgiven.

***The Lord is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good. (Proverb 15:3 NLT)***

### **Warning the Wicked of Their Danger 8-11**

*8 Think again, you fools! When will you finally catch on?*

*9 Is he deaf-the one who made your ears? Is he blind-the one who formed your eyes?*

*10 He punishes the nations-won't he also punish you? He knows everything-doesn't he also know what you are doing?*

*11 The Lord knows people's thoughts; he knows they are worthless!*

The Psalmist calls on the wicked to have regard to the truth. He bids them to understand and consider, if they can, three questions. They thought themselves to be wise, and indeed the only men of wit in the world; but the psalmist calls them wicked fools, and the more they know, the more foolish they become. The three questions were: Can God hear? Can God, see? God punishes the nations-will not he also punish you?

YES! To all three questions!

***They are stupid! Senseless! And ignorant! Acting like a brute beast before you Lord. (Psalms 73:22 TPT)***

People's thoughts in verse 11 means, inventions, schemes, plans. The crooked plans and plots of these evil leaders cannot be hidden from the Lord, nor will they go unpunished. Even in good thoughts there is a want of being fixed, which might be called vanity.

The psalmist being a godly man felt a need to speak to these sinful men in hopes of appealing to them to reconsider their sinful ways and repent.

***Hebrew3:15 "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled (NLT)***

***(AMP) states, while there is still opportunity.***

## **Accepting God's Discipline 12-15**

*12 Joyful are those you discipline, Lord, those you teach with your instructions.*

*13 You give them relief from troubled times until a pit is dug to capture the wicked.*

*14 The Lord will not reject his people; he will not abandon his special possession.*

*15 Judgment will again be founded on justice, and those with virtuous hearts will pursue it.*

The questions are asked: How could God allow them to be mistreated for such a long period of time? Why was God allowing them to suffer, and when would relief come?

The psalmist is aware that the difficulties of life could help him mature in his faith. He views his troubles as part of God's education. And God knows that if he immediately rescues His people from their personal difficulties, they would become spoiled brats and never grow in faith or character.

***Hebrew 12:11 states, no discipline is enjoyable while it is happening, it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.***

There are several facts regarding the Lord's discipline of believers:

- 1** Being discipline is a sign that we are God's children (**Heb 5:7-8**)
- 2** Being discipline is an assurance of God's love and concern for us (**Heb 5:6**)

3 The Lord's discipline has two purposes:

(a) That we might not be finally condemned with the world **(1Cor 11:31-32)**

(b) That we might share God's holiness and continue to live sanctified lives without which we will never see the Lord **(Heb 12:10-11,14)**

4 There are two possible consequences of the Lord's discipline:

(a) We may endure the hardships God leads us through, submit to God's will and continue to remain faithful **(Heb 12:5-6)** By doing this we will continue to live as God's spiritual children **(Heb 12:7-9)** and share his holiness (Heb 12:10) it will yield the harvest of righteousness **(Heb 12:11)**.

(b) We may "make light of" the discipline of our Father **(Heb 12:5)**, rebel against God because of suffering and hardship, and thereby fall away from God **(Heb 12:25; 3:12-14)**

5 Under God's will, trouble may come:

(a) as a result of spiritual warfare with Satan **(Eph 6:11-18)**

(b) as a test to strengthen our faith **(1Pe 1:6-7)** and our works **(Mt 7:24-27; 1Co 3:13-15)**

© as a preparation for us to comfort others **(2Co 1:3-5)** and to manifest the life of Christ **(2Co 4:8-10,12,16)**

6 In all kinds of adversity we must seek God, examine our lives **(2Ch 26:5; Ps 3:4; 9:12; 34:17)** and forsake all that is contrary to his holiness **(Heb 12:10,14)**

How might we have peace during adversity?

- A. Stop talking about the issue to any and every one that will listen; victory comes when we stop talking (to any and every one) and start praying (talking) to God
- B. Is it as bad as you think/say it is, has the adversary slipped you a "what if" pill (nothing has happened yet)
- C. Let go and let God, trust God through the issue

D. Remember the root cause of “lack of peace” the devil, he works through individuals closest to you or circumstances

The righteous are privileged to suffer now so that they will not suffer later. The wicked may prosper now, but ultimately, they will suffer the wrath of God for their sin. The Book of Hebrews encourages the saints to accept present suffering for righteousness’ to experience God’s eternal blessings.

Moses is a good example, when he had grown up, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; he chose mistreatment with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king. **(Heb 11:24-27).**

Apostle Paul considered present suffering a small thing considering the eternal blessings of God.

The promises of God’s Word provide great comfort for the righteous. God provides relief and rest for this blessed psalmist. The longer the wicked persist in their sin, the deeper is the pit they are digging for themselves. This servant will wait in patience, unmoved and safe

The psalmist is inspired with confidence and calmness, even when the wicked arrogantly triumph over him. God has shown him in his word that the pit is being dug; and if they repent not, the wicked will fall and perish. The good man has inward rest during outward affliction and persecution. His enemies may oppress him, but they cannot invade his peace.

### **Working with God for Justice 16-23**

*16 Who will protect me from the wicked? Who will stand up for me against evildoers?*

*17 Unless the Lord had helped me, I would soon have settled in the silence of the grave.*



*18 I cried out, "I am slipping!" but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me.*

*19 When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.*

*20 Can unjust leaders claim that God is on their side-leaders whose decrees permit injustice?*

*21 They gain up against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.*

*22 But the Lord is my fortress; my God is the mighty rock where I hide.*

*23 God will turn the sins of evil people back on them. He will destroy them for their sins. The Lord our God will destroy them.*

The psalmist thoughts are, who will protect me and stand up for me against the evildoers? I have no family member, no friend or officer of the court to help. The psalmist had many troubled thoughts concerning the situation he was in, concerning the course of action he should take, and what was likely to be the end of it. He was starting to feel gloomy and confused as we sometimes do. Once we look to the great and precious promises of God as the psalmist did, then we know that our rescue comes only from the Lord.

In Jesus hour of crisis, all the disciples deserted him; Paul, in prison, all had abandoned him. No one came to his defense and no one stood by his side; but he asked that it not be counted against them. Paul stated that the Lord stood with him and gave him strength, that he might preach the Good News for all to hear and the Lord rescued him from certain death (**2 Tim 4:16-17**).

Whenever the psalmist felt that he was slipping, he would cry out to the Lord, he found himself sustained by the mercy of the Lord. God's faithfulness not only delivers us from danger, His comfort delivers us from dread and anxiety. God is more than a mighty warrior, who stations Himself before us in times of battle. He is also a mighty counselor, who comforts us in times of mental

stress. Such consolation comes from the promises of God's Word and the protection He has personally provided for us in times past.

***Rm 9:15 NLT states, For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."***

Unjust leaders claimed that God was on their side. The psalmist knew that the judges were twisting the law to exploit the poor. They pass laws which permit them to sin or I should say, promote sin. The power of government no longer punished evil-doers but promoted wickedness. In their wicked minds, God delay was interpreted as an approval of the administration of the wicked. Instead of being in harmony with God's Law, it had become a rival. It had come to do what God's Law never does. It worked toward injustice and unrighteousness. God's Law is "holy, and just and good." What was unbearable to the psalmist was, that the leaders of his day claimed to be acting according to law, seeking to hide their unrighteousness by a holy name.

***Ps 58:2 MSG reads, is this any way to run a country? Is there an honest politician in the house? Behind the scenes you weave webs of deceit, behind closed doors you make deals with demons.***

The original law of the United States was based upon God's law, the laws today are more twisted and perverted than ever. The trend has quickly grown, with transgender-identified celebrities making headlines and drag queens reading story times at schools and libraries. There are legal and ethical challenges as transgender-identified people compete on sports teams and the use of public restroom of their non-biological sex. There is an increasingly number of parents allowing their underage children to alter their bodies chemically and surgically, and several states now permit minors to do so without their parents' consent.

***Deut 32:5 NLT reads, “But they have acted corruptly toward him; when they act so perversely, are they really his children? They are a deceitful and twisted generation.***

Saints, we cannot go along with the world and be on God’s side. There is a conspiracy by the devil and his followers to destroy everything that uplifts God. They condemned the innocent, when they condemned our leader Jesus Christ. The tactics of the enemy have not changed; they are still out to destroy the followers of the Lord. We are to wear the full Armor of God (**Eph 6:10-18**). Stand up and be counted as the righteous.

In the end, the psalmist knew that God, held him up, pulled him out and gave him peace within. We must give thanks always, that we have the Lord as our refuge and fortress. We hide in Him, not that we may escape responsibility, but that we might be equipped to go forth and fight the enemy. As the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt 5:13-16), God’s people should do all they can to encourage justice in this world. But in the end, it is the Lord who knows the hearts of people and He will judge justly.

### *Resources*

*Bible (NLT)*

*Warren W Wiersbe Exposition Commentary*

*Believer’s Bible Commentary, William Macdonald*

*The Reformation Study Bible (Ligonier Ministries)*

*The Full Life Study Bible (Zondervan)*

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