

Tehillim / Psalms 10, "why do the wicked prosper?" ①

• Reading and studying Commentaries (Thought Process).

→ This commentary

- Part 1 my verse-by-verse commentary

- Part 2

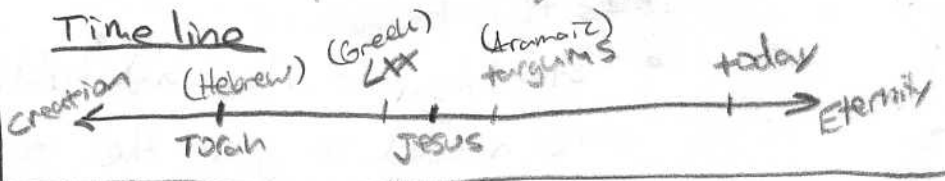
↳ Christian Commentary
"International comm. on the psalms"
Driver, Plumer, and Briggs

↳ Rabbinic Commentary
Midrash (מדרש)

Or simply
sitting and
reading
scripture

- a way of interpreting
scripture that goes beyond
simple distillation of
religious, moral, and legal
teachings.

- homiletic method
- parallels in scripture
- parables, etc.



Socratic Method

Questions:

1. According to the midrash, the rabbis say this or that, does this make sense?
2. Do the words of the scriptures make sense? (or Midrash)
3. What exegetical problem do statements in the Midrash face?
4. What is the Peshat (simple) meaning of the scripture or Midrash?
5. Does the Midrashic argument make sense? or does it seem forced?
6. If the latter (forced), what may be motivating such a forced interpretation?
7. Where do you think these ideas or concepts come from and why? Is it from tradition (Jewish or Christian)?
8. Any outside influences, cultural, or foreign nations?

Psalms 10:1 "Why do you stand afar off, O Lord?
Why do you hide Yourself in times
of trouble?"

(2)

→ This Psalm does not begin as the previous Psalms with an introductory line that describes the purpose of the Psalm.

→ Why does the Lord seem to Hide Himself in troubling times?
• What is the purpose of the Lord tarrying?
• Is this meant for us to learn to rely upon the Lord, to look to Him?

Aramaic Translation

"Why, O Lord, will you stand afar off, hide yourself in the dwelling of the holy ones in the times of distress?"

→ God moves to and fro?

→ What is the "dwelling place of the holy ones?"

- Is this the tabernacle?
- Is this heaven?
- "standing afar off" and "hiding himself" does this mean one needed to go to the tabernacle to speak with God?

→ parallel with Tehillim/Psalms 7:7

"Let the assembly of the peoples encompass you, and over them return on High." (Referencing Numbers 2)

→ This suggests that when the Lord helps, He descends from Heaven, His Presence moves around.

→ Where is God's presence today?

- In us?

③

Psalms 10:2 "In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; let them be caught in the plots which they have devised."

→ the wicked in "pride, conceit, vanity, loftiness" (אִתְּוֹתָם יִדְּבָר) pursue the soul of the afflicted.

Aramaic translation

"In brutality the wicked man will pursue the poor man; they will be caught in the scheme they plotted to carry out."

→ the text uses אִתְּוֹתָם meaning "rudeness, obscenity, profanity" to describe the way the wicked pursue the poor.

→ when persecution comes, doesn't it come in this way?

Psalms 10:3 "For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire, and the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord."
(Hebrew)

(Aramaic) "For the wicked man is praised for the craving of his soul; he who blesses the violent man abhors the word of the Lord."

(Greek, LXX) "Because the sinner praises himself for the desires of his heart; and the unjust one blesses himself."

- Hebrew → the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord.
- Aramaic → the violent man abhors the word of the Lord.
- Greek → the unjust blesses himself and not God.

* Pride takes us away from the Lord.

Psalms 10:4 "The wicked in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, There is no God."

(Hebrew)

(Aramaic)

"The wicked man in the grossness of his spirit will not seek God, and he will say in his heart that his thoughts are not manifest in the presence of the Lord."

(Greek, LXX)

"The sinner has provoked the Lord, according to the abundance of his pride he will not seek after Him, God is not before him."

→ How do you think pride leads the wicked to not seek God?

- (i) Lust of the flesh
- (ii) Lust of the eyes
- (iii) the pride of life

} Cause us to not trust and rely upon the Lord.

→ 1 John 2:16 (Page 4)

- the wicked boast, give praise, all of which is directed to ones self and not towards God.
- The Father in Heaven draws us to Himself.
 - these ways of the wicked are not from God!

Satan tempted Eve (chava) with these, he also tempted Yeshua in the same ways.

→ The very nature of pride itself is anything in our lives that exalts one above his or her station and provides us with the illusion of control which leads us to have the sense of god-like qualities.

- we are in control and not God.
- I did this, not God
- I'm the one and no one else, etc.

Psalm 51:17

(5)

Psalms 10:5 "His ways prosper at all times; Your judgments are on high, out of his site; As for all his adversaries, he snorts at them."

→ The wicked, their ways appear to prosper at all times

• Psalms 73 - a psalm of Asaph, He was envious of the wicked and his steps almost slipped.

- Danger in looking upon the unrighteous and desiring what they have.

Appearances

- the wicked do not suffer loss
- not plagued like mankind.
- eyes bulge because of their prosperity

Psalms 10:6 "He says to himself, I will not be moved; throughout all generations I will not be in adversity."

(Hebrew)

(Aramaic) "He will say in his heart, I will not be shaken from doing evil for all generations."

(LXX) "For he has said in his heart, I shall not be moved, continuing without evil from generation to generation."

→ the pride of the wicked results in the belief that that they can continue in their ways forever.

Characteristics of the wicked

1. The wicked are sexually immoral
2. The wicked lie, deceive, slander, speak of violence.
3. The wicked get drunk
4. The wicked oppress and scheme against others
5. The wicked are violent
6. The wicked exclude God and lack the fear of God.
7. The wicked target the poor, weak, needy, righteous
8. The wicked are dishonest with money
9. The wicked are cruel and unforgiving
10. The wicked refuse the truth, do not serve God, worship false gods.

The pride of life
the lust of the
flesh.

- (6)
- Through out Scripture there are two types of people the righteous and the wicked, there is no middle ground.
 - why does it appear that the wicked are being blessed?
 - Do we equate happiness and contentment and blessing with money?
 - How does the world understand Happiness?
 - How do we find true happiness?

- the psalms show us the vileness of sin and wickedness.
- It takes only one sin to be indebted to God.

Psalms 10 - walking in unrighteousness & wickedness

- neglect the salvation of God.
- disobeys God's word
- fails to make his heart right with God.

Isaiah 59:2 "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you."

→ since people are not punished immediately for their sins, this does not mean God does not see and does not know about their sins.

* Exodus 34:1-8

"The Lord is gracious, merciful, long suffering, forgiving the iniquity of thousands..."

Thank the Lord for His mercy and slowness to anger, and for sending His son to save us from our sins!