

# There Is a God Who Judges on Earth

Psalm 58 (Page 416 in the BB)

September 18, 2022

Don White

---

## Introduction

For the choir director; set to Al-tashheth. (“according to “Do Not Destroy” ESV; “to the tune of Do Not Destroy” NIV)

A Mikhtam (See Psalms 16, 56-60) of David.

**Psalm 58** is a prayer to God for God to bring judgment on the wicked because of the abuse of power by unjust rulers. This psalm also anticipates the fulfillment of God’s judgment on the wicked in which the righteous will rejoice.

## Tyrants on Trial (1-2)

### Questions:

<sup>1</sup>**Do you indeed speak righteousness, O gods?** (“Do you indeed speak righteousness, you silent ones?” NKJV)

Psalm 82:1-8

**Do you judge uprightly, O sons of men?**

### Indictments:

<sup>2</sup>**No,**

**in heart you work unrighteousness;**

**On earth you weigh out the violence of your hands.**

Mark 7:20-23

## **The Tyrants' Character (3-5)**

### **They are radically corrupt from birth.**

**<sup>3</sup>The wicked are estranged from the womb;**

**These who speak lies go astray from birth.**

Psalm 51:5

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
And in sin did my mother conceive me."

Romans 3:9-26

They are dangerous, deadly and determined.

**<sup>4</sup>They have venom like the venom of a serpent;**

**Like a deaf cobra that stops up its ear,**

**<sup>5</sup>So that it does not hear the voice of charmers,**

**Or a skillful caster of spells.**

Matthew 13:14-15 (Isaiah 6:9-10)

## **Praying against Tyrants (6-9)**

**<sup>6</sup>O God,  
shatter their teeth in their mouth;**

**Break out the fangs of the young lions,  
O LORD.**

**<sup>7</sup>Let them flow away like water that runs off;**

**When he aims his arrows,**

**let them be as headless shafts.**

**<sup>8</sup>Let them be**

**as a snail which melts away as it goes along,**

**Like the miscarriages of a woman which never see the sun.**

**<sup>9</sup>Before your pots can feel the fire of thorns**

**He will sweep them away with a whirlwind,**

**the green and the burning alike.**

### **The Response of the Righteous When the Wicked are Judged (10-11)**

#### **The joy of the righteous**

**<sup>10</sup>The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance;  
He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.**

Psalm 52:5-7

Revelation 6:9-11

### **The Universal Acknowledgement of God's Just Judgments**

**<sup>11</sup>And men will say,**

**“Surely there is a reward for the righteous;**

**Surely there is a God who judges on earth!”**

Genesis 18:25

“Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated* alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”

Psalm 1

## **Application:**

### **How can Christians Pray Imprecatory Psalms?**

These are prayers not curses.

#### **Matthew 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup>Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.

They are prayers for God to do what He has promised to do, in His covenant.

Acts 17:30-31

These prayers are against God’s enemies, and assume that the Psalmist’s enemies are the same as God’s enemies:

Conversion is a possible way in which these prayers may be answered.

These prayers are against hardened sinners.

**Christopher Ash. Teaching the Psalms, Volume one – From text to message. Christian Focus Publications, Ltd, 2017 (Pp.129-34).**

I would add to the above that when we pray this psalm we search our own hearts and confess our sins first.

Romans 2

Matthew 7:1-5