

Finding Hope in the Darkness | Day 2: Psalms 10–17 Audio Bible for Reflection & Strength

77 verses • 7:42 reading time • World English Bible

Psalm 10

¹Why do you stand far off, LORD? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ²In arrogance, the wicked hunt down the weak. They are caught in the schemes that they devise. ³For the wicked boasts of his heart's cravings. He blesses the greedy and condemns the LORD. ⁴The wicked, in the pride of his face, has no room in his thoughts for God. ⁵His ways are prosperous at all times. He is arrogant, and your laws are far from his sight. As for all his adversaries, he sneers at them. ⁶He says in his heart, "I shall not be shaken. For generations I shall have no trouble." ⁷His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression. Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity. ⁸He lies in wait near the villages. From ambushes, he murders the innocent. His eyes are secretly set against the helpless. ⁹He lurks in secret as a lion in his ambush. He lies in wait to catch the helpless. He catches the helpless when he draws him in his net. ¹⁰The helpless are crushed. They collapse. They fall under his strength. ¹¹He says in his heart, "God has forgotten. He hides his face. He will never see it." ¹²Arise, LORD! God, lift up your hand! Don't forget the helpless. ¹³Why does the wicked person condemn God, and say in his heart, "God won't call me into account"? ¹⁴But you do see trouble and grief. You consider it to take it into your hand. You help the victim and the fatherless. ¹⁵Break the arm of the wicked. As for the evil man, seek out his wickedness until you find none. ¹⁶The LORD is King forever and ever! The nations will perish out of his land. ¹⁷LORD, you have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart. You will cause your ear to hear, ¹⁸to judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that man who is of the earth may terrify no more.

Psalm 11

¹For the Chief Musician. By David. In the LORD, I take refuge. How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? ²For, behold, the wicked bend their bows. They set their arrows on the strings, that they may shoot in darkness at the upright in heart. ³If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? ⁴The LORD is in his holy temple. The LORD is on his throne in heaven. His eyes observe. His eyes examine the children of men. ⁵The LORD examines the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and him who loves violence. ⁶On the wicked he will rain blazing coals; fire, sulfur, and scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. ⁷For the LORD is righteous. He loves righteousness. The upright shall see his face.

Psalm 12

¹For the Chief Musician; upon an eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm of David. Help, LORD; for the godly man ceases. For the faithful fail from among the children of men. ²Everyone lies to his neighbor. They speak with flattering lips, and with a double heart. ³May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that boasts, ⁴who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail. Our lips are our own. Who is lord over us?" ⁵"Because of the oppression of the weak and because of the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the LORD; "I will set him in safety from those who malign him." ⁶The LORD's words are flawless words, as silver refined in a clay furnace, purified seven times. ⁷You will keep them, LORD. You will preserve them from this generation forever. ⁸The wicked walk on every side, when what is vile is exalted among the sons of men.

Psalm 13

¹For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ²How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart every day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me? ³Behold, and answer me, LORD, my God. Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death; ⁴lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him;" lest my adversaries rejoice when I fall. ⁵But I trust in your loving kindness. My heart rejoices in your salvation. ⁶I will sing to the LORD, because he has been good to me.

Psalm 14

¹For the Chief Musician. By David. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have done abominable deeds. There is no one who does good. ²The LORD looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who understood, who sought after God. ³They have all gone aside. They have together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, no, not one. ⁴Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and don't call on the LORD? ⁵There they were in great fear, for God is in the generation of the righteous. ⁶You frustrate the plan of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge. ⁷Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, then Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

Psalm 15

¹A Psalm by David. LORD, who shall dwell in your sanctuary? Who shall live on your holy hill? ²He who walks blamelessly and does what is right, and speaks truth in his heart; ³he who doesn't slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his friend, nor casts slurs against his fellow man; ⁴in whose eyes a vile man is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; he who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and doesn't change; ⁵he who doesn't lend out his money for usury, nor take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be shaken.

Psalm 16

¹A Poem by David. Preserve me, God, for I take refuge in you. ²My soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord. Apart from you I have no good thing." ³As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the excellent ones in whom is all my delight. ⁴Their sorrows shall be multiplied who give gifts to another god. Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take their names on my lips. ⁵The LORD assigned my portion and my cup. You made my lot secure. ⁶The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places. Yes, I have a good inheritance. ⁷I will bless the LORD, who has given me counsel. Yes, my heart instructs me in the night seasons. ⁸I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices. My body shall also dwell in safety. ¹⁰For you will not leave my soul in Sheol, neither will you allow your holy one to see corruption. ¹¹You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy. In your right hand there are pleasures forever more.

Psalm 17

¹A Prayer by David. Hear, LORD, my righteous plea. Give ear to my prayer that doesn't go out of deceitful lips. ²Let my sentence come out of your presence. Let your eyes look on equity. ³You have proved my heart. You have visited me in the night. You have tried me, and found nothing. I have resolved that my mouth shall not disobey. ⁴As for the deeds of men, by the word of your lips, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent. ⁵My steps have held fast to your paths. My feet have not slipped. ⁶I have called on you, for you will answer me, God. Turn your ear to me. Hear my speech. ⁷Show your marvelous loving kindness, you who save those who take refuge by your right hand from

their enemies. ⁸ Keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me under the shadow of your wings, ⁹ from the wicked who oppress me, my deadly enemies, who surround me. ¹⁰ They close up their callous hearts. With their mouth they speak proudly. ¹¹ They have now surrounded us in our steps. They set their eyes to cast us down to the earth. ¹² He is like a lion that is greedy of his prey, as it were a young lion lurking in secret places. ¹³ Arise, LORD, confront him. Cast him down. Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, ¹⁴ from men by your hand, LORD, from men of the world, whose portion is in this life. You fill the belly of your cherished ones. Your sons have plenty, and they store up wealth for their children. ¹⁵ As for me, I shall see your face in righteousness. I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with seeing your form.