

PSALM 14 SONS OF ADAM

- 1. WHO DENY GOD**
- 2. WHO PERSECUTE THE FAITHFUL**
- 3. WHO LONG FOR SALVATION**

¹*The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They have done abominable works. There is none who does good.* ²*The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men [the sons of Adam], to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.* ³*They have all turned aside. They have together become corrupt. There is none who does good, No, not one.*

⁴*Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge—who eat up my people as they eat bread—and do not call on the LORD?* ⁵*There they are in great fear; for God is with the generation of the righteous.* ⁶*You shame the counsel of the poor [the afflicted], but the LORD is his refuge.*

⁷*Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back [turns to] the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!*

If I were to ask you to “separate the sons of Adam” into groups, you might say, “Well, the Bible tells us of Cain the murderer, Abel the murdered one, Seth the replacement for Abel, and then other sons and daughters.” Correct. If I said, Separate into groups the sons of Adam today, you might separate them according to race, “Whites, Blacks, and various shades in between.” You might also separate them according to continents. “North Americans, South Americans, Europeans, Africans, Asians, Australians.” Also correct. This morning, Psalm 14 has a division of its own. 1. Those Who Deny God 2. Those Who Persecute the Faithful 3. Those Who Long for Salvation.

This Psalm, or Old Testament hymn, was written by King David (as the heading identifies). King David lived about 1000 years before the birth of the Savior. King David, in fact, was the great-great-great-etc. grandfather of Jesus. King David was the most well-beloved king Israel had. Jesus our Savior is our even-more-well-beloved King. The exact circumstance in David's life, when he wrote this psalm, is unknown. We simply conclude that he was facing scorn and oppression by evil ones. He sought God's help.

David looked at people in the world, and by the Holy Spirit concluded, *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."* The “fool” is the person in whom there is no wisdom at all—“wisdom,” not academic knowledge. There are highly educated people who are fools. There are common folk who are wise. The fool casts aside what is good. Would you say a man, who inherits a large ranch or farm, but fritters it away on unworthy purchases, on casinos and lotteries, or flushed it away at the bar, is wise or a fool? Would you say the girl or woman, who has been blessed with attractiveness and charm, but uses it to pursue all the wrong kind of popularity and attention, is wise or a fool? In both cases, Fools. What is the greatest folly or foolishness? To have the Bible's Good News of God's love, mercy, and forgiveness in Christ and the sure hope of resurrection and eternal life in heaven; but to despise it and walk away from it, as if “Ho hum. No big deal.” David says, *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."* Such a statement is more than a careless slip of the lip, or a bold statement from a big mouth. It is a conviction of the heart—of the mind, of the soul. “There is no God. Nothing is God. God is not. God does not exist.” The Hebrew word for No is “ayn.” The letter “n” is prominent in words for No in many another language—Latin “non,” Spanish “non,” French “non,” Russian “nyet,” German “nein,” English “no, none.” ----- “There is no God” is saying two things. 1.) “There is no such being as God with capital “G,” namely Father, Son/Savior and Holy Spirit, but there is Allah, Baal, Buddha, etc.” 2.) The statement is also saying, “There is no god with small “g”—no higher power.” Either is deadly. To say there is “no God” denies the Savior. To say there is “no god” says that man is in control. Foolishness! Sometimes well meaning parents say to their children, “You can be whatever you want.” Not so. Maybe it's not what they mean, but it sounds a lot like “There is no God.” Other people maintain, “Truth is whatever you want it to be; there is no absolute Truth.” No god.

Regarding fools who deny God, the text here says, *They are corrupt. They have done abominable works. There is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men [literally, “the sons of Adam”], to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside. They have together become corrupt. There is none who does good, No, not one!* God looks down from His “window” in heaven upon all the earth, over the entire “floor” below, and sees that the sons of Adam are all corrupt. *They have all turned aside. They have together become corrupt. There is none who does good, No, not one.* The question is, does the earlier phrase “The fool has said in his heart, There is no God” also apply to all these sons of men? to every person? to us?

Yes! In fact, the Apostle Paul quotes these very words from Psalm 14 in Romans 3:10-12 to show from the Old Testament that every person in the world is guilty before God, and concludes with, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). ALL. About now you say, “Hold on there, Pastor. That passage cannot be talking about everyone, definitely not me. I grant that I am a sinner, but I am no atheist. I’ve never said there is no God.” Well, it may seem that way, to your logic and pride; but every time you sin/disobey God, you are saying to yourself and to others, “Count God out on this one. He doesn’t have that much control over me. He doesn’t mean that much to me. I’ll still do what I want.” In other words, there is no God. All sons of Adam are in this category.

As the text continues, David now subdivides all the “sons of Adam” into two groups. 1.) Those who despise God and the people who trust in God. 2.) Those who cling to God and His Son, crucified and risen Jesus, for forgiveness and for cleansing from wickedness, abominable works, and corruption—corruption, like milk that’s gone sour.

Regarding the first group, the unbelieving group, David says, *Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge—who eat up my people as they eat bread—and do not call on the LORD?* They are opponents of God’s people. Remember Pharaoh King of Egypt at the time of Moses? Moses told Pharaoh, that God wanted him to let His people go. Pharaoh replied, “*Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go*” (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh then made life even tougher for the Children of Israel. The wicked oppress the righteous to their own great pleasure.

The foolish wicked do not understand Truth and Knowledge. *They do not call on the Lord--“Who needs Him!”* However, *There they are in great fear; for God is with the generation of the righteous.* The day comes when the wicked will be filled with before God, the God in whom the righteous trust. The “righteous” are those righteous by faith, not by their own “wonderful” deeds. They are forgiven for Jesus’ sake; God is with them. God calls the wicked, the oppressors, to account—on which day the wicked will fear! Pharaoh and the people of Egypt feared after the 10th Plague! *And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.” And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead!”* (Exodus 12:29-33). Fear comes upon all the wicked. They may *shame the counsel of the poor* [“the afflicted”], but *the LORD is his refuge!* The wicked, steeped in evil, can mistreat and persecute the people of God—you—al they want, in order to humiliate and shame you, but you are safe in the Lord! The wicked shall never succeed eternally and shall face God’s wrath on the last day!

On the other hand, there are those who look to and long for the Lord’s rescue. They are the subjects of David’s closing wish/prayer. *Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!* God’s people long for God’s salvation/aid from Zion. “Zion” was another name for Jerusalem, particularly that part of Jerusalem where the Tabernacle and later the permanent Temple stood. There the sacrifices were offered to God, all of which were pictures of the great sacrifice to come—“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29). *When the LORD brings back [turns to] the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!* At first reading, these words seem to refer to Judah’s release from captivity in Babylon. However, that would not happen for another 400 years. The “captivity,” here, refers to the “captivity” of His people to the clutches of the devil and his evil henchmen at David’s time. The people of God suffered affliction and oppression from Satan. We still do today. The true Church is opposed by those who claim to be so smart that they think that males are free to be intimate with males, and females with females, or that men and women, boys and girls, are free to change from the gender God made them (how far away is “I don’t want to be a person; change me into a dog?”), that babies are not real people until they born, that marriage can be trashed and tossed as an old-time custom. The people of God today, the faithful of the Christian Church, are oppressed by the wicked of this world.

The Christians long for the Lord to visit and end their captivity. David’s words “*When the Lord brings [turns back to] the captivity of His people*” look forward to the day when the Lord will come to visit and rescue His people. In fact, when Jesus was born, Immanuel, God-with-Us, He came to “visit” our captivity and free us from our foes and our woes! Jesus went to Jerusalem, to Zion, to suffer, die, and rise again.” In Jesus at Zion, your captivity to sin, evil oppressors, and the devil ends! *Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!*

Though you are part of all the sinful sons of Adam, through Jesus you are rescued from the evil hands that seek your harm! Cling to Jesus!

So be it! Amen!

Pastor Kanzenbach---