

Psalm 58 A poem of David

Wicked authorities take unfair advantage of the weak

¹ You authorities and judges of our nation, listen to me. Do you speak in a good, just, and fair manner? Do you make decisions in the courts and in the legislature that are right in the sight of the LORD¹? ² Of course you don't. Why? Because from the depths of your hearts you are violently unjust and perverse. You wield unjust authority that results in hurts, heartaches, and/or losses for innocent people. ³ Folks, wicked men are born as sinners and alienated from God. They start lying and rebelling against authority as soon as they take their first breath. ⁴⁻⁵ These evil men are full of poisonous venom and infect those under their authority with that poison. They are like a cobra that has stopped listening to its charmer and will spit poison in the charmer's eyes at the slightest provocation. Like the deaf cobra, these wicked men have stopped listening to sound moral reasoning and will inflict innocent people with their poison by handing down unjust and unfair judgments in the legislature and in the court. Be sure to stay away from them.

LORD, fight against them on our behalf

⁶ LORD Jesus¹,

“Break their teeth so that they can no longer devour the innocent through legislative authority. Break out the molars of the bold younger ones who beat up innocent people with the intention of killing them. ⁷ Let their power to destroy others with their words vanish and melt away and like ice on a hot day, let their weapons misfire instead of firing real bullets, and ⁸ let them shrivel into nothing like a snail when salt is poured upon it. Cut them down in their tracks so that just like a miscarried baby never sees the sun, so these wicked people will never see another sunrise.”

Someday the LORD will make them pay the price for their sin

⁹ At the time of His choosing the LORD will descend upon the wicked like a whirlwind devastating everything in its path. The wicked will be destroyed in less time than it takes to bring water to a boil by building a really hot fire fueled by thorns. God's wrath will be hotter than the fire regardless of whether the fire was made of dry or green thorns. ¹⁰ Good and godly people will be thrilled to watch the LORD destroy the wicked and wash His feet in the blood of those He has slain. ¹¹ When the wicked get their just punishment, good men will say, “Without a doubt, there is a God who actually recompenses the wicked for their evil deeds and rewards the good and godly man with blessings and eternal life.”