

Sermon Series: Singing in the Reign

Sermon title: "The LORD is on His Throne"

Scripture Reading: Psalm 10

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Introduction: *(taken from from IJM website)*

Ramya was barely 13 years old when her family was tricked into bonded labor, a form of modern-day slavery, at a remote hill-top farm in South Asia.

For two years the family was trapped as they tried to repay a loan her father had taken.

At the farm, Ramya and her parents were forced to work from 5 a.m. until late in the evening every day, with very little food or rest.

The owner used frequent threats and violence to keep the family controlled, once beating Ramya's father with a pipe for trying to visit a nearby farm.

Ramya also remembers being shocked by electric fences around the farm that kept them separated from the outside world.

When the International Justice Mission (IJM) first started investigating the farm, Ramya and her mother were too scared to speak up against the owner.

But later, on another visit, they found the courage to share the truth with the rescue team.

After two years of violence and forced labor, Ramya and her family were finally freed.

Today, Ramya has completed her 10th grade and has since married her husband Sonu and given birth to their son, Gaurav.

"Now we are living in freedom,...free to do what we want, when we want-and can just breath happily," Ramya says.

Sadly, stories like this play out all over the world every day. Harsh villains preying on their poor victims; taking away their happiness, their freedom and even sometimes their lives.

There is nothing new under the sun. David saw these things in his day as well and asked God, "Where are you LORD?" "Why don't you do something?"

Well, why does it seem like evil is winning?
Does God not hear? Does God not see?

Let's pray

We saw last week in **Psalm 9** that God is the sovereign righteous judge. He is on the throne. He rules over all things. He is the judge.

All must give an account to him. He should be praised, trusted and feared because of who he is. He reigns.

Where **Psalm 9** last week had us looking UP with our eyes on God, **Psalm 10** is looking DOWN with our eyes on the present state of the world that we live in. You only have to read the news to see similar things in our world to what we see in Psalm 10.

What are we to think of all the injustice in the world?

Let me give you the **Main Idea** of this Psalm:

In a world full of sin, it seems that evil is winning. But the LORD is a present help and a future judge who will make all things right.

In **Psalm 10**, we see three main characters:

- 1. The Villain**
- 2. The Victim**
- 3. The Victor**

1. The Villain

The villain is described as '*the wicked*', '*the evildoer*' and later is referred to as '*he*'.

We see what the wicked villain does and we see how the wicked thinks.

A. What the wicked villain does.

Verse 2- Hotly pursues the poor.

Verse 3- Curses and renounces the LORD.

Verse 4- Doesn't seek God.

Verse 5- He prospers

Verse 7- He curses, deceives and oppresses, speaks of mischief and iniquity.

Verses 8-9- Ambushes the innocent, helpless and poor like a lion, to murder them.

Verse 10- Crushes the helpless

Verse 18- Strikes terror

We could summarize what the wicked villain does by saying that he or she preys on the poor.

B. How the wicked villain thinks.

Verse 3- Boasts of the desires of his soul.

Verse 4- Prideful.

Verse 6- He thinks he will never fall.

Verse 11- God doesn't see.

Verse 13- God won't hold me accountable.

We could summarize what the wicked villain thinks by saying that he or she is prideful.

Example:

I read this week about Equatorial Guinea and it's leader, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo who is worth millions and millions after oil was discovered of the coast. He lives in extreme luxury while 70% of his country live in poverty, 40% in extreme poverty.

His son is vice president and has even had his assets confiscated in the US, France and Switzerland to help pay for vaccines for the people. He's able to afford a \$100 million USD yacht, about 60 luxury cars, a private jet and a huge mansion in California...all on his \$100,000 a year salary.

That's just an example of how the wicked take advantage of the poor. There are many around the world and in every country.

The villain is looking for someone to exploit and his victims are the poor and the weak. We see this in the Psalm.

2. The Victim

The poor is mentioned 3x

The helpless 3x

The afflicted 2x

The fatherless 2x

The Oppressed

The victims are taken advantage of due to their weaknesses or poverty and are forced into things today such as:

- Sex trafficking

- Having their passports confiscated

- Land theft

- Forced labor/ slavery

- Victims of police abuse

- And the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

Add to that the refugees on the run, the homeless, the religiously persecuted and the world is full of those who are in need of rescue and deliverance from the wicked evildoers, the villains.

Where can they turn?

Where does David point us?

Where in this Psalm does David the helpless, the fatherless, the afflicted, the poor?

3. The Victor

To the LORD.

Verse 16-18

The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land. O LORD, you hear the desire of the

afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear 18 to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is on earth may strike terror no more.

And as your eyes look down at the world in Psalm 10, now look up at the LORD in Psalm 9.

Psalm 9

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

But in the beginning of Psalm 10, it seems the Lord isn't doing anything.

But the Victor doesn't always give victory in the here and now. That's the hard part of life. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. But.....
Sometimes he waits for reasons only he knows. Sometimes he delivers in eternity and not on this earth.

But we can and should take a lesson from David and learn to cry out to the LORD for justice.

Verse 12

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

Verse 15

Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none.

Maybe you feel that way today.

Maybe you feel like the Lord is 'far away' or 'hiding'.

You're in trouble and he's not answering!

But remember the Psalms are honest and raw and they teach us how to pray and worship.

We can pray these things in the Psalms and cry out to the LORD for help. He WILL help. HOW he will help....we aren't sure.

But as this Psalm reminds us....the LORD does see and he does hear and he WILL judge the wicked.

They will not escape. Justice will be served.

Now, I see layers of meaning in this Psalm.

On a physical level, in this world in which we live, we have:

- The villains in the world who seem to get away with their wickedness.

- The helpless victims who are oppressed, mistreated and afflicted by the wicked.
- The LORD, the Victor who we turn to for real-life help in our time of need. He does deliver and he is a stronghold to be trusted.

On another layer, I see a spiritual dimension here.

The villain is the devil.

The victims are us all.

The Victor is Christ.

We were all under the authority of the prince of this world, who lurks around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (as this Psalm says).

We are all his victims. Helpless, hopeless, in bondage, no citizenship in heaven but destined for hell.

Jesus is the one who is stronger than the strongman. He is King forever and ever. He rescued us from the dominion of darkness and took us to his safe house. Made us free. Rehabilitated us. Cared for us and taught us how to live a new life.

He broke the arm of the wicked....the power of the devil, by triumphing over him at the cross and rising from the dead.

He is the victor and gives victory to all who are afflicted with sin and oppressed by the devil.

As a closing application, I have a bit of a warning for us. What are we Christians to do about the oppressed in the world, the afflicted, the fatherless, the poor, the helpless?

We must be careful. We mustn't just tell them to turn to the LORD, though that is right. We mustn't just give them the gospel, though we should. We are also to help meet their physical needs.

James 2:14-17

James 5:1-6

1 John 3:17-18

Isaiah 58:6-7