



Psalm 58 Meaning: The Cry for Justice God Hears Now

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One of the “rights” that most Americans seem to think God has given them is the right to complain about everyone and everything. One of the targets of such discontent is the judicial system. “The court system favors the criminal!”, “All lawyers are just out for the money!”, or “All judges are crooked!” Such statements are all too common; and, unfortunately, have some basis in what actually happens.

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However, compared with the judicial systems within many parts of the world, the effectiveness and honesty of the American system is to be envied. Judges and other “officers of the court” can be held accountable for their actions. Attorneys and judges have been found guilty and have been imprisoned.

In the Old and New Testament scriptures, judges and rulers were shown to be incompetent, dishonest, and even evil. Throughout the centuries, up to the present day, there has been injustice and good people have suffered at the hands of evil men and women. In many countries today, the common person has no power or rights, and the rule is injustice in the place of justice. Bribes are common, and a person’s status or power determines the outcome even before a complaint is made. Because of the testimony of history, and the evidence

of human suffering, the question is asked, “Will justice ever triumph?”

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That question is answered in **Psalm 58**. Whether you open **Psalm 58 KJV**, **Psalm 58 NIV**, or find it in the **Psalm 58 Catholic Bible**, the core truth remains unshaken. The situation that caused the writing of Psalm 58 is not clear, but what is clear is that the psalmist was writing during a time when many of the judges were not fulfilling their offices in an honorable way. In fact, honor and integrity may have been the exception rather than the rule.

Psalm 58:1 Meaning – A Bold Challenge to Corrupt Rulers

Psalm 58 1 immediately throws down the gauntlet: “Do you indeed speak righteousness, O gods? Do you judge uprightly, O sons of men? No, in heart you work unrighteousness; on earth you weigh out the violence of your hands.” Other translations more correctly refer to “gods” as “mighty leaders” or “judges”. Of course, people in positions of power have been carried away in arrogance and have acted like they were “gods”, and the psalmist may have deliberately intended that meaning.

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In addition, this is not a judge that has “made a mistake”, or is really not “qualified”. No, this is a person that plotted and worked to achieve his position in order to use it for his own gain.

Psalm 58:3 Meaning - Estranged from the Womb

In verse 3, the psalmist wrote, “The wicked are estranged from the womb; these who speak lies go astray from birth.” When you dig into the **psalm 58 3 meaning**, some have tried to use that reference to the womb to support the idea of original sin, but this is an obvious exaggeration to further demonstrate the wickedness of these men. “He has been bad all of his life,” or “He was born bad” would be similar sayings today. It’s a poetic way of stressing that corruption runs that deep.

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Some other religious teachings teach that there is a “balance” in the universe. Yet, even a cursory review of history shows the fallacy of that belief. Others question if real evil exists. People act evil because of their raising, their lack of education, or their lack of



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opportunities for self-improvement. But evil does exist. Every unrighteous and corrupt person in a position of authority or power made personal, moral, and ethical decisions. There was no reluctance. No, they embraced the life they chose.

People do cry out in anguish and pain when evil seems to prevail. It can lead to horrible misery and death in this life. Add to that the clear instructions in the New Testament that Christians must obey the laws and respect those that have authority over them. When evil, corrupt people ARE the people in authority, where is justice? Where is the “balancing of the scales”?

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Psalm 58:6 – An Impassioned Cry to Break Their Teeth

As the psalm escalates, **Psalm 58 6** unleashes some of the harshest imagery in the entire Psalter: “Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth; break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD.” This is no mild request. The psalmist asks God to disarm these predatory leaders completely, to shatter their ability to devour the innocent. It’s a raw, emotional cry that refuses to sugarcoat the pain of injustice.

Psalm 58:8 Meaning – The Snail That Melts Away

One of the most memorable pictures in the psalm shows up in **Psalm 58 8**: “Let them be like a snail which melts away as it goes; like the stillborn child of a woman, that they may not see the sun.” When exploring the **psalm 58 8 meaning**, the snail melting into slime paints a picture of the wicked gradually dissolving into nothing under God’s judgment—their influence evaporating, their legacy erased. It’s a vivid promise that their power is temporary.

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The Full Scope of Judgment (Verses 6-9)

Verses 6–9 of Psalm 58 describe the eventual fate of the wicked. The descriptions are harsh and vivid. The intensity of the judgment, that the Psalmist called down upon those judges, may seem harsh to today’s “civilized” values. However, the point is very clear, and many other passages in the Bible also support the principle that privilege is always tied with responsibility. A man, or woman, who holds the office of judge, holds a great responsibility before the Lord. All people who have abused their offices will face the judgment of God and the cries of the righteous and innocent will be heard by the Lord.

Psalm 58:10 – The Righteous Will Rejoice

After the storm of judgment comes a startling declaration in **Psalm 58 10**: “The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.” While this shocks modern sensibilities, it expresses the profound relief and vindication that the oppressed feel when true justice finally arrives. It’s not cruelty—it’s the celebration that evil does not win.

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Psalm 58:11 Meaning – Surely There Is a Reward

That brings us to the grand finale. If you search for the **psalm 58 11 meaning**, it’s the resolution the whole psalm has been building toward: “So that men will say, ‘Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth.’” The purpose of all this divine intervention isn’t simply destruction; it’s revelation. The world will confess that God sees, God judges, and God rewards those who remain faithful. This is the heartbeat of the **meaning of Psalm 58**: it is a rallying call for everyone longing for divine justice.

Yes, Psalm 58 could be the rallying call of all seeking for justice from God; but that call can also be tied with the blessed hope that rests in Jesus Christ. In Him, the promise has been sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Nothing in this world can destroy that relationship. The only thing that can break it is the rejection of that bond by a Christian.



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The Psalmist cried for *justice*, and he knew that his cry would be met by the great Judge of the universe - the Living God. But today, through the teaching of the New Testament, Christians know that God, the Father, has already answered that prayer for His children. In Christ, all have been rewarded, and now they are waiting for that day when the Lord will turn the promise to reality. They wait for the day when faith becomes sight. They wait for the day, as witnessed by John, when he said, "Amen! Come Lord Jesus!"

FAQs About Psalm 58

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