

Psalm 58

The Torah reading from **Exodus 22-23** focuses on justice and righteous legal deliberations concerning the poor, etc.

This psalm comments on that, beginning with the first verse.

It contrasts the righteous and innocent Redeemer with the wicked One, present from birth in fallen Adam.

Psalm 58:1-2 - "Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men? Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth."

Or "Do you indeed pretend to uphold justice? It seems to be silent or mute in your decrees. The violence - which begins in your heart and is manifest in your works - is weighing down the scales of justice against you."

A similar metaphor of weighing:

- **Isaiah 26:7** - "The way of the righteous that is straight - O Upright One, the path of the righteous, You shall weigh."

Psalm 58:3 - "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

Rashi - From their mother's womb they become strange to the Holy One, blessed be He, in the way that Esau did (**Genesis 25:22**): "And the children moved violently against each other in her womb."

This is our natural state - Adam/Edom/Esau/ the flesh. The Old Man described by Paul.

Psalm 58:4-5 - "Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."

Snakes lack external ears, and can only "hear" low-frequency vibrations through the ground. Snakes simply follow the movement of the charmers swaying flute, and will often strike at the instrument. Thus, wickedness cannot be "charmed" or reasoned with, no matter how clever we think we are.

Revenge the Disobedience

Psalm 58:6-8 - "Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun."

Our response, in concert with God:

- **2 Corinthians 10:5-6** - "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

Stubble, Chaff and Briers

Psalm 58:9 - "Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath."

(NET) "Before the kindling is even placed under your pots, he will sweep it away along with both the raw and cooked meat."

- **Obadiah 1:18** - "And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it."

"But the land that bears thorns and briers is rejected, and ready for condemnation; whose end is to be burned" (**Hebrews 6:8**). Because it is cursed (**Genesis 3:18**)

Psalm 58:10 - "The godly will rejoice when they see vengeance carried out; they will bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked. Then observers will say, 'Yes indeed, the godly are rewarded! Yes indeed, there is a God who judges in the earth!'"

- **Revelation 19:15** - "He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

- **Luke 10:19** - "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

- **Psalm 18:37-38** - "I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed. I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet."