

Psalm 94

The judge of the earth



It is maybe strange that people long to see “justice” – just think of how many crime dramas feature on TV! – but nowadays typically detest the notion of personal and individual “judgement”. Is it OK to rage against countries and corporations, and the most extreme of dictators, but to insist that individual sins must simply be termed failings or weaknesses – and try to excuse ourselves from any responsibility before God?

➤ **Daring titles** (1-2)

How comfortable do we feel in using the phrases “God of vengeance” and “the judge of the earth” about God? If the answer is, “Not very” ... what are we viewing wrongly?

➤ **Dark deeds and terrible thoughts** (3-7)

So what evil is being *done*?

Is this a particular persecution of believers?

And what evil is being *thought* and said?

➤ **Assumptions mocked** (8-11)

The psalmist doesn't sound too patient with these errors.

Can we be *too* patient with arrogant unbelief?

How does God “discipline the nations”?

➤ **Dependable promises** (12-15)

The general promises of vv14-15 sound good, but how gladly do we claim the “blessedness” (cf Psalm 1:1) of God's discipline?

Is there a link between discipline and teaching?

What purpose might this have for us?

➤ **Personal involvement** (16-19)

Only this far into the psalm does the writer mention *me*.

Is that the best place in prayers, near the end? Should the big-scale vision of things have a higher-level place in our thinking?

But to just leave “me” out would be depersonalising, surely?

➤ **Comforting overview** (20-23)

What final considerations give the writer hope and purpose?