



Pointers and questions on the book of

Psalms:
Selection A

PSALMS

Session 8

Psalm 94

God is righteous, faithful and the judge of all the earth

Summary

The nation of Israel is surrounded by pagan nations who despise the Lord and whose kings rule in an oppressive manner. And even within Israel there are some in positions of authority who cause misery to those under them. Both will have to answer to the Lord, who is the ultimate Judge, righteous and faithful. He will see to it that the godly are vindicated.

- v1-7** The psalmist laments the oppression of the righteous by wicked and selfish authority-figures, and he calls on God, the great Judge, to bring justice to the situation.
- 8-11** He then addresses the wicked, urging them to see the foolishness of thinking they can hide their wickedness from the Lord, for he sees and knows everything.
- 12-15** He tells the Lord what a privilege it is to be under his rule and gracious care, and asserts that a time is coming when all will live righteously under that rule.
- 16-23** He says how, in the meantime, the situation would seem hopeless were it not for the Lord, and the guarantee that he will extend his righteous rule and give the wicked what they deserve.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Give some present-day examples of unrighteous authority-figures who 'bring on misery by their decrees' (v20). Think of examples from the world scene, politics and the workplace—and others.
2. If you yourself were suffering at the hands of such a person—in your place of work, for example—would you consider addressing them in words like those in v8-11?
3. This psalm shows God to be righteous and just. In what ways is this a comfort to us as Christians in an unrighteous and unjust society?
4. In what way is it a blessing to be at the receiving end of God's fatherly discipline (v12)? See also Hebrews 12:5-11.
5. Look at v19. What are the things that tend to cause you 'anxiety'? How are you progressing in learning to receive the Lord's 'consolation'? See also Philippians 4:6-7.
6. If God is a righteous God and we are his people, reflecting his character here on earth, what is our responsibility for standing up against injustice and oppression? Have *you* every denounced some local unrighteousness?
7. Does the phrase, 'My foot is slipping' (v18) remind you of one of the earlier psalms we studied?

