

Psalm 14 (ASV) – *Merry Christmas to you and your family!*

¹ The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.
They are corrupt, they have done abominable works;
There is none that doeth good.

² Jehovah looked down from heaven upon the children of men,
To see if there were any that did understand,
That did seek after God.

³ They are all gone aside; they are together become filthy;
There is none that doeth good, no, not one.

⁴ Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge,
Who eat up my people as they eat bread,
And call not upon Jehovah?

⁵ There were they in great fear;
For God is in the generation of the righteous.

⁶ Ye put to shame the counsel of the poor,
Because Jehovah is his refuge.

⁷ Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!
When Jehovah bringeth back the captivity of his people,
Then shall Jacob rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

Study the Psalm and fill in the categories as Scripture reveals.

God is:

God will:

I will:

Foolish/Evildoers/Children of Man:

Prayer

Dear Abba, I pray that You will forgive me for the times I've been foolish and prideful—for the situations I encountered where I didn't call upon You first. I pray, Father, that you will fill me up with wisdom and a desire to seek you in all things. God, I rejoice now and forever that You are my refuge. Help me share who You are with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reflection

What does it mean to be a righteous generation?

Who are some individual examples of righteous people from the Bible?

Who are some individual examples of righteous people from our current world (last 20 years or so) and how do/did they demonstrate it?

How can you and I behave more righteously?

Response

*Echoing corruption prospers and encloses the edge of my soul;
I lose sight of the Light; my heart drags the depths of darkness
and despair. I wonder, will the world's weapons win once again?*

Psalm 14 mostly describes those who are foolish evildoers. We learn that God looks down from heaven and finds those who do egregious works, take from the poor, don't believe there is a god, and lack wisdom.

Living in an evil world is nothing new. Godly people have endured injustice for centuries. Surrounding the righteous are those who are apathetic about God – who couldn't care any less about Him. There **are atheists** who flat out don't believe and are happy to say so to anyone who might try to share Jesus with them. There is the "me" generation who think the only important thing is their rights.

It's become an almost daily event to see families on the news who've lost their children or other relatives and friends to shootings and stabbings. War continues in Ukraine and Russia. Specific ethnicities and religions are hounded and persecuted for no reason. Drugs peddled on our streets kill our people. The weakest and most innocent are ripped apart before they are born and labeled as "women's reproductive health care." I could go on, but I need to hop off my soap box. Truly, it isn't my job to judge any of this, but it still burdens my heart and sometimes causes me to temporarily forget that my God is greater, and He is in control.

Psalm 112 tells us that those who fear God, (generation of the upright), are blessed and that their offspring will be powerful. This passage calls for us to be gracious, generous, compassionate and righteous. We won't be fearful or shaken in any situation. I must take that to heart – I must not be fearful, or overly burdened.

In 2 Kings 6, Elisha's servant is worried because they are surrounded by the enemy (evildoers/foolish people). In verse 17, Elisha prays, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.' These were the angels of God.

Thank You, God for Your Word. It encourages and strengthens Your people.

Lisa Pritchard

Guest Response

“There is no God.”

Those words cut like a knife in my heart. Sadly, these are words that we not only hear in our society today, but ones that are shouted and celebrated. Corruption, cruelty, violence, murder. These atrocities are pushed in our faces on a regular basis. It certainly does seem like all have turned away.

How this must break our Creators' heart - looking down at His beloved, made in his loving image. “Don't they understand?” I know He asks this, as do I. How can they be so naïve? How can they not know His graciousness, His forgiveness, His love that surpasses all understanding? And how is it that even I can still sin against Him?

The works of evil overtake the souls of many with whom we share our humanity. Temptation is everywhere. It can be challenging to keep our eyes on the beauty all around us when it seems like so much is being burnt down with hatred and violence.

“But there they are, overwhelmed with dread,” it states, and reminds us that God is still right there with us, watching the destruction among His people. His presence remains in all things, no matter how grave they seem. He sees all.

And still, He is the place of refuge for those who cling to Him in the storms.

Psalm 14 reminds me that our plans may seem destroyed, but He sees. We can still run to Him. We can still trust in HIS plan, no matter what we see around us. We can still find peace in His loving arms.

Our prayers are the same as the psalmist in the final verse: We pray that salvation comes despite the evildoings of those who have gone astray. We pray that the Church family He began assembling centuries ago, which has spread throughout the nations, raise voices together in shouts of praise and acclamation, and that God will once again save us from ourselves, redeem and restore us to Him, in Jesus' mighty name.

Judy Paglia

Judy Paglia is a New England native now retired in Coastal NC. She had a spiritual conversion after a horse accident, traded in her riding boots for flip-flops, and began writing. She enjoys collecting shells, playing with her rescued dogs, and sharing her rescue journey.



Reminder

I would love to hear from you! Use the “Contact” page under “More” to submit your response about how God moved you in this passage. If permission is given in your response, I may post it on the main page of the website for the following week. If you don't want it posted, that's okay too. I will keep it private. Thank you, and I pray you are blessed in amazing ways.