

One of the things that trouble in this world should do for the people of God is cause them to look for, long for and pray for the coming of Jesus Christ. When the people of God find themselves in trouble or afflicted they can always cry to God for deliverance.

When we look at **verse 1** of this psalm we observe that this psalm sits in a context “in times of trouble.” So this is an “in times of trouble psalm.” Now we know that ultimately the most disastrous time of trouble for Israel will be the time of Jacob’s trouble, which will occur during the Great Tribulation. During that time, one negative, disastrous thing after another will hit Israel. It will all be spearheaded by the Antichrist. Israel will be hated, hounded, persecuted and there will be an attempt at annihilation. At that time, it will seem like God is nowhere near Israel and nowhere to be found. It will seem just like **verse 1** says, that God is hiding Himself.

It is at that very moment that Israel will need this psalm. But this is also a psalm for us because there are times when we find ourselves surrounded by trouble and times when God seems to be far removed; it is precisely at these moments that we need to cry out to God.

Now this text describes wicked people who oppose God’s people. **This text also describes Satan and the ultimate man of wickedness, the Antichrist.** How do we know this text deals with the Antichrist? We make this assumption based on four key observations:

- 1) The personal pronouns “he” and “his” indicates one specific, wicked person is in view.
- 2) He is a man who causes terror to the whole earth—**10:18**.
- 3) He is a wicked man who is featured during the “times of trouble”—**10:1**.
- 4) He is the man who will be destroyed by the King at the judgment of the nations—**10:16**.

Martin Luther wrote of this psalm: “There is not, in my judgment, a Psalm which describes the mind, the manners, the works, the words, the feelings, and the fate of the ungodly with so much propriety, fullness and light as this Psalm. . . . This Psalm is a type, for and description of that man, who, though he may be in the sight of himself and of men more excellent than Peter himself is detestable in the eyes of God; and this it was that moved Augustine and those who followed him to understand the Psalm of Antichrist.”

Now the psalm opens in **verse 1** with David asking “Why.” David could not understand why God did not come to the immediate rescue of His afflicted people. The psalm breaks down into three main parts:

**PART #1** – The description of the wicked Antichrist. **10:2-11**

Here is one of the most graphic pictures of a wicked person in all of the Bible. One commentator said we need to carefully weigh every phrase of this indictment. Wicked people have these traits and all of these traits will be fully manifested by the Antichrist, who is the most wicked of all. As near as we may determine, there are 13 traits:

**Trait #1** - The wicked hotly pursue the righteous. **10:2**

Wicked people and wicked powers are in hot pursuit of one who is godly. Notice there is a close connection between this action and pride. Proud, arrogant wicked people quickly turn against one who is godly.

Now during the Tribulation, the Antichrist will be in hot pursuit against Israel and will go on an all out assault against her in an attempt to destroy her. This principle is true, however, in any arena. When God has his hand on a person, a church, or a nation, wicked forces will hotly pursue in an attempt to destroy.

Notice at the end of **verse 2**, they actually plot how they are going to destroy those godly, but their plots will fail.

When you are right in your relationship with God; when you have a passion to know God's Word, someone will come into your world and try to pull you away. That is the way it has always worked. Wicked forces will come up with a plan and plot to pull you off track.

**Trait #2** - The wicked boast about their heart's desire. **10:3a**

Wicked people boast about themselves and their goals. During the Tribulation the Antichrist will boast about the fact that he is out to exterminate every Jew. His desire is to be worshipped as God (Rev. 13:15). He will boast about that. Charles Spurgeon said sinners who boast about their sin are the worst level of sinners (*Psalms*, p. 46).

**Trait #3** - The wicked are greedy and curse and spurn the LORD. **10:3b**

People who are wicked get and hoard, but they do not give. The word "spurn" is one that means to deride and despise, to hold in contempt and then to reject (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 525). Notice that the wicked despise and deride and reject Jehovah the self-existing, Sovereign God. The Antichrist will thumb his nose at God. He will hate God, mock God, curse God and reject God.

**Trait #4** - The wicked are haughty and do not seek God. **10:4a**

Wicked people will not ever seek God or His Word for answers. They are too proud and arrogant to submit themselves to God's authority. Notice that even his countenance shows his haughtiness. The Antichrist will have a proud look about him and he will not seek God, His Word or His will.

There are millions of people who will die and be condemned rather than submit themselves to faith in Jesus Christ. They would rather rely upon their own efforts than the pure blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Sometimes you can see this arrogance on their face. Many will burn forever because of their pride; they will not seek God.

**Trait #5** - The wicked are atheistic in all their thoughts. **10:4b**

Here is a major trait of wickedness. There is an attempt to dismiss God and His Word and will from all thinking. People who are wicked cannot stand to think about God, for the moment they do, that is the moment they face their own conviction and condemnation.

J. Vernon McGee said it well when he said, “The Antichrist at the end times will be characterized by atheism, filled with pride and boasting” (*Psalms*, p. 685).

**Trait #6** - The wicked prosper at all times. **10:5a**

This is important to see; wicked people do prosper on this earth. They do succeed at everything they do for awhile. That will certainly be the way of the Antichrist. He will initially prosper in everything he does, including his mockery of God and hatred against Jewish people.

**Trait #7** - The wicked do not see the judgments of God. **10:5b**

Wicked people do not stop to give any thought whatsoever to the future and pending judgment of God. Wicked people do not want to even look at the thought of judgment. Because the moment a wicked person admits there is a future judgment, it is the moment he admits his own condemnation.

This is why religious people who are truly wicked do not want to study the whole counsel of God. They do not want to learn about a God who will judge. They don't want to see it and they don't see it coming.

Just a few days ago a meteor from the heavens slammed into Russia and killed 1500 people. The first thought that went through my mind was the book of Revelation. It is predicted that there will come a day when huge meteor-type of hailstones will be hurled by God to the earth for the sole purpose of judgment (Rev. 16:21).

**Trait #8** - The wicked mock their adversaries. **10:5c**

When David went out to fight Goliath, Goliath mocked David (I Sam. 17:42-44). During the Tribulation, the Antichrist will laugh at and roll over any person who opposes him. In the end, God will have the last laugh.

**Trait #9** - The wicked says no one can move him or stop him. **10:6**

The Antichrist will be so arrogant that he will speak to himself and tell himself no one can move him from his power and he says he will not have adversity throughout “all” generations. The arrogance of one who is wicked is that he thinks his life will never end. He thinks no one can overtake him or beat him.

**Trait #10** - The wicked has speech that is wicked. **10:7**

Wicked people do a lot of talking. Their speech is deceitful, oppressive and mischievous. Their speech curses God and is full of wickedness. Spurgeon said when it comes to a wicked person, there is not just a little evil in the mouth, but the mouth is full of it (*Ibid.*, p. 47).

Wicked people know how to talk. They know how to use their speech to sway others. They plan and promote and they prosper by using their deceptive, oppressive and impressive speech. But it is evil and it will come to an end.

**Trait #11** - The wicked hides in order to catch and destroy the innocent. **10:8-10**

Wicked people do not initially manifest the fact that they are wicked and diabolical. They appear to be friendly and caring, but they are actually lurking as a lion in order to destroy the prey.

Wicked people are out to destroy the innocent and they do not initially appear to be wicked. They hide that fact. They appear to be so concerned and so caring, but in the end, their hypocritical sin will find them out.

**Trait #12** - The wicked have many allies. **10:10b**

Wicked people always have their allies. The Antichrist will control the major powers of the world. Many Christians and Jews will be destroyed by “his mighty ones” during the tribulation.

**Trait #13** - The wicked think that God has forgotten because they seem to get away with their wickedness. **10:11**

Wicked people have actually convinced themselves that they are getting away with their wickedness. They take the position that God has forgotten all about them and doesn't really see what they are doing. The reason why they think this way is:

- 1) God's judgment doesn't come against them immediately.
- 2) God is dismissed from the mind because any thought of God greatly disturbs one wicked.

**PART #2** – The prayer of the afflicted. **10:12-15**

There are three main prayer requests David makes:

**Request #1** - The request for God to arise. **10:12a**

There is nothing wrong with God's people asking God to rise up and do something about the wicked people. Israel will finally do this toward the end of the Tribulation.

**Request #2** - The request for God to remember . **10:12b-14**

David asks that God would have four different, specific memories pertaining to the wicked:

**(Memory #1)** - The wicked have spurned God. **10:13a**

**(Memory #2)** - The wicked have mocked God's judgment. **10:13b**

**(Memory #3)** - The wicked have done evil in God's sight. **10:14a**

**(Memory #4)** - The hurting have always been helped by God. **10:14b**

**Request #3** - The request for God to stop the wicked. **10:15**

Only God is in a position to break the arm of the wicked evildoer. Only God has power to purge evil from the world. Again this will be answered for Israel at the end of the Tribulation.

**PART #3** – The statements about God. **10:16-18**

There are six statements David makes in bringing this psalm to a conclusion:

**Statement #1** - When the Antichrist is destroyed, the LORD will be King forever. **10:16a**

**Statement #2** - When the Antichrist is destroyed, the nations will have been destroyed from His land. **10:16b**

**Statement #3** - When the Antichrist is destroyed, God will have answered the prayer of His humble people. **10:17a**

**Statement #4** - When the Antichrist is destroyed, God will strengthen the hearts of His people. **10:17b**

**Statement #5** - When the Antichrist is destroyed, God will have vindicated the oppressed . **10:18a**

**Statement #6** - When the Antichrist is destroyed, he will never exist again. **10:18b**

**Practical Lessons:**

- 1) When the wicked are at work, it will seem to those faithful that God is far off from the situation.
- 2) Wicked people do and say whatever they want, thinking they are getting away with their evil—but they are not.
- 3) Wicked people are subtle people and hide in what they appear to be.
- 4) Wicked people will be destroyed by God.