

## Psalm 94

# A Plea and Assurance That Yahweh Will Eventually Avenge His Chastened People

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### **A1 A PLEA TO YAHWEH TO AVENGE HIS PEOPLE 94:1-7**

#### **B1 A Plea to Yahweh Elohim of Vengeance, to Recompense the Proud 94:1-2**

C1 {1} O Lord, God of vengeance,

C2 God of vengeance, shine forth! 94:1

C3 {2} Rise up, O Judge of the earth,

C4 Render recompense to the proud. 94:2

#### **B2 A Protest at the Slowness of Yahweh's Judgment upon the Wicked 94:3**

C1 {3} How long shall the wicked, O LORD,

C2 How long shall the wicked exult?

#### **B3 A Recitation of the Evils of the Arrogant Wicked 94:4-7**

C1 Their Arrogant Speech 94:4

D1 {4} They pour forth *words*, they speak arrogantly;

D2 All who do wickedness vaunt themselves.

C2 Their Murderous Actions 94:5-6

D1 Crushing Yahweh's people 94:5

E1 {5} They crush Your people, O LORD,

E2 And afflict Your heritage.

D2 Destroying the vulnerable 94:6

E1 {6} They slay the widow and the stranger

E2 And murder the orphans.

C3 Their Blasphemous Portrayal of Yahweh Elohim as Unconcerned about  
the Plight of His People 94:7

D1 {7} They have said, "The LORD does not see,

D2 Nor does the God of Jacob pay heed."

## A2 THE ASSURANCE THAT YAHWEH WILL EVENTUALLY AVENGE HIS CHASTENED PEOPLE 94:8-15

### B1 The Assertion That God Does Observe the Evil of the Wicked against His People 94:8-11

C1 A Warning to Foreign Oppressors to Pay Attention 94:8

D1 {8} Pay heed, you senseless among the people;<sup>1</sup>

D2 And when will you understand, stupid ones?

C2 The Absurdity of Thinking the Creator is Oblivious to the Treatment of His People! 94:9

D1 {9} He who planted the ear, does He not hear?

D2 He who formed the eye, does He not see?

C3 The Absurdity of Thinking the Stern Disciplinarian of Nations Will Not Correct

D1 {10} He who chastens the nations, will He not rebuke,

D2 *Even* He who teaches man knowledge?

C4 The Vast Superiority of Yahweh's Knowledge Compared to Man's Fleeting, Worthless Knowledge 94:11

D1 {11} The LORD knows the thoughts of man,

D2 That they are a *mere* breath.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 94:8 - people: There is no article here; it is simply "among people.: Are these the wicked Gentiles (Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*) or the wicked among Israel (Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, Vol. 5, Psalms [K & D])? Judging from 94:5-7, the oppressors are foreigners. They ruthlessly crush Yahweh's people and heritage (5-6). Then they arrogantly boast that Yahweh, the God of Jacob (Israel), does not even see! It makes the most sense that it is these ruthless, arrogant oppressors that the psalmist is addressing as "people" in 94:8. This is supported by the fact that Yahweh generally disciplines and rebukes nations (94:10).

<sup>2</sup> 94:11 - breath (*hebel* 1892): KJV exhibits the most consistent translation, vain or vanity (ies). NASB employs a wide variety of words, including futility, vanity/vain, breath, fleeting, emptiness, idols (NIV = worthless idols), delusion, and worthless. A Hebrew parsing guide offers the one word, vapor. In Song of Solomon, NASB translates *hebel* "vanity" on most occasions. Certain phrases in Song of Solomon parallel *hebel* (vanity) with "striving after wind" (1:14; 2:11, 17, 26; 4:4, 16; 6:9; 11:10). Apparently the word's most basic meaning is something like a vapor, like man's warm, moist breath on a cold day, which appears for an instant and then vanishes. The fleeting nature of *hebel* can be easily take the figurative idea that something is fleeting, and hence, worthless, emptiness, and vanity. Thus, the phrase in the subtitle: "...Man's Fleeting, Worthless Knowledge."

**B2 The Blessings of Yahweh's Chastening 94:12-15**

- C1 The Blessedness of the Man Whom Yahweh Chastens 94:12
  - D1 Yahweh's chastening: {12} Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O LORD,
  - D2 Yahweh's teaching: And whom You teach out of Your law;
- C2 The Benefits to the Man Whom Yahweh Chastens 94:13
  - D1 Relief in adversity: {13} That You may grant him relief from the days of adversity,
  - D2 The demise of the wicked: Until a pit is dug for the wicked.
- C3 Yahweh Does Not Abandon His People 94:14
  - D1 No Abandonment: {14} For the LORD will not abandon His people,
  - D2 No Forsaking: Nor will He forsake His inheritance.
- C4 Justice and Righteousness Will Prevail 94:15
  - D1 Righteous Judgment: {15} For judgment will again be righteous,
  - D2 Obedient Upright: And all the upright in heart will follow it.

**A3 THE RESOLUTION OF PRESENT DESPAIR AND ANXIETY OVER THE DELAY OF JUSTICE 94:16-23**

**B1 The Psalmist's Query as to Who Would Help Him Withstand the Wicked 94:16**

- C1 Against Evildoers: {16} Who will stand up for me against evildoers?
- C2 Against Doers of Wickedness: Who will take his stand for me against those who do wickedness?

**B2 The Psalmist's Reflection on the Importance of Yahweh's Help 94:17-19**

- C1 The Impending Personal Disaster if Yahweh Had Not Helped 94:17
  - D1 The hypothetical non-help: {17} If the LORD had not been my help,
  - D2 The resultant utter depression of the psalmist: My soul would soon have dwelt in *the abode of* silence.

- C2 Yahweh's Loyal Love Compensates for Potential Private Despair 94:18
  - D1 Potential abdication to despair: {18} If I should say, "My foot has slipped,"
  - D2 The sustenance of Yahweh's loyal love: Your lovingkindness, O LORD, will hold me up.
- C3 Yahweh's Consolation Overcomes Private Anxiety 94:19
  - D1 Private anxiety: {19} When my anxious thoughts multiply within me,
  - D2 Delightful consolation: Your consolations delight my soul.

**B3 The Alienation of the Wicked from Yahweh 94:20-21**

- C1 An Evil Ruler Cannot Be Blessed by God 94:20
  - D1 {20} Can a throne of destruction be allied with You,
  - D2 One which devises mischief by decree?
- C2 The Culpability of the Wicked 94:21
  - D1 Conspiracy against the righteous: {21} They band themselves together against the life of the righteous
  - D2 Unjust execution of the innocent: And condemn the innocent to death.

**B4 Yahweh Elohim's Achievement of Justice for the Righteous and the Wicked 94:22-23**

- C1 His Protection of the Psalmist 94:22
  - D1 Yahweh his stronghold: {22} But the LORD has been my stronghold,
  - D2 Elohim his refuge: And my God the rock of my refuge.
- C2 His Poetic Justice Enforced upon the Wicked 94:23
  - D1 Boomeranging their wickedness upon them: {23} He has brought back their wickedness upon them
  - D2 Yahweh Elohim's utter destruction of them in their evil
    - E1 And will destroy them in their evil;
    - E2 The LORD our God will destroy them.

**EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 94**

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