

1 Why stand so far off, O Lord? □

Why hide yourself in time of trouble?

2 The wicked in their pride persecute the poor; □

let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.

3 The wicked boast of their heart's desire; □

the covetous curse and revile the Lord.

4 The wicked in their arrogance say, 'God will not avenge it'; □

in all their scheming God counts for nothing.

5 They are stubborn in all their ways,

for your judgements are far above out of their sight; □

they scoff at all their adversaries.

6 They say in their heart, 'I shall not be shaken; □

no harm shall ever happen to me.'

7 Their mouth is full of cursing, deceit and fraud; □

under their tongue lie mischief and wrong.

8 They lurk in the outskirts

and in dark alleys they murder the innocent; □

their eyes are ever watching for the helpless.

9 They lie in wait, like a lion in his den;

they lie in wait to seize the poor; □

they seize the poor when they get them into their net.

10 The innocent are broken and humbled before them; □

the helpless fall before their power.

11 They say in their heart, 'God has forgotten; □

he hides his face away; he will never see it.'

12 Arise, O Lord God, and lift up your hand; □

forget not the poor.

13 Why should the wicked be scornful of God? □

Why should they say in their hearts, 'You will not avenge it'?

14 Surely, you behold trouble and misery; □

you see it and take it into your own hand.

15 The helpless commit themselves to you, □

for you are the helper of the orphan.

16 Break the power of the wicked and malicious; □

search out their wickedness until you find none.

17 The Lord shall reign for ever and ever; □

the nations shall perish from his land.

18 Lord, you will hear the desire of the poor; □

you will incline your ear to the fullness of their heart,

19 To give justice to the orphan and oppressed, □

so that people are no longer driven in terror from the land.

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