

Imprecatory Judgment

Psalms of David · Book II · Psalms That Call for Justice

"For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A poem by David."

IN ONE SENTENCE

*Corrupt rulers poison the land like deaf cobras, but God judges the earth, and the righteous will be rewarded.***Remember it:** Fifty-eight: the cobra won't listen, but God judges the earth.

MEMORY VERSE

so that men shall say, "Most certainly there is a reward for the righteous. Most certainly there is a God who judges the earth."

Psalm 58:11 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

שֹׁפֵטִים

"judging" · verse 11

In the Psalms: 32 times, in 21 psalms

שֹׁפֵטִים comes from the root "to judge," which in Hebrew means more than handing down a verdict. It means to govern and to put things right. The psalm opens by asking whether human rulers judge rightly and closes with the answer: there is a God who truly judges the earth.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

1-5 Unjust rulers speak lies, poisonous like a deaf cobra.**6-9** A prayer that God break their power and sweep them away.**10-11** The righteous are rewarded, for God judges the earth.

MY NOTES

**Listen.** Hear Psalm 58 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/58.**Cantillated.** Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

Justice on the Wicked

FILL IN THE BLANKS

_____ rulers poison the land like deaf _____, but God judges the earth, and the righteous will be _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What is the rulers' poison compared to?

(A) Spoiled wine

(C) Bitter herbs

(B) A deaf cobra

(D) A scorpion's sting

2. What does David ask God to break in their mouth?

(A) Their tongues

(C) Their lips

(B) Their teeth

(D) Their jaws

3. What will people say at the end?

(A) "The wicked always win."

(C) "Kings are like gods."

(B) "The king is just."

(D) "There is a reward for the righteous."

TALK IT OVER

1. What are the rulers doing with their hands on the earth, according to verse 2?

2. Why is it good news that there is a God who judges the earth?

3. How should Christians pray when leaders abuse power?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 58 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say verse 11 by heart

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: Corrupt · cobras · rewarded · Check yourself: 1. B (v. 4) · 2. B (v. 6) · 3. D (v. 11)