

The Depravity of a Fool

In chapter thirteen we learned that it is natural for us, living in these flesh bodies, to have ‘bad days’ sometimes (like David in this chapter). We all tend to get ‘down and out’ every now and then. Sometimes it seems like we keep praying to God for help and He doesn’t answer. We even wonder sometimes if He even hears us. But, while this is normal for ‘flesh man’ it should *not* be a mentality that we stay in. We must learn to put on the ‘new man’ (the mind of Christ) and keep that mentality on by disciplining ourselves to remember the promises of God (the Word of God). So, even when it feels like we’re surrounded by ungodly people and that God doesn’t hear us - He truly *does* hear us and He truly *will* answer our prayers ‘*in due time*’. But, sometimes He doesn’t answer *when we want Him to* because He’s testing our faith. At other times it might be to make us stronger. Other times, it might just not be the right time to answer us. Or, it could very well be a combination of these things! But, God *always* hears our prayers, so long as we’ve accepted His Son, Jesus Christ and strive to obey Him sincerely, from the heart; which means we don’t knowingly keep sin in our heart. Therefore, it’s wise to make sure to repent for all your sins (daily even) and ask God if He is not answering because you’ve got any ‘secret faults’ you don’t know about. If you are sincerely studying His Word daily, the Holy Spirit *will* help you see any ‘secret faults’ you have. However, if this is not the reason He is ‘not answering your prayers’ then we need to simply *be patient*; and, in the meantime, continue to study His Word, strive to obey it sincerely (from the heart) and make sure to also praise and thank Him (count your blessings) because these are also things that help us to overcome our ‘bad days’.

We now move on to another Psalm of David and it’s one that speaks of the ‘depravity’ of man (meaning flesh *mankind*), i.e. the fools of the world...

Psalm 14

1A Psalm of David.

*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.*

The subject of this Psalms is the ‘fool’ and this word is an important Hebrew word to understand. It *nabal* (#5036) and means **stupid** or **wicked** (especially impious), which is why the *Companion Bible* notes call a fool an *impious* person, which means one who is lacking in reverence or proper respect (as for God or one's parents). And truly, one does have to be stupid to not recognize (and revere) our Heavenly Father. Now, something else that’s important to understand about this verse is that the word ‘God’ here is **'elohiym** (#430), when you look it up in the Strong’s Concordance, which means **gods in the ordinary sense**; but *specifically used* (in the plural thus, especially with the article) **of the supreme God**; and it’s even occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates (as in Ex 7:1, Ex 22:28, Ps 82:1). However, the *Companion Bible* has a note that points out the primitive text was actually *Yehvoah* (#3068) – which is God’s Sacred name - and **not 'elohiym** (#430). [You can check out appendixes 32 and 4. II for more information on this]. So, this tells us that the fools of the earth don’t acknowledge **Yehovah** (YHVH) as the Supreme

and Sovereign God Almighty over heaven and earth *nor* do they recognize Him as the ‘covenant God’ who gave Israel His perfect (righteous) Laws.

This then is why there are so many false doctrines in the world, which is why it’s not surprising that a ‘new’ false (satanic) doctrine of ‘evolution’ rose in the late 19th century (Darwinism). And it became so popular (among the fools) that it’s even is commonly taught in schools now. And it is a *wicked* doctrine because it teaches people (young and old) to be fools (stupid). And that’s simply because **it teaches them *not* to revere our Heavenly Father *because* it teaches people **He doesn’t exist****. Yes, *Yehovah* (YHVH) is our Creator: the one who, not only made heaven and earth (and all that is therein), but He also made ***our souls*** – even Satan is a child of God, as Ezekiel 28 says. As Rev 4:11 rightly points out: *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created*. So, one has to be very dull in the head (stupid) indeed to truly think there is no God Almighty (YHVH) and not to recognize His perfect laws that would truly bring peace to the world if we just obeyed them. But sadly, this is only one of the *many* false doctrines that Satan’s system teaches people (the ‘city’, a.k.a. ‘the world’ that we learned about when studying Psalms 2). Another false doctrine is the one he used on Eve; that we can ‘be our own god’ ... but that won’t work out any better for us than it did for Adam and Eve. And it’s sad because the lies they tell *are* what causes people to become alienated from our Heavenly Father (when they believe in the lies) ... which is what leads to spiritual death. As Romans says...

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:5-10

Paul clearly explains the difference between a ‘fool’ (the subject of this Psalm) verses those who are not fools. Those who are fools ‘mind the things of the flesh’ *because they think with their carnal mind* (their heart, the part of us that wants to sin). And they don’t have any concept of pleasing God Almighty because *they don’t even believe in Him*. Or, if they do think there ‘might’ be a God in heaven, they think He does not care about us here on earth. Or, they think He does not have the power to influence anything that goes on in the earth (Ps 10:11). Fools they are indeed. For, as Heb 11:6 says: ***without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him***. So, those who are taught that God is not real will have a hard time seeking Him because *they don’t*

think there's anyone to seek. And this is the foundation for all the wickedness and iniquity on the earth.

Prov 16:6 tells us that, *by mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.* But people cannot fear (which can also mean to revere) God Almighty (YHVH) if they don't even believe in Him. If they don't think there is a God in heaven (that we cannot see with our flesh eyes) then they won't think there is any higher authority than those who are on the earth. Therefore, they'll only seek to please those who govern on earth, and not our Heavenly Father. Again, the inevitable result from this is that they 'work iniquity' and (eventually) will learn to do wickedly too. Prov 9:10 tells us that *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.* Ps 111:10 echo's this when it states that *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.* So again, if one does not even think there is a Supreme and Sovereign God that rules over all (heaven and earth) *then they won't seek Him*. And thus, they cannot be cleansed spiritually (as Prov 16:6 says, with mercy and truth, which is only done through Jesus Christ) because they simply don't seek our Heavenly Father (YHVH) nor His righteousness (through Jesus Christ, John 14:6). Therefore (to reiterate) they don't fear to do evil and they will therefore still be accountable for their sins when they die; or, if they are still alive when Jesus Christ returns, they'll experience His great 'cup of wrath' that will be poured out upon all the unrepentant sinners in that day.

So, when David says that only a fool (stupid people) says in his (or her) heart (their carnal mind; the part of us that wants to sin) that there is no God (YHVH) – no higher power that will hold them accountable for their sins – he is 'spot on'. And this is why David concludes that **all** people who are fools are 'corrupted' and have done 'abominable works'. And 'among the fools' there is **none** that 'seeketh to do good'. It's important to rightly divide this verse, because David is *not* speaking about *all* the people of the earth, for there are some people who do fear God and strive to obey Him (as David himself). But, when you keep the subject of a 'fool' in mind, then it's easy to see that, indeed 'among the fools' on earth, there truly is not a single one that 'doeth good'. They're all corrupt (spiritually) and they therefore all do 'abominable works'. The word '**abominable**' here is *ta`ab* (#8581), which is a primitive root that means: **to loathe**, i.e. (morally) **detest**. In other words, the 'fools' on the earth do things that are morally detestable – the things that God Almighty (YHVH) (and those who are righteous) loath and detest. We have only to read through God's Law to see the things that are abominable to Him (like Lev 18 for one such example). And, we also learned back in Ps 11:5 that: *the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth*. However, the Proverbs also gives us a concise list of 'six things' that God hates...

*16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*
Prov 6:16-19

And, in the next chapter (Ps 15) we'll see the exact opposite of the things God hates, when He tell us the character traits of those who are pleasing to Him – and they are the kind of people who will dwell with Him (in His Tabernacle) – meaning, those who will govern with Him in the righteous government (the Body of Christ) that Jesus is creating (through His Holy Spirit) *right now*. But those who do that which God hates (loathes and detests) will *never* be allowed to reign with Jesus, *because* His righteous government is **un-corruptible**. So, nothing that God hates will be in His righteous (and eternal) government. This is why Rev 21:27 tells us that (speaking of the 'city' of Jerusalem that Jesus will rule the world from) *there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but [only] they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

We also learned about those who God loathes (hates) back in chapters 9-10 of Psalms. And, as Psalm 10:4 says: *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.* Verse 11 went on to say that: *He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it.* But we learned God's response to this in Psalms 11, when David pointed out that God is still in control of all things. He is still on His throne, in heaven, and He looks carefully at what's going on in the earth. And He even looks at what people are thinking in their 'heart' (desires, intentions and emotions) as well as their mind (thought process) and that He tests us to see what's truly in our 'inward parts'. As Rom 8:27 says: *he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.* God knows the difference between when we are sincerely trying to serve Him (we love and have faith in Him and His Savior, Jesus) verses those who are foolish and say He doesn't even exist, or that He is not the Supreme Ruler over all the earth and in heaven. So, nothing gets by Him. *Nothing*. But truly, those who are fools (stupid) are all corrupted in body, soul and spirit. They do abominable works and there's no good person among the foolish. Not one single person.

Psalm 14

*2 The **LORD** looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek **God**.*

First off, the word 'God' in this last verse should be translated as Yehovah (YHVH), the same as in verse 1. It's one of the few times our *Strong's Concordance* does not help us but that's why the *Companion Bible* is such a valuable study tool because it does point out this error. And because this verse begins and ends with Yehovah (YHVH), we see that there is a figure of speech contained within it, called '*Epanadiplosis*', which is simply were the same word is repeated in the beginning and end of the sentence, as a way to 'encircle' the information contained in it. This gives emphasis to what was said in between. And the point is that: the 'covenant God' **Yehovah** (Creator of everything) *is indeed in heaven, looking down upon us all*. And what is He looking for? To see if *anyone* understands that He is *real* and to see if they are *seeking Him*. This verse echo's what we learned in Psalm 11, which told us that God is indeed in His holy Temple, in heaven, and looks down on earth (carefully) to test what's in our heart (our carnal mind, where

our desires, emotions and intentions are) and mind (our thought process). Again, He wants to know if there's any that understand He is real and are seeking Him. What does He find?

Psalm 14

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

When our Heavenly Father looks down at mankind, what He finds is pretty disappointing. Most of His children have 'gone aside' (from His righteous Laws) and become filthy, both spiritually and physically. The word 'filthy' here is '*alach* (#), a primitive root that means: *to muddle*, i.e. (figuratively and intransitive) *to turn* (morally) **corrupt**. That's why there is not one that 'doeth good'. But, we must remember the subject of this Psalm concerns the 'fool', and that's why He doesn't find one person (among the fools) who does good; they're all corrupted. There is the exception among all His children, of course, of those who are truly a part of the Body of Christ; the few people left on earth who do love and serve and seek Him. However, the only reason we are acceptable to our Heavenly Father is because we've accepted the precious atoning blood of Jesus Christ. This means we've repented wholeheartedly and strive to obey His Holy Word *and* Holy Spirit. But, truly, ***the only 'good thing' in us is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit***. For, as Isa 64:6 points out, without Jesus Christ, *we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away*. So, those who don't keep their mind, and hear, t on the Rock, who is Jesus Christ (1 Cor 10:4), will indeed be swept away (gone a side) by Satan's 'flood of lies (Rev 12:15), as Jesus warns us in Mth 7:21-27. This is why most people are filthy (corrupt) inside their 'inward parts'. And that's why there's not one person among those fools (those who deny God by denying His Son, Jesus Christ, John 14:6) who does what's right – no, not even one of them. And that's why it'll be so easy for Satan to fool the world into worshiping him.

As this verse says, they have 'gone aside', which they will do in mass when Satan is kicked out of heaven, to earth, to pretend he's the 'Savior' of the world. In 2 Thess 2:3 Paul calls it the great 'falling away' which simply *defection from truth*, which is a state of "apostasy" (#646). And it is because the fools on the earth love lies (and hate the truth) that causes God to allow Satan to come to earth (He actually kicks him, and his fallen angels, out of heaven, Rev 12) to deceive the world. 2 Thess 2:10-12 tells us that God gives the fools on the earth strong delusion (i.e. they believe Satan's lies that he is the Savior of the world, 2 Thess 2:11) because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved (2 Thess 2:10). And therefore, as 2 Thess 2:12 also tells us, they who 'believe not the truth' (that Satan is a fraud and the true Jesus Christ is yet to return to the earth) will indeed be 'damned' (which means judged at Jesus' return) because they *believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness* (2Thess 2:12). So, while this verse 3 spoke of the majority of people in David's day (and throughout the thousands of years since that time – the fools of the earth) it also very much applies to our day as well.

Now, these verse 2-3 are quoted in the New Testament by Paul in his letter to the Romans. And, because the Holy Spirit used Paul to explain the Old Testament, it behooves us to check out *why* he quoting these verses to see what point he was making.

So, in chapter 3 of Romans, Paul is making the point that: those who *still* keep the ‘covenant of circumcision’ (or *any* of the blood sacrifices) after Jesus Christ’s death, and resurrection, are ‘missing the point’ of Jesus Christ’s atoning blood. While Gen 17 tells us the ‘covenant of circumcision was given to Abraham and his descendants ‘forever’, Heb 10:10 tells us that ‘the way’ we ‘keep’ this covenant *has changed* since Jesus’ blood was shed to pay for our sins. Therefore, we (who believe in Jesus Christ) are not to perform blood sacrifices anymore (not ever). Doing so is actually saying you don’t believe in Jesus Christ; so it’s truly denying Jesus Christ. And circumcision is a form of blood sacrifice. Now, this doesn’t mean circumcision is bad to do *for health reasons*, but we should not do it for *religious* reasons. But, many in Paul’s day did not understand this. They did not understand that, after Jesus died for our sins, He abolished the ordinances of blood sacrifices, including circumcision (Col 2:14, Eph 2:15). So, many ‘Jews’ clung to it and insisted that the gentiles should also physically circumcise their male children, *if* they wanted to ‘be saved’. But again, they ‘missed the point’ of Jesus’ atoning blood. And really, they even missed the point of why circumcision was given. For, even in the Old Testament, God told Israel what that ‘covenant of circumcision’ *symbolized*. In Deut 10:16, Moses said to Israel: *Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked*. Later, in Deut 30:6, *Moses then said: And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live*. Later still, God Himself said, through Jeremiah: *Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings* (Jer 4:5).

So clearly, the point of the physical circumcision *looked forward to the atoning blood of Jesus Christ* (as did all the blood sacrifices). Because it is was Jesus’ blood shed (and His subsequent victory over death through His resurrection) that caused the Holy Spirit to be given to all who believe in Jesus Christ. And it is the Holy Spirit of God that truly helps us ‘circumcise’ our heart (the carnal mind; the part of us that wants to sin). This is why, in 1 Cor 7:19 Paul said: *Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God*. It does not matter if you flesh body is circumcised or not; what matters to God is if you clean your heart and put on the ‘new man’ who desires, and strives, to sincerely obey God’s Word. That’s why Paul goes on to say, in Gal 5:6 that: *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love*. Faith in Jesus Christ is what causes us to put on the ‘new man’, which gives us a new mindset and changes our dirty heart to love God instead of ourself (and idols). That’s why Paul also says in Gal 6:15: *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature*.

And, we become a ‘new creature’ (or a new person inside our soul – the ‘new man’ Paul speaks of in Eph 4:24, Col 2:10) when we ‘circumcise’ our heart (the carnal mind; the part of us that

wants to sin.). That's why, in Phil 3:3, Paul then says: *For we are the circumcision, **which worship God in the spirit** [John 4], and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.* Since Jesus Christ died for our sins, those who God now considers to be 'circumcised' are those who do so to their heart (our desires, intentions and emotions) and mind (thought process). That's why, in Col 2:11 Paul says that *ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.* Remember, Deut 30:6 said: *And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.* This is done by the Holy Spirit of God (who is given to those who accept Jesus Christ and obey His commandments).

So, all of this groundwork is necessary to understand the subject of Romans 3, where Paul quotes from this Psalm 14, verse 1-3. And the point Paul is clearly making is that: those who trust in the blood sacrifices to make them 'acceptable' to God are going to be very, very disappointed. And that's because, one can perform all the blood sacrifices perfectly (or whatever else they might think pleases God) but that does not mean they are pleasing to God. What matters is what's in our heart and mind. That's why Paul goes on to say...

*9 What then? are we [the 'Jews' who are physically circumcised] better than they [the gentiles, who are not circumcised physically]? **No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;***

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

*11 **There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.***

*12 **They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

*13 **Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:***

*14 **Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:***

*15 **Their feet are swift to shed blood:***

*16 **Destruction and misery are in their ways:***

*17 **And the way of peace have they not known:***

*18 **There is no fear of God before their eyes.***

Rom 3:9-18

Paul's point is that each and every one of us sins. Even when we are trying not to sin, we still do. That's why Paul quotes from Psalm 14 to prove that the Old Testament (which were the only Scriptures they had at the time) document that every living being on earth sins. He also quotes more Scriptures than Psalms 14 to make his point. And this is true. *Every person on earth does indeed sin.* And, of a truth, without Jesus Christ in our heart and mind, we are a fool. Even those who claim they believe in Jesus Christ, but do not study His Word, strive to clean it so they can obey God's Word (and the guidance of the Holy Spirit) *are still fools*, because they end up trusting in their own self-righteousness, instead of the blood of Jesus Christ, to 'get them into heaven'. So, indeed, it does not matter if they one is circumcised physically or not. If they have

not circumcised their heart, they are still a fool, and still under sin, because they have not accepted the only way to salvation, which is through the blood of Jesus Christ. And that's the point Paul goes on to make in the balance of this chapter in Romans 3. As he later says...

*23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*
Rom 3:23-25

So, while those who are fools (don't even believe in God) and those who do believe in the one and only true God all sin, there is a very big difference between those who accept Jesus Christ (fools) and those who do not. And, in the book of Romans [which you can study in depth here: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Romans] Paul explains the difference between those who accept Jesus Christ and those who do not. The fools are habitual sinners. They don't care about sinning and don't even try not to sin. But, those who accept Jesus Christ and sincerely try hard not to sin are viewed differently by God because the blood of Jesus Christ atones and cleanses their sin (1 John 1:7-10). That's why God calls them 'righteous' even though they still sin occasionally. Because, when we sincerely repent for our sins, and believe that the blood of Jesus Christ is able to pay for our sins, then God wipes our sins clean from the 'book' He is keeping all of our records on (Ex 32:32; Ps 56:8, 139:16; Rev 5, 10, 17:18, 13:18, 20:12, 21:27, etc.). This is why Paul says we are '*justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*' (Rom 3:24).

Those who were pleasing to God (such as David) before Jesus died for our sins had to sacrifice animals to show they believed that the Messiah *would* come. And now that Jesus Christ *has* come to pay for our sins, we now simply repent (sincerely) each time we recognize we sin 'in Jesus' name' (believing Jesus' atoning blood covers our sin) and we're forgiven. But, just as those who performed blood sacrifices would not get forgiveness from God no matter how many animals they sacrificed (Mic 6:6-8) so too it does not matter if we ask in "Jesus' name" if we really don't believe in Him or are not sincere in our repentance. As God says in Hosea 6:6: *For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.* And in 1 Sam 15:22, Samuel spoke for God when he said: *to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.* And Mic 6:8 sums it up rather well when saying: *what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?* And that is Paul's entire point in Romans 3. But **he used these verses from this Psalm 14 to point out that we all fall short and therefore we all need forgiveness from God.**

And the *only* way we can get forgiveness for our sins is when we sincerely believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (born of the virgin, Mary, that He lived a totally sinless life, that He died to pay for our sin and rose (literally) from the dead, conquering all sin. And when we believe this sincerely (from the heart), we *will* study His Word to learn of Him (Mth 11:29) so we can learn to do what's right. And when we do that, God will send us His Holy Spirit to teach us, clean us

and protect us. So, when we strive to obey His Word *and* His Holy Spirit, we are ‘in Him’ and He is ‘in us’ (John 15), which is what ‘walking in the Spirit’ (Gal 5) truly is. As we learned earlier, Rom 8 also teaches us how to truly please God. And if we learn to subdue (put off) our carnal mind (fleshly way of thinking) then we can be pleasing to God. But, the only way to truly do this is by studying God’s Word and learning to listen *and* obey the Holy Spirit. As Paul said in Rom 8:6: *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* And in verse 9 He said, *but ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.* Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Therefore, we stop being fools when the Holy Spirit of God is in us (teaching us, through His Word, how to obey God *from the heart*) and *that’s* why we can be pleasing to our Heavenly Father, Yehovah (YHVH) who is truly the Creator and Supreme God over all the universe.

Psalms 14

4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

David now asks a question that he’s really not expecting an answer to, because it’s given to make a point. Indeed, those who work iniquity don’t have knowledge *to do what’s right*. As God said in Jer 4:22: *For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.* So, God Himself calls His people (Israel) foolish because they don’t know Him. They don’t know His Word or His righteous Laws (even though He came down to earth to give Israel His Law, Ex 19-20). And, because they are wise to do evil, but have no knowledge to do what’s right, He also calls them ‘sottish’, which means ‘silly’ (#5530). Silly is a word that simply means someone who has a lack of common sense or sound judgment and it can even mean someone who is ‘weak in intellect’... which we would also call stupid.

And what does it mean to ‘eat up’ His people as they eat bread? It’s a figure of speech that uses an analogy of something we can see to explain something we cannot see. When we eat bread, we consume it. We ‘use it up’ and it’s there no more. That’s what the wicked and those who are ‘workers of iniquity’ do when they oppress the innocent and the righteous. They find ways to extort and oppress those who cannot fight back so they can steal their wealth. As it is written...

1 And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment?

*2 **Who hate the good, and love the evil;** who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones;*

3 Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron.

Mic 3:1-3

God uses a similar analogy in Micah 3 as David does here in Psalm 14. And His point is the same. Those who hate the good (Jesus Christ) and love the evil (Satan) do oppress people so

much that it can be likened to them trying to ‘skin’ and ‘eat’ every last bit of strength and wealth from the people. But this is not the only place that uses this analogy. In Jer 10:25, Jeremiah calls upon God to: *Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for **they have eaten up Jacob**, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.* And in Amos, He also uses this analogy...

*4 Hear this, O **ye that swallow up the needy**, even to make the poor of the land to fail,
5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?
6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?*
Amos 8:4-6

Here the ‘swallowing up the needy’ is very much like David saying that they ‘eat up’ the people as a person eats bread. But, Amos even gives some examples. Such as those merchants who are so eager to sell their products (with inflated prices) that they can’t wait for the Sabbath day to be over. Today, merchants sell day and night, seven days a week. There is no respect for God anymore. And they work to falsify the balances in many ways. There’s less product in the package, things are made so cheap they barely last through their warranty and truly, the stuff they pass off as ‘food’ to us is really poison in many cases. But, there are many other places that explain the kind of oppressions that ‘eat up’ our people. We could also look to Scriptures such as Mic 2:1-10, 3:9-11, 7:1-4; Isa 5:8-23; Jer 7:8-11, 23:30-32, Ezek 13 (and many more) to see just what ‘eating up’ the people really means.

Or, we can simply look around us today and see the same things! The very institutions that are *supposed to be* used for good (such as the government, the courts, the schools and even Churches) are instead used for evil. From high taxes, unsound money, immigrants overrunning our countries to crooked courts and unjust laws, our people truly are ‘eaten up’. We’re being destroyed *from the inside out*. Our own governments have become so corrupt that they have ‘sold out’ their follow citizens *just to make money*. And it’s not just those in the government. Doctors also ‘sell out’ when they willingly give people injections and other ‘medical treatments’ that they *know* won’t cure someone, just to get kickbacks from the pharmaceutical companies (despite the fact they take an oath to ‘do no harm’ to people). Our own institutions (like the media and Universities) sew discord among the population *so there can be no unity*. And, as Jesus said, if a kingdom (government) is divided, *it will fall* (Mth 12:25). And, even Church leaders do this also when they teach things that ‘bring in the money’ (i.e. lies – traditions of man) instead of the truth. All for their false ‘god’ of money. How true is it written that ***the love of money is the root of all evil***: *which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows* (1 Tim 6:10).

Psalms 14

5 There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.

The word ‘were in a great fear’ are a figure of speech that means: *they feared a great fear* (see notes on *Companion Bible*). And David says this after pondering all the foolishness of those who don’t fear to do evil and ‘work iniquity’, because they don’t fear God Almighty (YHVH). He’s looking forward to the time when they will get their ‘payment’ for their sins; which, of course, is the time when God will judge them and subsequently punish them for their sins. And while He certainly does this at times, even now, this also looks forward to the day when Jesus Christ returns and takes over the world (and heaven) to rule according to God’s righteous Laws. Indeed, they (the wicked and all ‘workers of iniquity’) will be in so great of fear that they’ll actually pray the rocks fall on them in hopes they don’t have to face Jesus Christ (Isa 2:17-22, rev 6:12-17).

And David says they’ll ‘fear a great fear’ because ‘*God is in the generation of the righteous*’. The word ‘generation’ here is *dowr* or (shortened) *dor* (#1755) which means: *a revolution of time*, i.e. *an age* or *generation*; also *a dwelling*. So, the reason that the wicked, and those what are ‘workers of iniquity’, will ‘fear a great fear’ is because God dwells with those who are righteous...

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.
 1 Cor 3:16-17

When we accept Jesus Christ sincerely - and work to study and obey His Word *and* His Holy Spirit – we are a part of the Body of Christ. Think about what that means. We’re a part of Christ’s own body... *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye* (Zech 2:8). God does not take kindly to having the pupil (apple) of His eye poked any more than you do. Therefore, when we who are a part of His only begotten Son are hurt, He doesn’t ‘swallow that pill’ very well. In fact, not at all. As it is written...

To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.
 Deut 32:35

*41 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; **I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.***
42 I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.
*43 Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for **he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.***
 Deut 32:41-43

For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

Isa 63:4

And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.

Ezek 25:17

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.

*8 **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:***

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

*10 When **he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe** (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day.***

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess 1:7-12

As we've learned from past studies in the Psalms, in no way, shape or form will God allow the wicked (or workers of iniquity) to go unpunished forever. As another Psalm tells us...

*Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: **when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.***

Ps 37:34

*38 But **the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.***

39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.

40 And the LORD shall help them and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

Ps 37:38-40

So, again, the wicked truly do not get away with anything. It's only due to His plan of Salvation that He allows such vile things to continue...

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

*9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but **is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

*10 But the day of the Lord **will come** as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

2 Peter 3:8-10

As Peter points out, there *will* come a time when God's longsuffering runs out, and the 'day of vengeance' *will come*. For some, their punishments come even now. But for sure, all the wicked will be punished when Jesus Christ returns, and this is what should cause us to work ever so hard to cleave to our Heavenly Father, through the *only* means of salvation He has given us – our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Psalm 14

6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

David now points out that the wicked (and 'workers of iniquity') not only 'eat up' His people (through many wicked ways) but they also shame the 'counsel' of the poor; those who make Yehovah (YHVH) their refuge. This means those who cleave to God through Jesus Christ. And we can easily see how this is done today when Jesus Christ is openly mocked and His Laws are scorned as though they were a hair in a biscuit (or worse). The wicked and 'workers of iniquity' in every high-level position (nearly) work hard to persecute those stubbornly refuse to stop believing in (and obeying) Jesus Christ. They think of nothing to slam Christians with lawsuits for such trivial things as refusing to make a cake for a homosexual couple. They find excuses to rip children away from their Christian parents and won't allow Churches to stay open during so-called 'pandemics' even though liquor stores and huge corporations are allowed to remain open. The list of how they shame (and persecute) those who take refuge in Jesus Christ - by following His counsel (advice, plan or prudence, #6098) in the Word of God – is truly endless.

Psalm 14

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

David now concludes his point - of how the wicked and 'workers of iniquity' (the fools in the world) work so hard to 'eat up' (persecute into obliteration) those who love, trust and serve Jesus Christ - by saying he wished that salvation had already come to Israel (yea, the world), so that they could be glad again. To wish that the Lord (YHVH) would 'bring back the captivity of His people' means David is wishing the kingdom of Israel would be restored (i.e. that Jesus Christ would return quickly). We who believe in Jesus Christ also desire this *greatly*!

Now, it's also important to understand why David uses two terms (Jacob and Israel) for the nation of Israel here. In Genesis 32:28, the *Companion Bible* has a note that explains why. In this verse, Jacob was renamed, by God, to Israel. And therefore, the use of Jacob in Scriptures (from that point forward) would come to be used for Jacob and his *natural* seed. But the use of Israel would come to be used for Jacob (looking forward to Jesus Christ) and his *spiritual* seed (those

of all races who accept Jesus Christ). While Jacob's name means 'heel catcher' (#3290) because he was a contender with his twin brother, Esau, from the womb (Gen 25:22) - Israel means 'he will rule as God' (#3478) because, God always commands, orders and rules with perfection. Man attempts it but always, in the end, fails. God is always the *doer* of what the word 'Israel' means and that is shown through Israel's descendant (through the tribe of Judah) Jesus Christ. Case in point for these terms being used in this way can also be found in other Genesis Scriptures. The notes on the *Companion Bible* in Genesis 43:6 also explains that the term Jacob is used of his weakness (Gen 42:36 for example) but Israel is used of his resignation to God's will. And in Genesis 45:26 Jacob's name is used in connection with his unbelief and weakness (he didn't believe Joseph was alive, at first) but in Genesis 45:28 the name Israel is used when he then realized (believed) Joseph was truly alive, denoting *strength of faith and acting upon it* (i.e. he then went to Egypt because he believe Joseph was alive).

So, the term Jacob refers not only to the natural seed of Jacob (who are now scattered around the world, but mostly in the Christian nations) but also to man's weakness of faith and inability to obey God's Word. Meanwhile, the term Israel denotes the spiritual seed of Jacob (through belief in Jesus Christ, as Gal 3 explains) and thus also denotes those who have faith in the truth (the Gospel of Jesus Christ) *and act upon it*. So, when David says Jacob shall rejoice, it's referring to those who really are his physical descendants, even those who are weak in faith. And when he says that Israel shall be glad, it refers to those of all races who believe in Jesus Christ, they too will be glad when Jesus returns to free the world from bondage to Satan's wicked government as well as his vile lies and deceptions. And *these are David's conclusions* after having meditated on the oppression from the many fools that are in the world; those that don't believe in God or His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. So, it all boils back to the 'common theme' we've been learning about in the Psalms (that is truly written all throughout the Bible) that: *the wicked don't truly get away with anything*. They will receive the due, and just, punishments for their sins (unless they repent wholeheartedly) and their wicked ways, and words, will come back to be poured out on their own heads. In other words, the same 'evil devices' they have strived so hard to snare others with (even their souls) *will be their own downfall*. [Learn more about this in the two-part study on the Vine: <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/992> & <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/993>]. And in Revelations 18 we see that they'll be crying their eyes out because of it.

31 *What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?***

32 *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

33 *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

35 ***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

36 *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

37 *Nay, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.***

*38 For I am persuaded, that **neither** death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Rom 8:31-39

And *that* is definitely worth saying: AMEN to!