

# God's Word on Governing

A Study  
Through Discussion

**Part V: Evildoers and the Righteous**

**By Curran Tiffany**



## V. EVILDOERS and the RIGHTEOUS AMONG US: INIQUITY & MYSTERY

- How do we react to evil?
- Must we suffer when evil comes in our midst?
- Can we influence God's dealing with evil?
- Will God bless the land for the righteous?

Habakkuk cried out, "How long, O Lord" would he see violence, iniquity, wickedness, justice perverted. He accused God: "and Thou wilt not hear?" (Hab 1:1-4)

In history and in our own circles today, we see suffering caused by the wickedness of others. Yet we also see some suffering relieved and even avoided by the goodness of others.

God used Joseph to save His people and the nation of Egypt from famine. Later he used Mordecai and Esther to save the Jews from slaughter.

In Session II we saw all Jerusalem destroyed because of the stubborn fear and pride of young king Zedekiah. In Session III we saw Tyre destroyed because of the ultimate arrogance of its prince. We saw Israel under King Jeroboam set on an evil path which led to destruction and from which she never escaped.

In each case there was ultimately a judgment of God.

"How long, O Lord?"

There are some questions, like Habakkuk's, to which we don't find answers. (Sometimes we barely find clues.) Habakkuk received words that made him fear and tremble (Hab. 3:2, 16). Expecting great distress, he instead found joy and strength in the God of his salvation. (Hab. 3:17-19).

### 1. Reacting to the Evildoer – Nearly Slipping

- a) Think of arrogant and wicked mockers you have seen, who yet prospered. How did the psalmist first react to such people? Psalm 73:2-3, 12-15

Do you ever feel resentful that someone who is cutting corners is prospering, while you are "playing it straight", seemingly in vain?

- b) What caused a change in the psalmist's attitude toward such persons? Psalm 73:16~20
- c) What did Asaph say about such persons'?

d) What should be our inner attitude about the prospering evil-doer? Psalm 37:1~2, 7-10.

2. Iniquity in the Land: A Dangerous Thing. Note how, in these cases, God's judgment on the wicked adversely affects the righteous.

a) The remnant of Israel. Ezekiel 21:3-4

b) Nearly 400 years earlier. 2 Sam. 24:10, 13, 17

3. For the Sake of the Righteous: Hope of Mercy. Note here how God's judgment against involved other persons.

a) Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 18:23-26

b) Jerusalem when still free. Jeremiah 5:1

c) Jerusalem a generation later, when a vassal state. Ezekiel 22:29-30