

¹Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?²The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.³For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.⁴The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God : God is not in all his thoughts.⁵His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them.⁶He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity.⁷His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.⁸He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.⁹He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the

poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.¹⁰He croucheth, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.¹¹He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it .¹²Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.¹³Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require it .¹⁴Thou hast seen it ; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.¹⁵Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man : seek out his wickedness till thou find none.¹⁶The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.¹⁷LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:¹⁸To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.