

THERE HAS, PERHAPS, NEVER BEEN A MORE  
DEVASTATING DEMONSTRATION OF THE FOOLISH  
THINKING WHICH MEN OCCASIONALLY BECOME  
GUILTY OF WHEN THEY IMAGINE THAT THE LORD IS  
NOT AWARE OF WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

H.C. Leupold

LORD, God of vengeance—  
God of vengeance, appear.

<sup>2</sup> Rise up, Judge of the earth;  
repay the proud what they deserve.

<sup>3</sup> LORD, how long will the wicked—  
how long will the wicked gloat?

<sup>4</sup> They pour out arrogant words;  
all the evildoers boast.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, they crush Your people;  
they afflict Your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> They kill the widow and the foreigner  
and murder the fatherless.

<sup>7</sup> They say, "The LORD doesn't see it.  
The God of Jacob doesn't pay attention."

<sup>8</sup> Pay attention, you stupid people!  
Fools, when will you be wise?

<sup>9</sup> Can the One who shaped the ear not hear,  
the One who formed the eye not see?

<sup>10</sup> The One who instructs nations,  
the One who teaches man knowledge—  
does He not discipline?

<sup>11</sup> The LORD knows man's thoughts;  
they are meaningless.

## A GOD WHO AVENGES

The conclusion of the psalmist's rhetorical question is that "the Lord knows the thoughts of man" (Ps 94:11).

God knows that the thought are futile – not that man's wisdom is wasted – when human's think that God does not see nor care. It is folly to believe and act as if there is no God (Psalm 14 and Psalm 53). Paul uses this verse to show that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight" (1 Cor 3:19-20).

The rabbis taught there were three safeguards against falling into sin: first remember there is an ear that hears everything; next there is an eye that sees everything; and finally there is a hand that writes everything down into a book that will be opened at judgment.



<sup>12</sup> LORD, happy is the man You discipline  
and teach from Your law

<sup>13</sup> to give him relief from troubled times  
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD will not forsake His people  
or abandon His heritage,

<sup>15</sup> for justice will again be righteous,  
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

<sup>16</sup> Who stands up for me against the wicked?  
Who takes a stand for me against evildoers?

<sup>17</sup> If the LORD had not been my helper,  
I would soon rest in the silence of death.

<sup>18</sup> If I say, "My foot is slipping,"  
Your faithful love will support me, LORD.

<sup>19</sup> When I am filled with cares,  
Your comfort brings me joy.

<sup>20</sup> Can a corrupt throne—  
one that creates trouble by law—  
become Your ally?

<sup>21</sup> They band together against the life of the righteous  
and condemn the innocent to death.

<sup>22</sup> But the LORD is my refuge;  
my God is the rock of my protection.

<sup>23</sup> He will pay them back for their sins  
and destroy them for their evil.

The LORD our God will destroy them.