

Psalm 14 – There is No God?

Atheism is very much alive today than ever before. We are living in the last days. Evolution is the best educational tool used by Satan to destroy belief in God. Many nations such as England (once called Great Britain) that used to be stalwart defenders and promoters of the Christian Faith are now godless. Christianity is nearly dead in her society. In fact, she is one of the leading western nations to promote homosexuality in schools, homes and the courtroom. The rejection and denial of the existence of God is the rally call and anthem of the Evil One. Satan's ploy and deception is that he wants to deceive the world into worshipping him. To Satan, the denial of the existence of God is an acceptance of the Devil by default. Atheism has been a yarn spun years ago by the Devil Himself. All who choose to believe this yarn accept the Devil!

God cares enough for mankind to reveal to man the ploys and deception of the Evil One. God could easily have ignored mankind and left him to Satan's merciless endeavour. Thank God that He did not. One of these merciful revelations from God is Psalm 14. David wrote this psalm at a time of captivity as verse 7 intimates. However, when we examine David's history as the king of Israel, there was no captivity recorded in 2 Samuel other than the time when Absalom took the kingdom away from David for a brief moment. But that does not constitute captivity at all. The captivity in Psalm 14 has to refer to a spiritual captivity, such as captivity to sin. The particular sin that Psalm 14 deals with is the sin of atheism.

I. FOOLISH TALK – v1 – This is not about a person's IQ. One might be the smartest man on earth and proficient in his field of specialty, but if he is an atheist, the Bible calls him a fool. The measure of a fool in the eyes of God has nothing to do with his knowledge of this world; neither is it in his ability to make money, to produce beautiful paintings or music in this world. As long as he is an atheist, he is a fool in the sight of God. For one thing, the Bible declares that the evidence of the existence of God is seen in His creation. The message that God exists is proclaimed throughout the world on a 24-hour basis and in a language that all can understand. The man who lives in the mountains and the man who lives in the heart of the most modern city in the world can read and understand the same message -- God exists! However, sinful and foolish man will reject this message and deliberately ignore this message that God sends out day and night.

The fool does not have to declare it out loud for the world to hear or know. God hears and knows that he believes in his heart that there is no God, and that is enough for God to condemn him with the sin of atheism. God knows the thoughts and heart of all men. He is omniscient. He knows all things all at the same time. It is foolish of man to think that by not speaking out, God can be denied and not know about it. The judgement from

God is that these atheists are corrupt, i.e. morally corrupt. This is very true as Romans 1 attests. The “family” of sins which the rejection of God and idolatry can bring into a person’s life is long and frightening. It includes lying, and the sins of fornication, adultery and homosexuality. These are the kinds of corruption that bankrupt a man and condemn his soul to Hell. With a corrupt heart and mind, their actions are declared by God as having done abominable works. The word “abominable” means “loathsome or utterly detestable.” Their works in the sight of God are utterly detestable! Their so-called philanthropic good works such as building orphanages, hospitals, etc. are not what is referred to here, but rather their other works which are sinful such as the lusts of the flesh and eyes. These “good works” cannot cover their evil deeds. These semblances of good works are only skin deep. They are done to provide for a society that is peaceful and generally law abiding so that God’s work might be done in this world before the Lord returns.

The declaration of God is that there is absolutely no one who can be considered as having done good. The “good” that one does cannot “cancel out” the bad and evil that is done. It does not work that way. The sinner has sin stained hands and fingers. Everything that he touches is already stained by sin and God regards his works as filthy rags in His holy sight. In short, the state of man as atheists can never do anything that is good. This is how deadly atheism is. Atheists are enemies of God and will forever remain in that state unless they repent and turn from their atheism to monotheism through Jesus Christ.

II. FOOLISH UNDERSTANDING – vv 2-4 – Foolish talk and foolish deeds do not come about without foolish understanding. Our thoughts determine our actions and way of life. The greatness and sovereignty of God is intimated here. The LORD, i.e. Jehovah is in heaven whereas man is on earth. Man is puny, small and insignificant. The LORD is great and exalted high above in the heavens where man can never enter or dwell without His permission. He looks down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there is anyone who understands and seeks God. Sadly, there is none, not even one. By one statement from God, foolish man is put in his place. Man can deny God all he wants but the LORD, not just any God but the God of Israel, has declared that He is transcendent. The chasm cannot be bridged. Man cannot will God to cease to exist. This is utter foolishness.

The indictment of God after He surveyed the earth is that all have gone aside or turned their backs away from the truth. By turning away from God and holding on to atheism, man is filthy, i.e. spiritually filthy. He has become totally depraved in the realm of the spiritual. He might do good in the relative sense so that the general grace of God remains to provide man with a law abiding environment for the preaching of the gospel and the study of God’s Word. However, all mankind is dead in sin and swimming in his

filth and enjoying it. All his good works are considered filthy in the sight of God. There is not one stitch of good works on any man's garment that is acceptable to God, no not one!

The result is that these atheists are called workers of iniquity by the LORD. They have no knowledge of God at all! They think that they are smart. They pat each other on the back and declare that atheism is the way to go. However, they are unaware that they are encouraging each other to go the way of Hell. All their writings and works are nothing but iniquity. They are called practitioners of iniquities! They have doctorates in sin! The people of God who have the truth and who have been given the commission to tell the world that there is a great and gracious and loving God are being devoured by these atheists like bread! They thoroughly consume or destroy them. By such destruction, they have receded farther away from God and deeper into the hole of atheism which they have dug. They refuse to call upon the LORD and to reject their atheistic belief.

III. FOOLISHNESS DISSIPATED – vv 5-7 – However, there will be those who are in great fear, i.e. who feared fear. No matter how they might try to deny the existence of God, somehow they will be in great terror, if only they are honest with themselves to admit it. God is in the generation of the righteous. God still has His remnant no matter how few they might be. The lives of these individuals will continue to shine as lights through the Word of God. God is still visible through the lives of the righteous. These are true believers who exist in every generation and who testify of the existence of God. The atheists have shamed the counsel of the poor i.e. the lowly and afflicted, because they refused to accept their atheism. God's remnant will continue to hold on to God's truth and to have the LORD as their refuge in times of attack. They will not let go of their trust and faith in the LORD! Man may mock and deny the existence of God but God's people must remain strong and steadfast. They will be called names such as fools and ignoramus and unscientific because they believe in the LORD. But that will not change one tiny bit of God's truth. God will always exist and He will always be sovereign over the affairs of all men.

The final appeal is a cry for the salvation of Israel to come out of Zion! Since the issue is one of atheism, it is spiritual rather than physical. The salvation of Israel has to be the Messiah Jesus Christ. Zion is the city of God from which the Messiah would ultimately come to complete His work, culminating in Zion where He would be tried and crucified. Only the Messiah can save the atheists from their blindness and sin. The people of God are also included with the atheists. The psalmist says that when the LORD brings back the captivity of His own people Israel, Jacob shall rejoice and Israel shall be glad. Jacob means usurper whereas Israel means the prince of God. The use of the old name and then the new demonstrates the change from the old man to the new. This is the spiritual

significance. Those who were once atheists will rejoice. Those who have been delivered and are now born again in Christ will also rejoice when they see atheists become true believers through their belief in the Messiah. What a great work of salvation it is when fools become children of God. This is the work of the LORD and not man. This is why the Bible says that it is the LORD who will bring back the captivity – the spiritual captivity of His people.

CONCLUSION – Christians must never give up on atheists. No matter how convinced they might be in their denial of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is far more potent. The LORD Himself will turn them around and open their eyes to His presence and His blessed and powerful truth.