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The  
Songs

14

# PSALMS - The SONGS

Fourteen

Fool Says, "No God". God Says, "No Good".

## READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 14** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 14** and mark every reference to those who seek after God, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "R".

Read through **Psalm 14** and mark every reference to God's people, Israel, or Jacob, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue star of David.

Read through **Psalm 14** and mark every reference to fool, ungodly, wicked, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with an orange capital "W".

Read through **Psalm 14** and mark every reference to heaven (where God is), along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a purple cloud.

Read through **Psalm 14** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 14** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. "black/white".

Read through **Psalm 14** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. There is no one who does good
2. God is with the righteous
3. The LORD will restore His captive people

## READ AND ANSWER

### Psalm 14:1-3

Who has said, "There is no God"?



The Hebrew word for "fool" is *nabel*.  
It is a primitive root that means to wilt or (generally) fall away, fail, or faint.  
Figuratively it means to be foolish or morally wicked.

You might remember a person from 1 Samuel 25 who bore this name.  
He was true to its meaning.  
Take time to read the story asking God to help you see the meaning of this word.

Where has the fool said this?



The Hebrew word for "heart" is *leb* and means heart.  
It figuratively refers to the feelings, the will, and the intellect.

Who is "they"?

Who is corrupt?

Who has committed abominable deeds?

Is there anyone who does good?



The Hebrew word for "corrupt" is *shachath*  
and means to decay, and therefore, ruin.

The Hebrew word for “committed abominable” is *taab* and means to abhor or loathe, or (morally) detest

The Hebrew word for “good” is *towb* and means good or pleasant (in widest sense).

Anyone at all?



**Romans 3:10-18**

*as it is written,*

*“There is none righteous, not even one;  
there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God;  
all have turned aside, together they have become useless;  
there is none who does good, there is not even one.”*

*“Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving,”*

*“the poison of asps is under their lips”;*

*“whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”*

*“their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths,  
and the path of peace they have not known.”*

*“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

**As the world goes the way God has prophesied it will  
(into further and further darkness)**

**Christians will continue to feel more and more animosity  
from those who do not see things God’s way.**

**People like to think that almost all people are good and just a few are truly bad.  
If you were to contradict their belief (in staying true to God’s Word)  
you would be in a minority and most likely be ostracized.**

**Why would you need to let on that you believed anything different than the norm?**

**Well... there is the principle of standing up for God and His truth...  
but to make it more specific, let’s consider how you could possibly give the  
gospel if you came at it from the premise that most people are good.**

**Truth is always and simply—whatever God says!**

**Always! Always! Always!**

**Whatever God says is true, as well,**

**but take note of the significant difference in what I am saying.**

**Let me say that again: Truth is always and simply—whatever God says!!!**

**Man does not like it that the wrath of God  
is the very first part of the gospel message (Romans 1:15 and on)  
because it offends his own self-righteousness  
and interestingly, his own self-esteem.**

**God is God and man is not!  
Man does not like to hear that unchangeable little fact,  
due to his ignorant low estimation of God  
and his arrogant high estimation of himself.**

**God says that His wrath is coming against all ungodliness and unrighteousness  
and that means each and every individual!  
Man cringes in offense when he is accused of any fault or guilt on his own part—  
because man (in his own estimation) has elevated himself and lowered God.**

**If I am in the desert without any means of comfort,  
then surely water will be good news to me.  
However, if I am in a luxury hotel with all my needs met,  
then I will scarcely realize the gracious provision of an offer of water.  
Good news is only good news  
if the people receiving it *realize* they are in a bad situation.  
The good news of salvation will not be received in a heart  
that does not believe they are deserving of God's wrath.  
Take away the need for salvation and you no longer have any good news!**

**It is easy to get lost people saved...  
but it is next to impossible to get "good" people lost...  
(so they can be saved!)**

**Man hates the true watchword of the church, which is "Repent!"  
That is why men repeatedly try to change that watchword to "Don't judge!"  
Do you see the insidious lies of  
"Man is good—therefore I have no need to truly repent"  
and "Man is good—therefore I should not be judged"?**

**However, despite the purposeful apostasy-driven efforts  
to erase the truth from the lips of God's saints,  
"Repent!" will always remain as the true watchword of the true church.**

**That is exactly why the forerunner to the Messiah, John the baptist,  
unabashedly proclaimed, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!"  
Matthew 3:2**

**That is why the Messiah, Himself,  
repeatedly proclaimed, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!"  
Matthew 4:17**

**That is why the Messiah always commanded His apostles to preach the same,  
“The Kingdom of heaven is at hand!”.  
Matthew 10:7**

**That is why Paul preached it...  
And that is why we are to do the same.**

**And... we are to stay on that point  
 (“Repent! For the kingdom of God is at hand!”)  
be a stickler about it, if you will, until the hearer responds rightly.**

**The right response is, first and foremost, to see God for Who He is.  
When you truly see God, you may, for the first time, truly see yourself.  
Once you see both, your God and yourself,  
you can connect the dots—you need to be saved from His wrath!  
The only way for that to happen is for Him to save you—  
there is no other way!**

**The right response continues with a fear of that wrath,  
and a fear of the One Who is sending it against his or her ungodliness,  
which only resolves itself through repentance before a Holy Righteous God  
and a faith-filled cry to Him for salvation.**

**Those who are ashamed of the gospel  
(specifically the audacity of the gospel to judge a man)  
and subsequently leave out this intrinsic part of the gospel  
actually take away the gospel’s power for salvation.  
The Kingdom of God is given to those who are humble,  
not to those who are too haughty to believe they deserve God’s wrath,  
nor to those who are too arrogant to deliver God’s gospel  
exactly as He penned it through His saints.**

**To be ashamed to preach the whole gospel,  
starting with the beginning and not leaving anything out, is unbelief at its worst—  
and to preach the gospel while omitting even one part, is treachery at its worst.**

**We are to spend our efforts (when giving the gospel)  
helping the listener to understand God and His ways  
in order that they might fear Him (awesome reverential respect)  
and repent of their own ways.**

**Why?**

**Because the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!  
And that means the King is going to take out all usurpers in His Kingdom!**

**Knowing that the King of all is coming  
and He will punish all rebellion against Him  
is a great motivator to renounce your own ways  
and cry out to Him for deliverance!**

**If the hearer of the gospel responds in faith  
to the truth about God's wrath against him because of his sin,  
then the person who is delivering the gospel will be pleased to give the responder  
much more information.**

**According to Romans 1-11, that next information will be about the faith of God,  
the justice of God,  
the grace of God,  
the sovereignty of God,  
and the mercy of God—  
and of course, the Son of God—Jesus, the Promised One, sent by God,  
Who achieves all of this in the life of a repentant sinner  
(remember—good people can't repent).**

**I thank God for His gospel, all of it,  
because in the true gospel is the power of salvation from our sin and His wrath  
(and therefore the introduction  
into the wonderful intricacies of salvation described in Romans).  
To give the true gospel, all of it,  
will mean much rejection to the gospeler,  
but to those few who are called—  
it will mean the gift of God's "O, So Great Salvation"!**

**Hebrews 2:1-4**  
***For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard,  
so that we do not drift away from it.  
For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable,  
and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,  
how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?  
After it was at the first spoken through the Lord,  
it was confirmed to us by those who heard,  
God also testifying with them,  
both by signs and wonders  
and by various miracles  
and by gifts of the Holy Spirit  
according to His own will.***

What has the LORD done?

Upon whom did the LORD gaze?

Who are the sons of men?

What was the LORD looking for among the sons of men?

1.

2.

What did the LORD find?

1.

2.

3.

4.

**Psalm 14:4-6**

A rhetorical question is asked in **verse 4**. What is it? (I'll give you extra room.)

Restate the question in your own words to make sure you think through what the psalmist is asking. (I'll give you extra room, again.)

Why does David even ask this question? What is happening?



Who are the workers of wickedness? What are they doing?

Who are God's people (in this **Psalm**)?

Eating bread is not necessarily a feast, rather, it is an ordinary everyday occurrence. What does this say about the workers of wickedness everyday relation with God's people?

What do the workers of wickedness not do?

Although they are acting oblivious of it, what is the reality of their situation?

Why are they in great dread?

Who is God with?

Who is God against?

Who is the "you" in **verse 6**?

What does the fool, the worker of iniquity, do to the one he is afflicting?

Despite the torment and mocking from the workers of wickedness, what confidence does the afflicted have?

Where is the godly one's refuge?

### **Psalm 14:7**

What is the cry of David at this point?

What will happen some day soon?

Where will Israel's salvation come from?

If the Lord (at that time) restores the captivity (or well-being) of His people, what can we know will be the situation of His people at the time He comes?

What do we know is in Israel's future?

What do we know will be Israel's final "future"?

## **READ AND REASON**

Those of you who are familiar with God's Word will likely think of Psalm 53 whenever you read Psalm 14. Its almost identical wording, except for verses 5 and 6, begs to ask the question, "What is the difference between the two?"

### **Psalm 14**

*The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."  
They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds;  
There is no one who does good.  
The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men  
To see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.  
They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt;  
There is no one who does good, not even one.  
Do all the workers of wickedness not know,  
Who eat up my people as they eat bread,  
And do not call upon the Lord?  
There they are in great dread,  
For God is with the righteous generation.  
You would put to shame the counsel of the afflicted,  
But the LORD is his refuge.  
Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!  
When the LORD restores His captive people,  
Jacob will rejoice, Israel will be glad.*

### **Psalm 53**

*The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God,"  
They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice;  
There is no one who does good.  
God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men  
To see if there is anyone who understands, Who seeks after God.  
Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt;*

*There is no one who does good, not even one.  
Have the workers of wickedness no knowledge,  
Who eat up My people as though they ate bread  
And have not called upon God?  
There they were in great fear where no fear had been;  
For God scattered the bones of him who encamped against you;  
You put them to shame, because God had rejected them.  
Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!  
When God restores His captive people,  
Let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.*

David obviously wrote Psalm 53, not to replace Psalm 14, but to state the same things along with some differences. It is up to the diligent student of the Bible to discern those differences. My purpose is not to compare, or contrast, the two for you. It is simply to urge you to take note... and observe... carefully...

## Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.  
Ask God to help you.**

**Verses 1-3**

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**Verses 4-6**

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**Verse 7**

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## Purpose of Psalm 14

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 14.  
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

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## Theme of Psalm 14

**Try giving Psalm 14 a title by identifying its theme.  
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**

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