

# A Survey of the Psalms - 1

## Psalm 14

### *The Fool*

**Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6**

**Lesson Verse: Luke 12:20; Job 2:10**

#### I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it, the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. There is such practical instruction to the believer here - written by David, and others in "real-time" (while right in the middle of life, with all its ups and downs). No airy-fairyland approach - just the constant development of confidence and grace!

#### II. Background to this Psalm

- A. 14 times, the words "the fool" appear in the Bible - "a fool" 49 times
- B. Jesus referred to a non-believer as a fool - a right dummy for rejecting the concept of God (Lk 12:20)
- C. Job questioned whether his wife had so given up on God that she would talk like a "fool" would talk - as if there was no God!
- D. A fool doesn't have to be unintelligent - some of the greatest fools who ever lived had IQ's as high as 150 and 180 (Eph 4:18)
  - 1. Einstein
  - 2. Carl Sagan
  - 3. Most Dictators - well trained college graduates
  - 4. Most college professors - believe in evolution!
- E. David shows us 2 things:
  - 1. Why people are fools
  - 2. And what foolishness, or "depravity" means
- F. He will revisit all this again in Psalm 53, and the apostle Paul will pick it up on Romans 3 to show the need for fools to get saved
- G. There is only one thing for "fools" to do – accept the fact that they have been narrow minded, and open their EYES! And then repent, so that they can be born again!

#### III. Message - The Fool (Psalm 14)

##### A. The Fool Has a problem with Faith (14:1a)

- 1. On the outside, he or she may act like a "Christian" or of any religion.
- 2. But, believes in his heart that there is no God. This is the standard level of "faith" in this, and most every country - no matter what "god" they worship.
- 3. Somehow, faith and God never made sense to "the fool", and so he rejects God, and goes his own way - we have seen this before in Isa 53:6
- 4. Everyone knows that there is a Creator God (Rom 1:18-22)
  - a. In their conscience
    - 1) All peoples everywhere worship something
    - 2) All of us naturally know of something bigger than us
      - a) Aliens
      - b) Santa Claus
  - b. In creation
    - 1) Bombedeer Beetle
    - 2) Underwater Spider
    - 3) Absolute infinite complexity of everything in the universe!
  - c. Only a FOOL would conclude there is no God
- 5. He decides that "God" just doesn't make sense. Figures...
  - a. That God would never let anything bad happen to you
  - b. That a good God would never let you experience what you have experienced
  - c. Most atheists and agnostics are really just mad at God for "letting them down"
- 6. Principle: Don't let the things you don't understand hinder your appreciation for the facts:
  - a. There must be a Creator God – agnostic scientists admit to Intelligent Design

- b. Jesus proves He cares!
- c. Without the Lamb of God, God would not make sense at all, at all!

**B. The Fool Has a Problem with Sin (14:1-3; Rom 3)**

1. They are corrupt - depraved – sinful in their nature! Like corrupt politicians, and dictators – so are we!
2. They are ruined in the following areas:
  - a. In their *works* - their efforts to God are abominable - done without God, in defiance of God, and to show God up (Isa 14; Pr 21:4; 27). Their own works are SELF rising up, and SELF is cursed!
  - b. In *thinking* - their understanding is flawed - what they do understand
    - 1) Can't understand what we can see - much less what we can't see
    - 2) People's understanding of spiritual things, without the Holy Spirit is fruitless (1 Cor 2:14,15)
  - c. In their *commitment* - none seek just God, and would go to the extreme to follow him - don't seek His will, or His way through life. They end up "going aside" - going astray
  - d. In their *morals*
  - e. In their *totality* – There is no one that is not corrupt! There is NONE that doeth good! God has looked and found NO ONE (Eccl 7:20)!
    - 1) Not Adam - Lived in a perfect environment, yet disobeyed!
    - 2) Not Noah - even though a righteous man - not good enough
    - 3) Not David - committed adultery, murdered, numbered Israel for a war that didn't exist.
    - 4) Not Peter - divided the brethren (Gal 3), denied the Lord, Argued with the Lord, opened himself to demonic oppression (Mt 16)
    - 5) Not the apostle Paul - lied, tried to win the Jews when God had said, leave them alone for a while.
3. Romans 3:10-18 continues. Humans are ruined in
  - a. In our *throat* - our voice is ruined - sings to their own praise, and talks only of their own exploits
  - b. In our *tongue* - our speech is about filth, wickedness
  - c. In our *lips* is poison - what we talk about "KILLS" the people who listen - Jesus gives LIFE!
  - d. In our *mouth* - hypocrisy - saying one thing, but meaning and believing another!
  - e. In our *lifestyle* - the way we live and walk - on the road to hell, death, destruction and misery
  - f. In our *experience* - we have never known peace
  - g. In our *confidence* - is pride - no fear of God
4. Many people (Calvinists) conclude that people are totally ruined and totally incapable of getting saved by their own choice – NOT by their own power
  - a. It is true that spiritually, mankind IS ruined
  - b. No one can do anything right (Isa 64:6)
  - c. But WILFULLY, mankind has a chance to be redeemed - by CHOOSING Christ (Rom 7:14-18) The choice to believe is still free in a human – everything else is ruined!
  - d. Without the choice, we mock the Gospel invitation! (Isa 55:6,7; Acts 3:19)
    - 1) Salvation is not doing right, but choosing to surrender to God's right
      - a) That He is holy
      - b) That we are unholy, and ungodly, and damned
      - c) That God is right to send us all to hell
    - 2) Salvation is Christ then entering, and applying His blood as payment for our sins
    - 3) Salvation is Christ's righteousness taking the place of our sinfulness in total

**C. David is Amazed (14:4-6)**

1. That people don't think things through (Isa 1:18) - instead they devour up the best people who ever live – they are simply puppets of the devil (2Tim 2:24-26)
  - a. They don't think about the nature of God (Ps 19:1-3)
  - b. They don't think about their own nature
  - c. They don't think about where they are headed!
  - d. They don't think a person can have what a Christian has!
2. That God is not in the Pub, or the church house - He is in the life of the righteous man or woman - in their GENERATION!
3. That the fool tries to put God, and His counsel to shame - you can't do that - God is just right! He is a strong tower - a refuge - immovable!

**D. The Believer Needs to Just Look Forward To the Messiah (14:7)**

1. All this was what the Jews were looking forward to when the Messiah would come – His first coming:
  - a. Salvation - deliverance - by the Messiah - called "waiting on the Lord"

- b. Reclamation
  - c. Jubilation – fulfilment of every promise in the OT
2. We look forward to His SECOND coming

#### IV. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. The Fool Has a problem with what in 14:1? Faith.
- B. Why? Somehow, faith and God never made sense to him, and so he rejects God, and goes his own way
- C. What does "depraved" mean? Ruined.
- D. A Fool is depraved in almost every part of his Anatomy. List three areas:
  - 1. In their works
  - 2. In their thinking
  - 3. In their commitment
  - 4. In their morals
  - 5. In their totality
- E. Where else in Scripture is the list continued? Romans 3:10-18
- F. The Calvinist makes what wrong conclusion about these issues? That people are totally ruined and incapable of getting saved by their own choice
- G. What is the problem with that conclusion? It makes a mockery of the Gospel - not the Good News, but the ability of anyone to believe it!
- H. **Where is God's dwelling?** in the life of the righteous man or woman - in their GENERATION!