

Fools in Their Heart Have Said Worksheet

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Verse 1

Fools in their heart have said,
There is no God of might;
Corrupt are they and base their deeds,
In evil they delight.

Verse 2

God looked from Heav'n above
On all the human race
To see if any understood,
If any sought His face.

Verse 3

They all are gone aside,
Corruption doth abound;
There is not one that doeth good,
Not even one is found.

Verse 4

These men of evil deeds
Will they no knowledge gain,
Who feed upon my people's woes
And prayer to God disdain?

Verse 5

The day is drawing nigh
When they shall fear and quail
For God shall scatter and destroy
Those who His saints assail.

Verse 6

Yea, God will put to shame
And make them flee away,
For He will cast them off in wrath
And fill them with dismay.

Verse 7

O would that Zion's help
Were out of Zion come!
O would that God might early bring
His captive people home!

Verse 8

When God from distant lands
His exiled ones shall bring,
His people shall exultant be,
And gladly they shall sing.

Vocabulary In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

Verse 1: fools, corrupt, base

Verse 2: Heav'n, sought

Verse 3: corruption, doth, abound, doeth

Verse 4: woes, disdain

Verse 5: nigh, quail, assail

Verse 6: flee, wrath, dismay

Verse 7: Zion, captive

Verse 8: exiled, exultant

Word Pictures Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, perhaps, without drawing a picture of Christ, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

Verse 1: Fools in their heart have said

Verse 2: human race

Verse 3: corruption doth abound

Verse 4: men of evil deeds

Verse 5: they shall fear and quail

Verse 6: flee away

Verse 7: captive people

Verse 8: exiled ones ... shall sing

Mechanics Verbally discuss

Who is the speaker? (Does the speaker have a specific personality or has the author remained in the background so the message of the poem will be more clear?)

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character? (Sometimes, poems reveal nothing about the speaker's personal thoughts, feelings, or attitudes. Yet, the poem may demonstrate those character traits that are important to the author like courage, loyalty, perseverance, etc.)

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone? (Sometimes poems are not directed to anyone in particular, but to anyone that may read it.)

Does the poem have a setting? (Does the author tell where the poem occurs? Is the poem about a specific event?)

Is the poem about a particular event? (Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?)

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly? (Some poems are straightforward and are meant to be taken literally. In songs, the theme may be presented in the refrain or in the last few lines. Sometimes the theme is a little bit more difficult to discern as it is made with figurative language or symbols.)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

What point of view or perspective is the speaker? (What meaning do you think the poem has for the author?)

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time? (Did your thoughts and feelings change after you took time to study it?)

Comprehension Questions Verbally discuss

Verse 1: Who devour the saints? How does God respond to fools harrassing and bullying His people?

Verse 2: Who shall be "seized with sad surprise"? Who shall seize them? What shall He do?

Verse 3: What do the humanists do (first line)? How does God view the "armies in array"? Explain and discuss: "They fall an easy prey."

Verse 4: Who are restored? Who does the restoring? How do the former captives respond?

Verse 5: What is drawing near? How will fools (i.e, humanists) respond (line 2)? What will God do?

Verse 6: Who will be made to feel shame? What will they do (line2)? How will God cast them off?

Verse 7: Discuss the message of this verse.

Verse 8: Who will God call from exiled lands? How will they respond? What will they do?

What Does the Bible Say?

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the eight verses.

Discuss this poem with respect to ...

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him. Psalm 2:11,12

Psalm 53:1 ... The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

Psalm 2:1-5 ... Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: they Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure.

What does the Bible have to say about justice? Give examples of individuals in the older and newer testament that demonstrated justice. Give historical examples of justice. After reading the newspaper, listening to the news on radio, or watching the news, can you think of any examples of justice today? What will you tell your grandchildren about justice? How will you encourage your grandchildren in this character trait?

Discuss the old adage: All bullies are cowards.

The Author/Poet

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The author of this poem is unknown but is based on Psalm 53.

Geography

Locate any country of your choice on a globe, map and atlas.

Challenge Locate a small city from the country of your choice on a map or in an atlas.

Compare/contrast the weather from the country of your choice with your own for one week. Make a meal from that country for your family.

Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be eight different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include this poem in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the message discussed in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals this poem could illustrate (e.g., family members, Oliver Cromwell, Moses, Captain John Smith, soldiers, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

5) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

6) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the the author's view of the impact of *Fools in their Hearts Have Said*.

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about psalms and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.