

Psalm 14, “The Saving King”, 8th June 2025

Fashionable to believe there is no God.

Richard Dawkins

Emma Thompson

David Attenborough

Daniel Radcliffe

Psalm 14 says the person who thinks like that is a fool. Those 4 are some of the most clever people on the planet, some of the most foolish.

3000 years ago, being an atheist was practical not philosophical. Made no difference, rather than not existing. Live how you want. Fool says “in his heart”, the seat of the will. As I make my choices, God does not feature.

Unbelievers today – we love you, but you’re really foolish.

Believers – tempted to make our choices as though there is no God.

Psalm 14 will tell us why. 3 places you find God.

1-3. God sees from heaven

Read 1-3.

God looks down out of heaven. Word used for looking down out of a window on the scene below. God is there, and he sees everything

What does he see? Not a single person does good. We can’t see God, so we should seek after him. Instead, we turn away, to the last man woman and child.

Vivid language. Who we are (corrupt) and what we do (deeds). Turned to go wrong direction. Become corrupt. Arabic equivalent word used for milk going sour.

(On holiday in Holland bought soured milk by mistake)

Word for “there is no” 4x. Fool says “there is no God”. Reality is “there is no one does good” (verse 1, 3), “also, there is not one” (verse 3). You think God doesn’t exist. God says: Righteous you (indeed, righteous anyone) doesn’t exist.

Not one. There has been one (only one). The Lord Jesus. Verse 2 “on all mankind” – the NIV helpfully avoiding gendered language. Actually says “sons of man”, or “sons of Adam”. The sons of man are corrupt. Far from the vision of Psalm 8 – the son of man made to rule the natural world. Until Jesus comes, who called himself “the son of man”, the one exception.

This is what we’re all like by nature. Romans 3:11-12 quotes verses 1-2 to show us how much we need Christ. By God’s grace, he invites corrupt people like us to find forgiveness in Jesus and so become his special people. Take refuge in God, and experience his blessing instead of the judgement we deserve for treating God like this.

One way to live as though God does not exist: We reject God’s laws.

4-6. God sides with his people

Read 4-6.

Second way that living as though God does not exist: Oppress God’s people (4-6). Devour God’s people. Verse 4b: “Eating my people, they eat bread”.

They weren’t expecting to be filled with terror.

Get a foretaste of this in Acts 5:12-14. But this is much bigger.

The terror is deep – “overwhelmed with dread”. Christians are easy pickings? Suddenly realise: made a terrible mistake and they’re terrified. Full depths of that terror won’t be felt until the last day.

Why they’re so scared: God is with them. Intentionally present. God is with us and for us. Romans 8:31

Brenda the buzzard, at Dame Tipping Primary School in East London. RSPCA advised it’s probably protecting her chicks.

We are “the company of the righteous”. Not that all the righteous people get together, and God is so impressed he wants to join our team! (Verses 1-3) Only part of God’s people by grace. “Righteous” is singular. The company of the righteous one. The people of Jesus, and God the Father is on Jesus’ side. So he’s on our side. Take us on, you’re taking on Jesus, God’s Son. He’s defending his nest.

7. God saves from Zion

The third reason not to pretend God doesn’t exist – God saves from Zion. Read v. 7.

This gives us an insight into the heart of King Jesus.

Let’s start with King David (who wrote this psalm). This verse expresses his deep longing, “Oh that ...”. So what does he long for? “Salvation for Israel” to “come out of Zion”.

In fact, the emphasis is on the Zion bit. David knows that his people, God’s people, are oppressed all the time. And he knows God will come for their rescue. Longs for the rescue to come *from Zion*.

Where is Zion? The hill Jerusalem was built on. Where Psalm 2 said David would reign. Where David's greater son will reign. So David longs for God to save his people through someone in his family.

That's when David prayed this psalm. So what about when Jesus prays this psalm? He longs for God's people to be saved, and he longs to be the one to do it.

The First Battle of Mogadishu, and the story of Garry Gordon and Randhall Shughart.

They wanted those crash survivors saved, but more than that they wanted to be the ones to do it. They knew there was no chance they'd make it out.

Jesus' longing got answered. He died and rose in Jerusalem and brought salvation for all his people. Now he's in heaven, God's people continue to face oppression. This continues to be the longing of his heart. One day he'll return. All oppression will cease.

We can pray with him. For the church where it's most persecuted. But also for Jesus to return, and bring an end to all the trouble.

Conclusion

What a fool to say that God is not there. Or to believe in your head that he exists, but your heart makes all your choices as if he doesn't.

God sees from heaven, sides with his people, and saves from Zion.

So we don't pretend he doesn't exist. So what do we do?

End of verse 7. This is not just for when God restores his people. It's a sentence all on its own. This is for every season, and it's probably not where you thought the psalm was going to land.

God exists and he's real. He sees, he's for us, he's saved us, he will save us. That's great news. So let's rejoice, and be glad.