

¹ Dear Lord Jesus Christ₁,

Where are You when I need You? Why have You been so far away, and why do You hide from me when the going gets tough? ² I really need Your help because some proud, wicked people are really hostile toward me and are driven with a vengeance to chase me down with the hope of ruining my life or causing my death. They are also doing the same thing to other people who are having a tough time. Lord, cause these evil people to be captured and destroyed by the same plots they devise against me. ³ It is only right that You should do this to them because they openly brag about all the evil and hurtful things they have done or plan to do. These are greedy men, and they regularly take advantage of others by illegal, illicit, or unethical means. Worst of all they despise You and curse Your name. ⁴ These wicked men think they are all-powerful and self-sustaining, and in all of their thoughts they say, "God doesn't see us because He doesn't exist." ⁵ These guys appear to prosper in everything they do, but their sin has a way of bringing fear, anguish, and pain back upon them instead of blessings. Their eyes are blinded to the fact that You examine every man's actions and motives, and they cannot understand how or why You decide what circumstances are best to punish men for their sin or reward them for the good they do. Therefore, they don't have a clue as to the awesome power of Your dealings in their lives. On top of that, these guys think so little of those who are hostile toward them that they merely laugh and make noises at them. ⁶ They keep telling themselves that no one is able to bring them down. They say, "Man, we've got it made. We'll never be unhappy, disappointed, or experience pain as long as we live." ⁷ All they can talk about is cursing, lying, and oppressing the innocent, and they simply cannot wait to share their plans for mischief and wickedness with anyone with a sympathetic ear. ⁸ They have favorite hiding places in the towns and cities they frequent, and from those hiding places they ambush and kill totally innocent people. They have a keen eye to pick out those who are an easy prey. ⁹ They crouch in their hiding places like a lion waiting for a chance to pounce upon its prey, and then they draw poor, needy, and wretched people into their trap. ¹⁰ These wicked men and their strong accomplices crouch down like a tiger and pounce upon some unfortunate victim killing him on the spot. ¹¹ All the while they say to themselves, "God doesn't give a rip about what we do. Besides, He isn't even looking, so why should He care? We will never be caught."

¹² Lord Jesus, please listen to my plea, and go to work for me. By all means, don't forget to come to the aid of all those who are poor or weak, and don't forget those who are afflicted with all sorts of hurts and heartaches like me. ¹³ Why is it that vile, evil, wicked people despise You and treat You with contempt? It must be that they have convinced themselves that You won't bring them into judgment and that they won't have to pay the penalty for their sins. ¹⁴ Lord, You have seen and understood both their actions and their motives, and You know the grief, frustration, troubles, and hardships they have created for others. They don't know it, but they have given themselves right into Your strong hand of judgment, and at some point in time You will require them to pay the price for their sin. On the other hand, those unfortunate enough to be hurt by these wicked people will find that You will come to their aid if they will but trust You to be their Helper. On top of that, You have always been there to help and support the orphan child. ¹⁵ Lord, seek out all the things that evil, wicked people do, and then cause some catastrophe to overtake the guilty so that they become powerless to do more evil. Keep on doing this until the world is cleansed of all wicked deeds and thoughts.

¹⁶ The Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah₁, is King forever. He is so powerful that he has caused whole nations to be destroyed and completely vanish from the earth. ¹⁷ Lord Jesus, You have heard and understood the prayer of poor, weak, and afflicted people like me. Without doubt, You will provide all that is needed to strengthen their hearts and make them ready and willing to serve You. I know that You will also bend your ear and be ready ¹⁸ to rescue the orphan and those who are oppressed so that those oppressing and taking advantage of them will no longer be around to terrify them or make them fear.

₁ Jesus Christ said in John 5:22-23a, "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father." Therefore, "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used for "LORD."