Leader: 1 Why standest Thou afar off, O Jehovah?

Why hidest Thou Thyself in times of trouble?

Response: **2 In the pride of the wicked the poor is hotly pursued;**

**Let them be taken in the devices that they have conceived.**

Leader: 3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart’s desire,

And the covetous renounceth, *yea*, contemneth Jehovah.

Response: **4 The wicked, in the pride of his countenance, *saith*, He will not require *it*.**

**All his thoughts are, There is no God.**

Leader: 5 His ways are firm at all times;

Thy judgments are far above out of his sight:

As for all his adversaries, he puffeth at them.

Response: **6 He saith in his heart, I shall not be moved;**

**To all generations I shall not be in adversity.**

Leader: 7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression:

Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity.

Response: **8 He sitteth in the lurking-places of the villages;**

**In the secret places doth he murder the innocent;**

**His eyes are privily set against the helpless**

Leader: 9 He lurketh in secret as a lion in his covert;

He lieth in wait to catch the poor:

He doth catch the poor, when he draweth him in his net.

Response: **10 He croucheth, he boweth down,**

**And the helpless fall by his strong ones.**

Leader: 11 He saith in his heart: God hath forgotten;

He hideth His face, He will never see it

Response: **12 Arise, O Jehovah; O God, lift up Thy hand:**

**Forget not the poor.**

Leader: 13 Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God,

And say in his heart, Thou wilt not require *it*?

Response: **14 Thou hast seen *it*; for Thou beholdest mischief and spite,**

**to requite it with Thy hand:**

**The helpless committeth *himself* unto Thee;**

**Thou hast been the helper of the fatherless.**

Leader: 15 Break Thou the arm of the wicked;

And as for the evil man, seek out his wickedness till Thou find none.

Response: **16 Jehovah is King for ever and ever:**

**The nations are perished out of His land.**

Leader: 17 Jehovah, Thou hast heard the desire of the meek:

Thou wilt prepare their heart, Thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear;

Response: **18 To judge the fatherless and the oppressed,**

**That man who is of the earth may be terrible no more.**