

PSALM 52

AGAINST LYING TONGUES

Doeg the Edomite furnishes a picture of all those betrayers and blood-shedding hypocrites who often stand in the halls of kings and rulers. With lies and hatred, they misrepresent the Word of God and the doctrine of truth. Alas! Even today, there are many rising up on every side who irritate and urge on those who are in positions of authority, encouraging them to slay the people of God. They make no end of shedding the blood of the Lord's Abels.

Against the furious cruelty of these men, this Psalm comforts those who are Godly. It promises them that these evil persons shall not go unpunished. They shall fall under those awful curses mentioned in Deuteronomy 28. They shall be rooted out of the earth, their houses shall be destroyed, and they shall lose both their bodies and their estates; but those who fear Jehovah shall be preserved. They shall remain in the house of the Lord; and they shall persevere in teaching and hearing the Word of God, in defiance of the devil and all his wicked minions!

"Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man?" That is how this Psalm opens. Those who glory in sin are actually glorying in their own shame. The patience and forbearance of God are abused by sinners, as they harden their hearts in their wicked ways. The enemies' boast in their mischief is all in vain, but we have God's mercy to trust in. When the righteous die, they are transplanted from the land of the living on earth to the heavenly paradise – the garden of the Lord, where they shall take root forever. But when wicked persons die, they are rooted out to perish forever. The believer sees that God will destroy those who do not make Him their strength.

Wicked persons wretchedly deceive themselves when they think to support themselves in power and wealth without God. They trust in the abundance of their riches; they imagine that their wickedness will help them keep their wealth. Right or wrong, they take whatever they can, and ruin anyone that stands in their way. They think that this will strengthen them; but in reality, they come to nothing! On the other hand, those who dwell – by faith and love – in the house of the Lord shall be like green olive-trees there. Let us pray for grace to live a life of faith and holy confidence in God, so that we may be as these verdant evergreens! It adds much to the beauty of our profession of faith, and to our fruitfulness in every grace, to praise the Lord often and always – and we can

Overview of the Psalm, adapted from Charles Spurgeon:

The title of this Psalm contains the word Maschil, meaning "instructive." Even the malice of a Doeg may furnish instruction to a David. By that wicked man's deceitful tale-bearing to Saul (1 Sam. 21 and 22), he procured the death of all the Lord's priests at Nob. David deeply felt the villainy of this arch-enemy, and here he denounces him in vigorous terms.

never lack a subject for praise! His name alone can be our refuge and strong tower. It is very good for us to wait on that saving name. There is nothing better to calm and quiet our spirits when they are disturbed, and to keep us in the way of duty when we are tempted to use any crooked courses for our relief, than to hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. No one has ever followed His guidance and found that it ended in failure!



Thank You, dearest Lord Jesus, that we are like the evergreen olives which grew around the humble forest-sanctuary at Nob; for truly, we grow and are safe when we are in loving fellowship with You, our Almighty Friend! We give thanks to You for planting us as Your evergreens – drawing our nutriment from You, as roots which grow in rich soil. Amen.