

Psalm 52

- The back drop to this Psalm comes to us in **1 Samuel 21 & 22** when David is fleeing from Saul he stopped off initially in Nob, where the Tabernacle was, just outside of Jerusalem.
 - David contacted Ahimelech the priest looking for assistance. David lied to Ahimelech, stating that he was hurriedly on a secret mission for the king. David obtains a sword from Ahimelech, Goliath's sword, and food, the shew bread that was being rotated off of the table of show bread.
 - Doeg, who was an Edomite (Edomites are always enemies / bad guys, Herod was an Edomite). Doeg had witnessed this exchange between David and the priest.
 - David then fled the scene, going onto the Philistine city of Gath, and deeper into sin.
 - Doeg went back to king Saul and didn't just inform him that David had received bread and the sword of Goliath, but that Ahimelech had also inquired of the Lord on David's behalf. He also left out the detail of David's lie, mis-informing Ahimelech about his mission for the king, and Ahimelech had not inquired of the Lord on David's behalf.
 - Doeg was informing and lying to gain favor with Saul.
 - Saul then called Ahimelech, his whole family, and all of the priests to come and give an account for this perceived treason.
 - Ahimelech stated the facts truthfully but Saul ordered his immediate execution, along with his entire family.
 - Saul ordered his guards to execute the priest - but they refused because they were afraid to touch God's anointed.
 - Saul then turned to Doeg who gladly fulfilled the king's murderous command, but he didn't stop with Ahimelech, or even just with his family, he went on to slay the 85 priests that were present. Then he went on to the city of Nob:
- 1 Samuel 22:19** "And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children, and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword."
- As we consider Doeg's treachery and murder it makes my blood boil want to boil, which is also the sense that I get from David as he writes this Psalm.
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V: 1 You boast of your mischief, but don't forget that the goodness of God endures forever, He will deal with you one day.

Romans 12:19 "... Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

V: 2-3 You speak and create mischief with your tongue, you speak deceit, and love evil more than righteousness.

- We all have the capacity to bless those around us with the truth of God's Word, with the hope of the Gospel. Or we can use our tongue like a razor like Doeg.

Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

- "Selah" - Consider that, ponder that, chew on that for a bit.

V: 4-5 You love devouring words, deceit, and treachery - you'll get plenty of that in hell!

"*God shall likewise...*" in the same manner that you sought to destroy people with your words (priests and their families) God will destroy you.

"*God will likewise destroy you forever*" is a euphemism for "you're going to hell."

V: 6-7 The righteous will see the judgment of the Lord, and it will cause them to fear Him all the more - and they shall laugh at you.

- This is poetic hyperbole: I can't see those who fear the Lord actually laughing at the judgment of the godless; but what I hear David saying is that as you laughed at the destruction of the righteous, it will be turned around and that righteous will laugh at your destruction.

Proverbs 11:4 "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death."

V: 8-9 Contrast: "I'm on the opposite side of this equation..." According to V: 5 Doeg would be plucked up / up-rooted whereas David is like an olive tree planted in the house of the Lord, not going anywhere.

- "I'm trusting in the mercy of the Lord, I'm waiting on the Lord."
- David is pretty consistent when talking about his own sin - it's Lord be merciful, Lord be gracious, help me Lord!
- We only want justice when it's somebody else. It appears that the real difference here is that of repentance - David repented, David confessed, David humbled

himself - we don't see the Doeg ever did that, and because of that David's "judgment" was most likely fulfilled.

- David declares that he will praise the Lord forever.

Psalm 116:16-19 “¹⁶O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. ¹⁸I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people. ¹⁹In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the Lord.”

Psalm 53

- Psalm 53 is not quite but almost a word for word repeat of Psalm 14, Psalm 53 drops about two verses from Psalm 14, otherwise it practically identical. We could say that we've already studied it - but I'm figuring that if the Holy Spirit has included it a second time, or if the Lord is saying it twice it's because we need to hear it twice.

V: 1 The fool has said in his heart there is no God; which is indeed a foolish thought.

- In the original text the words "there is" isn't there, in my Bible it's in italics to indicate that it's not part of the original text - so it would read:

“The fool hath said in his heart, no God.”

- That's the real issue. The person who claims to be an atheist or an agnostic doesn't do that because of some intellectual struggle, it's rebellion pure and simple - not wanting God to rule over him.
- They develop foolish theories to rid themselves of their accountability to God.
- Men have to ignore a lot of what is in front of them to deny the existence of God; we already know the motive for such a foolish goal, but to achieve it they have to ignore creation itself, they have to ignore conception, the cosmos, the complexity of life, and so much more.
- To assert that there is no God raises many more questions that it answers.

Romans 1:22–25 describes those who profess themselves to be wise who have suppressed the truth, meaning they know the truth, but have willingly exchanged it for a lie.

Romans 1:21-25, 28 “²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the un-corruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” - “²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate (debased / depraved) mind, to do those things which are not convenient.”

- There are three words in the Hebrew language for fool:
 1. Kesyl: The dull, stupid, fool.
 2. Ewiy: The unreasonable and perverted fool.
 3. Nabal: The brutish person who is like a stubborn animal.
- Fool (H5036) **nābāl**: An arrogant bore, dense morally, intellectually, and spiritually. As an adjective or noun, it means foolish, a fool.
- David is saying that is the kind of person that denies the existence of God.
- David might well have been thinking of someone in particular:

1 Samuel 25 describes the man and the events. David had long been on the run from Saul, but in the process had blessed and protected Nabal’s shepherds and flocks. When the time for shearing came, like the time of harvest David sent some of his men to receive from Nabal some food and sustenance, but Nabal refused and insulted David in the process. He is described as both “**churlish**” and the “**son of Belial**”
- To be churlish is to be rude in a mean spirited and surly way; the son of Belial is like saying he’s the son of the Devil.
- Nabal fools are self-righteous and don’t need or want God, they want to live their lives on their own terms, no accountability to anyone or anything.
- People that take the stand that there is no God have to face certain inevitable conclusions in their lives. If there is no God, then there is no real or objective standard for good and evil, right and wrong, everything becomes relative. They determine for themselves what is right and wrong, they become their own god, and as such they eventually find out that they can’t even help themselves.

(Existentialism, humanism, relativism...)
- They become corrupt and eventually die only to discover the truth in eternity.

V: 2-3 Paul captures the same sentiment:

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.”

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

V: 4 Don't the workers of iniquity understand what they are doing?

- They consume God's children like bread, like it's nothing, they don't care it's not a big deal to them.
- We've got to be careful that we don't do the same through our criticism of others and their sin because we're no better.
- They don't call upon the Lord.

V: 5 They were in fear when there was no cause to fear:

Leviticus 26:14-15, 17 “¹⁴But if you will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments; ¹⁵And if ye shall despise My statutes, or if your soul abhor My judgments, so that ye will not do all My commandments, but that ye break My covenant.” - “¹⁷And I will set My face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.” (You'll be afraid for no reason.)

- To not receive a proper burial at one's death was a tremendous humiliation. God defeated them, then left their corpses in the open to rot and to be consumed by dogs and vultures - hence their bones were scattered. Why? Because God despised them. Despises who? Those that say there is no God.

V: 6 David is looking for the Redeemer of Israel. Dual fulfillment, near term vs: long term.

- The nation is suffering under Saul's leadership. Also speaking prophetically of the future redemption of the nation, describing that things will go from bad to very good.
- Speaking prophetically of the redemption of mankind.
- Sadly those who reject Jesus Christ will spend eternity apart from the Lord and will honestly be able to say in hell, “There is no God, here!” Eternally separated.

Psalm 54

- As the title explains the inspiration for this Psalm took place back in 1 Samuel 26.

- David and his men were hiding out in the wilderness of Ziph (near Hebron), the Ziphites had informed Saul. Saul took 3,000 men and surrounded the area, David was almost within Saul's grasp when Saul received a message that the Philistines were attacking.
- Saul had to abandon his pursuit of David right when he almost had him. Saul turned back to fight the Philistines and was eventually killed in the process, ending up being nails to the walls of Bet-Shan.
- So David is writing this Psalm in the midst of adversity, he's under considerable pressure, his life is in immediate peril.

V: 1 David's initial cry / prayer when he realized that the jig was just about up.

"Save me by your name..." The first part is important: *"Save me..."*

"Save me by your name..." Save me because of your character, because of who you are.

- God / Elohim is His title, one of them, He has many titles. His name is Yahweh / Jehovah. Yahweh, the becoming one, He is to us, to David whatever we need Him to be - if you need salvation then He's "Yeshua" - "God your salvation"
- Judge me, vindicate me by your power - prove me to be correct, or righteous.

V: 2-3 Hear my prayer, hear my desperate plea:

- The Ziphites have turned against David, Saul is pursuing after him, he's close to being caught, knowing that he'll be killed if Saul catches him.

Psalm 34:15, 17¹⁵*The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.* - ¹⁷*The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

- They've got David in their sights in part because they haven't set God before them, they haven't asked God about any of this. Saul is pursuing David because of his own childish vendetta, not because God wants to bring harm to David.
- "Strangers" doesn't necessarily mean "Gentiles" as opposed to those who are "strangers" to God, not His friends.

V: 4-5 Saul can chase me all day long, but if God is my helper, and He is - then God will uphold me.

- God will deal with my enemies; He will cut them off.

Romans 8:31 “What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

V: 6-7 David expresses his confidence that God will hear his prayer, that God will deliver him from the hands of Saul.

- David uses 3 names or titles for God during this brief Psalm: Full spectrum prayer!
 1. V: 1 "Oh God" Elohim
 2. V: 4 "Adonai," Lord, Master.
 3. V: 6 "LORD" / Yahweh.
- He's resting in the assurance of the Lord's salvation (hath x 2) which brings him to a place of praise and worship, offering thanks to God for the great things that he's confident the Lord will do.
- He'll praise the Lord for He is good, His name is good.
- We may not know everything about God, or about the situations that we find ourselves in, but we can be comforted by what we do know:
- God is good. That God loves us, that His will is perfect, and that His Word is true!
- David expresses that confidence. He's seen God's deliverance before, and he'll see it again.

Psalm 62:1-2 “¹Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from Him cometh my salvation.
²He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.”