

PSALM 12

God, a Helper against the Treacherous.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Roy H. Enoch (11-24-93). A Psalm of David.
- B. For the Chief Musician; set to the Sheminith. "Supplication in a time of Degeneracy."

THE TEXT.

- 12:1** Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be,
For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.
- 2** They speak falsehood to one another;
With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.
- 3** May the LORD cut off all flattering lips,
The tongue that speaks great things;
- 4** Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail;
Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"
- 5** "Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy,
Now I will arise," says the LORD; "I will set him in the safety for which he longs."
- 6** The words of the LORD are pure words;
As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.
- 7** You, O LORD, will keep them;
You will preserve him from this generation forever.
- 8** The wicked strut about on every side
When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

COMMENTS.

- A. **[v1,2]** We hope that David is speaking here in a hyperbole or exaggeration to emphasize how many seemed to behave dishonestly and insincerely. Have we not all spoken insincerely sometime and complimented one whom we did not really admire. Sins of the tongue are very common and very serious (Jas. 3:1-12). Since the very basis of Christianity is truthfulness, sincerity and love, we must "speak the truth" (Eph. 4:15).
- B. **[v3,4]** Jehovah's "cutting off" all flattering lips, the tongue that speaks great things, probably refers to condemnation, although the graphic imagery is hard to forget. The parallels here have some synonymous traits, but are also synthetic in that they add to the imagery.
- C. **[v5-8]** The "flattering lips" and "lying tongue" of the wicked are now contrasted with "The words of the Lord are pure words." He is dependable; His words are like "silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." This makes our mistakes and weaknesses so much more deplorable by contrast with His faithfulness and holiness.