

PSALM 52

Futility of Boastful Wickedness.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of David when Doeg the Edomite went and told Saul, and said to him, "David has gone to the house of Ahimelech." See 1Sam. 21,22.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (9-21-94).
- C. Some modern critics claim that this could not have been by David or concerning Doeg the Edomite telling Saul where David was:
 1. It is claimed that v. 8 refers to the temple built after David's death.
 2. It is said that since it does not mention Doeg's massacre of the 85 priests, it could not have been that occasion.
- D. But neither objection has merit:
 1. Verse 8 says, "...the house of the Lord," not the temple. The tabernacle is often referred to in this way. See Ex. 34:26; Deut. 23:18; and Jud. 18:31.
 2. The psalm focuses on the wickedness of the deceit of Doeg, that Ahimelech was aiding David against Saul, when he did not even know that David was fleeing from Saul.
- E. Coffman follows Rawlinson's organization for the psalm:
 1. Doeg's wickedness (52:1-4).
 2. Prophecy of God's Destruction of Him (52:5-7).
 3. Three Marks of David's Gratitude (52:8-9).

THE TEXT.

52:1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man?
The lovingkindness of God *endures* all day long.

2 Your tongue devises destruction,
Like a sharp razor, O worker of deceit.

3 You love evil more than good,
Falsehood more than speaking what is right. Selah.

4 You love all words that devour,
O deceitful tongue.

5 But God will break you down forever;
He will snatch you up and tear you away from *your* tent,
And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah.

6 The righteous will see and fear,
And will laugh at him, *saying*,

7 "Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge,
But trusted in the abundance of his riches
And was strong in his *evil* desire."

8 But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God;
I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever.

9 I will give You thanks forever, because You have done *it*,
And I will wait on Your name, for *it is* good, in the presence of Your godly ones.

COMMENTS.

- A. Doeg's Wickedness.

[v1] "Why do you boast in evil..." The "boast" was not necessarily a public brag, but the satisfaction with himself for the deception he had worked to raise himself in the esteem of the king.

[v1] "...O mighty man" Doeg was "the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul." 1Sam. 21:7 "Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul..." See 1Sam. 22:9.

[v2] "Your tongue devises destruction...working deceitfully." The specific statements that he made may have been true, but the insinuation was that the priests were in alliance with David against the

king, and Saul commanded that they be killed. The servants of the king “would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the Lord.” See 1Sam. 22:18,19.

[v2,3] “You love evil...you love devouring words...” David describes the depth of Doeg’s depravity by saying that he “loved evil.”

B. Prophecy of God’s destruction of Him.

[v5] “God shall likewise destroy you forever...” Those who destroy will be destroyed (Mt. 7:2).

[v6] “The righteous also shall...laugh at him...” It would be public knowledge and those who feared the Lord would learn from it.

[v7] “...trusted in the abundance of his riches...” This is the opposite of trusting in the Lord.

C. Three Marks of David’s Gratitude.

[v8] “...like a green olive tree in the house of God...” Many discuss whether there were olive trees around the temple, but it seems to me that a more appropriate interpretation is the symbolism of Revelation for the “two witnesses” which are described as olive trees (Rev. 11:4). Lamps used olive oil, and both the tabernacle and temple had lampstands which used olive oil. To be an “olive tree IN the house of God” might well symbolize as a constant source of knowledge or light.

David makes three pledges in the two final verses:

1. “...I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever” (v8).
2. “I will praise you forever...” (v9).
3. “...in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name”(v9).