

Psalm 52:1-9

Introduction

What do we do when we face some of life's most difficult circumstances?
How do we respond when we encounter some of life's most bitter experiences?

David faced many difficult circumstances in his life and encountered some of life's most bitter experiences. One of which resulted in the composition of Psalm 52.

Summary

Psalm 52 shows us that when we are dismayed by an evil world, we need to take our concerns to God in prayer and when we suffer injustice, we may look to God to uphold the cause of the righteous.

1. Necessary Background

According to the title (superscription) of Psalm 52, it was written by David in response to one of the most bitter experiences of his life: "When Doeg, the Edom came and told Saul, 'David has come to the house of Ahimelech.'"

2. Boasting Wicked vv. 1-4

David begins this psalm with a question to his enemy: "Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?" (**Psalm 52:1**).

In vv. 1-4, David condemns Doeg by outlining his depravity.

- First, David points to the wickedness of his heart.
- Secondly, Doeg and Saul revealed the depravity of a wicked mind.
- Thirdly, David focuses his attention on the wicked mouth of his enemy.

There is a great danger that we simply acknowledge what an evil person Doeg was, and how terrible it would be to possess such a wicked heart, mind, and tongue.

The reality is, however, that we too possess by nature such a wicked heart, mind and tongue.

Psalm 52 reminds us, in particular, that we should never to treat words lightly. With them we can either build people up or work the kind of evil condemned in this psalm.

3. Torn Down Tents vv. 5-7

David then moves on to console himself in the knowledge of God's justice.

God's judgment on the wicked will involve a reversal of their evil deeds in life.

David makes clear that Doeg will be repaid in a violent judgment that perfectly fits his heinous deeds. This judgment will be permanent (**vs. 5**).

David also shows the effect that this has on God's people.

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- First, "the righteous shall see" God's judgment (**Psalm 52:6**).
- Secondly, David says that the righteous will "fear" because of God's judgment (**Psalm 52:6**).

Thirdly, David notes that The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying, "See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!" (**Ps. 52:6-7**).

David pictured here the end of all those who refused to trust in God and made gods of their riches and power.

This warns us not to be like Doeg who blinded himself to eternity by glorying in evil. Rather, we should flee to Christ whilst we may.

Then, as believers, we should endure our trials on our pilgrim way with our eyes firmly fixed forward and upward to the glories of heaven above.

4. Flourishing Life vv. 8a

Even though David was assured of the judgment that awaited Doeg and Saul, as he expressed in Psalm 52, he was still on the run from Saul and experienced great trials and difficulties in his life.

Nevertheless, David knew the Lord's blessings through faith in God (**Psalm 52:8a**).

The Bible does not promise that believers that they will enjoy outward prosperity or that they will always succeed in this world against the evil schemes of the Doegs of this world. Nevertheless, what they do promise is that despite earthly trials the man who delights in the Lord receives a life from heaven that enables him to abound in blessing in all seasons.

5. Perpetual Steadfast Love vv. 8b-9

David concludes Psalm 52 with a description of his response to God for the life that he has received through faith.

- First, he resolves to honor God by relying on his grace (**Psalm 52:8b**).
- Secondly, David desired to offer to God a thankful heart, despite the he many hardships he is forced to endure (**Psalm 52:9**).
- Thirdly, David resolves to wait on God, patiently expecting his mercy and serving him whilst yet under affliction (**Psalm 52:9**).

2 Cor. 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison."

"The eternal glory is something to wait for in Christ, something to live for with thanksgiving, and something to provide us with ample proof of God's steadfast love forever and ever so that above all else, even in our trials, we may trust in him."