

Psalm 52 – Bible Study Notes Take Refuge in God

Primary Focus: God’s righteousness is a wonderful refuge.

Background Info: Probably authored by David after Doeg reported to Saul that David was with Ahimelech. Saul had all those who supported David killed.

Basic structure:

- I. Man who seeks evil things causes destruction (vv. 1-4)
- II. God will judge those who seek after evil (vv. 5-7)
- III. God is a refuge from judgment for those who seek Him (vv. 8-9)

Verses 1-4 – Seeking evil is destructive

Verses 1-2 – Describes the futility of evil and eternal endurance of God’s love.

“boasting” refers to pride and self-love, not bragging.

“mighty man” is an ironic military phrase meant to express how taking pride in evil does not make one strong. Doeg viewed himself as a powerful man because his report resulted in a massacre. David’s phrase states that Doeg is not powerful, but God is powerful.

Verses 2-4 – Describes how even evil speech can result in great destruction.

Doeg’s report resulted in a slaughter of many.

Doeg took pride in his evil acts.

The repeating of the phrase “you love” expresses both a choice and an attraction. Those who love evil choose evil over good and are attracted by evil.

Life Questions

What are some ways we seek evil? Describe ways this has caused destruction or harm.

Verses 5-7 – God will judge those seek evil things

Verse 5 – Describes God’s judgment against those who “love evil.”

The judgment progresses from bad to worse:

- “broken down” or “bring you down” refers to loss of character, things, etc.
- “snatch... tear from your tent” refers to made homeless.
- “uproot... from the land of the living” refers to eternal judgment, rejection by God.

God will eventually bring horrible judgment against those who love evil.

Verses 6-7 – Describes how the righteous are protected from God’s judgment

“See” and “fear” means that the holy will witness God’s judgments, but not experience them.

“Laugh” is not mocking, but an expression of joy because they sought God’s refuge. It’s likely an exaggeration meant to emphasize the consequence of loving evil rather than loving God.

Life Questions

Why should we fear God’s judgment? How can we avoid judgment?

Verses 8-9 – God will protect and nourish those who seek His refuge

An olive tree is one of the longest-living trees in the region.

David compares himself to an olive tree living in God’s house.

He is beyond the reach of those who seek evil.

He resides within God’s protection.

Those who take refuge with God will live forever in God’s house.

Those who take refuge in God should thank God for his love, loyalty, and protection.

Life Questions

Describe a time you felt God’s protection in a time of need? How can we thank God for His love?