

## Psalm 53 – Bible Study Notes A Picture of Mankind’s Condition

Primary Focus: Man is wicked, evil, and will face judgment from God.

Background Info: A slightly revised version of psalm 14. Most of psalms 14 & 53 are nearly verbatim. Probably done by a temple musician. Timing of writing is probably during the reign of Hezekiah.

Basic structure:

- I. Man openly defies God’s law (vv. 1-3)
- II. God will judge those who oppress His people (vv. 4-6)

### Verses 1-3 – Man blatantly, willfully chooses to defy God’s law

Verse 1 – Those who \_\_\_\_\_ God’s existence and laws are fools, not uneducated.

The phrase “there is no God” is a statement of \_\_\_\_\_, not ignorance.

Paul discussed this attitude in Romans 1:22.

Because man denies God, he becomes evil and “corrupt” in God’s eyes.

Verses 2-3 – Nobody is righteous in God’s eyes; everyone is evil and corrupt.

God seeks a righteous person, but finds all man is evil

The psalmist is describing the condition of two groups:

- Mankind as a \_\_\_\_\_;
- \_\_\_\_\_ people.

“No one... not even one” (vv. 1, 3) emphasizes that nobody is righteous.

#### Life Questions

Describe the types of people who deny God’s existence? How do we defy God’s law in our lives?

### Verses 4-6 – God will defeat and judge those who rebel and oppress His people

Verse 4 – Evil people \_\_\_\_\_ God’s people.

Their action is represents a failure of man to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ right from wrong (v. 4);

- \_\_\_\_\_ that judgment comes to those who reject God (vv. 5ff).

When we are left to our own desires, we \_\_\_\_\_ to commit evil acts.

Verses 5-6 – God will defeat and judge those who oppose Him and His people.

Verses 5b-6 are different in psalms 14 & 53.

The temple musician altered psalm 14 to deal with a specific crisis.

Probably regarding the impending invasion of Assyria during the reign of King Hezekiah (Isaiah 37).

Psalm 14 – mainly deals with individual people rebelling.

Psalm 53 – mainly deals with a nation rebelling against God.

Leaving dead bodies unburied is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Near East.

God will shame those who oppose Him.

God will defeat those who reject Him.

“salvation of Israel... out of Zion” – prophecy of the \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the Messiah who came to save all in Israel and the world.

Those who \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus can “rejoice” and “be glad” in God’s grace.

God alone brings victory over your enemies and saves us from judgment.

**Life Questions**

What is God’s opinion of rebellion? How can our nation receive God’s protection? What does it mean to “rejoice” and “be glad” in God’s restoration?