

There will be times in every believer's life when things will go bad. It will not matter who we are or how spiritual we are; bad times will hit those who love God. Most of the time the bad times will be caused by other people. The people who cause us the most difficulty are people who look good and sound convincing. These people are smooth talkers who appear to be so caring and so spiritual. They are neither. These people are totally alienated from God and His Word. They do not have God's wisdom and they do not know God's will. They will not submit to God's authority. They twist things, they distort things and they deceive people.

**What is interesting from the life of David is that the kind of attacks that wore him down the most were verbal.** In physical confrontations, David could go one on one with his enemy and defeat him. But verbal attacks were much different. Verbal assaults that were going on behind his back were not things he could fight physically.

But there was one thing David could do and that was to turn to God. Time and time again when people would speak against him, David would speak with God about them. This is a powerful lesson to learn:

**WHEN FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD ARE BEING VERBALLY ATTACKED BY SMOOTH-TALKING, ARROGANT ENEMIES, THEY MAY ALWAYS TRUST GOD AND GO TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ASK FOR HIS HELP.**

David was surrounded by a bunch of liars and deceivers. Those who were godly were in the minority, not the majority. These people moved David to pray and talk to God. Now we may observe that this psalm was written for the choir director and was to be accompanied upon an 8 string lyre.

Now there are five main parts to this psalm:

**PART #1** – David prays and asks God for His help. **12:1**

The first word of both the Hebrew and English text is the word "help." David needed God's help and God wants us to realize that our strength and help comes from Him. In the war we are in, we will not win relying upon our own sufficiency.

David asks God for help because at the time there were no other faithful people to help him. People who recognized that he was the ordained King of God and would respect him and honor him and obey him were far and few between. There are many people who would criticize and attack David, but there weren't too many who would defend him and support him.

Many commentators believe that David had developed an "Elijah" complex (I Kings 19:10), in that David felt as if he was the only faithful man left on the earth. It is easy to begin to think that way, especially when surrounded by negative and wicked people. It is possible that David is expressing what is literally true.

David probably was alone and there were no other godly or faithful people who would stand by his side when he wrote this psalm. The only Person to whom David could turn to for help was God.

We do learn a very important lesson regardless of the dispensation. Godly, faithful, loyal people are far and few between. Faithful allies are rare. People who love God and His Word and love the leadership God puts into power are the minority, not the majority.

We cannot but see here an eschatological view of the Tribulation. The Rapture will occur and literally the godly and the faithful will disappear. When that happens, Israel's only option will be to cry out to God.

**PART #2** – David describes the wicked. **12:2**

The language used here is language that describes almost every politician, because the goal of the politician is, for the most part, the goal of the wicked person. The goal of the wicked person is to gain power and control by flattery and lies.

There are two specific things that wicked and ungodly people are very skilled at doing:

- 1) The wicked are skilled in speaking that which is false.
- 2) The wicked are skilled in speaking that which is flattering.

But this verse is clear to point out that no matter what the person says, it comes from a “double heart.” Flatterers and liars are not true to their word or commitments. One who is wicked can flatter you to your face and lie to you at the same time and you will never suspect it. A person with a double heart has no problem saying one thing to your face and another behind your back. Mr. Spurgeon said a man is far better off to be around lions than liars.

J. Vernon McGee said, “This is a day when Christians need to speak the truth. That is, we should not say one thing to a man's face and another thing when his back is turned. That is double-talk. It is being two-faced” (*Psalms*, p. 688).

**PART #3** – David asks God to cut off the wicked. **12:3-4**

Wicked people believe they could accomplish anything by their lies and deception so David asks God to cut them all off. Notice that David's prayer is against “all” who have used their flattering lips in a false way. He includes everybody.

David wanted God to end all the flattery and arrogant claims because they use their speech in at least three ways:

**(Way #1)** - The wicked brag about their greatness. **12:3b**

Wicked people are big talkers.

They want you to know how spiritual they are and how pious they are. They gloat about who they are and how great they are. They are proud.

**(Way #2)** - The wicked brag about their prevail-ability. **12:4a**

Wicked people talk about how they will prevail. They use their speech to try and convince others that they are the ones who will prevail.

**(Way #3)** - The wicked brag about their own lordship. **12:4b**

Wicked people love to talk about how they are in control. No one will ever tell them what to do, so they think. No one is going to lord anything over them. Wicked people have a double-hearted hatred for those in true leadership and those with true authority. They appear to respect it, but the fact is, they hate it. As one writer said, these kinds of people prefer autonomy and anarchy rather than authority.

David saw a lot of these kinds of people so David asks God to “cut” them “all” off (**verse 3**).

As we near the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, proud, arrogant rebellion against authority will rise. It will be the rare person who will be honest and straightforward. For a while, the world will appear to be run by people who know how to play the right games and say the right things. They know how to talk in ways that are politically and pleasingly correct. But that will all end when Christ returns.

**PART #4** – David speaks in behalf of God. **12:5**

David apparently received a direct response from God. We do not know how David received the information, but God revealed to David that He was going to answer David’s prayer. God revealed to David that He would arise and He would see to it that the godly afflicted person was in a place of safety.

Now carefully observe the two things that prompt God to arise:

- 1) The devastation of the wicked;
- 2) The petition and groaning of the righteous.

When God sees the arrogant people demolishing His faithful people and He sees that His faithful people are crying out to Him for help, He will arise and He will act.

**In fact, it is clear from Psalms that one of the things God expects of His people when they find themselves surrounded by trouble is to turn to Him in prayer.**

Prophetically speaking, we can certainly see the eschatology of Israel in this verse. During the Tribulation, Israel will be under the devastation of the arrogant Antichrist and the Antichrist will seem to be controlling the world.

That will cause Israel to finally cry out to God for help and God will arise and He will answer (Matthew 23:39).

**PART #5** – David thinks about certain things on the earth. **12:6-8**

In the midst of trouble there were three thoughts David had:

**Thought #1** - David thought about God's Word. **12:6-7a**

When David was surrounded by trouble, one of the first things that came to his mind was the importance of the Word of God. He found great encouragement and help from God's Word.

God's Word is pure. Every word of God is carefully placed and preserved in His Word and God will always keep His Word. There is no question that trouble in life and in the world should drive us to the Word of God.

Now carefully see what David wanted to study—"the words." David wanted to carefully understand the very words of Scripture. He wanted to know every single word. It isn't just the concepts that are inspired, the words are inspired. David wanted to know every word because that is what gave him stability in a very unstable and threatening world. He knew that God guards and keeps His Word forever (**12:7a**).

This is why we take such a serious approach to Scripture in this church. We have had people come who wanted us to teach courses on financial investments and other things, but we stick to carefully teaching the Scriptures.

Literary critics have attacked the Scriptures; philosophical agnostics and atheists have tried to dismiss the Scriptures and some scientists have tried to ridicule the Scriptures, but to no avail. The words of the Bible stand. God keeps and protects and preserves His Word and the most important thing we can do in our lifetime, while living in a wicked world dominated by liars, is to carefully and accurately know the words of God.

**Thought #2** - David thought about God's protection. **12:7b**

God will always preserve those who are faithful. Notice the pronoun "him." This is very personal. No matter what generation a person lives in, the individual who loves the Word and is faithful to God will always have God's protection. We have God's Word on that point.

**Thought #3** - David thought about the wicked. **12:8**

Wicked people strut around like arrogant proud peacocks. Notice the description that this arrogant wicked people will be "about on every side" of one who is faithful.

In other words, if you are faithful to God you will discover that you will always have some vile-speaking, double-talking and arrogant evil people around you, drawn to you like a magnet. They will try to verbally destroy one faithful with their flattery and their falsity.

**Some key applications we may make from this psalm:**

- 1) When we find ourselves surrounded by arrogant enemies, who are lashing out against us, we need to run to God in prayer.
- 2) We must be always checking ourselves to see that we are not double-hearted.
- 3) Let us purpose in life to know the meaning of all the words in the written Word of God.
- 4) We need to always remember that God will always protect His faithful people.
- 5) Faithfulness to God and His Word will always be in a minority of people, not the majority.