

It is clear from the superscription that Psalm 52 was written for the **choir director**. What this means is this is a Psalm that is to be publicly taught and communicated to the people.

We may also notice that it is a “**maskil of David.**” This emphasizes that **David wrote this Psalm for the purpose of giving instruction**.

Now this instructive maskil was written in regard to Doeg the Edomite. Doeg was an Edomite who became Saul’s cattle manager. He became Saul’s foreman or trail boss (I Sam. 21:7).

When David was on the run from Saul, he fled to a city named Nob and asked for some food from the priest, whose name was Ahimelech (I Sam. 21:1-6). Ahimelech was very kind to David and gave him food.

Doeg was in Nob that day and was there when this happened. He was an informant for Saul who turned David in by blowing the whistle on him (I Sam. 22:9-10). Doeg also was responsible for killing Ahimelech and all the other priests of the city of Nob (I Sam. 22:11, 16, 18-19).

One son of Ahimelech escaped. His name was Abiathar. He got away and went and told David what had happened (I Sam. 22:20-23). **In the aftermath of all of this, David wrote Psalm 52.**

As we mentioned, this Psalm is a “maskil” which means David wants this carefully studied because the data in this Psalm can lead one to great success and happiness (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 790).

The point of the Psalm is this:

HAPPINESS IS FOUND IN KNOWING THAT GOD WILL EVENTUALLY JUDGE THOSE WHO HAVE DONE AND SAID TERRIBLE THINGS AGAINST YOU.

When people turn against you and do deceitful things against you when you have been faithful to God, there is real joy found in the fact that God will one day track those people down and pronounce severe judgment on them.

Now some might think that this point is only for O.T. Israel. However, there are N.T. Grace Age passages that clearly demonstrate this principle is also for the N.T. Church.

The Apostle Paul, in writing the book of Romans, thought exactly the same thing when he said to the N.T. believer “Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay’ says the Lord” (Rom. 12:19).

Again, when Paul was about to die, he said this about a man named Alexander. “Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; **the Lord will repay him according to his deeds**” (II Tim. 4:14)

Clearly this Psalm is for God's people in any age. There is comfort and joy knowing God will judge.

Now there are three descriptions that David gives in this Psalm:

DESCRIPTION #1 – The description of the wicked person. **52:1-4**

Now keep in mind that the description of the wicked person described here was a very religious person. This was Saul's leading herdsman and he was a very religious man. So this is not describing an atheist or agnostic. This was a person who regularly went to worship services, specifically to the places where the priests were ministering.

What this tells us is that evil enemies of God regularly go to church. Evil enemies of God are very religious. In this section there are seven traits David mentions concerning one wicked.

(Trait #1) - The wicked person boasts in evil as some mighty man. **52:1**

Now Doeg had killed priests who didn't have swords and probably did not know how to use swords. But he boasted and bragged about what he had done as some mighty leader. He sees himself as a mighty leader and he makes the assumption that his evil is okay.

What he does not realize is that the mercy of God or the lovingkindness of God is giving him time to repent and if he doesn't repent, he will be judged.

Wicked people do appear to be mighty people. They appear to be powerful and successful.

(Trait #2) - The wicked person has a destructive tongue. **52:2a**

A wicked person pretends to be a friend but he has malice in his heart. The wicked person is out to destroy the righteous person and he uses his words to do it. The tongue of Doeg never told Saul that David was loyal to Saul.

(Trait #3) - The wicked person has a deceitful tongue. **52:2b**

A wicked person works deceitfully behind the scenes verbally ripping the people to shreds. The tongue is razor sharp and it destroys through lies. Wicked people are always talking about faithful people behind their backs and tearing them to pieces.

(Trait #4) - The wicked person loves evil more than good. **52:3a**

This is straight forward reality. The wicked person loves evil more than good.

(Trait #5) - The wicked person loves what is false more than what is true. **52:3b**

A wicked person is drawn to lies and liars. There is a real intimate connection that exists among false people.

(Trait #6) - The wicked person loves all words that deceive and devour. **52:4a**

Don't lose sight of the fact that the person being described here is a very religious person. This person appears to be so pious. This is a person who goes to religious services, but this kind of person is an evil gossip who talks a lot and even invents things that are not true. As Spurgeon said, these evil speakers cover with a pretext of justice.

Now we may observe at the end of **verse 5** that David uses the word "selah." He wants us to stop and think about it.

(Trait #7) - The wicked person will not humble himself to the Word of God or will of God. **52:7**

The wicked person continues to trust in himself and his own abilities. He lays great claim to his riches. His mindset is I have great riches and that proves I am right with God. The fact is, he is a liar and God will bring him down.

DESCRIPTION #2 – The description of God's judgment . **52:5**

Doeg thought he was on top of the world. Saul had him as one of his leaders because he appeared to be such a winner.

There are three judgment promises given by God concerning His pending judgment.

(Judgment Promise #1) - The wicked person will be broken forever. **52:5a**

Those who destroy one faithful will himself be destroyed.

(Judgment Promise #2) - The wicked person will be trampled from his tent. **52:5b**

Doeg obviously lived in what he thought was a nice secure tent. He enjoyed the good life but that life was about to end.

(Judgment Promise #3) - The wicked person will be removed from faithful people. **52:5c**

The land of the living is land that will one day feature people who are right with God. For Israel it was the Promised Land. The text is very clear; no wicked person will ever end up living with the faithful people of God.

DESCRIPTION #3 – The description of the righteous reaction. **52:6, 8-9**

There are six righteous reactions:

(Righteous Reaction #1) - The righteous will see it and fear God. **52:6a**

When righteous people see God destroy wicked people, they fear God.

(Righteous Reaction #2)- The righteous will laugh at one who thought he could deceive God.
52:6b

Righteous people know that those who think they can deceive God are only deceiving themselves and when God punishes, the righteous will get a good laugh.

(Righteous Reaction #3) - The righteous will be strong and fruitful for God. **52:8a**

People right with God are growing and are fruitful in the house of God. In other words, when people go to worship services to worship God, they gain strength.

(Righteous Reaction #4) - The righteous will always trust in the mercy of God. **52:8b**

Here is a great theological point—people right with God trust in the grace and mercy of God, not in themselves.

(Righteous Reaction #5) - The righteous will be thankful that God has taken care of enemies. **52:9a**

When God finally stamps out evil people, God’s people praise God and thank God.

(Righteous Reaction #6) - The righteous will wait on God to take care of the enemies. **52:9b**

Righteous people leave vengeance to God.

Parting Lessons:

- 1) Some of the most wicked and dangerous people are in the church, acting like a spy.
These are people who are always talking but do not set forth truth.**
- 2) Wicked people will be judged.**
- 3) Righteous people will be joyful.**