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## Psalm 52

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 52.

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### Topics.

- The steadfast love of God endures all the day.
- God will devour those who love destruction and speak deceit.
- Those who trust in their riches seek refuge in their own destruction.
- I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the love of God.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK TWO (PSALM 42-72)

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### PSALM 52:1-3

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To the Choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told, Saul, "David has come to the House of Ahimelech.

### The Steadfast Love of God Endures all the Day.

- **Psalm 52:1-3:** Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day. <sup>2</sup>Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. <sup>3</sup>You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. *Selah*

The focus of this Psalm is upon the corrupt, prideful and arrogant who are in powerful positions of authority who use lies and deceit to achieve their own goals and who plot the destruction of individuals for their own gain or the destruction of nations by financial deception and wars for their own gain. It is not upon the many secular men and women in the world who have good hearts that lack malice and who give their lives to helping the poor and the helpless. It should always be remembered that there are three five of people dwelling on the face of earth

1. The faithful who love Christ with a devoted passion and endeavour to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Those who confess to believe in Christ, but only have an appearance of righteousness, they attend church every Sunday, but every other day of the week live a lifestyle that is totally indifferent to God's honour and to the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ
3. Those who have malice and wickedness in their hearts and wilfully and deliberately inflict pain on others for their own advantage and own gain.

4. Those who deliberately and consciously forcefully deny Christ and aggressively persecute those who do believe in him.
5. The unsaved who have not yet heard the message of the bloodstained cross or the Gospel of grace, but do have good and kind hearts and do treat all people with decency, honest justice and goodness.

Obviously, the nature of humanity is not as black and white as this, but it does show that not all earth dwellers in the world fit into the category that this Psalm is focused upon. It should always be remembered:

- For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. (2 Chron. 16:9).

**Blameless:** in this context does not mean without sin if it was possible for anyone of us to achieve this glorious state while in this mortal and fallen body then Christ died for no purpose. Rather the word blameless carries the idea of living a lifestyle that treats people with decency and respect and does what is good and right.

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## PSALM 52:4-5

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### God will Devour those who Love Destruction and Speak Deceit.

- **Psalm 52:4-5:** You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue. <sup>5</sup>But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah*

Again we see the focus is upon those who speak lies and deceit to advance their own selfish dreams, ambitions and goals. Though judgment is delayed at the moment a day is coming when God will once again intervene into human history as he did in the days of

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- Noah and the flood and Egypt and the ten plagues.
- Sodom and Gomorrah and Babylon and Israel's seventy-year captivity.
- Jesus and the Virgin Birth and his death and resurrection.

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## PSALM 52:6-7

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### Those who Trust in their Riches Seek Refuge in Destruction.

- **Psalm 52:6-7:** The righteous shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him (the deceitful), saying, <sup>7</sup>"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!"

The prophetic message of these verses will be fulfilled at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God.

Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts

will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Trusting in the abundance of riches:** (v5) those that trust in riches have foolish confidence, because no-one can ransom another person life with money. No-one can give to God the price of his or her own life because the ransom of eternal life is costly and no amount of money can ever suffice for it, so no-one has the power to lengthen their days. The Bible states:

- Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish. (Psalm 49:20).

All who deny God die as the beast of the field dies. After observing the world around him the author of Ecclesiastes concludes that the best thing for those who chose to live without God is to work, eat, drink and be joyful, all the days of their life that God has given them on earth because when they breathe their last breath there is no more, but the darkness of the grave. (Eccles. 8:14-15).

- I commend joy, for man has no good thing under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun. (Eccles. 8:15).

**A man wisely said,** "I have never seen a Hurst transporting the coffin of a corpse with a trailer attached and full of the deceased person's material possessions." I myself live in a downstairs unit. When the man above me died, a tip truck was backed up to the balcony of his upstairs unit and all his possessions were thrown into the tray of the truck most of the items smashing into little pieces as they hit the steel floor of the tray. These broken and worthless pieces were then taken to the fires of the rubbish dump. These two simple examples clearly show the vanity of labouring and building our entire life solely on the temporary things of this world and giving no thought or time to God.

**NOTE:** this does not mean it is wrong for Christians to be rich and wealthy, there are many men and woman who have been very successful in their particular line of work, they do all their business deals honestly and with integrity and treat their staff justly and because of their success they have resources that are able to support others extend the Kingdom of God and help the poor.

The focus of this Psalm is on those who give God no place in their heart, mind and thoughts and instead build their life upon what they achieve, own and possess and put all their trust in their riches and wealth and use it for their own selfish indulgences. Money is not sinful or evil it can be used for good or for bad, to help the poor or to corrupt a king. It is the purpose it is used for that determines whether the money is good or bad, not the money itself.

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## PSALM 52:8-9

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### **I am like a Green Olive Tree, I Trust in the Love of God.**

- **Psalm 52:8-9:** But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. <sup>9</sup>I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

A green olive tree is:

- Is a very choice and fruitful tree that produces excellent oil symbolising the Holy Spirit and the beauty of the faithful.
- Is beautiful to look at and thrives in hot climates and sunny places and is found on mountains such as the Mount of Olives, symbolising faith endures in the warmest of climates (i.e., with other faithful brothers and sisters in Christ) and that the faith of those in Christ is planted in a sure foundation that cannot be moved.
- Is evergreen, enduring and resilient symbolising stability, perpetuity and eternal life.
- Is green which carries the idea of freshness so its leaves and branches are symbols of vitality, life, peace and abundance and gladness.
- Is an evergreen and propagates itself by fresh shoots symbolising immortality.

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The following verses show that trees in Scripture are emblems of prosperity:

- He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:3
- The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. (Psalm 92:12).
- His (Israel's) branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. (Hosea 14:6).
- But I (David) am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. (Psalm 52:8).

All the characteristics of the olive tree are applicable to the character of the faithful who are filled with the fruits of the Spirit (love, compassion, mercy, kindness, grace and forgiveness etc.), and therefore can be spoken of as being excellently planted on the earth.

**NOTE:** the colour green refers to the vigour, vitality and freshness of the tree as much as it does to the colour. This is because the foliage of wan grey olive wood can hardly be called green, nevertheless though the olive tree is scarcely seen to our Western eyes it is a most beautiful tree to the Oriental people its coolness of pale-blue foliage and its evergreen freshness spread like a silver sea along the slopes of the hills. This beauty

cannot only be seen as symbolising the beauty of the faithful on the earth and the faithful church and, but also the beauty of the resurrected faithful ruling and reigning as kings and priests with Christ as the King of Kings and Lord of lords when he returns in glory to establish God's kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth.

**I am like a green olive tree in the house of God:** (v8) the House of God in this context does not refer to the Temple of God since there were no trees planted in the Temple, but it is quite possible that trees were actually planted in the surrounding area of the Temple so the title, "The House of God," should be understood to embrace the entire area of the House of God including the courts surrounding the Sanctuary. The following verse shows that those who love to dwell in the House of God are likened to trees planted in the House of the LORD:

- The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. <sup>13</sup>They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:12-13).

In this context the House of the LORD can refer to Solomon's Temple of God or to the global body of Christ or to the faithful church. David in this prayer is saying, "When my enemies and the enemies of God wither and perish, I, who have made God my refuge shall be safe, secure and happily established and flourishing in the House of God forever like a green and blossoming tree protected in the very courts of the sanctuary safe under the care and the eye of God. Considering David is at this present time exiled from the House of God this prayer expresses his great faith and confidence that he will be again restored and flourishing in the House of God. One of the highest motivations of David's happiness was the thought that he would one day be permanently dwelling in the House of God and worship there as he expressed in the following Psalms:

- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23:6).
- One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. <sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. (Psalm 27:4-5).

The House of God by extension embraces the church of God and the Kingdom of God and the global body of Christ. It embraces anywhere God's presence dwells and wherever the faithful are planted whether it is in a temple, a church building, a rented community hall or a home of faithful brothers and sisters. David compares himself to a green olive tree to signify the stability and perpetuity of his Kingdom and that of his offspring. His prayer shines a brilliant spotlight on David's great faith and his trust in the mercy and steadfast love of God and his full confidence that God's eternal promise to him will never fail.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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