

Sunday Night Message

January 12, 2014

Psalm 52 – He Who Laughs Last

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 52

Introduction

"[To the chief Musician, Maschil, [A Psalm of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech.]]

This psalm has been designated as a "Maschil". We have seen this word in Psalm 32, and in Psalms 42 – 45. There are a dozen psalms that will have this label. It is defined as a poem or song of contemplation. It comes from a root word that means to ponder or consider. Some have said that these psalms are particularly intended to give instruction.

For the context of this story, see 1 Samuel 21:1 – 10; 1 Samuel 22:6 – 19.

It is not clear to me whether this psalm was written about Doeg, or about Saul. They were both wicked men, and would certainly warrant the anger and venom that was directed at them here through this psalm.

If I were to venture a guess, however, I would state that it is Doeg who was in view here, because of the references to the tongue. Doeg was the one who brought the report to Saul that resulted in 85 priests being put to death, along with their wives and children, and everything else that was in the city of Nob.

The Bible is quick to point out that Doeg was an Edomite. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, and became the enemies of God's people. Esau (or Edom) was a picture of a lost, carnal man, while Jacob his brother was a picture of the saved man. In our context, we see that Doeg, the Edomite, fulfills that picture of a lost, carnal man perfectly.

I The Words of the Wicked (vs. 1 – 4)

*"Why **boatest** thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually." (Psalms 52:1)*

*"Thy **tongue** deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully."
(Psalms 52:2)*

*"Thou lovest evil more than good; and **lying** rather than to **speak** righteousness.
Selah." (Psalms 52:3)*

*"Thou lovest all devouring **words**, O thou deceitful **tongue**." (Psalms 52:4)*

*"The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the
upright shall deliver them." (Proverbs 12:6)*

*"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there
is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with
their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose
mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood:"
(Romans 3:12-15)*

*"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how
great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity:
so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth
on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." (James 3:5-6)*

These verses in Psalm 52 are obviously referring to this wicked, lost man, Doeg; but let's make an application for the saints that are in this room. Our fallen, fleshly nature is capable of saying some hurtful and un-Christ-like things.

*"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is
good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."
(Ephesians 4:29)*

Let's not kill people with our words. Let's only say things that are going to edify or strengthen people, things that will bring them closer to the Lord.

"I have often regretted my speech, never my silence." (Publius)

II The Reply of the Righteous (vs. 5 - 7)

*"God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee
out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. The
righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: Lo, this is the man that
made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and
strengthened himself in his wickedness." (Psalms 52:5-7)*

Verse five tells us what happened to Doeg. Notice the words, "*pluck thee out of thy dwelling place*", and "*root thee out of the land of the living*". We will come back to them in a minute. It is important to note at this point only that though Doeg was at one time prideful, powerful, and prosperous man in Saul's kingdom, he is now completely destroyed.

Doeg may have laughed and boasted of his little demonic victory in the slaughter of the priests of God, but notice carefully that the righteous get the last laugh.

III The Deduction of David (vs. 8 - 9)

"But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever." (Psalms 52:8)

"I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints." (Psalms 52:9)

Remember what verse five told us about the destruction of Doeg: he was *plucked out* and *rooted out*. David stated that he was planted like an Olive Tree – in the house of God. In other words, the wicked will come and the wicked will go, but the righteous are planted permanently. They stand strong during the difficult days, and they continue to bear fruit.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Psalms 1:1-6)

Notice that David professed his trust in God; and he praised God "before the Saints". He made it public.

Eighty-five priests of God, along with their families, lost their lives because of their association with David. Don't think that didn't affect David, but he didn't quit.