

The Book of PSALMS
Psalms 52 - 54
“Deceivers! Atheists! Deliverance!”

PSALM 52 – Deceivers!

(v1-4) The way of a deceiver:

- #1- They boast of evil (v1)
- #2- Their tongue devises destruction (v2a)
- #3- They work at deceit (v2b)
- #4- They love evil more than good (v3a)
- #5- Lying is their trademark- “Liars Inc.” (v3b)
- #6- They love others to do the same & they join hands with them (v4)

(v5) God will bring judgment against them. Rev 21:8- *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*

(v6-7) The righteous will take warning & speak of the wicked’s folly- Jesus said in Matt 16:26-27- *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Matt 6:24- “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

(v8-9) The way of the righteous is to:

- #1- **Stay in the house of God! (v8a)** Heb 10:24-25- *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- #2- **Trust in the mercy of God! (v8b)**
- #3- **Praise the LORD forever! (v9a)**
- #4- **Live & learn! (v9b)**
- #5- **Be ready for the rapture! (v9c) (1 Thess. 4:13-17)**

PSALM 53 – “Atheists!”

(v1) The atheist is a fool for saying “There is no God.” (Romans 1:16-32)

- Corruption fills society when it is influenced by atheists.
- Society will be overflowing with abominable iniquity & no good.

> An insightful poet once wrote,

*Vice is a monster of such horrible mean,
that to be hated needs but to be seen.
But seen too oft, grown familiar with its face,
first we endure, then we embrace.*

(v2-3) God is watching!

- He watched in the days of Noah! (Genesis ch. 6)
- He watched at the Tower of Babel! (Genesis ch. 11)
- He watched at Sodom & Gomorrah! (Genesis ch.19; Mt. 11:23-24; Luke 17:28-32)
- He’s watching in these last days! (Mt. 24:36-51)

(v4-5) Notice the atheist work at iniquity; they eat up God’s people (Quotes from: *The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail* by D. James Kennedy/Jerry Newcombe; *Hitler and the Nazi Darwinian Worldview* by Jerry Bergman)

(v6) Salvation has come out of Zion (Jerusalem) and His name is JESUS!

> **INSIGHT: Several important names of God identify Him as *Branch, King, Wisdom, Shepherd, and Servant*:**

- ***Branch of Righteousness***. Jer 23:5-6 names the coming messianic figure, the "Branch of righteousness," who will descend from David and be raised up to reign as King to execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. Christians see in this linkage a prophecy about God the Son taking on human flesh to serve as righteous King.

- ***King***. This descendant of David will have several divine qualities. He will be a Branch of Righteousness, a King, and His name will be called "The Lord Our Righteousness" (Jehovah Tsidkenu).

- ***Wisdom***. This person also appears in Prov 8 as Wisdom, the speaker who always says and does what is righteous, is equal to Jehovah, and works with Him in the creation of the universe. Paul describes Christ in these terms in Col 1:13-19; 2:1-3.

- ***Shepherd***. God is also described in prophecy as the Shepherd who will feed His flock, gather the lambs in His arms, carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those with young (Isa 40:11; Jer 31:10; Ezek 34:11-16). Jesus applied this name to Himself (Luke 15:4-7; John 10:11-16), making Himself equal to God; and Jesus Christ is so named by His followers (Heb 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4; Rev 7:17).

- ***Servant***. The name of Servant also identifies this divine person and His saving ministry on behalf of His people. God's Servant is described in terms that apply to Jesus. He is upheld and chosen by God; He delights in God; He receives God's Spirit. Like Wisdom in Prov 8, He is holy, just, and righteous. He will bring Jacob back to Him and will be a light to the nations since He is an offering for sin (Isa 42:1-4; 49:1-7; 53).

- ***Word of God***. The Word of God figures prominently in Scripture as another name of God. The Word is not as clearly a person in the Old Testament as in the New Testament where Jesus Christ is identified as the personal Word of God (John 1:1,14). But it is evident from Ps 33:4,6, and 9 that the Word should be understood in a personal sense, for "the word of the Lord is right" indicating a personified Word. "By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made" (v. 6), echoing the creation in Gen 1:3,6. In the New Testament Jesus is seen to be both Word and Law personified.

- ***Glory***. God is described as Glory (Shekinah) in Ex 16:7; Ps 104:31; and Isa 60:1. In the New Testament Jesus shares the glory of God (Matt 25:31; 1 Cor 2:8; Heb 1:3).

- **In the New Testament God is known as:** Father (Matt 5:16; 28:19) and Abba (Mark 14:36; Gal 4:6). *Jesus* is known as Son (Matt 11:27), Son of God (John 9:35), and Son of man (Matt 8:20), Messiah (John 1:41), Lord (Rom 14:8), Word (John 1:1), Wisdom (1 Cor 1:30), Bridegroom (Mark 2:19), Shepherd (John 10:11), Vine (John 15:1), Light (John 1:9), and "I AM" (John 8:12). The *Holy Spirit* is known as the Helper (John 14:16). (From Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

PSALM 54 – “Deliverance!”

(v1a) Save me by your name! - Acts 4:12- *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.* **Rom 10:12-13-** *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."* **John 14:13-14-** *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.* Read **Revelation 3:7-13**

(v1b) “vindicate by your strength” - The power of the resurrection!

(v2-3) We must pray! - James 5:13-20

(v4-5) God is my helper cut them off in Your truth - John 14:16-18; 15:26-27; 16:13-14

(v6-7) God’s deliverance brings our sacrifice (service) & praise!