



**A Preview and a Word For Our Nation  
Turn or Burn  
Meet the Antichrist  
Psalm 52 & 53**

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We have come to Psalm 52 – 55 and discover that as all the psalms do, they speak to us today. But these are also prophetic. I will examine both aspects.

Psalm 52 begins a series of four psalms (52–55) which give a prophetic picture we get nowhere else of the coming of Antichrist, the Man of Sin, who will be a world dictator and dominate Israel during the



Tribulation. Our Lord referred to him in the Olivet discourse. The prophet Daniel and the apostle Paul both speak of him. (McGee 1997, 767)

Psalm 52:title–9

“For the music director. A Maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul and said to him, “David has come to the house of Ahimelech.” **Why do you boast in evil, you mighty man? The faithfulness of God endures all day long. Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. You love evil more than good, Lies more than speaking what is right.** Selah You love all words that devour, You deceitful tongue. **But God will break you down forever; He will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent, And uproot you from the land of the living.** Selah **The righteous will see and fear, And they will laugh at him, saying, “Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge, But trusted in the abundance of his riches And was strong in his evil desire.” But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the faithfulness of God forever and ever. I will praise You forever, because You have done it, And I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your godly ones.**” (NASB 2020)

In Psalm 51, one of the things that David declared is this.

Psalm 51:13

“Then I will teach wrongdoers Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.” (NASB 2020)

Here in Psalm 52, he is doing exactly that.

As with most of the psalms of David, this psalm is based on an event in his life where he learned some lessons and as a result, he is able to teach us. This event took place while David was in the process of fleeing for his life from Saul and stopped at the Tabernacle on his way to the place he would go into hiding. In the process, he also speaks about someone who is yet to come.

Here he will contrast for us the lifestyle of Doeg the Edomite, a definitively unrighteous man with the lifestyle of one who is righteous. Is Saul here? Yes. Are they types of the Antichrist?

Let’s first look at what happened to lead to this psalm.

It begins when David arrives in Nob running for his life. Is this a possible picture of a future where many of those in Israel will also be running for their lives at the midpoint of the Tribulation? Possible, but David is obviously in a hurry and without his normal retinue of soldiers, just a few are with him and most are unarmed, as is David. As he meets with Ahimelech, the High Priest, who is obviously upset and frightened, David asks for food and weapons and creates the impression he is on an urgent matter for the King. He is, fleeing for his life from King Saul.

1 Samuel 21:1–7

“Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, “Why are you alone, and no one with you?” And David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, ‘Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.’ I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” And David answered the priest, “Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?” So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away. **Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was**



**there that day, detained before the LORD. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen."** (ESV)

As David left, he was also given the sword of Goliath that he had left there, and Doeg watched as it all took place.

Of course, Saul is upset that David escaped and that his own servants did nothing to stop it. It was at that point Doeg's true character comes out.

1 Samuel 22:9–10

"Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, and he inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."" (ESV)

As a result, Saul calls for Ahimelech and all his staff to come and make a personal appearance in his throne room and of course, he and his staff have no idea what has taken place and that David is an enemy of the state. Not knowing that, he even reiterates how loyal and faithful David was for King Saul. King Saul did not care and ordered his personal guards to kill all the priests as well as the High Priest, and they refused to do so.

And now we discover that Doeg is nothing more than an opportunist traitor looking for a payday. Saul, his boss, knows this about him. He also knew he would go beyond the original order.

1 Samuel 22:18–19

"Then **the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests."** And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword." (ESV)

Saul treated this city of the priests like a city under the ban where everyone in it is sentenced to death, but God never instructed this, Saul did with what he ordered Doeg to do. But one son survives, Abiathar, escapes and flees to David. Saul is now identified as the destroyer of the priesthood of God and in this respect, a type of the antichrist as the nation runs for their lives.

David begins this psalm with what is important to the one who does not know the Lord. He begins with asking, not God as he usually does, but the one who has decided he can do life without the Lord. Why? The manner in which David asks the question make you believe he is talking to someone who is self important, but obviously they are not in high esteem any longer or have never been held in that level of esteem by him.

This is someone who has a pride problem, a sin problem they are bragging about. This is someone who has no issue with bragging about the evil that they do. They relish in it.

Yes, this is a characteristic of our culture today but as we see here, it is not anything new.

We already know that a common characteristic of those who are world leaders is their innate braggadocio. These days, we are seeing some of them still doing the bragging bit, but way off on the left celebrating things that no one in their right mind and no one with a Biblical worldview would ever brag about. But there is someone coming very soon that this psalm also talks about who will brag and celebrate sin. We first catch a hint of this guy in the book of Daniel.



Daniel 7:7–8

“Then in my vision that night, I saw a fourth beast—terrifying, dreadful, and very strong. It devoured and crushed its victims with huge iron teeth and trampled their remains beneath its feet. It was different from any of the other beasts, and it had ten horns. **As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were torn out by the roots to make room for it. This little horn had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.**” (NLT)

That would be the Antichrist, the Beast, the Man of Sin. The one who will sign a peace treaty with Israel, and then show up in the Temple 3 ½ years into and demand worship.

There have been those who do evil and make excuses for it for thousands of years. Saul would tell everyone that David has rebelled against him but that is not the truth. What will he say now that he has killed all the priests as well as their families? This was all done because they assisted someone who, when they assisted them, they believed he was an honored member of the administration.

What about Doeg? What does he say, I just followed orders? There have been recent stories of officers working for the Basij in Iran who get a nice cozy personal phone call from Mossad before they find themselves on the hello side of a small personal munition. They do not think they have done anything wrong.

If you were to review the records of the Nuremberg tribunals after the end of WWII, you would also find those who committed evil and bragged about their love of country and how they were serving their country, yet it was evil. They excused genocide of Jews, Gypsies, and the mentally handicapped as a good thing.

When I was being trained as an officer in the military, a topic that was drummed into us was the topic of ethics and doing the right thing. If the order is illegal, challenge it. There is a way to do so without running afoul of the UCMJ, but if you blindly follow an illegal order, then you are no better than the one who issued it in the eyes of the law.

With a culture that is so confused as ours is today about what is subjective versus objective truth, it is no wonder we see people defending the taking of innocent life, whether before birth, shortly after birth, or in “assisted” suicide. We are a culture today that is just as self-centered as the one David grew up in.

Evil is rebellion against God. That is the source, that is where it comes from and for those who do not know Jesus, it is as natural to do as breathing. God created everything good, to include the heavenly host, man and the universe. Lucifer though, created with free will, decided to rebel against God and he did so by convincing Eve to do so as well.

The origin of evil is simple, it is the free will choice of free creatures who have opted to rebel against the creator of the universe, the very one who made them and loves them. Evil is a corruption of God’s good creation and a rejection of His intent for how His creation was to live and to relate with each other. One who is into evil is one who has embraced rebellion against God and has joined completely with Satan in his rebellion against the God of the universe.

Because of where we are in the last days, we are seeing a massive influx of the world coming into the church. Not those wanting to experience salvation, but those who want to be affirmed in their evil.

It is no longer popular to call sin, sin. And because the shepherds of the flock have abdicated their responsibility, the flock is wandering around looking for truth and not doing so in God’s word, but instead, in the 15 to 30 second sound bites of TikTok or 45 second shorts on You Tube.



George Barna is doing another round of research and his “new research from the American Worldview Inventory 2026 (AWVI 2026)...finds overwhelming majorities of U.S. adults—ranging from 68% to 82%—lack biblical alignment in essential areas of worldview beliefs and behaviors. According to the research, levels of biblical alignment are strikingly low across all worldview categories, regardless of a person’s faith identity or religious affiliation. But the drop-off is cataclysmic in America’s youngest generations—with biblical perspectives in six of eight essential worldview categories hovering between 5% to just 1% among Millennials and Gen Z. (Barna 2026)

We live in a generation that has fully embraced the opposite idea conveyed by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 5. They would not say woe, instead they would corrupt the beatitudes and say blessed as they drag their sin behind them for all to see.

Isaiah 5:18–21

“What sorrow for those who drag their sins behind them with ropes made of lies, who drag wickedness behind them like a cart! They even mock God and say, “Hurry up and do something! We want to see what you can do. Let the Holy One of Israel carry out his plan, for we want to know what it is.” What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter. What sorrow for those who are wise in their own eyes and think themselves so clever.” (NLT)

David is talking to Saul and to Doeg, he is also talking directly to us because we are seeing this everyday. Again from Dr. Barna.

The most difficult area for American adults to answer biblically came in the questions about marriage, abortion and the sanctity of life, and relational ethics. That category, Family and Value of Life, scored the lowest with only 5% of adults biblically aligned. (Barna 2026)

Psalms 52:1

“Why do you boast in evil, you mighty man? The faithfulness of God endures all day long.” (NASB 2020)

The answer to why, is because I do not value God. He, His word, His Son and everything connected with Him has no value to me.

Why is it we see the now continuous struggle in our culture over civil behavior. Why are there those who simply believe that violence is the answer to their problems as seen with the martyrdom of Charlie Kirk and the attacks on churches and synagogues lately. It is because of all adults in this nation right now, only 1 in 20 will look at the world through a Biblical lens. But when you go to the generation that we are seeing become the purveyors of this attitude, it begins to drop to less about 1 in 100 having a Biblical worldview. Discipleship is needed, desperately. Courage is needed. Speaking out to friends and family no matter the consequences is needed.

Why do they boast? Because no one has taught them truth and those who have true truth of God’s word, have become silent all over this nation. Instead, many churches have opted to engage the culture by embracing and becoming like the culture and that is not what this nation needs. It needs all of those who name the name of Jesus Christ to once again get serious about Him. The reason is simple, because His faithfulness endures all day long, He is always faithful, always.

But for those who continue to listen to the voice of the culture, there is something I have noticed that is becoming more and more the case, David was right when he said this.

By the way, this is all in preparation for the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus warned about this and because we see it everywhere, look up.



Matthew 24:11–12

“And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. **Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.**” (NLT)

2 Thessalonians 2:7

“For **this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way.**” (NLT)

2 Thessalonians 2:8–12

“**Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.** He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. **Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.**” (NLT)

Just like the one that David is talking about. He sounds like the IRGC.

Psalms 52:2–3

“**Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. You love evil more than good, Lies more than speaking what is right.** Selah” (NASB 2020)

We are now witnessing entire groups across the globe today who love evil at one level or another. Unfortunately, some are churches, but our study of Revelation 3 shows clearly, this is expected behavior. Again, Jesus warned us in Matthew 24.

Matthew 24:11–12

“And **many false prophets will appear and deceive many,** and because **lawlessness will increase so much, the love of many will grow cold.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

These conditions, a lifestyle that is outside of the law of God or the rule of God, thanks to what David says to us, has been around for a longtime as characteristic conduct of evil and rebellion against God, but now at the end of the age, it is pervasive and in your face. Satan is prepping the world for his man.

“Born-again Christians—a segment defined by their acceptance of scriptural teachings regarding sin, grace, and salvation—were three times more likely than the national average to have a biblical worldview (12%). That statistic, however, reflects a significant decline from 19% in 2020. The fact that only one out of eight born-again adults holds a biblical worldview highlights the extensive decline of core Christian principles in America in recent years. Born-again adults currently constitute one-third of the national adult population (34%).” (G. Barna 2026)

It is not too late for our culture, yet. Yes, we see groups who boast in evil, talk about what they will do to others in the most vulgar terms, and reflect a love of all that is evil and would rather lie than tell anyone the truth. But we know, the faithfulness of God endures all day long. One more descriptor of Doeg, our culture and the Antichrist as well.

Psalms 52:4

“**You love all words that devour, You deceitful tongue.**” (NASB 2020)

We now hear, on virtually all media these days, language that is designed to destroy others. It is all about demeaning someone else, destroying someone else, and if you can't come up with a real response intellectually to someone, then curse at them in the most vulgar terms possible as a means of showing



how superior you are and your mastery of the Anglo-Saxon language, at least the portion of it with curse words.

I remember serving in the military with someone who literally knew when and when not to say bad words.

But when he cursed someone, which he did a lot, you would sit back and wonder how that could ever even be possible. He didn't have any favorite terms, he used them all and was fluent in them as well as expansive and creative with what he would say.

We are now seeing that become the norm in our culture to include vulgar language in the US House and the US Senate. That is not as unusual as you would think since there have been brawls in the past in congress involving, at one time, 50 members fighting each other in a fistfight. In 1902 the two senators from South Carolina engaged in a fist fight on the floor of the senate while the senate was in session.

Here is the thing, today, that appears to be acceptable behavior, all of it. There is a television program famous for those who come onto it and boast about the number of abortions they have had or any other evil thing the culture applauds as if it is a memorable and good thing they have done, and then attack verbally, anyone who disagrees with them and do so in a way that makes you wonder how much longer the network can retain their license to broadcast.

And those who challenge them, are the ones who wind up being accused of evil. We are so in need of an outpouring of the Spirit.

This psalm has given us two names for the Man of Sin. In Psalm 52:1 he is called "mighty man." In this verse he is called a "deceitful tongue." You will not be able to believe a word he says. This is another one of his characteristics. (McGee 1997, 767)

This reminds me of a really old joke about politicians, which we now accept as more truth than not. How do you know when a politician lies? Their lips move. It seems as if no one tells the truth anymore and the lies just keep getting bigger and bigger.

Saul apparently showed no remorse after the slaughter of the priests of Nob but acted presumptuously as though the wicked deed done deserved applause, as though it had been righteous and absolutely defensible. (Leupold 1959, 411)

We see that same behavior on full display with those who are actively opposing the Lord today all across the globe. Lawlessness on display.

Part of the reason why Doeg and Saul did what they did was because of their being given over to doing evil. Saul was a follower of YAHWEH, but he sinned, the Holy Spirit was taken from him, and he became the poster child of revenge. He was so determined to destroy David that he neglected his primary job of being King of Israel and protecting the people.

What we see in the scriptures of the end point of Saul, is exactly what David points out here in the text. He is addressing, most likely, Saul. But he is also telling us about the one who will show up in the future with his lies that for a short while, Israel and others will buy.

Psalm 52:5

**"But God will break you down forever; He will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah"** (NASB 2020)



We are not told of the end of Doeg, but we are of Saul. His pride led him straight to destruction. Time and time again the Lord miraculously saved David and those with him. Just as He will do for His people, the remnant, during the Tribulation.

David had several opportunities given to him to destroy Saul, but he refused to do so instead, he placed his full faith in the Lord to deal with Saul.

There is indeed a full denunciation of Saul here and the Lord did take care of him. "How absolutely true this prediction—for that is what it ultimately amounts to—proved to be when the tragic close of Saul's life came!" (Leupold 1959, 412)

There is a warning to us in this psalm, a very prescient warning embedded in this for the world and our culture. You see, there is one who is coming who will meet David's definition and will end as David says.

Revelation 19:20

"And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur." (NLT)

A beat down is coming. That is what the Hebrew word  $\text{יָטָא}$  (yittas) means. To break down or beat down. And here it is clear, when that takes place, it will be forever. Saul was told he and his sons would be with Samuel later the next day (1 Samuel 28:19). This is about the one who will meet the requirements Daniel outlined, the little horn.

Daniel 7:11–12

**"I continued to watch because I could hear the little horn's boastful speech. I kept watching until the fourth beast was killed and its body was destroyed by fire.** The other three beasts had their authority taken from them, but they were allowed to live a while longer." (NLT)

The only one who will be able to stop the Antichrist will be Jesus Christ. As we see in Revelation 19, he is thrown alive into hell along with his false prophet.

Daniel was told how long this guy would rant and rave all across the planet and echoed the same ending as David states.

Daniel 7:24–27

"As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. **He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.** And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." (ESV)

What is it that we will witness along with the rest of those who are watching when Jesus takes over?

First of all, the Beast and the False Prophet are killed by Jesus, as Paul puts it, by the breath of His mouth (2 Thessalonians 2:8). "The one who had claimed to be god, the one who had been able to perform all kinds of miracles, signs, and wonders, the one who exercised all the authority of Satan as he ruled the world, will be quickly dispensed with by the Word of the Lord Jesus. And for a short time he is in Sheol. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 19)



Isaiah 14:9–11

“Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. All of them will answer and say to you: ‘You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!’ Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps; maggots are laid as a bed beneath you, and worms are your covers.” (ESV)

Meanwhile, his body is indeed seen by the planet. The Beast is indeed dead. Isaiah continues, after talking about Satan, who this man had been possessed by, about his body on display.

Isaiah 14:16–20

**“Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?’** All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb; but you are cast out, away from your grave, like a loathed branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a dead body trampled underfoot. You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have slain your people. “May the offspring of evildoers nevermore be named!” (ESV)

At this point, there is a little humor on the part of God. The Antichrist has sought to be the counterfeit son and has tried to imitate Him in many ways. He has had the counterfeit virgin conception, the counterfeit death and resurrection, and the counterfeit seal. But now the Lord will allow him to play out his counterfeit role in totality...The Second Resurrection is the resurrection of all unbelievers (Rev. 20:11–15). Just as the Messiah was the first-fruits of the First Resurrection, so the Antichrist will be the first-fruits of the Second Resurrection. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 20)

When we read through Revelation 19:20 earlier, we were reading of events that could only take place after the Antichrist and the False Prophet had been resurrected in order to be judged. They will not be buried because their bodies, now resurrected, will be thrown alive into hell where they will remain forever.

Psalms 52:5

“But God will break you down forever; He will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah” (NASB 2020)

David also sees the remnant, viewing the body of the Antichrist and witnessing Jesus resurrect and then judge him.

Psalms 52:6–7

**“The righteous will see and fear, And they will laugh at him,** saying, “Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge, But trusted in the abundance of his riches And was strong in his evil desire.”” (NASB 2020)

This man, who will embody evil and will brag about it, who will be personally possessed and filled with Satan and serve him for 3 ½ years killing everyone he can, will himself be killed by the Lord. His body will not be allowed a burial, instead he will become an object of ridicule and scorn. And in the midst of that taking place, he is resurrected and sent to become the first eternal resident of hell where he will remain in punishment for all eternity.

We discover that here, thanks to David, that not only will this be a man who totally rejected God, embracing evil and embracing the enemy, but he had it all to include riches. As a politician, when he rises to power, he will most likely already be wealthy.



That is what he trusted in, his riches and not in the Lord.

Zechariah 14:9

**“And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.”**  
(ESV)

And yes, there are those who are troubled over laughing over this Beast.

“So what do we make of this laughter that’s coming on the day of God’s justice? First, on that day the forgiveness of sin will inspire greater worship. Right now we are only conscious of our forgiveness by faith; but when we see our forgiveness in contrast to the literal judgment against the unforgiven, and we fully and functionally realize we’ve escaped God’s wrath, it will prompt outbursts of jubilation like this one. Second, on that day the judgment against sin will involve greater consequences. Right now it seems as if the unrighteous always prosper and the righteous always get kicked in the teeth! However, the final judgment against sin will be so horrible that it can only be described rightly in contrast to the hyperbolic language of the laughter of the righteous (cf. Luke 14:26), with whom the unrighteous will be forced to switch places (Luke 16:19–31).” (Platt, Mason and Shaddix 2020, 16)

Psalms 52:8–9

“But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the faithfulness of God forever and ever. I will praise You forever, because You have done it, And I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your godly ones.” (NASB 2020)

David has been hunted by Saul and the Lord has allowed him to escape time after time. The Lord has been the one who has protected David from the enemy. This is no different than what the Lord will do for the remnant as they escape from the Beast at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

We see that explained to us by John in Revelation 12.

Revelation 12:14–17

“But the woman was given the two wings of a giant eagle so that she could fly out into the wilderness, to the place God prepared for her, where she is taken care of—away from the presence of the serpent—for a time, times, and half a time. Then the serpent spouted water like a river out of his mouth after the woman in an attempt to sweep her away by a flood, but the earth came to her rescue; the ground opened up and swallowed the river that the dragon had spewed from his mouth. So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep God’s commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus.” (NET 2nd ed.)

What we are told here is that Israel, the woman, is given the capability to escape from the Antichrist as Satan enters into him. The remnant is taken and protected by God in the wilderness for 3 ½ years. It even appears at one point military forces are sent to kill them and the land defends them by literally opening up and swallowing them just as the Lord did to a group that rebelled against Moses in the wilderness in Numbers 16.

It is God’s faithfulness to His people that allows the remnant to continue on and witness the downfall of the one who wanted to destroy them.

The Antichrist will be uprooted by the Lord from the land of the living, just as the Lord saw fit to uproot Saul. But David sees himself as well as the remnant as a flourishing olive tree that is growing right in the house of the Lord.



God's actions on behalf of his people call forth praise, and this also involves offering praise in an assembly of God's people. (Harman 2011, 411)

The believing remnant will indeed worship their Lord as His salvation becomes real for them.

This now brings us to Psalm 53, the fool, a person who is not a believer and who will never become one, provides to us a picture of the Antichrist who will also deny the existence of God.

This denial of the existence of God is not new, it is centuries old, even Paul talked about it in Romans 1. But today, the denial of God has so permeated the globe that very few even believe any longer in creation but instead believe in evolution or worse, aliens did it all. The Creator God is significant in this psalm.

Psalm 53:title-6

"For the music director; according to Mahalath. A Maskil of David. **The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice; There is no one who does good. God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of mankind To see if there is anyone who understands, Who seeks after God. Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.** Have the workers of injustice no knowledge, Who eat up My people like they ate bread, And have not called upon God? They were in great fear there, where no fear had been; For God scattered the bones of him who encamped against you; You put them to shame, because God had rejected them. Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come from Zion! **When God restores the fortunes of His people, Jacob shall rejoice, Israel shall be glad.**" (NASB 2020)

The instructions for the singing of this psalm tells us it is "possibly meaning "sickness" (from Heb. ḥālâ "be sick"). Leannoṯh (Heb. le.annôṯ), which appears with Mahalath at Ps. 88, is even more obscure, possibly meaning "for humiliation" (from .ānâ "be afflicted"), thus suggesting penitence or purification from disease." (Meyers 1987, 680)

It has to do with sickness and sorrow and corresponds to the plight of the remnant after they have fled from Israel into the wilderness at the midpoint of the Tribulation. The fool in this case is the Antichrist and yep, at the outset he is an atheist of the worst kind as he will not only worship himself to exclusion of others but will force others as well to worship him. Daniel explains this a bit to us.

Daniel 11:36-39

"The king will do as he pleases. **He will exalt himself and consider himself greater than any god, and he will utter monstrous blasphemies against the God of gods. He will prosper only until the period of wrath is over, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no respect for the gods his ancestors worshipped, or for the god women worship—he won't show respect for any god, because he will consider himself greater than all of them.** But instead, he will honor the god of strongholds; with gold, silver, precious stones and other costly things he will honor a god unknown to his ancestors. He will deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. He will confer honor on those he acknowledges, causing them to rule over many and distributing land as a reward." (CJB)

The issue of those who reject God also rejecting that God created everything is not going unnoticed in this psalm. David must have been writing this to our current generation since the seven times he uses the name of God in this psalm, he uses the word Elohim. "That is significant. Elohim is God's name as Creator. Now notice at what point atheism breaks through. It is relative to creation. The Bible, which is God's revelation, is denied and is no longer considered trustworthy, infallible, and inerrant." (McGee 1997, 768)



Paul wrote about this problem in his letter to the church in Rome. A rejection of God is based on a rejection of natural revelation that is in the creation all around us. Paul tells us the following.

Romans 1:18–22

“What is revealed is God’s anger from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people who in their wickedness keep suppressing the truth; because what is known about God is plain to them, since God has made it plain to them. **For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities—both his eternal power and his divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made. Therefore, they have no excuse; because, although they know who God is, they do not glorify him as God or thank him.** On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened. Claiming to be wise, they have become fools!” (CJB)

Those who go this direction, are fools. The spirit of Antichrist is alive and well in the world and virtually running our culture today.

1 John 2:22–23

“Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? **This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.** No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.” (ESV)

1 John 4:2–3

“By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and **every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.**” (ESV)

When someone comes out and says there is no God, yes, they are a fool and worse, they are reflecting the spirit of antichrist. Atheism is a primary characteristic of Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:4

“who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.” (ESV)

We are going to stop there and pick up next time here in Psalm 53.

Let’s pray.



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