

PSALMS

Lyrics OF *Prophecy*

52/150

PSALMS - Lyrics of Prophecy

Psalm 52

I Trust in the Lovingkindness of God Forever

Read and Observe

Read through Psalm 52 and mark every reference to God, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through Psalm 52 and mark every reference to the psalmist, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "R+."

Read through Psalm 52 and mark every reference to the "mighty man," along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e., you, worker of deceit, him, the man who..., etc.) with an orange capital "W."

Read through Psalm 52 and mark every reference to evil, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e., destruction, deceit, falsehood, etc.) with an orange "do not" sign.

Read through Psalm 52 and mark every reference to lovingkindness and any pronouns and synonyms, with a yellow box filled in with light red.

Read through Psalm 52 and mark every time reference with a blue box.

Read through Psalm 52 and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through Psalm 52 and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Why do you boast?
2. God will uproot you.
3. But as for me... I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.

Read and Answer

Psalm 52:1-4

Who is speaking in Psalm 52?

To whom is the psalmist speaking?

What question does the psalmist ask the mighty man?

What boast does the psalmist put forth to the mighty man?

Why does the psalmist boast to the mighty man (after asking him why he boasts in evil) that God's lovingkindness endures all day long? (You might not see the answer to this question until you have observed the entire Psalm a bit longer. However, if you read Psalm 52 through once more while looking to answer this question, I think you just might find it!

What is the psalmist's insinuation concerning the mighty man?

What does the psalmist accuse the mighty man of doing?

How does the mighty man devise destruction?

To what does the psalmist compare the mighty man's tongue?

What does a sharp razor do?

Point of Depth

**The Hebrew word for sharp is "latash,"
and means to hammer out an edge or sharpen.**

**The Hebrew word for razor is "ta'ar,"
and means a knife or blade that makes bare.**

In this case, what would the sharpened razor be destroying or "making bare"?

What does the psalmist call the mighty man?

What is a "worker" of deceit?

Who is the worker deceiving?

What does the worker of deceit love?

1.

2.

3.

What does the worker of deceit love more than doing what is right?

What does the worker of deceit love more than speaking what is right?

What words does the worker of deceit love?

Once again, the psalmist gives the worker of deceit (who is also the mighty man) a name. What is it?

Psalm 52:5-7

Notice the word "but." What is the contrast?

What will God do to the worker of deceit?

Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for "break down" is *nathats* and is a primitive root that means to tear down, to destroy or overthrow.

For how long will God break him down?

Precisely how will God destroy the mighty man?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does it mean when it says that God will tear the worker of deceit away from his tent?

What does it mean that God will uproot the mighty man from the land of the living?

Who will see the end of the mighty man?

What will the reaction of the righteous be?

- 1.
- 2.

Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for fear is "*rare*," and means to revere or frighten.

The righteous will not be afraid of the same fate as the worker of iniquity. Instead, the evil man's destruction will be so terrible

that it will cause the righteous man to shudder in astonishment.

How do you know the righteous man will not be afraid of the Lord when he sees the overthrow of the evil man? Look beyond the meaning of the word "fear" to the second thing the righteous man will do.

Why will the righteous man laugh?

What does the righteous man say?

What would the mighty man not do?

Instead of trusting God to be his refuge, in what did the mighty man put his trust?

What did the mighty man choose to remain in? What would the mighty man not abandon?

Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for strong is "azaz," and means to be stout, hardened, or impudent.

Psalm 52:8-9

Notice the word "but." What is the contrast?

Although the mighty man was overthrown, what was the fate of the righteous?

How did the psalmist describe his fate?

What does the psalmist mean when he says he is like a green olive tree?

What is the significance that the psalmist (the green olive tree) is in the house of God?

What is the psalmist contrasting when he says he is like a green olive tree? (Who was uprooted?)

What is the psalmist contrasting when he says he is like a green olive tree in God's house?

The worker of deceit was taken from his tent, and he died, as well. The righteous man will not only live but will dwell where?

The mighty man boasted in evil. What does the godly man trust in?

Reread verse 1. Do you notice a similar phrase? What is it?

Are the two phrases the same, or are they different?

What is the difference between them? (Hint: The righteous man can trust in God's lovingkindness forever and ever because the lovingkindness of God endures all day long.)

What will the righteous man do?

How long will he give God thanks?

For what will he give thanks to God? (Hint: Context!)

Why does the righteous man say he will give thanks to God forever?

What is the "it" that God has done? (Hint: Context, once again!)

What else will the righteous man do?

Why will the righteous man wait on the Name of God?

Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for name is "*shem*,"
and has the idea of a definite and conspicuous position,
a mark or memorial of individuality, honor, or authority.

The Name of God is a reference to His character, His nature, or His attributes.

Everything about God is good, pleasant, and kind.
To wait on His Name is to patiently tarry for Him to act—
in His own time and in His own way.

Because of Who He is—
His acts, His judgments, and His ways are always righteous and faithful.

To trust in His lovingkindness...
to wait on the Name of God...
is wise...
very wise, indeed...

With whom will the righteous man wait on the Name of God?

Who are God's godly ones?

Point of Depth

The traditional title to Psalm 52 says,
"For the choir director; on stringed instruments.
A Maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul and said to him,
'David has come to the house of Ahimelech.'"

Now that we have finished observing Psalm 52,
it would be a good idea to read about Mr. Doeg (the rat!)
and see David's response to his betrayal.
1 Samuel 21:7; 1 Samuel 22:1-23

Now come back and reread Psalm 52 once more.
Notice how much more understanding you will have of the mighty man
and the trust that David put in the lovingkindness of His God.

Reread the last verse in 1 Samuel 22
and see how David shared his trust and faith with Abiathar.

David's faith is real, and His God is real!

**David's God is our God...
And He is worthy of our trust!**

Read and Reason

The Hebrew word for wait is "*qavah*" and means to bind together, to patiently tarry (for, on, or upon).

Qara Shem is my dog. He is an amazingly loyal and comforting "friend." He is always by my side and tarries in each room I enter until I leave as I go about my tasks throughout the day.

Qara Shem's name is a Hebrew idiom that means "I have called you by name, you are mine" (a beautiful meaning and story all by itself, but I'll save that for another time). I taught Qara Shem all his commands in Hebrew—*Hahutza* means to go outside, *k'ness* means to come inside the house, *lo* means "no," *lo navach* means "don't bark," *shev* means to sit, *artza* means to lie down, *bo* means to come, etc.

Qavah is his command to stay where he is, watch me, and wait for my next instruction. Someone else can call his name, but he will ignore the sound and wait for me to tell him what I want him to do. You can put food in front of him, but he will turn away from it and look at me instead, waiting for me to give him permission to eat the food. He is bound together with me, and me alone, when I give him the command to *qavah*. He will not "do his own thing" because he is trained to do "my thing" instead.

The psalmist declares he will wait on the Name of God until God moves. What an absolutely gorgeous picture of our relationship with the Almighty God of the Universe! What an absolutely precious position for us to take—waiting on the Lord. Why? Because when God acts, it will be according to His Name—His character, His nature, His attributes. Each of which is undoubtedly perfect.

One of my favorite passages in God's Word is Psalm 130. Verses 5 and 6 are especially relevant to Psalm 52:9.

***I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning;
Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.***
Psalm 130:5-6

Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-4

Verses 5-7

Verses 8-9

Purpose of Psalm 52

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 52.
The purpose simply states, "why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm."**

Theme of Psalm 52

**Try giving Psalm 52 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states, "what the Psalm is about."**
