

# Psalm 52

**This Psalm was written by David as he considers the evil that the Edomite Doeg had done.**

In his flight from Saul, David had asked Ahimelech the priest to give him and his men a few provisions, [1 Samuel 21:1-9]. Doeg then denounced David and Ahimelech to Saul, [1 Samuel 22:9-23].

**Doeg considered himself a hero even boasting about what he had done. In reality, his deed was evil and an offence to the Creator God.**

**Psalms 52:1-4** [New King James] *“Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God endures continually. Your tongue devises destruction, like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. You love evil more than good, lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue.”*

**The opening words of this Psalm are vehement, sarcastic and contemptuous, Doeg not even being worthy of being named.**

**Doeg is described as deceitful, slanderous and false, using his tongue as his principle weapon and offered as primary evidence of his character, [Matthew 12:34-37; Luke 6:45].**

Note “*Selah*” telling us to pause and meditate on the value of what we have just read.

**Psalms 52:4-5** [New King James] *“You love all devouring words, You deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place, and uproot you from the land of the living. Selah*

**There is an automatic divine reaction to such vanity and evil that Doeg was and had inflicted on many people.**

**Again we are invited to pause and meditate on what we have just read.**

**Psalms 52:6-7** [New King James] *“The righteous also shall see and fear, and shall laugh at him, saying, ‘Here is the man who did not make God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.’”*

The very obvious retribution meted out on Doeg would fill all righteous people with awe and respect to the Creator God but also with satisfaction at the evident vindication of the righteous.

**There is no need to read any personal vindictiveness or mood of retaliation into this response, [Job 31:29]. The final stage of showing this evil man his sinful character is laughter, which is the wholly devastating penalty for a person who considers themselves the “*high and mighty*.”**

**To be shown to be a fool, [Psalms 14:1] because a person expects to get away with the evil they are doing to other people.**

**Psalms 52:8-9** [New King James] *“But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. I will praise You forever, because You have done it; and in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good.”*

In contrast to the fate of the proud and wicked David sees the righteous as a flourishing leafy olive tree, [Psalms 1:1-3].

The olive tree is one of the longest-living trees, but here the point being made is doubly reinforced, for he pictures that it grows in a sacred courtyard where no-one will tamper with it, still less up-root it.

**There is also a pointed contrast between the object where the trust is placed.**

**In the mercy of God, and Doeg's trust in riches.**

This trust of the righteous person is confirmed publically because of the knowledge of the name [character] of the Eternal God that they worship.

David is in no way trying to force God's hand by this statement, that is not part of his character as we see expressed in **1 Samuel 26:8-12**].

Three other characteristics of the righteous person are mentioned.

Praise and gratitude for what God has done for them in their lives.

Testimony to the loving character of the God they worship.

Fellowship with the people of the Creator God.