

DAVID'S
12TH
PSALM

A PICTURE
OF
TODAY'S WORLD

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**THE WORD OF THE LORD IS PURE
AS
SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH
PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES**

David's 12th Psalm – A Picture of Today's World

To the Chief Musician Upon Sheminith [musical term]

Psalm 12:1-8

¹ Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

² They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

³ The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

⁴ Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?

⁵ For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

⁶ The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

⁷ Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

⁸ The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

Introduction

It is believed that David penned this psalm during Saul's reign, when there was a general decay of honesty and goodness in the courts, government and country. David complained to God about this situation as he suffered by the treachery of his false (fake) friends and the disrespect exhibited toward godly values by so many people. David begs God to help, because there were many men that were not trust worthy (vv.1,2). He predicts the destruction of his proud and threatening enemies (vv.3,4). He assures himself and others that even though things are bad (v.8), God would preserve and secure David and God's own people (v.5,7), and that God would certainly honor His promises to them (v.6). Whether or not this psalm was penned during Saul's reign, it was intended for a future corrupt reign; and perhaps David, in spirit, foresaw that some successor ruling nations would bring about things as bad as described here, and valued this psalm for the use of the Church at that time.

This psalm provides thoughts for bad times. Amos 5:13 tells us:

“Therefore the prudent [wise] shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.”

The prudent will keep silent because a man may then be called a lawbreaker (criminal) for the truth that he speaks because the world is corrupt, immoral, unethical, and dishonest.

O tempora, O mores! [used as an exclamation of despair concerning the evil of the prevailing social or political norms]
Oh the times! Oh the manners! [the times have changed and are worse than before; manners have ceased]

Now (1) HELP, LORD; FOR THE GODLY MAN CEASETH; FOR THE FAITHFUL FAIL FROM AMONG THE CHILDREN OF MEN.

What is the cause of “bad” times in this world? Scarcity of money, decay of trade, disease, greed, and the desolations of war, make up a few of the items that cause bad times. But Scripture considers the cause of bad times to be of another nature as found in 2nd Timothy 3:1;

¹This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

²For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

³Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

⁴Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

⁵Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

⁶For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

⁷Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Perilous times shall come, for iniquity shall abound; and that is what David is complaining about. When there is a general decay of piety and honesty among men the times become very bad. When godly and faithful man fails, there is: no true policy, no true piety, and no honesty. Godly men are faithful men, their word is as confirming as their oath and as binding as their bond. Godly men are true both to God and man. However, in this verse we are told that “for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail,” either by death or by desertion, or by both. Those that were godly and faithful were taken away, and those that were left had sadly degenerated and were not what they had been. There were very few good people among the Israelites. Perhaps David meant that there were no godly faithful men among Saul's courtiers. If David meant there were few or no good people in Israel, he may have been under the same illusion as Elijah, who thought he was the only godly one left. However, God said to Elijah; God's grace saved 7000 godly ones:

³Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

⁴But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

⁵Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. (Romans 11:3-5)

There was a general decay of religion and virtue in Jerusalem as reported in Jeremiah 5:1:

“Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.”

It is definite, the times were very bad, so bad that there could not be found a man who executes truthful judgment.

Now (2) THEY SPEAK VANITY [lie] EVERY ONE WITH HIS NEIGHBOUR: WITH FLATTERING LIPS AND WITH A DOUBLE HEART DO THEY SPEAK.

When dissimulation and flattery have corrupted and debauched all conversation, then the times are very bad. When men are wicked and immoral they: have no integrity and they lie, are spiteful and scheme against their neighbors (terrible mischiefs), and cover their purpose with the most false, hollow and believable deceits, shams, and professions of friendship. They speak falsehoods to their neighbor, with flattering lips and a double heart. They kiss and kill (as Joab did Abner and Amasa during David's time) with a smile on their face. This is the devil's image, a combination of malice and falsehood.

The times are bad when there is no sincerity that allows an honest man to know whom to believe, to trust, or to put confidence in. Jeremiah 9:3-6 summarizes the situation then and today:

³ And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord.

⁴ Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.

⁵ And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

⁶ Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the Lord.

Micah 7:5,6

⁵ Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

⁶ For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

⁷ Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.

God will judge those who help to make the times perilous.

Now (3) THE LORD SHALL CUT OFF ALL FLATTERING LIPS, AND THE TONGUE THAT SPEAKETH PROUD THINGS:

When the enemies of God and His Church are disrespectful, arrogant, and threatening to all that is just and sacred, then the times are very bad. Proud sinners have arrived at a low point of ignorance.

Now (4) WHO HAVE SAID, WITH OUR TONGUE WILL WE PREVAIL; OUR LIPS ARE OUR OWN: WHO IS LORD OVER US?

The ungodly say they will triumph against the cause of virtue; say what they want; and the Lord over us will not be able to restrain us or to call us to account for our actions. A proud conceit of and confidence in themselves, have similarities to the advantages gained by eating the forbidden fruit, they were as gods. Independent and self-sufficient, infallible in their knowledge of good and evil, and therefore fit to be oracles (prophets) irresistible in their power and fit to be lawgivers, that could prevail with their tongues, and, like God himself, speak and it is done.

An insolent contempt of God's dominion as if He had no respectability, and no authority either to command or judge the ungodly. This is absurd and unreasonable for He, in whom we live, move, and have our being, is the Lord over us.

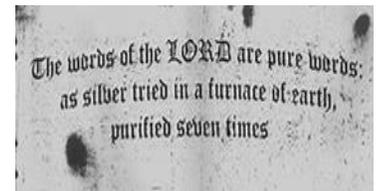
Now (5) FOR THE OPPRESSION OF THE POOR, FOR THE SIGHING OF THE NEEDY, NOW WILL I ARISE, SAITH THE LORD; I WILL SET HIM IN SAFETY FROM HIM THAT PUFFETH AT HIM.

When the poor and needy are oppressed, and abused, and puffed at, then the times are very bad. This is implied when God Himself takes notice of the oppression of the poor and the moaning of the needy. They are oppressed because they are poor, have all manner of wrong done them merely because they are not in a capacity to right themselves. Being thus oppressed, they dare not speak for themselves, lest their defense should be made their wrongdoing or crime; but they secretly bemoan their calamities, and pour out their souls before God. If their oppressors be spoken to on their behalf, these ungodly make light of their own sin and the misery of the poor, and ignore the oppressed (see Psalms 10:5).

Now (6) THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS: AS SILVER TRIED IN A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.

Even though men are false, God is faithful; though false men are not to be trusted, God is the only One who can be trusted. The ungodly speak vanity and flattery, but the words of the Lord are pure words, not only all true, but all pure, like silver tried in a furnace of earth or a crucible. This denotes:

1. The sincerity of God's Word
2. The preciousness of God's Word
3. Many proofs have been given concerning the power and truth of God's Word



The Word of God is what we must rely upon, and put less confidence in men's words.

Pure words, "The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." In 1st Kings we learn:

"And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycomore trees that are in the vale, for abundance."

Silver as plentiful as stones (1st Ki.10:27) indicates a great abundance of wealth (silver coins) in Jerusalem. Zechariah 9:3 says concerning the area of Tyrus:

"And Tyrus did build herself a strong hold, and heaped up silver as the dust"

The trying of men's hearts was compared to the refining of silver, "For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried (Ps.66:10). Yahweh's words were as pure as silver refined seven times.

Silver refined in a furnace has worth and value and is pure money; yet God's words, tried in a furnace of earth, are more valuable than silver or gold (Ps.19:10). The Bible is a rich treasure, containing the precious promises like refined apples of silver or gold and yield more joy and abundance than the finding of great spoils. The Doctrines of the Gospel are comparable to gold and silver and precious stones, and to be bought at any rate, but to be sold at none: and they are as silver "tried", which is pure (pure silver coin, ultra fine and pure), and free from dross. The words of men, of false teachers, are as dross (\$?) and reprobate silver (good for nothing, value declines); but the words of the Lord are tried, and are pure, and free from all the dross of error and falsehood. Psalm 18:30 confirms:



5 OZ 99.99% PURE
SILVER EAGLE COIN

of the Lord are tried, and are pure, and free from all the dross of error and falsehood. Psalm 18:30 confirms:

"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

Silver melted and purified may be compared to the Lord Jesus Christ in human form, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and who came filled with the doctrines of the Gospel; and in whom they have been "tried", by His sufferings and death, and are found to be pure, solid, and substantial. Confirming evidence of the purity and truth of the words of God, of the promises of His covenant, and the doctrines of the Gospel: purified seven (many) times; and so completely and perfectly pure, and clear of all dross whatsoever, as silver so many times tried must be. The words of God are not only pure, but very pure, exceeding pure (Ps.119:140).

The constitutional dollar of the United States is an historically determined fixed weight of fine silver containing 371.25 grains (0.7734375 troy ounces) of pure silver. The United States has a legal and constitutional silver standard, although we would not know it today, since the government has illegally and unconstitutionally

removed silver as currency and replaced it with the Federal Reserve notes that we know as dollar bills. The term "dollar bills" obscures the actual and tangible meaning of "dollar" as a specific weight of silver.

The Coinage Act passed by the United States Congress on April 2nd 1792, created the United States dollar as the country's standard unit of money, established the United States Mint, and regulated the coinage of the United States. This act established the silver dollar as the unit of money in the United States, declared it to be lawful tender, and created a decimal system for U.S. currency.

Since the United States has gone off the gold standard and eliminated silver from coins, it is only faith in the financial, economic, military and political systems that will maintain the US dollar as the reserve currency of the world. Based on:

- the events occurring in the 12th Psalm that are now taking place in the USA as well as the world; and
- the book of Daniel that describes the United States in the Old Testament, but the USA is not mentioned in Revelation in the New Testament when John describes the major nations at the end of the end times;

it would appear that it is possible that the USA is going down a path that will result in the world losing respect and faith in this country, and the USA currency will rapidly decline causing global chaos as described in the 12th Psalm. However, God will protect His Church.

Now (7) THOU SHALT KEEP THEM, O LORD, THOU SHALT PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS GENERATION FOR EVER.

God will secure His chosen remnant to Himself, no matter how bad the times. "Thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." This suggests that as long as the world continues, there will be a generation of proud and wicked men who will threaten the godly people of the world by their wretched acts to destroy the Church, as described in Daniel 7:25:

"And he [antichrist] shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

But God maintains His own interest to preserve His own people as we continue with Daniel 7:

²⁶ But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

²⁷ And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

God will keep the Church from this destructive generation,

- From being corrupted by the ungodly and drawn away from God, from mingling with the ungodly and learning their works. In times of general

apostasy, the Lord knows those that are His own (Church), and they shall be enabled to keep their integrity.

- From being destroyed and rooted out by the ungodly. The Church is built upon a Rock, and so well fortified that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. In the worst of times God has His remnant, and in every age will reserve to Himself a holy seed and preserve that to His heavenly kingdom.

In singing the 12th Psalm and praying, we must grieve the general corruption of manners and thank God that things are not worse than they are, but pray and hope that they will be great in God's due time.

Now (8) THE WICKED WALK ON EVERY SIDE, WHEN THE VILEST MEN ARE EXALTED.

When wickedness abounds and the ungodly shameless, under the protection and with the approval of those in authority, then the times are very bad. When the vilest ungodly men are promoted to places of trust and power, instead of

- putting the laws in execution against vice and injustice,
- punishing the wicked according to their merits,

the people in control patronize, protect, allow, and support the reputation and actions of the ungodly by their own example. When this occurs the wicked go everywhere (swarm), seeking to deceive, ruin or degrade, and destroy others. They are neither afraid nor ashamed to know about their cruelty. Bad men (ungodly) are dishonorable, detestable, vile, corrupt, fraudulent, unethical, liars, and dishonest, but they are highly exalted by this world.

Daniel 11:20,21:

²⁰ Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within a few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

King Seleucus IV Philopator (B.C.187-175), a raiser of taxes whose government would be distinguished for his efforts to tax the people. He was poisoned by his tax collector.

²¹ And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (B.C.175-163) had a terrible and oppressive effect on the Jewish people. He was not of the royal line, but took control by intrigue and deception. His reign was a picture of a world in the future. Scripture calls this person a vile person because of his hatred of the Jews [today Christians], his attempt to destroy Judaism [today Christianity], and his desecration of the temple [today churches]. He was called a madman by the people. It is a bad situation when a kingdom accepts such a corrupt rule. When wickedness grows disrespectful and unashamed the wicked will rule and the people will mourn.

There are many good thoughts that can be found for the bad times as discussed in this Psalm 12. When times are very bad it is comforting to think:

- That we have a God to go to, from Whom we may ask and expect Him to rectify all our grievances.
- That God will certainly deal with false and proud men, and will judge and punish their insolence.
- That God will, in His own time, work deliverance for His oppressed people, and shelter them from the malicious designs of their persecutors.

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