

Psalm 12 The Demise of the Liar

by Pastor Roy Hogan

This, another Psalm of David, reflects on a time in David's life when he was the victim not of arrows, but of tongues. He was being lied to and deceived. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me is the biggest lie ever told or written. If I am hit with a stick, I will place an icepack on the place of impact. However, there is little one can do to ease the pain inflicted by the tongue. For an arrow to hurt me, it must be shot from a bow aimed at me from close proximity. On the other hand, the tongue can hurt me when the tongue is miles away. I may never even see the tongue that hurt me. It may even be in a foreign land. Such is the danger and power of the tongue.

Before we enter into a verse-by-verse look at Psalm 12, let us review some things the Bible has to say about the tongue:

- James 1:26 *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*
- Psalms 52:2 *Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.*
- Proverbs 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

12:1

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

We see with the first two words in the chapter the hurt David is experiencing. He is prompted to cry out "Help, LORD." He had not

been attacked by Saul's javelin. He had not confronted the giant, Goliath. He was the victim of the dreadful tongue.

David was so devastated by the tongue of the wicked, he wondered where the good people had gone. Everywhere he turned, he could only see the ungodly. He was to the point of saying "the godly man ceaseth." His thought may have been *are there no men left who will tell the truth and who will speak kindness and encouragement?* David came to the conclusion that *faithful* men had vanished from the earth.

Isaiah once had the same feeling in his ministry: Isaiah 57:1 *The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.* Isaiah wondered if he may be the only follower of God left to stand with him. We also recall Elijah climbed under a juniper tree desiring to die in I Kings 19:10 *And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.* Elijah felt if he went on for God, he would be traveling alone.

Today, I wonder where the righteous have gone. Where are they? I am sad that there are so few *godly* and *faithful*, the two key words, who will tell the truth, do what they promise to do, pay their debts, and treat others respectfully. Where have they gone?

12:2

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

I have heard most of my life that there are people who *would climb a tree to tell a lie when that could stand on the ground and tell the truth.* I have met some like this, haven't you?

When we speak of talking with the neighbor, we refer to almost daily conversation. The neighbor comes by, or comes over, frequently.

Neighbors speak a few words to one another often. So, what we have here in verse 2 are people who lie, not occasionally, but almost daily. They can't say "Hi" to the neighbor as he drives by in the evening without lying. Why go out of town to lie when you can stand along the fence between you and neighbor and lie?

Flattering lips are mentioned in verse 2. Flattering lips exaggerate the truth. Flattering lips speak satisfying and pleasing words whether the words are or are not the truth. Modern history gives us an example of the power of flattery where Adolf Hitler said in *Mein Kampf* "The greater the lie the more chance it has of being believed."

We pass from the lips to the heart in verse 2. We all have a heart or else, we would not be alive. However, there are some who have a double heart. The New Testament refers to those who are double minded (James 1:8). I believe the term double heart is the same as the New Testament term double minded. A double hearted person says one thing and does another. Such a person will make promises they have no intent of keeping.

We are living in the last days. The world is about to be turned upside-down. The LORD is coming for the redeemed. Quickly thereafter, the antichrist will rise to power. How will he rise to power? God will pave the way for him. God will send a power of delusion over people such that they will readily believe lies. The antichrist is the Devil incarnate. The Devil cannot tell the truth now, and he will not be able to tell the truth when he becomes antichrist. The masses will believe his lies and place him on a pedestal as their ruler.

12:3

The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things;

D.L. Moody said "Lying covers a multitude of sins— temporarily." Luther declared "A lie is like a snowball; the further you roll it, the bigger it gets."

Lies destroy themselves. However, Almighty God will take care of the liar.

12:4

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

Have you ever noticed that a long-tongue liar usually thinks they are in charge? Who put them in charge? Who bestowed on them any authority? A long-tongue person in the church somehow thinks they are in control and authorized to speak when the fact is, they have no more authority to speak than the 7-year-old girl who joined the church two weeks ago. Why is church so complicated to some people? All you have to do is come to this building, sit down until you are told to stand, keep your mouth shut, and worship the Lamb of God.

Do you know why long-tongue liars put on a big front and pretend they're in charge. It is because they know the lies they are telling don't have a leg to stand on, and they try to reinforce the lies with their personality. A liar is a very insecure person.

A tongue never laid one brick that comprises this building. A tongue never painted these walls.

12:5

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.

It seems to me the Word of God, in this verse, is telling us the *poor* and *needy* are the greatest targets and victims of the liars. Have you ever been ripped-off by a liar? The liar likely will not attack a king or prince. The liar will attack the disadvantaged.

Someday, and only God knows when, he will get revenge. The flattering lips that puff at the poor and needy and others, will be

silences. One can hardly buy a loaf of bread without being lied to. One day, truth will reign supreme. The day will come when you won't be told a car you are interested in buying runs like a new one when, truth is, it may break down before you get home.

12:6

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

The only book in the world that does not contain even one flaw is the Word of God, the Bible. When silver ore is heated, the dross rises to the top. The dross is scrapped away and discarded. The refined silver remains.

I, for one, do not think there exist on this sinful earth even one ounce of silver or one ounce of gold that is pure. Men sell gold and silver in various degrees of purity. The only *pure* gold and *pure* silver on earth is the Bible. Because it is pure, the Bible contains no lies. Romans 3:4 reads *God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar.*

12:7

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

History paints a dark picture of the persecution the Bible has undergone. Even kings have had it in their heart to oppress and finally destroy the Bible. The early translators of the Bible from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek to English were tortured. However, at the end of the day, the Bible still stood. The Bible has been hidden in caves lest evil men confiscate it and destroy it. Nations have decreed it to be illegal. The Bible still stands. If you own a copy of the Bible, be thankful and happy.

12:8

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

How perfectly this verse fits our society today. Christians are labeled outlaws while sodomites are elected to the highest offices. Wicked men are on the left and on the right. The worst of the wicked are elevated to the high seats. This will one day change.