

Days of Deception

Psalm 12: 1-8

It is well agreed that David was the writer of this particular Psalm, but the timing and events that surround it are unclear. Some think it was written during the troubling days David spent serving in the court of Saul. Others believe it was written when David was forced to live in obscurity, hiding in caves and wilderness areas, while on the run from Saul and the armies of Israel. Some think it may have been written during the rebellion of Absalom, his son.

We will never know with certainty, but these words would be fitting for either of those difficult situations. David unfortunately had become acquainted with those who used deception and slander for advantage. He sought to serve the Lord and fulfill his calling, and yet he was continually surrounded by those who desired to tarnish his reputation and ruin any hopes of advancing the kingdom.

Although these words were penned thousands of years ago, the truth they express continues to speak. If we did not know the source of these words, it would be easy to assume they were written as recent as this morning. They clearly describe the environment in which we live. It is no secret that we are in the midst of perilous times, but we must remember that our God remains in control. It may appear that the wicked have gained the upper hand, but the Lord will work among men according to His sovereign will and divine nature. We can find comfort and reassurance in this Psalm. Let's take a few moments to consider the timeless [observations](#) of David as we think on: [Days of Deception](#).

I. The Reality within Society (1-2) – David begins this Psalm by revealing the current situation he was facing. He likely wished things had been different, but this was his reality. Consider:

A. The Supplication (1a) – [Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth](#). Apparently David was reminiscing of days gone by. It appears he remembered a time when he had been surrounded by godly men, those who sought the ways of the Lord and encouraged others to do the same. As he surveyed his surroundings, he realized there were fewer godly men than in the past. Such a realization drove David to his knees, knowing he desperately needed the Lord's help.

- There can be no doubt that these words also describe the current situation in America. Those who professed faith in Christ and sought to faithfully serve Him were once a majority. Our culture and public policies were dictated by biblical principles. Even those who had nothing to do with the church respected the Christian and most lived according to long established morals. Sadly those days are gone in America. As we look at the moral and spiritual landscape in our

society, it is painfully evident that the godly are decreasing at an alarming rate. Very few today are committed to living their lives based upon the Word of God. Few see the need for Christ and have no intention of seeking a relationship with Him. Like David, this ought to drive us to our knees, realizing our need for the Lord's intervention.

B. The Degeneration (1, 8) – *Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.* ^[8] *The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.* The absence of godly men and their influence had promoted the presence of wickedness and evil within society. Rather than the majority seeking the ways of God, they were living in accordance to the desires of the flesh. Society as a whole had turned away from the Lord and continued a downward spiral. Rather than embracing godly principles and admiring those who did, David saw a society that now embraced the vilest of men. They were now revered as the examples to follow.

- Does that not sound much like our society? Those who hold biblical values and seek to honor the Lord with their lives are viewed as intolerant bigots and a hindrance to progress for the progressive thinkers of our day. The church and those who follow Christ are being marginalized, while those who promote the lusts of the flesh are held in high regard. Just look at the role models our children have. They look up to those who have no restraint, rebel against authority, and reject the moral and biblical standards long held among our great nation. Those who seek to honor the Lord are cast as threats to modern society, while those who continually indulge the flesh through blatant depravity are regarded as heroes. When the faithful decrease, the ungodly increase.

C. The Deception (2) – *They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.* Although David had not been deceived by the ruse these portrayed, many had been taken in by their vain words. He knew they had no interest in the wellbeing of others. These were selfish and would stop at nothing to achieve and promote their desires. They would flatter to one's face and tear them down when they spoke of them before others. In essence they were two-faced, speaking out of both sides of their mouths. They spoke what the particular audience wanted to hear in order to accomplish their purposes.

- We too see this in alarming fashion today. Our society has very little respect for others. The majority are more concerned with their self-serving agendas than the needs or feelings of others. Nothing seems to be "off limits" or "out of bounds" any more. Few are willing to be honest about their agenda or their particular view on any subject. Rather than revealing their true desires, they seek to tear down all who oppose them. Consider the politicians: there is often little substance spoken of their agenda, just accusation against their opponent. Sadly this practice has found its way into mainstream society. People are viewed as pawns to be manipulated or removed in order to achieve success. We need those of moral character and integrity.

II. The Recompense of the Sovereign (3-5) – While things were desperate within David's society, they were not unnoticed by the Lord or beyond His ability to handle. David speaks of:

A. God's Judgment (3) – *The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things.* The wicked may have enjoyed a season of prosperity, manipulating society for their personal gain, but God was aware of their evil ways. He knew their hearts and rejection of anything godly. Their season of influence would not last forever. God was keeping a record, and He would eventually judge them for their sinful ways.

- Our society, in large part, rejects authority and assumes no accountability for their actions. They feel as if it is their life to live and no one or nothing will stand in their way. I fear if America doesn't change course soon, we will face the chastening hand of God in judgment. In fact, it may already be too late; judgment may be on the way. However, if God's mercy is extended, and we avoid judgment, all will stand before Him and give account of their lives. He will judge those who have rejected Christ as Savior, seeking only to please themselves. They may enjoy a season of influence and prosperity in this life, but they will meet the sovereign Judge at death.

- This is tragic, because Christ made the way of salvation and forgiveness from sin. He already endured the righteous judgment of God as He hung on the cross, but one must come to Him in salvation to receive the benefit. Those who deny Christ remain accountable to God.

B. God's Discernment (4) – *Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?* David speaks of those who have rejected the ways of God, choosing the lusts of the flesh instead. They felt their words would prevail, as if they would answer to no one but themselves. They failed to realize that God knew their hearts, thoughts, and lives. They may have acted in secret, but God was completely aware. He would deal with according to their ways.

- This is prevalent in our society, and it will only increase as we get closer to the Lord's return. This is nothing less than the spirit of antichrist. The antichrist will come, setting himself up as God, but the Lord will have the final say. All those who follow him and his demonic agenda will face the judgment of God along with their deceiver.

C. God's Sentiment (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.* Although David and those who sought a godly life were oppressed, he knew God would honor their faithfulness and meet their needs. He would deliver them from the snare of the enemy, working mightily on their behalf. Just as with Goliath, David knew the Lord would fight for him in the midst of his enemies.

- As I pondered these words, thinking of our present situation, I was reminded of a couple verses of Scripture. [Psalm 30:5b – weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.](#) [Rom.12:19 – Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.](#) We live in a difficult day where it seems the wicked prosper while those who seek righteousness suffer. Things will continue to get much worse, but we can take comfort knowing the Lord is on our side. He knows each one within the body of Christ and He is more than able to provide for us in the midst of adversity. The world will embrace the antichrist and his agenda, but the Lord will prevail. We have nothing to fear. Christ our Lord is on our side and He will rise up for us!

III. The Reliability of Scripture (6-7) – David knew the Lord would keep His word. Every word He had spoken, and every promise made, would be fulfilled according to His plan. These verses bring comfort and assurance in our day as well. Notice:

A. Their Purity (6) – [The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.](#) David knew the Word of God was pure, just as silver that had been refined and purified in the fire. God’s words would stand. They were without any mixture of error whatsoever. If God had said it, that settled it. David knew he could depend and rely on the Word of God.

- We live in an age that denies the accuracy and inspiration of Scripture. Many view it as a book of fables and myths, handed down through the ages in an attempt to control men and entire societies. They see no value in it at all. This verse alone should settle any debate. The Word of God is pure, divinely inspired of Him and recorded as He planned. We have the infallible, inerrant Word of God to guide our lives. If I wasn’t certain of its purity, I would have no authority to preach it. We must embrace it for what is: the Word of God. [2 Tim.3:16 – All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.](#) [2 Peter 1:20-21 – Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ^{\[21\]} For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.](#)

B. Their Preservation (7) – [Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.](#) David knew societies were influenced by the opinions and dictates of men which were subject to change. He rejoiced that he had received a sure word from the Lord. The words written by Moses had been handed down to his generation, divinely preserved of the Lord for humanity. David understood that there would never be a time when God’s Word ceased to exist or wouldn’t prevail. It was forever settled in heaven.

- This too is essential for our day. Purity without preservation would be of little value. I am convinced God has preserved His Word in our day. We have the privilege of holding in our hands the very words of God within the written Word. If He hadn't preserved it, we would have no authority to preach it. If it wasn't kept pure down through the ages, we would no longer have the Word of God. The Lord holds His Word in high esteem. [Psalm 138:2 – I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.](#) [Matt.24:35 – Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.](#) In these days of deception and uncertainty, we can rejoice that we have the truth within the Word of God. It will prevail when all else has failed.

Conclusion: I believe we all can relate to the words David penned in this Psalm. Our society is rapidly changing and the lives of believers will grow more difficult. Even in adversity, we have the comfort and security of knowing our Lord is ever near. He knows where we are, what we face, and how to help. He has preserved His pure Word for our instruction and guidance. We can rest in the faithfulness of our Lord.

If life has been difficult as of late, why not come and seek the Lord's help and guidance for your life? He alone has the help and guidance you need. If you have yet to respond to the call of salvation, I urge you to come to the Lord and believe in Him by faith. This life provides the only chance for salvation. A time is coming that will be hard to bear apart from the Lord. Come while there is time and opportunity. There is no need to stand accountable for sin. Jesus already endured that for you!