

**Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**  
**Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms**  
**2-16-11**

**Psalm 53**

**The Story Behind the Psalm**

This Psalm is the same as Psalm 14, at least in the English. There is one difference, however. The word for God is different in the two Psalms. The two words used are the words, "Jehovah" and "Elohim." In other words, the Psalmist is saying, "The fool has said in his heart there is no Jehovah." Then he says, "The fool has said in his heart there is no Elohim." Now the word "God" when "Jehovah" is used means, "God of grace, dwelling with His people." It is the personal Saviour name of God. The word "Elohim" means "creator." Here we have two looks at one God. He is the creator, the mighty God of the universe, the sustainer of all creation, and yet at the same time He is my personal Saviour, my personal God Who knows my name, counts the hairs of my head and is interested in the minutest detail of my life. Perhaps David is showing us the two relationships of God, or maybe David is maturing some and he grows in grace to see God in an added light. Ah, 'tis a wonderful thing to have a great creator, a majestic, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent King of kings and Lord of lords looking over me. 'Tis even more wonderful to realize that that great God loves me personally and watches over me to supply my needs.

**The Way It Was Used by God's People**

This Psalm was especially appropriate to a person who was afraid. Oh, what comfort was received as the humble Jew realized the greatness of his God, as well as the tenderness and compassion of His personality!

**Theme:** All have sinned. Because of sin, no person can find God on his own. Only God can save us.

**Author:** David

*For the choir director: A meditation of David*

PSALM 53:1

Echoing the message of Psalm 14, this psalm proclaims the foolishness of atheism (see also Romans 3:10). People may say there is no God in order to cover up their sin, to have an excuse to continue in sin, and/or to ignore the Judge in order to avoid the judgment. "Fools" do not necessarily lack intelligence; many atheists and unbelievers are highly educated. Fools are people who reject God, the only one who can save them.

## Psalm 54

### The Story Behind the Psalm

David was running from Saul. He came to Ziph. The Ziphims came and said to Saul, "Doth not David hide himself with us?" Once again, David was barely spared, but he was spared. This Psalm, as well as others, was used by David as he looked back over his life and praised the Lord for sparing him during this time of betrayal by Saul.

### The Way It Was Used by God's People

This is another one of the Psalms that was used at times of betrayal. Many a lonely, forsaken and betrayed Israelite claimed the victory by reading and singing Psalm 54.

**Theme:** A call for God to overcome enemies. God is our helper, even in times of hurt and betrayal.

**Author:** David

*For the choir director: A meditation of David, regarding the time the Ziphites came and said to Saul, "We know where David is hiding." To be accompanied by stringed instruments.*

PSALM 54:3, 4

Many of David's psalms follow the pattern found in these two verses—a transition from prayer to praise. David was not afraid to come to God and express his true feelings and needs. Thus, his spirit was lifted, and he praised God, his helper, protector, and friend.

PSALM 54:5

David said that God repays evil to his enemies. Proverbs 26:27 warns that those who cause trouble will reap trouble. What we have intended for others may blow up in our own face. To be honest and straightforward before God and others is simpler, easier, and safer in the long run.

### Something to do

1. Find as many names for God as you can. Does each one tell you something different about God?
2. Read the story of what happened in 1 Samuel 23:1-15. In 1 Samuel, Ziph becomes Keilah, one of the towns in the \*wilderness of Ziph. A \*wilderness is a wild place where there are not many farms.