

Declarative Stability

Psalms of David · Book II

"For the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Mahalath." A contemplation by David."

IN ONE SENTENCE



he fool says in his heart there is no God, and no one does good, yet God will restore his people.

Remember it: Fifty-three: the fool's heart says "no God," but God still looks down.

MEMORY VERSE

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity. There is no one who does good.

Psalm 53:1 · World English Bible

HEBREW WORD

נָבֵל

"fool" · verse 1

In the Psalms: five times, in 4 psalms

נָבֵל, "fool," describes moral folly, not a low IQ. It is the person who lives as if God does not matter. In 1 Samuel 25 a man named Nabal earns his name by insulting David, and his wife says folly is with him. Here the fool's problem starts in the heart.

HOW THE PSALM MOVES

- 1-3 The fool denies God, and no one does good.
- 4-5 Evildoers who devour God's people are struck with terror.
- 6 A longing for salvation to come out of Zion.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

v. 1-3 → **Romans 3:10-12** There is none who does good, no, not one.

MY NOTES



Listen. Hear Psalm 53 sung in the **Psalm Song** app, or free at ispress.de/psalms/53.

Cantillated. Sung: chanted back and forth between a leader and the people.

The Two Ways

Justice on the Wicked

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The _____ says in his _____ there is no God, and no one does good, yet God will _____ his people.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. What does the fool say in his heart?

(A) "God is far away."

(B) "God is angry."

(C) "There is no God."

(D) "I am righteous."

2. From where does God look down on the children of men?

(A) From Mount Sinai

(B) From heaven

(C) From the temple roof

(D) From the clouds of Zion

3. How do the workers of iniquity treat God's people?

(A) They eat them up as they eat bread

(B) They sell them as slaves

(C) They drive them into the desert

(D) They ignore them

TALK IT OVER

1. The psalm says no one does good, "no, not one." Why does Paul quote this in Romans 3?

2. What does it mean that God "looks down" to see who seeks him?

3. How can people who believe in God still live as practical atheists?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES PSALM 53 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I can say verse 1 by heart

☐ I know the picture word

Answers: Blanks: Fool · heart · restore · Check yourself: 1. C (v. 1) · 2. B (v. 2) · 3. A (v. 4)