

Psalm 12¹

"A Prayer to Yahweh for Preservation from the Dishonest, Abusive Wicked"

For the choir director; upon an eight-stringed lyre. *A Psalm* of David.

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A1 REGRETFUL SPEECH: David's Lament to Yahweh Concerning the Vanishing Righteous and Increasingly Manipulative Speech 12:1-4

B1 His Plea to Yahweh for Help as the Godly Disappear 12:1

- C1 The Cessation of the Godly: {1} Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be,
- C2 The Disappearance of the Faithful: For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

B2 His Characterization of the Insincere Speech of the Society Remaining 12:2

- C1 Deceptive Speech: {2} They speak falsehood to one another;
- C2 Manipulative Speech: With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.

B3 His Prayer That Yahweh Will Overthrow Perverse Speakers 12:3-4

- C1 His Prayer for the Destruction of Boastful Flatterers 12:3
 - D1 Flattering speech: {3} May the LORD cut off all flattering lips,
 - D2 Boastful speech: The tongue that speaks great things;
- C2 His Further Description of Arrogant Rebels 12:4
 - D1 As being arrogant: {4} Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail;
 - D2 As being rebellious: Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"

A2 RESCUING SPEECH: Yahweh's Answer to David's Prayer 12:5

B1 His Resolve to Act on Behalf of the Oppressed

- C1 Because of their Devastation: {5} "Because of the devastation of the afflicted,
- C2 Because of their Groaning: because of the groaning of the needy,

¹ Psalm 12: An individual lament psalm. See Charles Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible*.

B2 His Resolve to Rescue the Righteous from Danger

C1 Yahweh's Resolve: Now I will arise," says the LORD;

C2 Yahweh's Protection: "I will set him in the safety² for which he longs."

A3 REFLECTIVE SPEECH: David's Reflection on Yahweh, the Godly, and the Wicked 12:6-8

B1 On the Purity of Yahweh's Words 12:6

C1 Pure Words: {6} The words of the LORD are pure words;

C2 Utter Purity: As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

B2 On the Security of the Godly 12:7

C1 Protection: {7} You, O LORD, will keep them;

C2 Preservation: You will preserve him from this generation forever.

B3 On the Societal Tone Which Emboldens Wicked Men 12:8

C1 The Result - The Wicked Emboldened: {8} The wicked strut about on every side

C2 The Cause - Vileness Exalted: When vileness is exalted³ among the sons of men.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 12

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² 12:5 - safety: The Heb. *yeshah*' (Strong's 3468) is similar to the more often used *yeshuw'ah* (3444), salvation. According to the Hebrew Lexicon (Brown Driver Briggs), *yeshah*' often has to do with physical safety at the hands of Yahweh.

³ 12:8 - vileness is exalted: When a society places a high value on evil, wicked people attain prominent position. David's closing point was that, even though evil people had arisen to prominence and were afflicting the righteous, Yahweh's utter purity would preserve the righteous from the defiled society. This is true even in our increasingly morally and ethically corrupt society in America (and in other countries) today.