

Psalm 32

"The Blessed Relief From Forgiveness"

*A Psalm of David. A Maskil.*¹

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A1 THE BLESSEDNESS OF FORGIVENESS 32:1-2

- B1 **Transgression Lifted Up:** How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
32:1
- B2 **Sin Covered:** Whose sin is covered!
- B3 **Iniquity Uncharged:** {2} How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not
impute iniquity, 32:2
- B4 **Conscience Clear:** And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

A2 THE SYMPTOMS OF UNCONFESED GUILT 32:3-4

- B1 **Loss of Weight:** {3} When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away
32:3
- B2 **Continual Groaning:** Through my groaning all day long.
- B3 **Yahweh's Heavy Hand:** {4} For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
32:4
- B4 **Loss of Energy:** My vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of
summer.

¹ Inscription - Maskil: "[It] probably means a contemplative or didactic poem." Charles Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible (RSB)* "...Maskil, a term used in the titles of thirteen Psalms (Pss. 32; 42; 44; 45; 52-55; 74; 78; 88; 89; 142). The term is translated psalm in Psalm 47:7. The origin of the term is disputed. Some see a connection with the root "to understand, ponder." Two of the maskils have clear references to instruction (Pss 32:8-9; 78:1). Others suggest that maskil might be a musical notation or an indication that these psalms were performed at festivals (for example, Ps. 78). Though most of the maskils are laments (Pss. 42; 44; 52; 54; 55; 74; 88; 142), other forms critical of types are grouped as maskils as well (Ps. 32, a thanksgiving for healing; Ps. 45, a psalm in celebration of a royal wedding; Ps. 78, a recitation of sacred history)." (*The Holman Bible Dictionary*)

A3 THE FORGIVENESS THROUGH CONFESSION 32:5

B1 David's Confession

- C1 Acknowledgment: {5} I acknowledged my sin to You,
- C2 Transparency: And my iniquity I did not hide;
- C3 Confession: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD";

B2 Yahweh's Forgiveness: And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

A4 THE EXHORTATION TO THE PEOPLE 32:6-11

B1 The Challenge to the Godly to Pray 36:6

- C1 The Challenge: {6} Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found;
- C2 The Reward: Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

B2 David's Gratefulness for Yahweh's Deliverance 32:7

- C1 He is a Place to Hide: {7} You are my hiding place;
- C2 He is a Preserver: You preserve me from trouble;
- C3 He is a Restorer of Songs of Praise: You surround me with songs of deliverance.

B3 David's Counsel to the People 32:8-11

- C1 David's Role as a Teacher 32:8
 - D1 Instruction: {8} I ² will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;
 - D2 Counsel: I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

² 32:8 - I: Though many, including the editors of *NASB*, take Yahweh as the speaker, the context before and after reveals David as the speaker.

- C2 David's Warning to be Sensitive, Unlike Beasts of Burden 32:9
 - D1 {9} Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding,
 - D2 Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check,
 - D3 *Otherwise* they will not come near to you. 32:9

- C3 David's Contrast to the People of Two Opposing Outcomes 32:10
 - D1 The Numerous Sorrows of the Wicked: {10} Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
 - D2 Yahweh's All-Encompassing Loyal Love for Those Who Trust Him: But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

- C4 David's Challenge to the Upright to Find Their Joy in Yahweh! 32:11
 - D1 Joy in Yahweh: {11} Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;
 - D2 Exuberance in Yahweh: And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 32

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