

**Psalm 53**

**"The Eventual Triumph of Israel Over Depraved, Antagonistic  
Humanity"<sup>1</sup>**

For the choir director; according to Mahalath.<sup>2</sup> A Maskil of David.

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**A1 THE UNIVERSAL DEPRAVITY OF MANKIND 53:1-3**

**B1 The Condemnation of Atheists 53:1**

C1 The Foolish Conclusion of the Atheist: {1} The fool has said in his heart,  
"There is no God,"

C2 The Indictment Against Atheists

D1 They are corrupt,

D2 and have committed abominable injustice;

C3 The Damning Verdict: There is no one who does good.

**B2 The Condemnation of All Mankind 53:2-3**

C1 Elohim's Universal Search for Spiritual Men 53:2

D1 Elohim's perspective: {2} God has looked down from heaven

D2 The object of His scrutiny: upon the sons of men

D3 The purpose of His scrutiny

E1 To see if there is anyone who understands,

E2 Who seeks after God.

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<sup>1</sup> Author's Title: "The psalm reports that the entire human race is evil and that God will overthrow sinners. Therefore the psalmist longs for the establishment of God's kingdom." (Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* [TBKC])

<sup>2</sup> Superscription - *Mahalath* : The psalm is David's, set to *Mahalath*, possibly a well-known tune. (Allen P. Ross, TBKC)

C2 The Indictment Against All Mankind 53:3a

D1 Individual departure: {3} Every one of them has turned aside;

D2 Corporate corruption: together they have become corrupt;

C3 The Damning Verdict 53:3b

D1 There is no one who does good,

D2 not even one.

## A2 THE VICTORY <sup>3</sup> OF ELOHIM'S PEOPLE OVER THE WICKED 53:4-5

### B1 The Ignorance of the Wicked Who Presently Devour God's People 53:4

C1 Their Ignorance of the Wicked: {4} Have the workers of wickedness no knowledge,

C2 Their Devouring of God's People: Who eat up My people <sup>4</sup> *as though* they ate bread

C3 Their Apathy toward Elohim: And have not called upon God?

### B2 The Past Victory of Israel over His Enemies 53:5

C1 The Sudden Fear of the Enemies: {5} There they were in great fear *where* no fear had been;

C2 Elohim's Scattering of the Besieger's Bones: For God scattered the bones of him who encamped <sup>5</sup> against you;<sup>6</sup>

C3 Israel's Victory Attributed to Elohim's Rejection of the Wicked: You put *them* to shame, because God had rejected them.

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<sup>3</sup> 53:4-5, Author's Title - "Victory": "David expressed his amazement at the ignorance of those who persecute the righteous. He foresaw that the wicked will be in great terror and **shame** when **God** destroys them. This judgment is so certain that the psalmist envisioned it as already accomplished" (Allen P. Ross, *TBKC*). That may be true in the ultimate sense, but the present author believes there was some historical basis in fact for David's statements.

<sup>4</sup> 53:4 - My people: I am inclined to believe that "my" refers to David, not God. Regardless, the effect is the same.

<sup>5</sup> 53:5 - bones of him who encamped against you: Who is the him of 53:5: "God scattered the bones of **him** who encamped against you"? Presumably the enemies of Israel, but why then the switch from plural, **they** (53:5a), to singular, **him** (53:5b)? Possibly, since "encamped against you" is a participle, the participle reflects a general truth that did not happen to every last enemy -- most of them would have been buried, but perhaps here and there a corpse lay outside unburied in a more remote or hidden venue, and wild animals scavenged the body and the bones were dispersed. Whatever happened, then, to a few of them, was symbolic of the fate of all.

<sup>6</sup> 53:5 you: You is singular, but it must refer to Israel. The verbs linked to Jacob and Israel in 53:6 are second person singular.

**A3 DAVID'S LONGING FOR THE ULTIMATE SALVATION OF ISRAEL FROM HER ENEMIES 53:6**

- B1 David's Longing for Elohim to Rise Up from Zion and Provide Ultimate and Final Salvation for Israel: {6}** Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!
- B2 David's Anticipation of Joy when Elohim Restores ALL the Captives!** When God restores His captive people, Let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 53**

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