

Psalm 52: Like a green olive tree in the house of God




Psalm 52 (51) (Mode 2. 5....31 / 4.....32)

This is a meditation on the behaviour and destiny of those who do evil and those who do good. They boast of the evil that they have the power to do, but they will be uprooted from their tent by God. This is in stark contrast to those who are faithful to the covenant. They trust in God and are like a fruitful olive in God's house. We recall Jesus' words: 'You cannot serve God and wealth'(Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13).

Proud sinner, why do you boast?

Why trumpet your sins against the faithful?

1. why do you boast of God's kindness (hesed) and do evil?
2. why do you boast of evil done against the godly? hasid
3. why do you boast of evil and insult God?



hsd (Leviticus 20:17 and Proverbs 14:34)

All day long you are plotting their destruction,
slashing them with your razor tongue.

You prefer evil to good,
You choose to lie rather than speak the truth.
You love the destructive word,
O deceitful tongue.

Very well, God will break you down
and remove you for ever.

God will snatch you from your tent
uproot you from the land of the living.

‘Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted
will be uprooted’(Matthew 15:13).

The just will watch in awe
and laugh at those who do evil:
'So these are the ones
who would not take refuge in God,
but trusted in the power of wealth
and grew powerful through crime!'

I am like a growing olive tree
in the temple court.

‘You, a wild olive shoot, were grafted
to share the rich root of the olive tree’(Romans 11:17).

I have always trusted
in the kindness of God.

I continually give you thanks,
for all you have done.

In the presence of the faithful
I declare my trust in your goodness.