

Psalm 53

Prayer during the Day Tuesday Week 2

This is almost identical with Psalm 14. We refer the reader to that psalm for a commentary. The main difference is that here we find 'God' where Psalm 14 has YHWH. Other slight variations are indicated by the use of italics.

The title reads: 'To the leader: according to Mahalath. A Maskil* of David'. Psalm 88 is the only other psalm that has 'according to Mahalath'. It may refer to the rhythm.

**¹Fools say in their hearts*, 'There is no God.'
They are corrupt, they perpetrate dreadful deeds;
there is no one who does good.**

**²God looks down from heaven on Adam's descendants
to see if there is a wise person anywhere, one who seeks after God.**

**³They have all gone astray, they are all depraved;
there is no one who does good, no, not one.**

**⁴Those evildoers, do they know nothing,
they who devour my people as if they were eating bread,
and do not call upon God?**

**⁵Well then, they shall be in great terror*,
in terror such as has not been.
For God will scatter the bones of the ungodly;
*they will be put to shame, for God has rejected them.***

At this point Psalm 14:5-6 reads:

Well then, they will have to tremble,
for God stands with the just.
You may thwart the plans of the poor, but YHWH is their refuge.

**⁶O that deliverance* for Israel would come from Zion!
When God restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.**