

Psalms 52:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue.

Analysis

The summary: 'Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue.' 'Devouring words' consume their victims--reputation, safety, life. The tongue is characterized as 'deceitful' in its essence, not just occasionally misleading. Words become weapons of destruction.

Historical Context

Doeg's words 'devoured' the priests of Nob--his report led directly to their deaths. His tongue was the instrument of massacre, showing how speech can kill as surely as swords.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do words 'devour' their victims?
2. What is the connection between deceit and destruction in speech?

Interlinear Text

אֶה בָּתָּה	כָּל	דְּבָרֵי	בְּ לַע	לִשׁוֹן	מְרִמָּה:
Thou lovest	<small>H3605</small>	words	all devouring	tongue	O thou deceitful
<small>H157</small>		<small>H1697</small>	<small>H1105</small>	<small>H3956</small>	<small>H4820</small>

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 120:3 (Parallel theme): What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?

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