

Psalm 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

מְרַמָּה:	לְשׁוֹן	בְּלֹעַ	דְּבָרִי	כָּל	אֶפְ בְּתָ
Thou lovest	H3605	words	all devouring	tongue	O thou deceitful
H157		H1697	H1105	H3956	H4820

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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