

PSALM 32

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS



Psalm 32 is a Psalm everyone can appreciate in their personal devotional lives. We all struggle with dealing with sin. We often try to cover up our sin, or ignore its disastrous effects on our lives.

David tried that too. It didn't work. He felt his bones wasting away as he kept silent about his sin. He felt his strength sapped from within him as he struggled to hide his sin.

With joy David teaches us today to avoid his example. He teaches us to confess our sins, receive absolution, and rejoice in the LORD's unfailing love.

THE AUTHOR

Name

David, King over Israel

Dates

1000-970 BC

Family

Shepherding son of Jesse

History

Anointed by Samuel
 Conqueror of Goliath
 Israel's Hero King
 Adulterer with Bathsheba
 Confronted by Nathan

Place of work

Jerusalem, the City of David

THE POETRY

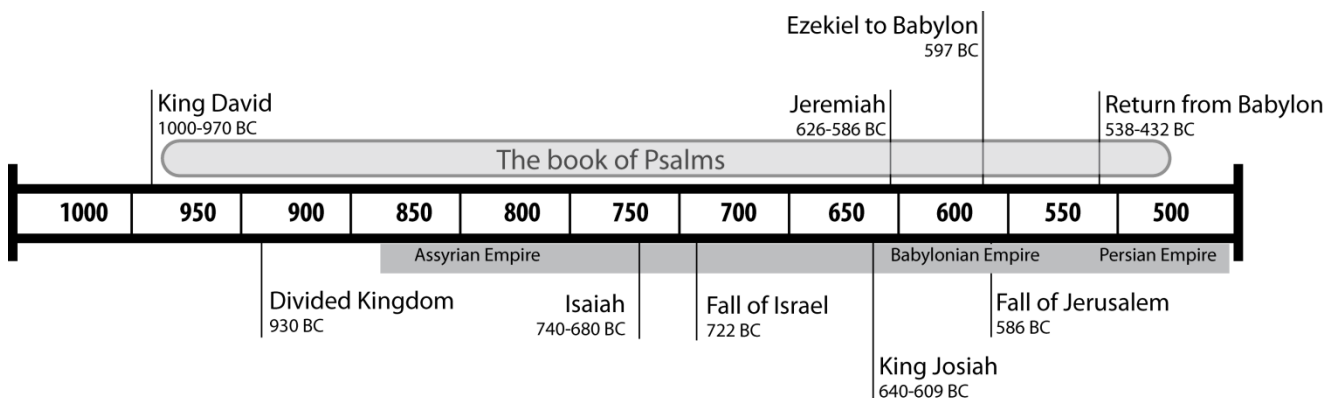
Notice the poetic structure of the psalm. It is divided into four parts. It begins with introduction (1-2), a confession of David to the LORD (3-7), LORD's response to David (8-9), and a conclusion (10-11).

This psalm seems to be a liturgical dialogue between David and God in a worship setting.

THE PSALM

Psalm 32 is known as one of the 7 Penitential Psalms. According to Christian liturgical tradition, these psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143) are known for great sorrow over sin, and have been read during Lent.

Psalm 32 is also a *maskil*, a psalm for teaching and meditation. This is the first of 13 *maskil* psalms (42, 44, 45, 52-55, 74, 78, 88, 89). The aim of this psalm is to teach us the wisdom of sincere repentance.



Read Psalm 32: 1-2

1. Our first two verses mention three ways sins are removed.

What are those three ways?

What images do those verbs visualize?

2. Agree or Disagree – People who hide their sins won't have them forgiven.

Read Psalm 32:3-4

3. Why did David keep silent about his sin?

Why do we keep silent about our sins?

4. According to verses 3 and 4, how did David feel when he hid his sin?

5. What is God's hand (verse 4) that lays on each one of us, reminding us of our sin?

Read Psalm 32:5-7

6. Considering the example of David and your own life, what benefits are there for corporate and private confession of sins?
7. What concept about forgiveness is David communicating in verse 5 when he says the LORD forgave the "guilt of his sin"?

8. David understood that judgment from God could come at any moment. Why is his advice in verse 6a so sage for believers today?

9. After reading verse 7, can you think of any "songs of deliverance" God's people sang after the LORD delivered them from danger?

Read Psalm 32:8-9

10. How can sinful men and women be like a stubborn mule?

11. Whom is God speaking verse 9 to: David or the assembly of believers?

Read Psalm 32:10-11

12. What are some of the woes that the wicked experience?

Romans 2:9-10

There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil... but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good.

13. How could David end this Penitential Psalm on such a high note in verses 10 and 11, considering the depth of his sin and the death of his son?