

The Psalms Book One

1

Psalm 1 – The Way of Happiness

- ¹ Happy are those
 who do not follow the counsel of the wicked,
not halting in ways frequented by sinners,
 nor taking a seat in a gathering of scoffers.
- ² But the law of the LORD is their joy,
 they study it day and night.
- ³ They are like trees
 planted by runlets of water,
yielding fruit in due season,
 leaves never fading.
 In all that they do, they prosper.
- ⁴ Not so fare the wicked, not so;
 like chaff are they, blown by the wind.
- ⁵ So the wicked will not stand firm in the judgment,
 nor sinners appear, when the righteous are gathered.
- ⁶ For the way of the righteous is dear to the LORD,
 but the way of the wicked will end in ruin.

2

Psalm 2 – The Lord's Chosen King

- ¹ Why this turmoil of nations,
 this futile plotting of peoples,

² with kings of the earth conspiring,
and rulers consulting together,
against the LORD and against his anointed,
³ to snap their bonds
and fling their cords away?

⁴ He whose throne is in heaven laughs,
the LORD mocks them.

⁵ Then he speaks to them in his wrath,
and in his hot anger confounds them.

⁶ 'This my king is installed by me,
on Zion my holy mountain.'

⁷ I will tell of the LORD's decree.
He said to me: 'You are my son,
this day I became your father.

⁸ Only ask, and I make you the heir of the nations,
and lord of the world to its utmost bounds.

⁹ You will break them with sceptre of iron,
shatter them like pottery.'

¹⁰ So now, you kings, be wise:
be warned, you rulers of earth.

¹¹ Serve the LORD in awe,
kiss his feet with trembling,

¹² lest, angry, he hurl you to ruin;
for soon will his fury blaze.
Happy all who take refuge in him.

3

Psalm 3 – A Morning Prayer for Protection

A psalm of David, when he fled from his son Absalom.

- ¹ How many, LORD, are my foes!
Those who rise up against me are many.
- ² Many are those who say of me,
‘There is no help for him in his God.’
Selah
- ³ But you, LORD, are shield about me,
my glory, who lifts up my head.
- ⁴ When loudly I call to the LORD,
from his holy hill he gives answer.
Selah
- ⁵ I laid down and slept:
now I wake, for the LORD sustains me.
- ⁶ I fear not the myriads of people
who beset me on every side.
- ⁷ Arise, LORD: save me, my God,
who strikes all my foes on the cheek,
and shatters the teeth of the wicked.
- ⁸ Victory belongs to the LORD:
let your blessing descend on your people.
Selah

4

Psalm 4 – An Evening Prayer

For the leader, with stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

- ¹ Answer my cry,
God, my defender.
Often from straits you have brought me
to spacious places.
So now show me your favour
and hear my prayer.

² How long, you proud people,
 will my honour be stained
 by the slanders you love,
 and the lies that you follow?

Selah

³ See! The LORD has shown me
 his wonderful kindness:
 the LORD hears,
 when I call to him.

⁴ Sin not in your anger:
 but speak in your heart
 on your bed, and be still.

Selah

⁵ Offer true sacrifice,
 trust in the LORD.

⁶ Many are longing
 for fortune to smile.
 Lift upon us
 the light of your face.

⁷ You have put in my heart, LORD,
 a deeper joy
 than was theirs who had corn
 and wine in abundance.

⁸ So in peace I will
 lie down and sleep;
 for you, LORD, keep me
 safe.

5

Psalm 5 – A Prayer for Guidance

For the leader: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by the flute.

- ¹ Hear my words, LORD:
give heed to my whisper.
- ² Attend to my loud cry for help,
my king and my God.
- ³ When I pray to you, LORD, in the morning,
hear my voice.
I make ready for you in the morning,
and look for a sign.
- ⁴ For you are no God who takes pleasure in
wickedness:
no one of evil can be your guest.
- ⁵ No braggarts can stand in your presence,
you hate all workers of wrong.
- ⁶ You destroy all speakers of lies,
people of blood and deceit you abhor.
- ⁷ But I, through your kindness abundant,
may enter your house,
and towards the shrine of your temple
may reverently bow.
- ⁸ Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness
because of my enemies.
Make your way level before me.
- ⁹ For their mouth is a stranger to truth,
their heart is a pit of destruction.
Their throat is a wide open grave,
their tongue the smooth tongue of the hypocrite.
- ¹⁰ Condemn them, God;
let their schemes bring them down to the
ground.

For their numberless crimes thrust them down
for playing the rebel against you.

¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you
ring out their gladness forever.

Protect those who love your name,
so they may exult in you.

¹² For you give your blessing, LORD, to the godly,
and the shield of your favour protects them.

6

Psalm 6 – A Cry for Help in Time of Trouble

For the leader; with instrumental music on the sheminith. A psalm of David.

¹ Rebuke me not, LORD, in your anger,
punish me not in your wrath.

² LORD, be gracious to me
in my weakness.

Heal me LORD,
for racked is my body;

³ all of me utterly racked.
Why do you wait so long, LORD?

⁴ Turn, LORD, rescue me;
save me, because of your love.

⁵ For in death none can call you to mind;
in Sheol who can praise you?

⁶ I am so weary of sighing.
All the night I make my bed swim,
and wet my couch with my tears.

⁷ My eyes swollen with grief;
from weeping caused by my foes.

- ⁸ Begone, workers of wrong,
for the LORD has heard my loud weeping,
⁹ the LORD has heard my entreaty,
the LORD accepts my prayer.
¹⁰ My foes will be stricken with terror,
brought to shame and dismay in a moment.

7

Psalm 7 – A Prayer to the God of Justice

A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the LORD
about Cush, the Benjamite.

- ¹ LORD my God, I take refuge in you.
Deliver me, save me from all who pursue me;
² or like lions they will tear me to pieces,
and rend me, past hope of rescue.
- ³ LORD, my God, if my life has been such
if my hands have been stained with guilt,
⁴ if friends I paid back with evil,
if I plundered my foes without cause,
⁵ may the enemy chase and find me,
trample my life to the ground,
my honour leave in the dirt!

Selah

- ⁶ Arise, LORD, in anger,
against my foes rise in fury.
Awake for my help:
let justice be done.
- ⁷ Gather the nations about you,
and sit on your lofty throne,
⁸ as the LORD, the judge of the peoples.
Judge me, LORD, in my innocence

and according to my integrity.

- ⁹ Put an end to the wrong of the wicked,
protect the righteous.
Searcher of hearts and minds,
righteous God.
- ¹⁰ God is my shield:
he saves the upright in heart.
- ¹¹ God is a just judge,
constant in righteous anger.
- ¹² He will sharpen his sword without fail,
his bow is bent and ready,
- ¹³ his deadly weapons are ready,
his arrows he makes of flame.
- ¹⁴ The enemy who conceives evil;
pregnant with mischief,
giving birth to lies,
- ¹⁵ a pit they have made and dug;
but into the hole that they made they will fall.
- ¹⁶ On their own heads their mischief comes back;
on their own skulls their violence comes
down.
- ¹⁷ I will give thanks to the LORD for his justice,
and sing to the name of the LORD Most High.

8

Psalm 8 – God's Glory in Nature

For the leader: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by a stringed instrument.

- ¹ LORD our God!
How glorious in all the earth is your name!
Your praise reaches as high as the heavens,

² from the mouths of children and infants.

You have built a fortress
against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the rebel.

³ When I look at your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set there,

⁴ what are mortals,
that you think of them,
humans,
that you visit them?

⁵ Yet you made them little less than divine,
crowned them with glory and majesty,

⁶ made them lord of the works of your hands,
put all things under their feet –

⁷ sheep and oxen,
all of them;

and the wild beasts also:

⁸ birds of the air,
and fish of the sea,

and all that crosses the paths of the ocean.

⁹ LORD our God!

How glorious in all the earth is your name!

9

Psalm 9 – A Song of Praise the Lord's Justice

For the leader; 'almuth labben. A psalm of David.

¹ With all my heart I will praise the LORD,
all your wonders I will rehearse.

- ² I will rejoice and exult in you,
singing praise to your name, Most High;
³ because backward my foes were turned,
they stumbled and perished before you.
- ⁴ My right and my claim you have upheld,
you did sit on the throne as a fair judge,
⁵ rebuking the nations, destroying the wicked,
and blotting their name out forever and ever.
⁶ The foe is vanished, ruined forever,
their cities destroyed, their memory perished.
- ⁷ See! The LORD is seated forever
on the throne he established for judgment,
⁸ ruling the world with justice,
and judging the nations with equity.
- ⁹ So the LORD proves a haven to the oppressed,
a haven in times of trouble.
¹⁰ Well may they trust you who know your name,
for those who seek you, you never abandon.
- ¹¹ Sing praise to the LORD, whose home is in Zion,
declare his deeds among the nations.
¹² As avenger of blood, he keeps them in mind,
he does not forget the cry of the wretched.
- ¹³ Show me favour, LORD,
see how my foes afflict me,
lift me up from the gates of death;
¹⁴ so I may, in your help exulting,
tell forth your praise at the gates of Zion.

15 The nations are sunk in the pit which they made,
in the net that they hid, their own foot is
entangled.

16 The LORD is revealed in the judgment he
wrought,
the wicked are snared in their own handi-
work.

Selah

17 Let the wicked depart to Sheol,
all the nations that live forgetful of God.

18 For the needy will not be always forgotten,
nor the hope of the helpless be lost forever.

19 Arise, LORD; don't let them triumph:
before your face let the nations be judged.

20 Strike them with fear, LORD:
show the nations how frail they are.

Selah

10

Psalm 10 – A Prayer for Help

1 Why do you stand, LORD, so far away,
hiding yourself in times of trouble?

2 The wicked, in their pride, are pursuing the
helpless:
let them be caught in the schemes they have
plotted.

3 For the wicked boasts of their wanton greed;
the robber despises the LORD, and curses him,

4 in wicked pride, thinks:
God doesn't care,
God doesn't call to account.

- ⁵ Never a season that they do not prosper;
your judgments are far above out of their
sight:
they scoff at their foes.
- ⁶ Each says in their heart,
‘I will never be shaken;
I will live for all time
untouched by misfortune.’
- ⁷ Their mouths are full of deceit and oppression:
under their tongues lurks mischief and
wrong.
- ⁸ Lying in secret in some village ambush,
and stealthily watching, they murder the in-
nocent.
- ⁹ Like a lion that lurks in a secret lair
they lurk intending to catch the defenceless;
to seize them, to drag them away in their net.
- ¹⁰ Their victims are crushed,
sink down to the ground.
Under their claws
the hapless fall.
- ¹¹ The wicked say in their hearts
that God has forgotten,
has hidden his face,
will see nothing.
- ¹² Arise, LORD, lift up your hand,
do not forget the cry of the wretched.
- ¹³ Why do the wicked treat God with contempt,
and say in their hearts, ‘God doesn’t care’?

- 14 You have seen the trouble and sorrow;
you mark it all, and will take it in hand.
The hapless can count on you,
helper of orphans.
- 15 Break the arm of the wicked and evil:
search out their sin, till no more be found.
- 16 The LORD is king forever and ever:
the nations will vanish from his land.
- 17 LORD, you have heard the desire of the humble,
inclining your ear, strengthening their hearts,
- 18 rights you have won for the crushed and the
orphan,
so no one on earth may strike terror again.

11

Psalm 11 – Trust in the Lord

For the leader. Of David.

- 1 In the LORD I take refuge.
How can you tell me
to flee like a bird to the mountains?
- 2 ‘See! The wicked are bending the bow,
their arrow is set on the string,
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in
heart.
- 3 In this tearing down of foundations
what good can a good person do?’
- 4 The LORD in his holy temple,
the LORD in heaven, enthroned.
His eyes watch the world,
they see everyone.

- ⁵ The LORD examines the righteous and wicked,
and the lover of violence he hates.
⁶ On the wicked he rains coals of fire and brimstone,
and their drink will be scorching wind.
⁷ For the LORD is just, and justice he loves;
so the upright will see his face.

12

Psalm 12 – A Prayer for the Faithful in a False World

For the leader; on the sheminith. A psalm of David.

- ¹ Help, LORD, for the good are all gone,
faithful people have vanished.
² One lies to another, speaking empty lies,
with flattering lips and false hearts they speak.
³ May the LORD cut off all the flattering lips,
and the tongue that utters arrogance,
⁴ they declare, ‘Our tongue is our strength,
our allies our lips: who is lord over us?’
⁵ ‘The poor are despoiled, and the needy are sighing;
so now I will act,’ the LORD declares
‘And place them in the safety they long for.’
⁶ The words of the LORD are words that are pure,
silver smelted, seven times refined.
⁷ You will keep us, LORD,
and guard us from this generation forever,
⁸ in a world where the wicked prowl,

and worthless people exalted.

13

Psalm 13 – A Prayer for Help in Trouble

For the leader. A psalm of David.

- ¹ How long, LORD, will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- ² How long must I nurse grief inside me,
and in my heart a daily sorrow?
How long are my foes to exult over me?
- ³ Look at me, answer me, LORD my God.
Fill my eyes with your light,
lest I sleep in death,
⁴ lest my enemies claim to have triumphed,
lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.
- ⁵ But I trust in your kindness:
my heart will rejoice in your help.
⁶ I will sing to the LORD who was good to me.

14

Psalm 14 – The Folly of Denying God

For the leader. Of David.

- ¹ Fools say in their heart,
‘There is no God.’
Vile, hateful their life is;
not one does good.
- ² From heaven the LORD looks out
on humans, to see
if any are wise,
and care for God.

³ But all have turned bad,
the taint is on all;
not one does good,
no, not one.

⁴ Have they learned their lesson,
those workers of evil?
Who ate up my people,
eating, devouring,
never calling to the LORD.

⁵ Sore afraid will they be;
for God is among
those who are righteous,
⁶ you may mock the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷ If only help from Zion
would come for Israel!
When the LORD brings his people
a change of fortune,
how glad will be Jacob,
and Israel how joyful!

15

Psalm 15 – Standing Firm

A psalm of David.

¹ LORD, who can be guest in your tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?

² The person whose walk is blameless,
whose conduct is right,
whose words are true and sincere;
³ on whose tongue there sits no slander,

who will not harm a friend,
⁴ nor cruelly insult a neighbour,
 who regards with contempt those rejected by God;
 but honours those who obey the LORD,
 who keeps an oath, whatever the cost,
⁵ whose money is lent without interest,
 and never takes a bribe to hurt the innocent.

The person who does these things will always
 stand firm.

16

Psalm 16 – The Joy of Fellowship with God

A michtam of David.

¹ Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I said to the LORD, ‘You are my LORD,
 my happiness rests in you alone.

³ Those who are holy in the land,
 they, they alone, are the noble ones;
 all my delight is in them.’

⁴ Those who choose other gods
 find endless sorrow.

In their offerings of blood I will have no part
 nor take their name on my lips.

⁵ The LORD is my share and my portion,
 my fate is in your strong hands.

⁶ The boundary lines of my life
 mark out delightful country,
 my heritage pleases me well.

⁷ I praise the LORD for his counsel,
 which so stirs my heart in the night.

⁸ I keep the LORD always in mind:

with him at my hand, I can never be moved.

- ⁹ So my heart is glad, there is joy inside me;
and in safety of body I live.
- ¹⁰ For you will not give me up to Sheol
nor let any who love you see the pit.
- ¹¹ You will show me the path that leads to life,
to that fulness of joy which is in your pres-
ence,
and the pleasures dispensed by your hand
evermore.

17

Psalm 17 – A Prayer for Deliverance

A prayer of David.

- ¹ Listen, O LORD, to my innocence;
attend to my piercing cry.
Give heed to my prayer
out of lips unfeigned.
- ² Let my vindication come from you,
your eyes see the truth.
- ³ When you test my heart when you visit at night,
and assay me like silver – you can find no evil.
I am determined that my mouth should not lie.
- ⁴ I gave earnest heed to the words of your lips.
- ⁵ My steps have held fast to the paths of your
precepts
and in your tracks have my feet never stum-
bled.
- ⁶ So I call you, O God, with assurance of answer;
bend down your ear to me, hear what I say.

7 Show your marvellous love, you who save from enemies
those who take refuge at your right hand.

8 Keep me as the apple of the eye,
hide me in the shelter of your wings.

9 From wicked people who do me violence,
from deadly foes who crowd around me.

10 They have closed their hearts to pity,
the words of their mouths are haughty.

11 Now they dog us at every step,
keenly watching, to hurl us to the ground,

12 like a lion, longing to tear,
like a young lion, lurking in secret.

13 Arise, LORD, face them and fell them.
By your sword set me free from the wicked,

14 by your hand, O LORD, from those –
whose portion of life is but of this world.

But let your treasured ones have food in plenty
may their children be full and their children satisfied.

15 In my innocence I will see your face,
awake I am filled with a vision of you.

18

Psalm 18 – A King's Song of Gratitude

For the leader. Of David, the servant of the LORD, who recited the words of this song to the LORD after the LORD had saved him from the power of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

1 I love you, O LORD, my strength.

- ² The LORD is my rock, my fortress, deliverer,
my God, my rock, where I take refuge,
my shield, my defender, my tower.
- ³ Worthy of praise is the LORD whom I call on,
he rescues me from all my foes.
- ⁴ The waves of death broke about me,
fearful floods of chaos.
- ⁵ Sheol threw cords around me,
snarers of death came to meet me.
- ⁶ In distress I cried to the LORD,
and shouted for help to my God;
in his temple he heard my voice,
into his ears came my cry.
- ⁷ Then the earth shook and quaked,
mountains trembled to their foundations,
and quaked because of his wrath.
- ⁸ Smoke went up from his nostrils,
devouring fire from his mouth,
coals were kindled by it.
- ⁹ Then he bent the sky and came down,
thick darkness was under his feet.
- ¹⁰ He rode on a cherub and flew,
darting on wings of wind,
- ¹¹ with his screen of darkness about him,
in thick dark clouds of water.
- ¹² At the radiance before him there passed
hailstones and coals of fire.
- ¹³ The LORD thundered from heaven,
the Most High uttered his voice.
- ¹⁴ He shot his arrows and scattered them,
flashed lightnings, and routed them.

15 The channels of the sea were revealed,
the world was laid bare to its base,
at your rebuke, O LORD,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

16 He stretched from on high, he seized me,
drew me up from the mighty waters,
17 and saved me from those who hated me –
fierce foes, too mighty for me.
18 In my day of distress they assailed me,
but the LORD proved my support.
19 To a spacious place he brought me,
and, for love of me, he saved me.

20 The LORD repays my innocence,
he rewards my cleanness of hands.
21 For I kept the ways of the LORD,
nor have wickedly strayed from my God.
22 His commandments were all before me,
his statutes I put not away.
23 And I was blameless before him,
guarding myself from sin.
24 So the LORD repaid my innocence,
my cleanness of hands in his sight.

25 With the loyal you are loyal,
and with the blameless blameless.
26 With the pure you show yourself pure,
but shrewd with the devious.
27 For the lowly people you save,
but haughty eyes you abase.
28 You are my lamp, LORD,
my God who enlightens my darkness.
29 With you I can storm a rampart,

- with my God I can leap a wall.
- 30 As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD is pure.
He is shield to all who take refuge in him.
- 31 For who is God but the LORD?
And who is a rock but our God?
- 32 The God who arms me with strength,
who cleared and smoothed my way.
- 33 He made my feet like hinds' feet,
and set me up on the heights.
- 34 He taught my hands how to fight,
and my arms how to bend a bronze bow.
- 35 The shield of your help you gave me,
your right hand supports me,
you stoop down to make me great.
- 36 In your strength I took giant strides,
and my feet never slipped.
- 37 So I chased the foe till I caught them,
and turned not, till I made an end of them.
- 38 I smashed them, they could not rise,
they fell beneath my feet.
- 39 You did arm me with strength for war,
you did bow my assailants beneath me.
- 40 You made my foes turn their back to me,
and those who did hate me I finished.
- 41 They cried for help, but none saved them;
to the LORD, but he answered them not.
- 42 I beat them like dust of the market-place,
stamped them like mud of the streets.
- 43 From the strife of the peoples you saved me,

- you made me head of the nations,
peoples I knew not did serve me.
44 On the instant they hear, they obey me,
foreigners come to me cringing.
45 Foreigners lose courage,
and come out of their strongholds trembling.
46 The LORD is alive! Blest be my rock!
Exalted be God, my protector!
47 The God who gave me revenge,
and brought down nations beneath me,
48 who saved me from angry foes,
and set me above my assailants,
safe from the violent.
49 For this I will praise you among the nations,
making music, O LORD, to your name:
50 for great triumphs he grants to his king,
and faithful love he shows his anointed,
to David and his seed evermore.

19

Psalm 19 – The Glory of God in the Heavens

For the leader. A psalm of David.

- 1 The heavens declare God's glory,
the sky tells what his hands have done.
2 Day tells it to day,
night reveals it to night,
3 without speaking, without words;
without the sound of voices.
4 But through all the world their voice carries
their words to the ends of the earth.

He has pitched a tent for the sun in the sky,

⁵ it comes out like a bridegroom from his
bridal chamber,
it joyfully runs its course like a hero.

⁶ From one end of the heavens it rises,
and round it runs to the other,
and nothing hides from its heat.

In Praise of the Law

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
renewing life.
The decrees of the LORD are trusty,
making the simple wise.

⁸ The behests of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart.
The command of the LORD is pure,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean,
it endures forever.
The LORD's judgments are true
and right altogether.

¹⁰ More precious are they than gold –
than fine gold in plenty,
and sweeter they are than honey,
that drops from the comb.

¹¹ By them is your servant warned;
who keeps them has rich reward.

¹² Who can know their flaws?
Absolve me from those I know not.

¹³ Keep your servant from wilful sins –
from falling under their sway:

then blameless and clear will I be
from great offence.

¹⁴ May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of
my heart
be pleasing to you, LORD,
my rock and redeemer.

20

Psalm 20 – A Prayer for Victory

For the leader. A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD answer you in the day of distress,
the name of the Jacob's God protect you,

² sending you help from the temple,
out of Zion supporting you.

³ All your meal-offerings may he remember,
your burnt-offerings look on with favour.

Selah

⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire,
and bring all your plans to pass.

⁵ We will shout then for joy at your victory,
and rejoice in the name of our God.
May the LORD grant your every request.

⁶ Now I am sure that the LORD
will help his anointed.

From his temple in heaven he will answer
by his mighty triumphant right hand.

⁷ Some in chariots are strong, some in horses;
but our strength is the LORD our God.

⁸ They will totter and fall,
while we rise and stand firm.

⁹ Give victory, LORD, to the king,
and answer us when we call.

21

Psalm 21 – A Prayer after a Victory

For the leader. A psalm of David.

¹ The king rejoices, LORD, in your might,
how he exults because of your help!

² You have granted to him his heart's desire,
you have not withheld his lips' request.

Selah

³ You came to meet him with rich blessings,
you set on his head a golden crown.

⁴ He asked you for life, you gave it –
many long days, forever and ever.

⁵ Great is his glory because of your help,
honour and majesty you lay upon him.

⁶ For you make him most blessed forever,
you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

⁷ For the king puts always his trust in the LORD;
the Most High, in his love, will preserve him
unshaken.

⁸ Your hand will reach all your foes,
your right hand, all who hate you.

⁹ You will make them like a furnace of fire,
when you appear, LORD.

The LORD will swallow them up in his wrath.
The fire will devour them.

¹⁰ You will sweep their offspring from the earth,
their children from humanity.

- 11 When they scheme against you
and hatch evil plots – they will fail.
12 For you aim your bow at their faces,
make them turn in flight.
13 Be exalted, LORD, in your strength,
to your might we shall sing and make music.

22

Psalm 22 – The Sufferer’s Triumph

For the leader; set to “Deer of the Dawn”. A psalm of David.

- 1 My God, my God, why have you left me,
my rescue so far from the words of my roaring?
2 I cry in the day, you do not answer,
I cry in the night but find no rest.
3 You are the Holy One,
throned on the praises of Israel.
4 In you our ancestors trusted,
they trusted and you delivered them.
5 They cried to you, and found safety,
in you did they trust and were not put to shame.
6 But I am a worm, not a person;
insulted by others, despised by the people.
7 All who see me mock me,
with mouths wide open and wagging heads:
8 ‘He relies on the LORD; let him save him.
Let him rescue the one he holds dear!’
9 But you drew me from the womb,

- laid me safely on my mother's breasts.
- 10 On your care was I cast from my very birth,
you are my God from my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is nigh,
and there is none to help.
- 12 I am circled by many bulls,
beset by the mighty of Bashan,
13 who face me with gaping jaws,
like ravening roaring lions.
- 14 Poured out am I like water,
and all my bones are loosened.
My heart is become like wax,
melted within me.
- 15 My palate is dry as a sherd,
my tongue sticks to my jaws;
in the dust of death you lay me.
- 16 For dogs are round about me,
a band of knaves encircles me,
gnawing my hands and my feet.
- 17 I can count my bones, every one.
As for them, they feast their eyes on me.
- 18 They divide my garments among them,
and over my raiment cast lots.
- 19 But you, O LORD, be not far,
O my strength, hasten to help me.
- 20 Deliver my life from the sword
my life from the power of the dogs.
- 21 Save me from the jaws of the lion,
from the horns of the wild oxen help me.

- 22 I will tell of your fame to my kindred,
and in the assembly will praise you.
- 23 Praise the LORD, you who fear him.
All Jacob's seed, give him glory.
All Israel's seed, stand in awe of him.
- 24 For he has not despised nor abhorred
the sorrow of the sorrowful.
He hid not his face from me,
but he listened to my cry for help.
- 25 Of you is my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- 26 The afflicted will eat to their heart's desire,
and those who seek after the LORD will praise
him.
Lift up your hearts forever.
- 27 All will call it to mind, to the ends of the earth,
and turn to the LORD;
and all tribes of the nations will bow down before
you.
- 28 For the kingdom belongs to the LORD:
he is the LORD of the nations.
- 29 To him will bow down all who sleep in the earth,
and before him bend all who go down to the
dust,
and those who could not preserve their lives.
- 30 My descendants will tell of the LORD
to the next generation;
- 31 they will declare his righteousness
to people yet to be born:
He has done it.

23

Psalm 23 – The Good Shepherd

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd: I am never in need.

² He lays me down in green pastures.

He gently leads me to waters of rest,

³ he refreshes my life.

He guides me along paths that are straight,
true to his name.

⁴ And when my way lies through a valley of gloom,
I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff comfort me.

⁵ You spread a table for me
in face of my foes;

with oil you anoint my head,
and my cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and love will pursue me –
all the days of my life.

In the house of the LORD I will live
through the length of the days.

24

Psalm 24 – The True Worshipper

Of David. A psalm.

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that it holds,
the world and those who live in it.

² For he founded it on the seas,
and on the floods he sustains it.

³ Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

- 4 The clean of hands, the pure of heart,
 who sets not their heart upon sinful things,
 nor swears with intent to deceive:
 5 they win from the LORD a blessing:
 God is their champion and saviour.
 6 Such must be those who resort to him,
 and seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Selah

The Lords's Triumphal Entry into the Sanctuary

- 7 Lift high your heads, you gates –
 Higher, you ancient doors;
 welcome the glorious king.
 8 'Who is the glorious king?'
 'The LORD strong and heroic,
 the LORD heroic in battle.'
 9 Lift high your heads, you gates –
 Higher, you ancient doors;
 welcome the glorious king.
 10 'Who is the glorious king?'
 'The LORD, the God of hosts,
 he is the glorious king.'

Selah

25

Psalm 25 – A Prayer for Forgiveness and Protection

A psalm of David.

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my heart:
 all the day I wait for you.
 2 In you I trust, put me not to shame;
 let not my foes exult over me.
 3 None will be shamed who wait for you,

- but shame will fall upon wanton traitors.
- ⁴ Make me, O LORD, to know your ways:
teach me your paths.
- ⁵ In your faithfulness guide me and teach me,
for you are my God and my saviour.
- ⁶ Remember your pity, O LORD, and your kindness,
for they have been ever of old.
- ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth;
remember me in kindness,
because of your goodness, LORD.
- ⁸ Good is the LORD and upright,
so he teaches sinners the way.
- ⁹ The humble he guides in the right,
he teaches the humble his way.
- ¹⁰ All his ways are loving and loyal
to those who observe his charges and
covenant.
- ¹¹ Be true to your name LORD,
forgive my many sins.
- ¹² Who then is the person who fears the LORD?
He will teach them the way to choose.
- ¹³ They will live in prosperity,
their children will inherit the land.
- ¹⁴ The LORD gives guidance to those who fear him,
and with his covenant he makes them ac-
quainted.
- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for out of the net he brings my foot.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me with your favour,
for I am lonely and crushed
- ¹⁷ In my heart are strain and storm;
bring me out of my distresses.
- ¹⁸ Look on my misery and trouble,

- and pardon all my sins,
19 look on my foes oh, so many!
And their cruel hatred towards me.
20 Deliver me, keep me, and shame not
one who takes refuge in you.
21 May integrity and innocence preserve me,
for I wait for you, O LORD.
22 Redeem Israel, O God,
from all its distresses.

26

Psalm 26 – Prayer of a Devout Worshipper

A psalm of David.

- 1 Defend me, O LORD, for my walk has been blameless;
in the LORD have I trusted unswervingly:
2 Examine me, LORD, and test me;
test my heart and my mind.
3 For your love is before my eyes,
and your faithfulness governs my way.
4 I never sat down with the worthless,
nor companied with dissemblers.
5 I hate the assembly of knaves,
I would never sit down with the wicked;
6 but, with hands washed in innocence,
I would march round your altar, O LORD,
7 singing loud songs of thanks,
and telling of all your wonders.
8 O LORD, I love your house,
the place where your glory lives.
9 Do not gather me up with sinners;

- slay me not with people of blood,
10 whose hands are stained with villainy,
and whose right hand is filled with bribes.
11 But my walk is blameless!
O redeem me, be gracious to me.
12 My foot stands on even ground,
in the choirs I will bless the LORD.

27

Psalm 27 – If God is for Me

A psalm of David.

- 1 The LORD is my light and my saviour;
whom then should I fear?
The LORD protects my life;
whom then should I dread?
- 2 When the wicked drew near to assail me
and eat up my flesh,
it was those who distressed and opposed me
who stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though against me a host should encamp,
yet my heart would be fearless:
though battle should rise up against me,
still would I be trustful.
- 4 One thing have I asked of the LORD,
and that do I long for –
To live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the grace of the LORD
and inquire in his temple.
- 5 For he will hide me in his shelter

in the day of misfortune.
In his sheltering tent he hides me:
he lifts me up on a rock.

⁶ And now that my head he has lifted
above my encircling foes,
I will march round the altar and sacrifice,
shouting with joy, in his tent,
making music and song to the LORD.

The Serenity of Faith

⁷ Hear, O LORD, my loud cry,
and graciously answer me.

⁸ My heart has said to you,
'Your face, O LORD, I seek.'

⁹ Hide not your face from me,
reject not your servant in anger:
for you have been my help.

Abandon me not, nor forsake me,
O God of my help:

¹⁰ for father and mother have left me;
but the LORD will take me up.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD:
lead me in an even path,
because of my enemies.

¹² Give me not up, O LORD,
unto the rage of my foes;
for against me have risen false witnesses,
breathing out cruelty.

¹³ Firm is the faith I cherish,
that I, in the land of the living,

will yet see the goodness of God.

¹⁴ Let your heart be courageous and strong,
and wait on the LORD.

28

Psalm 28 – An Answered Prayer for Help

Of David.

¹ Unto you, O LORD, do I cry;
my rock, be not deaf to me:
lest, through holding your peace, I become
like those who go down to the pit.

² Hear my loud entreaty,
as I cry for help to you,
lifting my hands, O LORD,
towards your holy chancel.

³ Take me not off with the wicked,
nor with the workers of wrong,
whose speech to their neighbours is friendly,
while evil is in their heart.

⁴ Give them as they have done,
as their wicked deeds deserve.
As their hands have wrought, so give to them:
requite to them their deserts.

⁵ They are blind to all that the LORD does,
to all that his hands have wrought;
and so he will tear them down,
to build them up no more.

⁶ Blest be the LORD, who has heard
my voice as I plead for mercy.

⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him.

I was helped: so my heart is exultant,

and in my song I will praise him.

⁸ The LORD is the strength of his people,
the fortress who saves his anointed.

⁹ O save your people,
and bless your inheritance.

Be their shepherd
and carry them forever.

29

Psalm 29 – The Lord's Glory in the Storm

A psalm of David.

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and power

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory he manifests:
bow to the LORD in holy array.

³ The LORD's voice peals on the waters.
The God of glory has thundered.
He peals o'er the mighty waters.

⁴ The LORD's voice sounds with strength,
the LORD's voice sounds with majesty.

⁵ The LORD's voice breaks the cedars,
he breaks the cedars of Lebanon,

⁶ making Lebanon dance like a calf,
Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The LORD's voice hews out flames of fire.

⁸ The LORD's voice rends the desert,
he rends the desert of Kadesh.

⁹ The LORD's voice whirls the oaks,
and strips the forests bare;

and all in his temple say ‘Glory.’

- ¹⁰ The LORD was king at the flood,
the LORD sits throned forever.
¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people,
he blesses his people with peace.

30

Psalm 30 – A Song of Thanksgiving for Deliverance

A psalm of David. A song for the dedication of the Temple.

- ¹ I will extol you, O LORD,
because you have lifted me up,
and not suffered my foes to rejoice over me.
- ² I cried to you for help,
O LORD my God, and you healed me.
- ³ You have brought me up, LORD, from Sheol,
from my way to the pit back to life you have
called me.
- ⁴ Sing praise to the LORD, faithful people;
give thanks to his holy name.
- ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
his favour endures for a lifetime.
Weeping may lodge for the night,
but the morning brings shouts of joy.
- ⁶ When all went well, I imagined
that never should I be shaken.
- ⁷ For by your favour, O LORD,
you had set me on mountains strong:
but you hide your face,

and I was confounded.

⁸ Then to you, LORD, I cried,
to the LORD I begged for mercy,

⁹ 'What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down to the pit?

Can you be praised by dust?
Can it tell of your faithfulness?

¹⁰ Hear, LORD, and show me your favour,
LORD be a helper to me.'

¹¹ You have turned my mourning to dancing;
my sackcloth you have unloosed,
and clothed me with joy:

¹² that unceasingly I should sing your praise,
and give thanks to you, LORD my God, forever.

31

Psalm 31 – A Prayer for Deliverance from Troubles

For the leader. A psalm of David.

¹ In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me in your faithfulness;

² incline to me your ear.

Deliver me speedily.

Be to me a rock of defence,
a fortified house, to save me.

³ For my rock and my fortress are you;
lead me and guide me so your name will be hon-
oured.

⁴ Draw me out of the net they have hid for me,
for you yourself are my refuge.

- ⁵ Into your hand I commend my spirit:
you ransom me, LORD, faithful God.
- ⁶ I hate those devoted to worthless idols;
I trust in the LORD.
- ⁷ I will rejoice and be glad in your love,
because you have looked on my misery,
and cared for me in my distress.
- ⁸ You have not given me into the enemy's hand,
you have set my feet in a spacious place.
- ⁹ Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am distressed;
my eye is wasted away with sorrow.
- ¹⁰ For my life is consumed with grief,
and my years with sighing.
My strength is broken with misery,
my bones waste away.
- ¹¹ The scorn of all my foes,
the butt of my neighbours am I,
a terror to my acquaintance.
At the sight of me in the street
people turn quickly away.
- ¹² I am clean forgotten like the dead,
am become like a ruined vessel.
- ¹³ I hear the whispers of many –
terror on every side –
scheming together against me,
plotting to take my life.
- ¹⁴ But my trust is in you, LORD.
'You are my God,' I say;
- ¹⁵ my times are in your hand, save me
from the hand of the foes who pursue me.
- ¹⁶ Make your face to shine on your servant,

save me in your love.

17 Put me not, O LORD, to shame,
for I have called upon you.

Let the wicked be put to shame
silent in Sheol.

18 Strike the false lips dumb,
that speak proudly against the righteous
with haughtiness and contempt.

19 How great is the goodness
you have treasured for those who fear you,
and wrought for those who take refuge in you,
in plain sight of all!

20 In your sheltering wings you hide them
from plottings of people,
you keep them safe in a bower
from the chiding of tongues.

21 Blest be the LORD
for the wonderful love he has shown me
in time of distress.

22 For I had said in panic,
'I am driven clean out of your sight.'
But you heard my plea,
when I cried to you for help.

23 Love the LORD, all you faithful;
the LORD protects the loyal,
but repays the haughty in full.

24 Let your hearts be courageous and strong,
all you who wait on the LORD.

32

Psalm 32 – A Prayer of Confession and Joy

Of David. A maskil.

¹ Happy those whose transgression is pardoned,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those, free from falseness of spirit,
to whom the LORD reckons no debt of guilt.

³ When I held my peace, my bones wore away
with my endless groaning;

⁴ for day and night did your hand
lie heavy upon me.

The sap of my life was dried up
as with fierce summer-heat.

Selah

⁵ I began to acknowledge my sin,
not concealing my guilt;
and the moment I vowed to confess
to the LORD my transgression,
then you yourself did pardon
the guilt of my sin.

Selah

⁶ For this cause let all who are faithful
pray to you in the time of distress;
then, when the great waters rush,
they will not reach to him.

⁷ For you are my shelter,
you protect me from trouble,
and surround me with deliverance.

Selah

⁸ With my eye steadfastly upon you,

I will instruct and teach you
The way you should go.

⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,
that have no understanding,
but need bridle and halter to curb them,
else they will not come near to you.'

¹⁰ The godless have many sorrows,
but those who trust in the LORD
will be compassed about by his kindness.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, you righteous;
and ring out your joy, all you upright in heart.

33

Psalm 33 – A Hymn of Thanksgiving

¹ Shout for joy in the LORD, you righteous:
praise for the upright is seemly.

² Give thanks to the LORD on the lyre,
play to him on a ten-stringed harp.

³ Sing to him a new song,
play skilfully and shout merrily.

⁴ For the LORD is straight in his promise;
and all that he does is in faithfulness.

⁵ Justice and right he loves;
the earth is full of his kindness.

⁶ By his word the heavens were made,
all their host by the breath of his mouth.

⁷ He gathers the sea in a bottle,
the ocean he puts into store-houses.

⁸ Let the whole world honour the LORD,
let all who live on earth be in awe.

⁹ For at his word it came into being,

at his command it stood forth.

10 The LORD frustrates the designs of the nations,
what the peoples have purposed, he brings to
nought,

11 but the LORD's own design will stand forever,
and what his heart has purposed, through all
generations.

12 Happy the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for himself as his own.

13 The LORD looks down from heaven,
he sees all of humanity;

14 from where he rules he gazes
on all who inhabit the earth.

15 He fashions the hearts of them all,
and gives heed to all that they do.

16 It is not by great armies that kings are victori-
ous,
it is not by great strength that a warrior saves
himself;

17 false hope is the war-horse to usher in victory,
for all its great might it can provide no escape.

18 See! The eye of the LORD is on those who fear
him,
on those who hope in his kindness;

19 to deliver their life from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.

20 We wait for the LORD:
he is our help and our shield.

21 For in him our heart is glad,

we trust in his holy name.

²² Let your kindness, O LORD, be upon us,
as is our hope in you.

34

Psalm 34 – The Lord is Mindful of His Own

Of David, when he feigned madness in the presence of Abimelech, who drove him away, and he left.

- ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times,
in my mouth will his praise be forever.
- ² In the LORD will my heart make her boast,
the humble will hear and be glad.
- ³ O magnify the LORD with me
and let us extol his name together.
- ⁴ I sought the LORD, and, in answer,
he saved me from all my terrors.
- ⁵ Look to him and you will be radiant,
with faces unashamed.
- ⁶ Here is one who was crushed,
but cried and was heard by the LORD,
and brought safe out of every trouble.
- ⁷ The LORD's angel encamps
about those who fear him, and rescues them.
- ⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good,
happy those who take refuge in him.
- ⁹ Fear the LORD, all his people,
for they who fear him lack nothing.
- ¹⁰ Even young lions may be poor and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD
will not lack any good thing.

- 11 Come, children, listen to me.
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Which of you is desirous of life,
loves many and happy days?
- 13 Then guard your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are towards the righteous,
his ears are towards their cry for help.
- 16 The LORD sets his face against those who do evil,
to root their memory out of the earth.
- 17 When righteous cry, they are heard by the LORD,
and he saves them from all their distresses.
- 18 The LORD is near to the broken-hearted,
he helps those whose spirit is crushed.
- 19 Many misfortunes befall the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them out of them all.
- 20 He guards all their bones,
none are broken.
- 21 Misfortune will slay the ungodly;
those who hate the righteous are doomed.
- 22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be doomed who takes refuge in
him.

35

Psalm 35 – A Prayer for Deliverance from Malicious Foes
Of David.

- 1 Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me,
do battle with those who do battle with me.
- 2 Grasp shield and buckler,
and rise up as my help.

- ³ Draw spear and battle-axe,
confront those who pursue me.
Assure me that you will help me.
- ⁴ Dishonour and shame be on those
who are seeking my life!
Defeat and confusion on those
who are planning my hurt!
- ⁵ As chaff before wind may they be,
with the LORD's angel pursuing them.
- ⁶ Slippery and dark be their way,
with his angel thrusting them on.
- ⁷ For they wantonly hid their net for me,
and dug a pit to destroy me.
- ⁸ Upon them may ruin come unawares;
may the net which they hid catch themselves,
and into the pit may they fall.
- ⁹ Then I will exult in the LORD,
and be joyful because of his help;
- ¹⁰ and all my being will say,
'Who, O LORD, is like you,
who save the helpless from those too strong for
them,
the poor and the helpless from those who
despoil them?'
- ¹¹ Violent witnesses rise,
and ask of me things that I know not.
- ¹² Evil for good they requite me,
leaving me inwardly comfortless.
- ¹³ But when *they* were sick, *I* put on sackcloth,
and chastened myself with fasting.

I prayed with head bowed low,
14 as if for my friend or my brother.
I went about bowed and in mourning,
as one who laments his mother.

15 When I stumbled, they gleefully gathered,
strangers gathered around me,
and tore at me without ceasing,
16 impiously mocking and mocking,
bearing their teeth at me.

17 How long, LORD, will you look on?
Rescue me from their roaring,
my precious life from the lions.

18 I will then give you thanks in the great congregation,
and praise you before many people.

19 Suffer not those to rejoice over me
who are falsely my foes,
suffer not those who without cause abhor me
to wink with the eye.

20 For it is not peace that they speak
of those who are quiet in the land;
but treacherous charges they plot.
21 With wide open mouths they shout,
'Hurrah! Hurrah!
With our own eyes we saw it.'

22 But you have seen, too, O LORD,
keep not silence, O LORD,
be not far from me.

23 Bestir you, awake, for my right
my God, my LORD, for my cause.

24 You are just, LORD: win for me justice,
let them not rejoice over me,

25 inwardly saying, 'Hurrah!
The desire of our hearts at last!
Now we have swallowed him up.'

26 Shame and confusion together
on those who rejoice at my hurt!
Clothed with shame and dishonour
be those who are haughty to me!

27 Let such as delight in my cause
ring out their gladness,
and say evermore,

'Great is the LORD whose delight
is the well-being of his servant.'

28 Then my tongue will tell of your justice,
and all the day long of your praise.

36

Psalm 36 – The Triumphant Power of God's Love

For the leader. Of the servant of the LORD, of David.

1 Sin whispers within the heart of the wicked,
who have no dread of God before their eyes.

2 It flatters them in their eyes
that their sin will not be found out.

3 First, their speech becomes wicked and false,
they give up acting wisely and well.

4 Then they plot deliberate wrong,
take their stand on the wicked way,
without the least shrinking from evil.

5 Your love, O LORD, touches the heavens,

- your faithfulness reaches the clouds.
- ⁶ Your justice is like the great mountains,
your judgments are like the broad sea.
LORD, you save people and animals.
- ⁷ How precious your love, O God!
All may seek shelter in the shadow of your
wings.
- ⁸ They feast on the fat of your house,
they drink of your brook of delights.
- ⁹ For with you is the fountain of life,
in the light that is yours we see light.
- ¹⁰ O continue your grace to the faithful,
your love to the upright in heart.
- ¹¹ Let no arrogant foot tread upon me,
no wicked hand drive me to exile.
- ¹² There the workers of wrong lie prostrate,
thrust down to rise up no more.

37

Psalm 37 – Trust in the Lord and Do Good
Of David.

- ¹ Be not kindled to wrath at the wicked,
nor envious of those who work wrong;
- ² for, like grass, they will speedily wither,
and fade like the green of young grass.
- ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
remain in the land, and deal faithfully:
- ⁴ then the LORD will be your delight,
he will grant you your heart's petitions.

- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act,
⁶ making clear as the light your right,
and your just cause clear as the noon-day.
- ⁷ In silence and patience wait on the LORD.
Be not kindled to anger at those who prosper.
At those who execute evil devices.
- ⁸ Desist from anger, abandon wrath:
be not kindled to anger it leads but to evil:
⁹ for evildoers will be cut off,
but the land will be theirs, who wait on the
LORD.
- ¹⁰ Yet but a little, and the wicked vanish:
look at their place: they are there no more.
¹¹ But the humble will have the land,
and the rapture of peace in abundance.
- ¹² The wicked plots against the righteous,
snarls like a wild animal;
¹³ the LORD laughs,
for he sees that his day is coming.
- ¹⁴ The wicked have drawn the sword, and bent the
bow,
to fell the poor, to slay those who walk up-
rightly;
¹⁵ but their sword will pierce their own heart,
and their bows will be broken in pieces.
- ¹⁶ Better is the righteous person's little
than the wealth of many wicked.

- 17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.
- 18 The LORD watches over the days of the blameless,
their heritage will continue forever.
- 19 They will not be shamed in the evil time,
in the days of famine they will be satisfied.
- 20 Because the wicked will perish:
but the foes of the LORD, like a brand in the oven,
will vanish, like smoke they will vanish.
- 21 The wicked must borrow and cannot pay back,
but the righteous is lavish and gives.
- 22 For those blest by the LORD inherit the land,
while those whom he curses will be cut off.
- 23 The LORD supports the steps
of those with whom he is pleased.
- 24 Though they fall, they will not be cast headlong,
for the LORD holds their hands.
- 25 Never, from youth to age,
have I seen the righteous forsaken,
or their children begging bread.
- 26 They are ever lavishly lending,
and their children are fountains of blessing.
- 27 Turn away from evil and do good
and you will live in the land forever.
- 28 For the LORD loves justice,
he does not forsake his friends.

- The unrighteous will be destroyed forever,
and the seed of the wicked will be cut off.
- 29 But the land will belong to the righteous,
they will live upon it forever,
- 30 The mouth of the righteous murmurs wisdom,
and words of justice are on their tongues.
- 31 The law of their God is in their heart,
their steps are never unsteady.
- 32 The wicked watches the righteous,
and seeks to put them to death.
- 33 But the LORD leaves them not in their hand:
at their trial they will not be held guilty.
- 34 Wait on the LORD, and observe his way:
he will lift you to honour the land will be
yours,
you will feast your eyes on the doom of the
wicked.
- 35 I have seen the wicked exultant,
lifting themselves like a cedar of Lebanon.
- 36 But the moment I passed, they vanished!
I sought for them, but they could not be found.
- 37 Preserve your honour and practise uprightness,
for such a person fares well in the end.
- 38 But transgressors will perish together.
Cut off are the wicked forever.
- 39 The righteous are saved by the LORD,
who in time of distress is their refuge:
- 40 the LORD helps and rescue them,

from the wicked he rescues and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

38

Psalm 38 – A Confession and Prayer for Deliverance

A Psalm of David. A lament.

¹ Reprove me not, LORD, in your anger,
and chasten me not in your wrath;

² for your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand lies heavy upon me.

³ In my flesh is no soundness
because of your anger,
no health in my bones,
because of my sin.

⁴ For that my guilt
is gone over my head:
it weighs like a burden
too heavy for me.

⁵ My wounds stink and fester,
for my foolishness I am tormented.

⁶ Bent and bowed am I utterly,
all the day going in mourning.

⁷ My loins are filled with burning,
and in my flesh is no soundness.

⁸ I am utterly crushed and numb;
I cry louder than lion roars.

⁹ LORD, you know all that I long for,
my groans are not hidden from you.

- 10 My heart is throbbing,
my strength has failed me.
The light of my eyes –
even it is gone from me.
- 11 My dear ones and friends keep aloof,
and my neighbours stand afar off.
- 12 They who aim at my life lay their snares,
they who seek my hurt speak of ruin,
nursing treachery all the day long.
- 13 But I turn a deaf ear and hear not;
like the dumb I open not my mouth.
- 14 I am like one without hearing,
with no arguments in my mouth.
- 15 For my hope, O LORD, is in you.
You will answer, O LORD my God,
- 16 when I utter the hope that those
who made scorn of my tottering feet
may not rejoice over me.
- 17 For I am ready to fall,
my pain forsakes me never.
- 18 I acknowledge my guilt,
I am anxious because of my sin:
- 19 My wanton assailants are strong,
those who wrongfully hate me are many,
20 who render me evil for good,
and oppose me, because I make good my goal.
- 21 Do not forsake me, O LORD;

my God, be not far from me.
 22 Hasten to help me,
 O LORD my saviour.

39

Psalm 39 – The Pathos of Life

For the leader; for Jeduthun. A psalm of David.

1 I vowed to watch my words,
 and sin not with my tongue,
 but to put on my mouth a muzzle,
 while the wicked were in my presence.

2 I was silent and dumb,
 speechless:
 but my pain was stirred up.

3 My heart grew hot within me;
 as I mused, the fire was kindled,
 till at last the words came to my tongue.

4 'Teach me, O LORD, my end,
 and the sum of my days what it is.
 Let me know how transient I am.

5 See! My days you have made but a span,
 and my life is as nothing before you.
 It is but as a breath that everyone stands:

Selah

6 it is but in mere semblance we walk to and
 fro,

and all our noise is for nothing.
 We heap up, and know not who will gather.'

7 And now, what wait I for, LORD?
 My hope is in you.

8 From all my transgressions deliver me;

- make me not the scorn of the fool.
⁹ I am dumb, never opening my mouth,
 for this is your own doing.
¹⁰ Remove your stroke from off me:
 by the might of your hand I am spent.
¹¹ When you rebuke someone to punish their sins,
 you consume, like a moth, what they trea-
 sures.
 Everyone is only a breath.

Selah

- ¹² Hear my prayer, O LORD;
 attend to my cry for help.
 Hold not your peace at my tears.
 For I am but a guest of yours,
 a stranger visiting, like all my ancestors.
¹³ Look away from me, let me smile again,
 before I die and am gone.

40

Psalm 40 – Thanksgiving and Petition

For the leader. A psalm of David.

- ¹ For the LORD I waited and waited,
 till, inclining to me,
 he heard my cry.
² From the horrible pit he drew me,
 up out of the miry clay;
 he set my feet on a rock,
 and my steps he made firm.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
 of praise to our God.
 Many see it, and, filled with awe,
 put their trust in the LORD.

- 4 Happy the person who has put
in the LORD their trust,
not looking to false gods
or turning to idols.
- 5 With us you have wrought in rich measure,
O LORD our God,
your marvels and purposes for us –
none may compare with you –
were I to declare or to tell them,
past counting are they.
- 6 In offerings bloody or bloodless
you have no delight,
but with open ears you have made me.
Burnt-offering and offering for sin
are not what you ask.
- 7 Then said I, ‘Here I am,
as the roll of the book has enjoined.
- 8 My delight, O God, is to do your will,
and your law is within my heart.’
- 9 Well, O LORD, you know
that, with lips unrestrained,
your righteousness I told
in the great congregation,
10 not hiding it in my heart.
I have told of your steadfast help,
from the great congregation I hid not
your love and your faithfulness.
- 11 So do not restrain, LORD,
your pity from us.
Your love and your faithfulness – ever
may they be our shield.

- 12 For evils that cannot be numbered
have compassed me round.
My transgressions have followed me up –
I can bear it no more.
They are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart has forsaken me.
- 13 O LORD, be pleased to deliver me,
haste to my help, O LORD.
- 14 May those who are seeking my life
be ashamed and confounded together;
may those who delight in my hurt
be defeated and brought to dishonour.
- 15 May those who hurrah over me
be dumbfounded because of their shame.
- 16 But may all who seek after you
rejoice and be glad in you.
May all those eager for your aid,
say, ‘Great is the LORD’ evermore.
- 17 I am weak and needy,
yet the LORD cares for me.
You are my help and deliverer;
don’t delay, my God.

41

Psalm 41 – A Prayer for Healing and Vindication

For the leader; for Jeduthun. A psalm of David.

- 1 Happy are those who consider the weak;
in the day of misfortune the LORD will deliver
them.
- 2 He will keep them safe, happy, and long in the
land,
and not give them up to the rage of their foes.

- ³ The LORD will sustain them on bed of languishing;
tending their sickness, as long as they lie.
- ⁴ For this cause I say, 'LORD, show me your favour;
heal me, because I have sinned against you.'
- ⁵ My enemies speak of me nothing but evil,
'When will he die, and his name pass away?'
- ⁶ When one comes to see me, their words ring hollow;
their heart keeps gathering mischief the while;
and when they go out, they give it speech.
- ⁷ In secret they whisper together against me,
all those who hate me plot evil against me.
- ⁸ 'Some fatal disease has fastened upon him;
and now that he lies, he will rise up no more.'
- ⁹ My most trusted friend, on whom I relied,
who ate of my bread, has turned against me.
- ¹⁰ But do you, LORD, graciously raise me up,
that I may pay them their due reward.
- ¹¹ By this will I know you delight in me:
if my foes may not shout over me in triumph.
- ¹² For my innocence you uphold me,
and set me forever before your face.

*¹³ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting,
Amen and Amen.*

Book Two

42*Psalm 42 – Yearning for God*

For the leader. A maskil of the Korahites.

¹ Like the hart which longs
for brooks of water,
I long
for you, God.

² I thirst for God,
for my living God.
When shall I enter in,
and see the face of God?
³ My tears have been my food
by day and by night;
for they say to me all the day long,
‘Where is your God?’

⁴ My heart floods with sorrow,
as I call to mind:
how I used to pass on with the throng,
at their head, to the house of God,
with glad shouts and giving of thanks,
in the throng who kept festival.

⁵ Why am I downcast?
Why this moaning within me?
Hope in God;
for yet will I praise him,
my help, my God.

⁶ I am sunk in my misery;
I will therefore call you to mind
from the land of Jordan and Hermon,
the mountain Mizar.

⁷ Flood is calling to flood
at the noise of your cataracts;
all your waves and your breakers
have passed over me.

⁸ In the day I cry to the LORD
to summon his kindness;
and the song that I sing in the night
is a prayer to the living God.

⁹ I say to God my rock,
‘Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk so sadly,
so hard pressed by the foe?’

¹⁰ It pierces me to the heart
to hear the enemy’s taunts,
as all the day long they say to me,
‘Where is your God?’

¹¹ Why am I downcast?
Why this moaning within me?
Hope in God;
for yet will I praise him,
my help, my God.

43

Psalm 43 – Plea for Help

¹ Right me, defend my cause
against a pitiless people.
From the crafty and crooked,
O God, deliver me.

² For you are God my protector:
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk so sadly,

so hard pressed by the foe?
³ Send forth your light and your truth,
 let them be my guides:
 to your holy hill let them bring me,
 to the place where you live.
⁴ Then will I go to God's altar,
 to God my rejoicing;
 and with joy on the lyre I will praise you,
 O God, my God.

⁵ Why am I downcast?
 Why this moaning within me?
 Hope in God;
 for yet will I praise him,
 my help, my God.

44

Psalm 44 – A Lament in Defeat

For the leader. Of the Korahites. A maskil.

¹ O God, we have heard with our ears,
 all our ancestors have told us
 of the work that you wrought in their day,
 your wonders in days of old,
² uprooting and crushing the nations,
 then planting and settling them.
 For it wasn't their own sword that won them the
 land,
³ it was not their own arm that brought them
 the victory.
 Yours was the hand and the arm,
 yours was the face that shone on them with
 favour.
⁴ It was you, my king and my God,

that ordained the victories of Jacob.

- ⁵ Through you we can thrust back our foes,
and by your name tread down our assailants:
⁶ for not in my bow do I trust,
nor can my sword win me the victory.
⁷ Our victory comes from you,
and confusion to those who hate us.
⁸ In God we boast all the day long,
and your name will we praise forever.

Selah

- ⁹ Yet you have spurned and disgraced us,
in not going forth with our armies,
¹⁰ and in making us flee from the foe,
so that those who hated us plundered us.
¹¹ You have let us be eaten like sheep,
you have scattered us over the world,
¹² sold your people for a pittance,
and getting no gain from their price.
¹³ You have made us the butt of our neighbours,
the derision and scorn of all round us.
¹⁴ O'er the world you have made us a byword,
the nations at us shake their heads.
¹⁵ My disgrace is forever before me,
my face is covered with shame,
¹⁶ at the words of blasphemers and scoffers,
at the sight of the foe and the vengeful.
- ¹⁷ All this has come upon us,
yet we have not forgotten you
nor falsely dealt with your covenant.
¹⁸ Our heart has not turned back,
nor our steps declined from your way,

- 19 that you thus should have crushed us down,
and covered us over with gloom,
in the place where the jackals roam.
- 20 Had we forgotten the name of our God,
or stretched out our hands to a god that was
strange,
- 21 would God not have searched this out?
For he knows the heart and its secrets.
- 22 But in your cause it is we are killed all the day,
and counted as sheep for the slaughter.
- 23 Rouse yourself, why do you sleep Lord?
Awake, cast us not off forever.
- 24 Why do you hide your face,
forgetting our stress and our misery?
- 25 For we have sunk down to the dust,
our bodies cling to the ground.
- 26 Arise, come to our help:
for your love's sake, ransom us.

45

Psalm 45 – Song for the Marriage of a King

For the leader; on shoshannim. Of the Korahites.
A maskil. A love song.

- 1 My heart is astir with beautiful words:
I will sing a song, concerning the king,
with tongue like the pen of a ready writer.
- 2 Your beauty is more than mortal,
grace is shed over your lips:
therefore God has blessed you forever.
- 3 Warrior, strap your sword on your thigh.
What glory and splendour!

⁴ Good fortune attend you, as forth you ride
in the cause of good faith, and as champion of
justice.

May your arm instruct you in deeds of dread.

⁵ Sharp are your arrows; nations fall under you:
pierced to the heart are the foes of the king.

⁶ Your throne shall endure for ever and ever
your royal sceptre a sceptre of equity.

⁷ Right you love and wrong you hate:
therefore the LORD your God anoints you
With oil of gladness above your fellows.

⁸ With myrrh, aloes, and cassia your robes are all
fragrant,
you are gladdened by music of ivory harps.

⁹ King's daughters stand ready with jewels for you,
at your right hand the queen in gold of Ophir.

¹⁰ Listen, daughter, and see; and incline your ear:
forget your folk and your father's house.

¹¹ And when the king desires your beauty,
bow to him, for he is your lord.

¹² So shall the Tyrians come with gifts,
and the richest of people will do you homage.

¹³ The king's daughter is glorious altogether,
with dress of pearls inwrought with gold.

¹⁴ In many-coloured robes she is led to the king,
with the virgin companions she brought in
her train.

¹⁵ The king's palace they enter with joy and
rejoicing.

- 16 May sons of yours take the place of your fathers,
whom you will make princes in all the land.
- 17 Your name will I celebrate world without end,
so that nations shall praise you for ever and
ever.

46

Psalms 46 – Our God is a Mighty Fortress

For the leader. Of the Korahites, on alamothe. A
song.

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 So we have no fear, though earth should change,
and the hills totter into the heart of the ocean.
- 3 Let its waters roar and foam,
let the mountains shake with the swelling
thereof.
- On our side is the LORD of hosts,
our sure defence is the God of Jacob.

Selah

- 4 A river there is, whose streams make glad
God's city, the home the Most High has hal-
lowed.
- 5 God is within her: she cannot be shaken.
God helps her at the turn of the morning.
- 6 Nations roared, kingdoms tottered:
he uttered his voice, earth melted away.
- 7 On our side is the LORD of hosts,
our sure defence is the God of Jacob.
- 8 Come and see what the LORD has done,
working appallingly in the earth.
- 9 He stills wars to the ends of the earth –
breaking the bow, snapping the spear,

burning the chariots in the fire.

¹⁰ ‘Refrain; and know surely that I am God,
high over the nations, high over the world.’

¹¹ On our side is the LORD of Hosts,
our sure defence is the God of Jacob.

Selah

47

Psalm 47 – The Lord’s Universal Sovereignty

For the leader. Of the Korahites. A psalm.

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples:
shout to God in ringing cries.

² For the LORD is most high and dread,
a great king over all the earth.

³ He subdues the peoples under us,
the nations under our feet;

⁴ he chooses our heritage for us,
the glory of Jacob whom he loves.

Selah

⁵ God is gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶ Sing praise to our God, sing praises:
sing praise to our king, sing praises.

⁷ For king of all earth is he:
praise God in a skilful song.

⁸ God is king over all the nations,
God sits on his holy throne.

⁹ Princes of nations gather
with the people of Abraham’s God:

for the shields of the earth are God's;
greatly exalted is he.

48

Psalm 48 – The Marvellous Deliverance of Zion

A song. A psalm of the Korahites.

¹ Great is the LORD and worthy all praise
in the city of our God.

His holy mountain, ² that rises so fair,
is the joy of all the world.

Like the mount of the gods is Mount Zion,
the city of the great king.

³ Once God made himself known
as the defence of her palaces.

⁴ For see! A concert of kings
passed over the frontier together.

⁵ But one glance, and they were astounded;
they hastened away in dismay.

⁶ Trembling took hold of them there,
like the pains of a woman in labour.

⁷ They were shattered, as east wind shatters
the giant ships in pieces.

⁸ What we heard, we now have seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
the city of our God.

God will uphold her forever.

Selah

⁹ We think, O God, of your love,
in the midst of your temple.

¹⁰ Your fame, O God, like your name, shall extend
to the ends of the earth.

Victory fills your hand.

¹¹ Let mount Zion be glad;
let the daughters of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments.

¹² Walk about Zion, go round her;
count her towers.

¹³ Set your mind on her ramparts,
consider her palaces;
that you tell to the next generation

¹⁴ That such is God,
our God he it is who shall guide us
for ever and ever.

49

Psalm 49 – The Problem of the Prosperity of the Wicked

For the leader. Of the Korahites. A psalm.

¹ Hear this, you peoples all;
attend, all you who live in the world

² people of low degree and high,
the rich and the poor together.

³ My mouth shall utter wisdom,
the thoughts of a seeing heart.

⁴ I incline my ear to a proverb,
on the lyre I will open my riddle.

⁵ Why should I be afraid in the days of misfortune,
when circled by wicked and cunning foes,

⁶ who put their trust in their wealth,
and boast of their boundless riches?

⁷ For assuredly no one can ransom themselves,
or give to God the price of their life,

8 for the ransom of a life is costly,
no payment is ever enough,
9 to keep them alive for ever and ever,
so as never to see the pit at all.

10 But see it they will. Even wise people die,
the fool and the brutish perish alike,
and abandon their wealth to others.
11 The grave is their everlasting home,
the place they shall live in for ever and ever,
though after their own names they called
whole lands.
12 Despite their wealth,
they perish like dumb animals.

13 This is the fate of the confident fool,
and the end of those who are pleased with
their portion.

Selah

14 Like sheep they descend to Sheol
with Death for their shepherd;
down they go straight to the grave,
and their form wastes away in their home
below.

15 But God will assuredly ransom my life
from the hand of Sheol;
for he will receive me.

Selah

16 So be not afraid when someone grows rich,
when the wealth of their house increases.
17 Not a shred of it all can they take when they die,
wealth cannot follow them down.
18 Though they count themselves happy, when
they are alive,

- and win praise from many for faring so well,
¹⁹ they must join their ancestors,
 who see the light nevermore.
²⁰ The wealthy are without understanding,
 they perish like dumb animals.

50

Psalm 50 – True Worship

A psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ The LORD God has spoken: He summons the
 earth
 from sunrise to sunset.
² From Zion, perfection of beauty,
 God's glory shines forth.
³ Our God comes, he cannot keep silence,
 devouring fire is before him,
 and furious tempest around him.
⁴ He summons the heavens above
 and the earth to judge his people.
⁵ Gather to him his saints
 by covenant-sacrifice bound to him;
⁶ that the heavens may declare his justice,
 for a God of justice is he.

Selah

- ⁷ 'Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
 and protest to you, O Israel:
 I am the LORD, your God.
⁸ Not for your sacrifices will I reprove you
 your burnt-offerings are ever before me
⁹ Not a bullock will I take from your house,
 nor male goats out of your folds;
¹⁰ for all beasts of the forest are mine,

- and the kine on a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the birds of the air,
all that moves on the fields is mine.
- 12 Were I hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and its fulness are mine.
- 13 Am I such as to eat bulls' flesh,
or drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Offer to God a thank-offering,
pay the Most High your vows.
- 15 Summon me in the day of distress,
I will rescue you, so will you honour me.'
- 16 But to the wicked God says:
'What right have you to talk of my statutes,
or take my covenant into your mouth
- 17 while you yourself hate correction,
and cast my words behind you?
- 18 When you see a thief, you run with them;
with adulterers you keep company.
- 19 You let your mouth loose for evil,
your tongue contrives deceit.
- 20 You shamefully speak of your kin,
and slander your own mother's son.
- 21 And because I kept silence at this,
you did take me for one like yourself.
But I will convict you and show you plainly.
- 22 'Now you who forget God, mark this,
lest I rend you, past hope of deliverance.
- 23 Those who bring a thank-offering honour me;
but to those: who follows my way,
I will show the salvation of God.'

51

Psalm 51 – God be Merciful to Me, the Sinner

For the leader. A psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet come to him after he had been with Bathsheba.

- ¹ In your kindness, O God, be gracious to me,
in your own great pity blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me clean of my guilt,
make me pure of my sin.
- ³ For well I know my transgressions,
my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, only you, have I sinned,
and done that which is wrong in your sight:
you therefore are just when you speak,
and clear when you utter judgment.
- ⁵ See! In guilt was I brought to the birth,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- ⁶ It's the innermost truth you desire,
give me therefore true wisdom of heart.
- ⁷ Purge me clean with hyssop,
wash me whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Fill me with joy and gladness,
let the bones you have broken rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out my guilt altogether.
- ¹⁰ Create me a clean heart, O God,
put a new steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Cast me not forth from your presence,
withdraw not your holy spirit.

- 12 Give me back the joy of your help,
with a willing spirit sustain me.
- 13 I will teach your ways to transgressors,
and sinners shall turn to you.
- 14 Save me from blood, O God,
and my tongue shall ring out your faithful-
ness.
- 15 Open my lips, O LORD,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.
- 16 For in sacrifice you have no pleasure,
in gifts of burnt-offering no delight.
- 17 The sacrifice pleasing to God
is a spirit that is broken;
a heart that is crushed, O God,
you will not despise.
- 18 Do good in your pleasure to Zion,
build the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then will you welcome the due forms of sacri-
fice,
then on your altars shall bullocks be offered.

52

Psalm 52 – The Doom of Arrogance

For the leader. A maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul that David had gone to Abimelech's house.

- ¹ Why glory in mischief, you hero?
God's kindness is all the day.
- ² Engulfing ruin you plot,
your tongue like a razor sharpened,
you practiser of deceit.

³ Evil, not good, you love,
and falsehood, not words of truth.

Selah

⁴ But you love all words that devour,
and a tongue that is given to deceit.

⁵ But God, on his part, shall destroy you forever,
grasp you and pluck you out of your tent,
and root you out of the land of the living.

Selah

⁶ Smitten with awe at the sight,
the righteous shall laugh at you.

⁷ ‘Look’ (they will say) ‘at the hero
who did not make God his stronghold,
but trusted in his great wealth
and in the strength of his riches.’

⁸ But I am like a fresh olive-tree
in the house of God.

I trust in the kindness of God
for ever and evermore.

⁹ I will render you thanks for ever
for what you have done.

I will tell how good you are
in the presence of those who love you.

53

Psalm 53 – The Folly of Denying God

For the leader. On mahalath. A maskil of David.

¹ Fools say in their heart,
‘There is no God.’
Vile, hateful their life is;
not one does good.

² From heaven God looks out
on humans, to see
if any are wise,
and care for God.

³ But all have turned bad,
the taint is on all;
not one does good,
no, not one.

⁴ Have they learned their lesson,
those workers of evil?
Who ate up my people,
eating, devouring,
never calling to the LORD.

⁵ Sore afraid will they be,
where no fear was;
when God scatters the bones
of the godless people.
They will be put to shame,
when God rejects them.

⁶ If only help from Zion
would come for Israel!
When God brings his people
a change of fortune,
how glad will be Jacob,
and Israel how joyful!

54

Psalm 54 – A Prayer for Deliverance from Oppression

For the leader. With stringed instruments. A maskil of David, when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, “David is in hiding among us”.

¹ Save me, O God, by your name,
by your power secure for me justice.

² Listen, O God, to my prayer,
attend to the words of my mouth.

³ For proud men have risen against me,
and terrible men seek my life,
men who do not set God before them.

Selah

⁴ But see! God is my helper,
the LORD is sustaining my life.

⁵ Let their evil fall back on my foes:
cut them off in your faithfulness, LORD.

⁶ Then will I bring you glad sacrifice,
praising your gracious name;

⁷ for from all distress you have saved me,
and feasted my eyes on my foes.

55

Psalm 55 – Betrayed by a Friend

For the leader. With stringed instruments. A maskil of David.

¹ Listen, God, to my prayer.
Don't hide yourself from my pleading.

² Hear me, and answer;
for bitter is my lament.

³ I am wild with the noise of the foe,
 with the clamour of the ungodly;
 for they hurl disaster upon me,
 and attack me with fury.

⁴ My heart shudders within me,
 terrors of deaths press on me,

⁵ fear and trembling attack me,
 and horror wraps me round.

⁶ O for the wings of a dove:
 I would fly away and rest.

⁷ I would wander far away,
 find refuge in the wilderness.

Selah

⁸ I would find myself a shelter
 from raging wind and tempest.

⁹ Confuse them, LORD, upset their plans;
 for I see violence and strife in the city.

¹⁰ By day and by night they make their rounds
 on the city walls,

while within is crime and trouble,

¹¹ within is ruin.

Her market-place is never free
 of deceit and tyranny.

The Treacherous Friend

¹² The taunts were not those of a foe
 that I could have borne;
 the disdain was not that of an enemy
 I could have shunned them:

¹³ but it was you, my equal,
 my dear and familiar friend.

¹⁴ We used to be so close,

together we walked in God's house with the crowd.

15 May death suddenly take them,
may they go down to Sheol alive,
for evil lives in their homes and their hearts.

16 But I will call on God,
the LORD will save me.

17 Evening and morning and noon
I lament and moan.

He will hear my voice;

18 though I am attacked by many
he will rescue me,
unharméd from the war.

19 God, who sits on his ancient throne
will hear and will humble them,
for they never change,
they never fear God.

Selah

20 My friend turned against me,
betrayed his word.

21 His mouth was smoother than butter,
but war filled his heart.

His words were softer than oil,
but sharper than swords.

22 Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you.

He will never let the righteous
be shaken.

23 But you, God, will hurl them down
to the deepest pit.

Bloody and treacherous people
will not live out half their days;
but I will trust you.

56

Psalms 56 – A Prayer of Trust in God

For the leader. On jonath elem rehokim. Of David.
A michtam, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

- ¹ O God, be gracious to me,
for people trample upon me,
all the day righting and pressing me.
- ² All the day enemies trample me;
many there be
who contend with me bitterly.
- ³ In the day of my terror
I trust in you.
- ⁴ In God I maintain my cause,
in God I fearlessly trust.
What can flesh do to me?
- ⁵ They torture me all the day,
they ceaselessly plan to hurt me,
- ⁶ banded together in secret,
watching my every step,
as those who hope for my death.
- ⁷ Pay them out for their sin, O God,
hurl down the strong in your anger.
- ⁸ You yourself count my wanderings.
Put in your bottle my tears
are they not in your book?
- ⁹ Then shall my foes be turned back
in the day that I call.
Of this I am sure,
because God is for me.
- ¹⁰ In God I maintain my cause,
in the LORD I maintain my cause.

- 11 In God I fearlessly trust,
 what can people do to me?
- 12 Your vows are upon me, O God,
 I will render thank-offerings to you;
- 13 because you have saved me from death,
 my feet from stumbling,
 to the end that I walk before God
 in the light of the living.

57

Psalm 57 – A Prayer for Protection from Persecution

For the leader. Al tashheth. A michtam of David,
 when he fled from Saul into a cave.

- 1 Be gracious, O God, be gracious to me,
 for in you I take shelter.
 In your sheltering wings I take refuge,
 till ruin be over past.
- 2 I cry to the Most High God,
 to the God who accomplishes for me.
- 3 He will send me his succour from heaven,
 he will thrust away those who would trample
 me.
- Selah
- 4 In the midst of lions I lie,
 who devour human prey.
 Their teeth are spears and arrows,
 and their tongue is a sharpened sword.
- 5 Be exalted, God, o'er the heavens,
 and your glory o'er all the earth.
- 6 They set a net for my feet,
 but in it was their own foot caught.

Before me they dug a pit,
but they fell into it themselves.

Selah

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast.
I would sing, I would make music;
⁸ awake, my soul.
Awake, harp and lyre;
I would wake the dawn.
⁹ I would praise you among the peoples, O LORD,
and make music among the nations to you;
¹⁰ for great to heaven is your love,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
¹¹ Be exalted, God, o'er the heavens,
and your glory o'er all the earth.

58

Psalm 58 – A Prayer for Vengeance on Unjust Judges

For the leader. Al tashheth. Of David. A michtam.

¹ Do you speak what is right, you gods?
With equity judge you your people?
² In the land you practise iniquity – all of you;
violence do you dispense with your hands.
³ The wicked go astray from the womb
liars take the wrong path from their birth.
⁴ Venom have they like the venom of snakes,
they are like the deaf adder that stops her
ears,
⁵ and refuses to listen to the voice of the charmer,
or binder of spells, no matter how cunning.

- 6 O God, break to pieces the teeth in their mouth,
tear out the great teeth of the young lions,
LORD.
- 7 May they melt away like running water!
Like tender grass, cut down may they be!
- 8 Like the snail that dissolves on its crawling path,
like the birth untimely which sees not the
sunlight.
- 9 Faster than a thorn-fire heats your pots,
he will come with his tempest and sweep
them away.
- 10 The sight of such vengeance will gladden the
righteous;
their feet they will wash in the blood of the
wicked.
- 11 People will say, 'Yes, the just are rewarded:
yes, on the earth is a God who is Judge.'

59

Psalm 59 – A Prayer for Safety

For the leader. Al tashheth. Of David. A michtam,
when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to
kill him.

- 1 Save me, O God, from my enemies;
secure me from my assailants.
- 2 Save me from those who do wrong,
save me from the bloodthirsty.
- 3 For see! They lay ambush for me,
strong men are banded against me
not for sin or transgression of mine,
for no guilt of mine, O LORD,
- 4 they run and make ready. Awake!
Come forth to meet me, and see!

⁵ You, O LORD of hosts,
God of Israel, awake!
And punish the proud, every one;
spare none of the traitors vile.

Selah

⁶ At evening they come,
and, howling like dogs,
make their round in the city.

⁷ Look at their venomous mouths,
tongues like swords,
they think no one
hears them.

⁸ But you, LORD, laugh at them,
you mock all the insolent.

⁹ My strength, I will sing to you,
for God is my sure retreat.

¹⁰ My God with his love will meet me,
and feast my eyes on my foes.

¹¹ Slay them not, lest my people forget,
let your hosts keep them roaming and wan-
dering.

¹² In their sinful speech snare them, O LORD;
and may they be trapped in their pride,
for the curses and lies that they utter.

¹³ In your wrath make a clean end of them,
that people, to the ends of the earth,
may know that God rules in Jacob.

Selah

¹⁴ At evening they come,
and, howling like dogs,
make their round in the city.

- 15 They roam about for a feast,
and snarl, if they get not their fill.
- 16 But I will sing of your might;
I will ring out your love in the morning.
For to me you have been a sure refuge,
a retreat in the day of my trouble.
- 17 My strength, I will sing praise to you,
for God is my sure retreat,
my faithful God.

60

Psalm 60 – A Prayer after Defeat in Battle

For the leader. On shushan eduth. A michtam of David (for teaching), when he fought with Aram-naharaim and Aram-zobah, and Joab returned and defeated twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

- 1 O God, you have spurned and broken us,
routing us in your wrath – restore us!
- 2 You have shaken the land and cleft it;
heal its tottering breaches.
- 3 You have made your people drink hardship,
and given us wine of reeling.
- 4 You have given those who fear you a banner,
a rallying-place from the bow,
Selah
- 5 for the rescue of your beloved.
Save by your right hand and answer us.
- 6 God did solemnly swear:
‘As victor will I divide Shechem,
and mete out the valley of Succoth.

- 7 Mine is Gilead, mine is Manasseh,
 Ephraim is the defence of my head,
 Judah my sceptre of rule,
 8 Moab the pot that I wash in,
 Edom – I cast my shoe over it,
 I shout o'er Philistia in triumph.'
- 9 O to be brought to the fortified city!
 O to be led into Edom!
 10 Have you not spurned us, O God?
 You do not march forth with our armies.
 11 Grant us help from the foe,
 for human help is worthless.
 12 With God we shall yet do bravely:
 he himself will tread down our foes.

61

Psalm 61 – Our God is a Strong Tower

For the leader. On stringed instruments. Of David.

- 1 Hear my cry, O God,
 be attentive to my prayer.
 2 From the ends of the earth I call
 unto you, when my heart is faint:
 lead me to the rock
 that is high above me.
 3 For you are a refuge to me,
 a strong tower in face of the foe.
- 4 O to be guest in your tent forever,
 hiding beneath your sheltering wings!
- Selah
- 5 For you, O God, do hear my vows,
 and grant the desires of those who fear you.
 6 Add many days to the life of the king;

may his years endure throughout all generations.

⁷ In the presence of God be he throned forever;
may kindness and faithfulness watch over him.

⁸ And I will sing praise to your name forever,
paying my vows day after day.

62

Psalm 62 – Quietness and Confidence

For the leader. On jeduthun. A psalm of David.

¹ I wait alone in silence for God;
From him comes my help.

² Yes, he is my rock, my help, my retreat,
I shall not be shaken too sorely.

³ How long will you, all of you, batter a man,
as one might a leaning wall?

⁴ From his height
they are planning to topple him.

They take pleasure in falsehood; they bless with
their mouth,
but inwardly they curse.

Selah

⁵ I wait alone in silence for God;
for from him comes my hope.

⁶ Yes, he is my rock, my help, my retreat,
I shall not be shaken too sorely.

⁷ On God rests my honour and safety,
in God is my strong rock, my refuge.

⁸ Trust in him, all you people assembled,
pour out your heart in his presence;
God is a refuge for us.

Selah

⁹ The lowly are nought but a breath,
the lofty are but an illusion:
in the balances up they go,
they are lighter than breath altogether.

¹⁰ Trust not in gain of extortion,
set no vain hopes in robbery.
As for wealth, if it bears fruit,
set not your heart upon it.

¹¹ One thing God has uttered,
two things there are which I heard
that power belongs to God,
¹² and to you, too, O LORD, belongs kindness;
for you requite each person
according to what they have done.

63*Psalm 63 – Athirst for God*

A psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

¹ O God, my God, you, you do I seek:
my heart thirsts for you,
my body faints for you
in a parched and waterless land.

² As I in the temple have seen you,
beholding your power and your glory,
³ for better than life is your kindness:
my lips shall utter your praise.

⁴ So, while I live, I will bless you,

- and lift up my hands in your name.
5 As with marrow and fat am I feasted;
with joyful lips I will praise you.
- 6 I call you to mind on my bed,
and muse on you in the night watches;
7 for you have been my help,
I joyfully sing in the shadow of your wings.
8 I cling close after you,
your right hand holds me up.
- 9 But those who seek after my life
shall go down to the depths of the earth,
10 given o'er to the power of the sword,
or as prey for jackals to devour.
- 11 But the king shall rejoice in God:
all who own his allegiance will glory.
For the mouth of the false shall be stopped.

64

Psalm 64 – A Prayer for Deliverance from Malicious Foes

For the leader. A psalm of David.

- 1 Hear, O my God, the voice of my lament:
guard my life from the dread of the foe.
2 Hide me from villains who secretly plot,
from the blustering throng of the workers of
evil,
3 who have sharpened their tongue like a sword,
and aimed bitter words like arrows,
4 which from ambush they launch at the blameless,

shooting swiftly and unafraid.

⁵ They strengthen their wicked purpose,
they tell of the snares they have hidden,
they say to themselves, 'Who can see?'

⁶ They think out their crimes full cunningly
hidden deep in their crafty hearts.

⁷ But God with his arrow will shoot them,
swiftly shall they be smitten.

⁸ For their tongue he will bring them to ruin,
all will shudder with horror at the sight of
them.

⁹ Then every person, touched to awe,
as they ponder what God has wrought,
will tell the tale of his deeds.

¹⁰ In the LORD shall the righteous rejoice,
in him shall they take refuge;
and all the true-hearted shall glory.

65

Psalm 65 – Hymn for a Thanksgiving Festival

For the leader. A psalm of David. A song.

¹ It is seemly to praise you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall the vow be performed in
Jerusalem.

² O you who hear prayer,
unto you shall all flesh come.

³ Our sins are too mighty for us,
our transgressions you only can cover them.

⁴ Happy the person who you choose
to live beside you in your courts.

O may we be filled with the joys
of your house, of your holy temple.

⁵ In dread deeds you loyally answer us,
O God of our salvation,
whom all ends of the earth put their trust in,
and islands far away.

⁶ By your strength you establish the hills,
you are armed with might;

⁷ you still the roaring of seas,
and the turmoil of nations,

⁸ so that those who live at earth's bounds
are awed at your signs:

the lands of the sunrise and sunset
you make to ring with joy.

⁹ You visit and water the earth;
you greatly enrich her
with the river of God, which is full of water.
You prepare the corn thereof,

¹⁰ watering her furrows,
settling her ridges;
you make her soft with showers,
and bless what grows thereon.

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
your chariot tracks drip with fatness.

¹² The desert pastures are lush,
the hills greened with joy.

¹³ The meadows are clothed with flocks,
the valleys are covered with corn;
they shout to each other and sing.

66

Psalm 66 – Thanksgiving for National Deliverance

For the leader. A song. A psalm.

- ¹ Shout to God, all the earth,
² sing praise to his glorious name,
sing his glorious praise.
- ³ Say to God, ‘How dread are your works,
so great is your might that your enemies
cringe to you.
- ⁴ All the earth does homage to you,
singing praises to you,
singing praise to your name.’

Selah

- ⁵ Come and see what God has done,
awe-inspiring is he in his works among people.
- ⁶ He turns the sea into dry land,
and people cross the river on foot.
Let us therefore rejoice in him,
⁷ the mighty Ruler eternal,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations,
that no rebel lift up his head.

Selah

- ⁸ O bless our God, you peoples;
sound aloud his praise,
⁹ who keeps us in life,
and keeps our feet from slipping.
- ¹⁰ For you, God, have tested us,
have tried us, as silver is tried.
- ¹¹ You did bring us into prison,

- and put chains upon us,
 12 you did let people ride over our head.
 We went through fire and through water,
 but you led us out to a spacious place.
- 13 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings,
 I will pay to you my vows,
 14 which my open lips have uttered,
 arid my mouth has declared in my straits.
- 15 I will offer you offerings of fatlings,
 with the odour of burning rams,
 I will sacrifice bullocks with goats.

Selah

- 16 Come and hear my story
 all who fear God –
 of what he has done for me.
- 17 For my mouth had no sooner invoked him
 than his praise was under my tongue.
- 18 Had I cherished sin in my heart,
 the LORD would never have listened.
- 19 But assuredly God has listened,
 and attended to my loud prayer.
- 20 Blessed be God, who turned not aside
 my prayer, nor withdrew his kindness from
 me.

67

Psalm 67 – A Harvest Thanksgiving

For the leader. On stringed instruments. A psalm.
 A song.

- 1 Bless us, O God, with your favour,
 let the light of your face fall upon us;

Selah

² that the world may know your way,
and all nations your power to save.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let the peoples all of them praise you.

⁴ Let the nations ring out their joy;
for you govern the peoples with equity,
and guide the nations on earth.

Selah

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God,
let the peoples, all of them, praise you.

⁶ The earth has yielded her increase
by the blessing of God, our God.

⁷ May this blessing of ours win people to him
to all the ends of the earth.

68

Psalm 68 – Victory

For the leader. Of David. A psalm. A song.

¹ God arises, his enemies scatter:
they who hate him flee before him.

² As smoke before wind is driven,
as wax melts before fire,
so before God vanish the wicked.

³ But the righteous rejoice in God's presence,
they exult with exceeding joy.

⁴ Sing to God, make music to his name,
his name is the LORD, praise him who rides on
the clouds,
and exult in his presence.

⁵ Father of orphans, defender of widows,

is God in his holy abode.

⁶ God brings home the lonely,
he leads forth the prisoner to comfort,
so that none but the rebel lives cheerless.

⁷ God, when you went in front of your people
in your march through the desert,

Selah

⁸ earth shook, the heavens poured rain
at the presence of God, Sinai's God
at the presence of God, Israel's God.

⁹ Rain in abundance, God, you did sprinkle,
restoring the languishing land of your her-
itage.

¹⁰ A dwelling therein your people found:
in your goodness, O God, you did care for the
poor.

¹¹ The LORD spoke the glad tidings of victory,
a great army of women proclaim it:

¹² 'Kings of armies they flee, they flee,
and the housewife divides the spoil:

¹³ dove's wings covered with silver
and pinions with shimmer of gold,

¹⁴ set with stones, like snow upon Zalmon.'

¹⁵ A mountain of God is the mountain of Bashan,
a mountain of peaks is the mountain of
Bashan.

¹⁶ You high-peaked mountains, why look you
askance
at the mountain which God has desired for his
home
whereon the LORD will live forever?

- 17 The chariots of God are twice ten thousand:
the LORD came from Sinai, his holy place.
- 18 You did mount the height with trains of your
captives,
and gifts that you had received from the peo-
ple.
The rebels shall live with the LORD God.
- 19 Blest be the LORD who sustains us daily,
the God who is also our saviour.
- Selah
- 20 Our God is a God who is saviour.
The ways of escape from death
are known to the LORD God.
- 21 Yes, God will shatter the head of his foes
the rough scalp of those who strut on in their
sins.
- 22 The LORD said: 'I will bring you home from
Bashan,
home from the depths of the sea,
23 that your feet you may bathe in blood,
and your dogs lick their share of the foe.'
- 24 In the temple appear God's triumphal proces-
sions,
processions in praise of my king and my God,
25 with singers in front, and minstrels behind,
and maidens with timbrels between them,
singing,
26 'You of the well-spring of Israel,
bless the LORD God in the dance.'
- 27 There, in front, is Benjamin the little,
the princes of Judah beside them,
the princes of Zebulon, princes of Naphtali.

28 God, show your strength,
 your godlike might,
 as you did in the past,
 29 from your temple that crowns Jerusalem.
 Kings shall bring tribute to you.
 30 Rebuke the beast of the reed,
 the herd of bulls, with the calves of the peoples.
 Trample down the lovers of lies.
 Scatter the nations whose joy is in war.
 31 May they come from Egypt with gifts of oil,
 Ethiopia haste with full hands to God.

32 Sing to God, O you kingdoms of earth,
 make melody to the LORD.

Selah

33 Praise him who rides on the ancient heavens.
 See! He utters his voice, his mighty voice.
 34 Ascribe strength to the God over Israel,
 whose strength and majesty live in the skies.
 35 Awe-inspiring is God in his holy place,
 it is Israel's God
 who gives strength and might to his people.
 Blessed be God.

69

Psalm 69 – A Prayer for Deliverance and Vengeance

For the leader. On shoshannim. Of David.

1 Save me, O God; for the waters
 are threatening my life.
 2 I am sunk in depths of mire,
 where ground there is none.
 I am come into deep deep waters,
 the flood overwhelms me.

- ³ I am weary of crying, my throat is parched,
my eyes are wasted with waiting for God.
- ⁴ More than the hairs of my head
are those who wantonly hate me.
More than my bones in number
are those who are falsely my foes.
That which I never robbed,
how am I then to restore?
- ⁵ O God, you know my folly,
my guilt is not hidden from you.
- ⁶ Through me let not any be shamed,
who wait for you, LORD God of hosts.
Through me let not those be confounded
who seek you, O God of Israel.
- ⁷ It's in your cause that I have borne taunts,
and my face has been covered with shame;
- ⁸ I became to my kindred a foreigner,
to my mother's sons a stranger.
- ⁹ It was zeal for your house that consumed me,
and the insults they hurled at you fell upon
me.
- ¹⁰ When I chastened myself with fasting,
they took occasion to taunt me.
- ¹¹ When I put on a garment of sackcloth,
they made me the theme of a taunt-song.
- ¹² Those who sit in the gate make sport of me
in the music of drunken songs.
- ¹³ But I pray to you, LORD,
for a time of favour.
In your great love answer me;
with your loyal help, save me

- 14 from sinking down in the mire.
Lift me out of the deep deep waters,
15 that the rushing flood may not drown me,
that the deep may not swallow me up,
nor the pit close her mouth upon me.
16 Answer me, LORD, in your gracious kindness,
turn to me in your great compassion.
17 Hide not your face from your servant,
for I am in trouble; O answer me speedily.
18 Draw near to me, redeem me;
because of my enemies, ransom me.
- 19 You know how I am insulted;
in your sight are all my foes.
20 Insult has broken my heart,
past cure are my shame and confusion.
For pity I looked – there was none!
And for comforters, but I found none.
21 Poison they gave me for food,
and to slake my thirst they gave vinegar.
- 22 May their table, outspread, be a trap to them,
and their peace-offerings be a snare.
23 May their eyes be darkened and blind,
make them shake without ceasing.
24 Pour your indignation upon them,
let your burning wrath overtake them.
25 May their camp be a desolation,
in their tents be there none to live.
26 For those whom you struck, they persecute,
and those whom you wounded, they pain yet
more.
27 Charge them with sin upon sin,

- may they not be acquitted by you.
28 From the book of life be they blotted,
may their names not be written with the righteous.
- 29 Lift me, O God, by your help
above my pain and misery.
30 Then will I praise God in song
and magnify him with thanksgiving,
31 which shall please the LORD better than ox,
or than bullock with horns and hoofs.
32 The oppressed shall rejoice at the sight.
You who seek after God, let your heart revive.
33 For the LORD listens to the poor,
he does not despise his prisoners.
- 34 Let the heavens and the earth sing his praises,
the seas, and all creatures that move in them.
35 For God will bring help to Zion,
and build up the cities of Judah,
his people shall live there in possession.
36 His servants' children shall have it for heritage,
and those who love him shall live therein.

70

Psalm 70 – A Cry for Help in Persecution

For the leader. Of David. For commemoration.

- 1 Quickly, God, deliver me,
hasten to help me, LORD.
2 May those who are seeking my life,
be ashamed and confounded.
3 May those who delight in my hurt
be defeated and brought to dishonour.
4 But may all who seek after you

rejoice and be glad in you.
May all who love your salvation
say, 'Glory to God,' evermore.
⁵ I am weak and needy:
make haste, God, to me.
You are my help and deliverer;
LORD, don't delay.

71

Psalm 71 – Forsake me not, when I am Old

- ¹ In you, O LORD, I take refuge,
let me never be put to shame.
² In your faithfulness save me and rescue me,
bend your ear to me and save me.
³ Be to me a rock of defence,
a fortified house, to save me;
for my rock and my fortress are you.

⁴ Save me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.
⁵ For you, LORD, are my hope,
in whom from my youth I have trusted.
⁶ On you have I leaned from my birth;
from my mother's womb it was you who did
draw me.
In you is my hope evermore.

⁷ I have been as a wonder to many,
for you are my refuge and strength.
⁸ All the day long my mouth
is filled with your praise and your glory.
⁹ Cast me not off in the time of old age;
when my strength is spent, forsake me not.

- 10 For my foes whisper against me,
they who watch me take counsel together;
11 ‘God has left him,’ they say: ‘pursue
and seize him, for he is helpless.’
- 12 O God, be not far from me,
haste, O my God, to my help.
13 Put my foes to shame and dishonour,
with insult and shame be they covered.
14 But I will never stop hoping,
and more and yet more will I praise you.
15 All the day long shall my mouth
tell your faithfulness and your salvation,
though I know not how they may be counted.
- 16 I will tell of the might of the LORD,
and your faithfulness praise, you alone.
17 You have taught me, O God, from my youth,
and till now have I told of your wonders.
18 Even in old age and grey hair,
O God, do not forsake me.
Still would I tell of your might
unto all generations to come.
- 19 Your power and your justice, O God,
extend as far as the heavens:
for great are the things you have done.
Who is like you, O God?
20 You have caused us to see troubles many,
but you will revive us again.
From the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.
21 You will multiply my greatness,

and comfort me again.

- ²² So with harp I will praise you,
and your faithfulness, O my God;
and make music to you on the lyre,
O you Holy One of Israel.
- ²³ My lips shall ring out their joy,
my mouth shall sing praises to you;
all of me, which you have redeemed.
- ²⁴ Yes, all the day long shall my tongue
utter your righteousness;
for ashamed and confounded are they
who were seeking my hurt.

72

*Psalm 72 – A Prayer for a Just and Glorious
Reign*

Of Solomon.

- ¹ Give the king, O God, your own spirit of justice
your spirit of right to the son of the king,
- ² that with right he may judge your people,
and your downtrodden ones with justice.
- ³ May the mountains bear weal for the people,
and the hills yield fruits of justice.
- ⁴ The weak may he help to their rights,
may he save the sons of the needy
and crush the oppressor in pieces.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun,
while the moon shines – for ages and ages.
- ⁶ May he be like the rain on the meadow,
like showers that water the earth.

- 7 In his days may justice flourish,
and welfare abound, till the moon be no
more.
- 8 May he reign from ocean to ocean,
from the river to the ends of the earth.
- 9 May his foes bow down before him,
his enemies lick the dust.
- 10 May tribute be rendered by kings
of the isles and of Tarshish;
may gifts be brought by the kings
of Sheba and Seba.
- 11 May all kings fall prostrate before him,
and all nations yield him their service.
- 12 For he saves the poor when he cries,
the helpless and the downtrodden.
- 13 He pities the weak and the poor,
he saves the lives of the poor.
- 14 He redeems them from wrong and from vio-
lence,
for dear is their blood in his sight.
- 15 Long may he live;
and may gold of Sheba be given him;
prayer, too, be made for him ceaselessly,
all the day long may men bless him.
- 16 May the land have abundance of corn,
to the tops of the hills may it wave.
May the fruit thereof flourish like Lebanon,
may men spring from the city like grass of the
earth.

17 May his name be blessed forever,
may his fame endure as the sun.
May all nations envy his blessedness,
all tribes of the earth call him happy.

*18 Blest be the LORD God, Israel's God,
who alone does wonders;
19 And blest be forever his glorious name.
Let all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen and Amen.*

20 Here end the prayers of David, son of
Jesse.

Book Three

73

*Psalm 73 – Fellowship with God Here and Here-
after*

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 Yes, God is good to the upright,
the LORD to the pure in heart.
2 But my feet were almost gone,
my steps had nearly slipped,
3 through envy of godless braggarts,
when I saw how well they fared.
4 For never a pang have they,
their body is sound and sleek.
5 They have no trouble like mortals,
no share in human pain.
6 So they wear their pride like a necklace,
they put on the garment of wrong,

- 7 their eyes stand out with fatness,
 their heart swells with riotous fancies.
- 8 Their speech is mocking and evil,
 condescending and crooked their speech.
- 9 They have set their mouth in the heavens,
 while their tongue struts about on the earth.
- 10 Small wonder that people resort to them,
 and drink deep draughts of their lore.
- 11 ‘How does God know?’ they say,
 ‘And has the Most High any knowledge?’
- 12 See! These are the godless,
 with wealth and ease ever increasing.
- 13 Yes, in vain have I kept my heart pure,
 and washed my hands in innocence;
- 14 for all the day long was I plagued
 not a morning but I was chastised.
- 15 But to resolve to speak like they do
 would be treachery to your children.
- 16 So I sought to understand it,
 but a wearisome task it seemed:
- 17 till I entered the holy world of God
 and saw clearly their destiny.
- 18 Yes, you set them on slippery places;
 down to destruction you hurl them.
- 19 One moment and then what a horror of ruin!
 They are finished and ended in terrors.
- 20 Like a dream, when one wakes, shall they be,
 whose phantoms the waker despises.
- 21 So my bitterness of mind
 and the pain that stabbed my heart

- 22 show how dull I was and stupid
just like a beast before you.
- 23 But I am always with you,
you have hold of my right hand.
- 24 By a plan of yours you guide me
and will afterward take me to glory.
- 25 Whom have I in the heavens but you?
And on earth there is none I desire beside you.
- 26 Though flesh and heart waste away,
yet God is the rock of my heart,
yet God is my portion forever.
- 27 For see! Those who are far from you must
perish,
you destroy all who are false to you.
- 28 But I am happy when close to God;
the LORD my God I have made my refuge,
that I may recount all the things you have
done.

74

Psalm 74 – Lament on the Devastation of the Temple

A maskil of Asaph.

- 1 Why, O God, have you spurned us forever?
Why smokes your wrath against the sheep of
your pasture?
- 2 Remember the community you purchased of old
to become by redemption the tribe of your
heritage,
Zion, the mountain you made your home.

- ³ Rouse yourself, visit its ruins complete.
In the temple the foe has made havoc of all things.
- ⁴ Like lions your enemies roared through your house,
replacing our symbols by signs of their own,
- ⁵ hacking, like woodsmen who lift axes on thickets of trees,
- ⁶ smashing with hatchets and hammers all of its carved work together.
- ⁷ They have set your temple on fire, to the very ground they have outraged the place where lives your name.
- ⁸ They have said in their heart, 'Let us utterly crush them.'
They have burned all the houses of God in the land.
- ⁹ No symbol of ours do we see any more:
no prophet is there any more,
none is with us who knows how long.
- ¹⁰ How long, O God, is the foe to insult?
Shall the enemy spurn your name forever?
- ¹¹ Why, O LORD, do you hold back your hand,
why keep your right hand in the folds of your robe?
- ¹² Yet God is our king from the ancient days,
in the midst of the earth working deeds of salvation.
- ¹³ It was you who did cleave the sea by your might,
and shatter the heads of the ocean monsters.

- 14 It was you who did crush many-headed
Leviathan,
and give him as food to the beasts of the
wilderness.
- 15 It was you who did cleave the fountains and
torrents;
it was you who did dry the perennial streams.
- 16 Yours is the day; yours, too, is the night,
it was you who did establish the sun and the
star.
- 17 It was you who did fix all the borders of earth:
summer and winter it's you who have made
them.
- 18 Yet, for all this, the foe has insulted you, LORD,
and a nation of fools has reviled your name.
- 19 Do not give your dove to the beasts,
do not forget your afflicted forever.
- 20 Look to the sleek ones – how full they are:
the dark places of earth are the dwellings of
violence.
- 21 O let not the downtrodden turn back ashamed:
let the poor and the needy sing praise to your
name.
- 22 Arise, God, and defend your cause:
remember how fools all the day insult you.
- 23 Do not forget the uproar of your enemies,
the din of your foes that ascends evermore.

75

Psalm 75 – God the Judge

For the leader; al tashheth. A psalm of Asaph, a
song.

¹ We praise you, God, we praise you:
we would call on your name and declare your
wonders.

² ‘At the time I choose,
I will judge fairly.

³ Though earth melt and all her inhabitants,
it is I who keep steady her pillars.’

Selah

⁴ I say to the boasters, ‘Boast not’;
to the wicked, ‘Lift not up your horn:

⁵ lift not your horn on high,
speak not boldly against the Rock.’

⁶ For not from east nor west,
not from desert nor mountains;

⁷ but God himself is the judge,
humbling one and exalting another.

⁸ In the hand of the LORD is a cup
foaming wine, richly spiced.

Out of this he pours a draught,
and all the wicked of earth
must drain it down to the dregs.

⁹ But I will rejoice forever,
singing praise to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ I will hew all the horns of the wicked,
but the horns of the just shall be lifted.

76

Psalm 76 – A Song of Victory

For the leader. With instrumental music. A psalm
of Asaph, a song.

- ¹ God has made himself known in Judah,
his name is great in Israel.
- ² His tent is in Salem,
his dwelling in Zion.
- ³ There he broke the lightning arrows,
shield, sword, and weapons of war.
- Selah
- ⁴ Terrible is your splendour
on the everlasting mountains.
- ⁵ Despoiled were the stout of heart;
in the sleep into which they had fallen,
none of the warriors
could lift a hand.
- ⁶ At your rebuke, God of Jacob,
sank chariot and horse to sleep.
- ⁷ Awful are you: who can stand
before you, when once you are angry?
- ⁸ The judgment you gave from heaven
frightened the earth into silence,
- ⁹ when God arose to judgment
to save the oppressed of the earth.
- Selah
- ¹⁰ The fiercest will praise you,
to you will the remnant hold festival.
- ¹¹ Vow and pay to LORD your God,
and let all who are round him bring presents.
- ¹² He lops off the courage of princes,
and with terror fills kings of the earth.

77*Psalm 77 – A Prayer for Preservation as in the Days of Old*

For the leader. On Jeduthun. Of Asaph, a psalm.

- ¹ Loudly will I lift my cry to God,
loudly to God, so he hears to me.
- ² In the day of my trouble I seek the LORD;
in the night I lift my hands in prayer,
refusing all comfort.
- ³ When I think of God, I moan;
when I muse, my spirit is faint.
- ⁴ When you hold my eyes awake,
and I am restless and speechless,
- ⁵ I think of the days of old,
call to mind distant years.
- ⁶ I commune with my heart in the night,
I muse with inquiring spirit.
- ⁷ ‘Will the LORD cast us off forever,
will he be gracious no more?’
- ⁸ Has his love vanished forever?
Is his faithfulness utterly gone?’
- ⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious,
or in anger withheld his compassion?’
- ¹⁰ Then I said, ‘This it is that grieves me,
that the hand of the Most High has changed.’
- ¹¹ I will think of the deeds of the LORD,
and remember your wonders of old.
- ¹² I will muse on all you have wrought,
and meditate on your deeds.

Selah

Selah

- 13 Then your way, O God, was majestic:
what God was great as our God?
14 You were a God who did marvels,
you did show your power to the world
15 by your arm you rescued your people,
the children of Jacob and Joseph.

Selah

- 16 The waters saw you, O God.
The waters saw you and shivered;
to their depths they trembled.
17 Clouds poured torrents of water,
thunder rolled in the sky,
your arrows sped to and fro.
18 Loud was the roll of your thunder,
lightnings lit up the world.
Earth quaked and trembled.
19 In your way, LORD, through the sea,
in your path through the mighty waters,
your footsteps were all unseen.
20 You did guide your folk like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

78

Psalm 78 – The Warnings of History

A maskil of Asaph.

- 1 My people, attend to my teaching:
bend your ears to the words of my mouth,
2 as I open my mouth in a poem
on the riddling story of the past.
3 What we have heard and known,
and what our ancestors have told us,

⁴ we will not hide from their children.
We will tell to the next generation
the praises and might of the LORD,
and the wonders that he has done.

⁵ He set up a testimony in Jacob,
a law he appointed in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to make known to their children,

⁶ that the next generation should know it,
that the children yet to be born
should arise and tell their children;

⁷ that in God they might put their confidence,
and not forget God's works;
but that they might keep his commandments,

⁸ and not be like their ancestors,
a generation defiant and stubborn,
a generation with heart unsteady,
and spirit unfaithful towards God.

⁹ Ephraimites, armed bowmen,
turned back in the day of battle.

¹⁰ They did not keep God's covenant,
they refused to walk in his law.

¹¹ They forgot what he had done,
and the wonders he had shown them.

¹² He did wonders before their ancestors
in the country of Zoan in Egypt.

¹³ Through the sea which he split he brought them,
making waters stand up like a heap;

¹⁴ he led them by day with a cloud,
all the night with a light of fire.

- 15 From the rocks which he split in the wilderness,
he gave them to drink as of ocean's abundance.
- 16 He brought streams out of the rock,
and made water run down like rivers.
- 17 Yet they still went on sinning against him,
they defied the Most High in the desert.
- 18 They wilfully challenged God,
demanding the food that they longed for.
- 19 'Is God able,' such was their challenge,
'to spread in the desert a table?
- 20 From the rock that he struck there gushed water,
and torrents that overflowed;
but can he also give bread,
or provide his people with meat?
- 21 When the LORD heard this, he was furious,
and fire was kindled on Jacob,
anger flared up against Israel.
- 22 For they put no trust in God,
no confidence in his help.
- 23 So he summoned the clouds above;
and, opening the doors of heaven,
- 24 he rained manna upon them for food,
and grain of heaven he gave them.
- 25 Everyone ate the bread of angels;
he sent them food to the full.
- 26 He launched the east wind in the heavens,
and guided the south by his power.
- 27 He rained meat upon them like dust,

- winged bird like the sand of the sea.
28 In the midst of their camp he dropped it,
all around their tents.
- 29 They ate and were more than filled;
he had brought them the thing they desired.
30 But the thing they desired became loathsome:
while their food was still in their mouths,
31 the wrath of God rose against them.
He slew the stoutest among them,
and laid low the young men of Israel.
- 32 Yet for all this they sinned yet more,
and refused to believe in his wonders.
33 So he ended their days in a breath,
and their years in sudden dismay.
34 When he slew them, then they sought after him,
they turned and sought God with diligence.
- 35 They remembered that God was their rock,
and the Most High God their redeemer.
36 But they flattered him with their mouth,
and lied to him with their tongue.
37 Their heart was not steady with him,
they were faithless to his covenant.
- 38 But he is full of pity:
he pardons sin and destroys not.
Often he turns his anger away,
without stirring his wrath at all.
39 So he remembered that they were but flesh,
breath that passes and does not return.
- 40 But how often they rebelled in the desert,

- and caused him grief in the wilderness,
41 tempting God again and again,
provoking the Holy One of Israel.
42 They did not remember his strength,
nor the day he redeemed from the foe,
43 how he set his signs in Egypt,
in the country of Zoan his wonders.
- 44 He turned their canals into blood,
their streams undrinkable.
45 He sent forth flies, which devoured them;
frogs, too, which destroyed them.
46 Their crops he gave to the caterpillar,
and the fruits of their toil to the locust.
47 He slew their vines with hail,
and their sycamore trees with frost.
48 He delivered their cattle to the hail,
and their flocks to bolts of fire.
- 49 He let loose his hot anger among them,
fury and wrath and distress,
a band of destroying angels.
50 He cleared a path for his anger,
did not spare them from death,
but gave them over to pestilence.
- 51 He struck down all the firstborn in Egypt,
the first fruits of their strength in the tents of
Ham.
52 He led forth his people like sheep,
he was guide to his flock in the desert.
53 Securely he led them, and free from fear,
while their foes were drowned in the sea.

- 54 To his holy realm he brought them,
to the mountain his right hand had purchased.
- 55 He drove out the nations before them,
and allotted their land for possession,
and their tents for Israel to live in.
- 56 Yet they tempted and angered the Most High God,
they did not observe his decrees.
- 57 They drew back, false like their ancestors;
they failed like a treacherous bow.
- 58 Their shrines stirred him to anger,
their idols moved him to jealousy.
- 59 When God heard of this, he was furious,
and he spurned Israel utterly.
- 60 He abandoned his home in Shiloh,
the tent he had pitched among people.
- 61 He gave his strength up to captivity,
his glory to the hands of the foe.
- 62 He gave his people to the sword,
he was furious with his own.
- 63 Fire devoured their young men,
and their maidens had no marriage-song.
- 64 Their priests fell by the sword,
and their widows could not weep.
- 65 Then the LORD awoke as from sleep,
like a warrior flushed with wine;
- 66 and he beat back his foes,
putting them to perpetual scorn.
- 67 He disowned the tent of Joseph,

- he rejected the tribe of Ephraim;
68 but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loves.
69 And he built like the heights his sanctuary,
like the earth which he founded forever.
70 And he chose David his servant,
taking him from the sheepfolds.
71 From the mother-ewes he brought him,
to be shepherd to Jacob his people,
and to Israel his inheritance.
72 With upright heart did he shepherd them,
and with skilful hands did he guide them.

79

Psalm 79 – A National Prayer for Deliverance

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 Heathen, O God, have come into your land,
defiling your holy temple,
and laying Jerusalem in ruins.
2 They have given the bodies of your dead servants
to the birds of the air to devour,
and the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of
the field.
3 Round about Jerusalem
they have poured out their blood like water;
and there was no one to bury them.
4 On every side our neighbours
revile us and mock us and jeer at us.
5 How long will you be angry, O LORD?
Will your jealousy burn like fire forever?

⁶ Pour out your wrath on the nations that don't know you,
on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.

⁷ For Jacob they devoured,
they have desolated his home.

⁸ Do not remember against us our ancestors' sins;
O meet us soon with your pity,
for utterly weak are we.

⁹ Help us, O God our saviour,
for the renown of your name:

for your reputation deliver us
and cover over our sins.

¹⁰ Why should the nations say,
'Where is their God?'

Let revenge for the outpoured blood of your servants
be shown on the heathen before our eyes.

¹¹ May the groans of the prisoner come before you;
free the children of death by your mighty arm.

¹² Pay our neighbours back sevenfold
for the scorn they have heaped upon you, O LORD.

¹³ Then we, your people, the flock of your pasture,
will give thanks to you for evermore,
and tell your praise to all generations.

80

Psalm 80 – A Prayer for the Preservation of Israel

For the leader. On shoshannim, eduth. Of Asaph, a psalm.

- ¹ Listen, Shepherd of Israel,
 who leads Joseph like a flock of sheep;
from your throne on the cherubs shine forth
 ² before Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin.
Stir up your mighty power,
 come to our help.
- ³ God, restore us:
 show us the light of your face,
 so we may be saved.
- ⁴ O LORD of hosts,
how long is your anger to smoke,
 despite the prayer of your people?
- ⁵ You have fed them with bread of tears,
 you have made them drink tears by the measure.
- ⁶ The scorn of our neighbours you make us,
 the laughing-stock of our foes.
- ⁷ God of hosts, restore us:
 show us the light of your face,
 so we may be saved.
- ⁸ A vine out of Egypt you brought;
 you did drive out the nations, and plant her;
- ⁹ in the ground you did clear she struck root,
 and she filled all the land.
- ¹⁰ The shade of her covered the mountains,
 her branches the cedars of God.
- ¹¹ She sent forth her shoots to the sea,

- and her branches as far as the River.
12 Why have you torn down her fences, and left
her
to be plucked at by all who pass by,
13 to be gnawed by the boar from the forest,
and devoured by the beasts of the field?
- 14 O God of hosts, return:
look down from heaven and see
and visit this vine, and restore her
15 the vine which your right hand has planted.
16 She is burned with fire and cut down
before your stern face they are perishing.
17 Support the one you have chosen,
the one you have raised for yourself;
18 then from you we will never draw back.
Preserve us, and we will call on your name.
19 LORD, God of hosts, restore us:
Show us the light of your face,
so we may be saved.

81

Psalm 81 – For the Feast of Tabernacles

For the leader. On the gittith. Of Asaph.

- 1 Sing aloud to God our strength,
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
2 Raise a song, sound the timbrel,
sweet lyre and harp.
3 On the new moon blow the horn,
at the full moon, the day of our festival.
4 For this is a statute for Israel,
a ruling of the God of Jacob,
5 a witness he set up in Joseph,

when he marched against Egypt's land,
where he heard an unknown voice say:

⁶ 'I removed from your shoulder the burden,
and freed your hands from the basket.

⁷ At your call of distress I delivered you,
from the thundercloud I answered you.
At Meribah's waters I tested you.

Selah

⁸ 'Listen, my people, to my warning,
O Israel, if you would but listen!

⁹ There must not be a strange god among you,
you must bow to no foreign god.

¹⁰ I am the LORD your God
who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open your mouth, that I fill it.

¹¹ 'But my people did not listen to my voice,
Israel would have none of me.

¹² So to their own hard hearts I left them,
to follow their own devices.

¹³ O that my people would listen,
that Israel would walk in my ways.

¹⁴ Soon would I humble their enemies,
and turn my hand on their foes.

¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would cringe before
him
in everlasting terror.

¹⁶ But you would I feed with the richest wheat,
and with honey from the rock to your heart's
desire.'

82

Psalm 82 – God the Upholder of Justice

A psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ God has taken his stand
in the divine assembly:
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.
- ² ‘How long will you crookedly judge,
and favour the wicked?’
- Selah
- ³ Do right by the weak and the orphan,
acquitting the innocent poor.
- ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy,
save them from the hand of the wicked.
- ⁵ ‘They have neither knowledge nor insight,
in darkness they walk to and fro,
while the earth’s foundations totter.
- ⁶ It was I who appointed you gods,
children of the Most High all of you.
- ⁷ Yet like mortals you will surely die,
you will fall like any prince.’
- ⁸ Arise, O God, judge the earth,
for all nations are yours by inheritance.

83

Psalm 83 – A Prayer for the Destruction of the Enemies of Judah

A song, a psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ Do not keep silent, O God:
hold not your peace, be not still, God.
- ² For see! Your enemies roar,
those who hate you lift up their heads,

- ³ laying crafty plans for your people,
and plotting against those you treasure.
- ⁴ ‘Come, let us wipe them out as a nation,
so Israel’s name will be mentioned no more.’
- ⁵ For, conspiring with one accord,
they have made a league against you
- ⁶ Tents of Edom, and Ishmaelites,
Moab, and the Hagrites.
- ⁷ Gebal and Ammon and Amalek,
Philistia, with the people of Tyre;
- ⁸ Syria, too, is confederate,
they have strengthened the children of Lot.
- Selah
- ⁹ Deal with them as you dealt with Midian,
with Sisera, with Jabin, at the torrent of
Kishon,
- ¹⁰ who at Endor were destroyed,
and became dung for the field.
- ¹¹ Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
- ¹² who said, ‘Let us take for ourselves
the meadows of God.’
- ¹³ Whirl them, my God, like dust,
like stubble before the wind.
- ¹⁴ As the fire that kindles the forest,
as flame that sets mountains ablaze,
- ¹⁵ so with your tempest pursue them,
terrify them with your hurricane.
- ¹⁶ Make them blush with shame;
until they seek your name, O LORD.
- ¹⁷ Everlasting shame and confusion,

disgrace and destruction be theirs.
18 Teach those who you alone
are most high over all the earth.

84

Psalm 84 – The Song of the Pilgrims

For the leader. On the gittith. Of the Korahites, a psalm.

1 How dearly loved is the place where you live,
LORD of hosts!

2 How I long and yearn
for the courts of the LORD.
Now heart and flesh cry for joy
to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow has found her a home
and the swallow a nest,
to lay her young,
near your altar,
LORD of hosts,
my king and my God.

4 Happy those who live in your house,
praising you evermore.

Selah

5 Happy those whose strength is in you,
people with pilgrim hearts.

6 As they pass through the valley of tears,
they make it a place of fountains,
clothed with the blessings of early rain.

7 From rampart to rampart on they march,
till at last God reveals himself in Zion.

8 LORD, God of hosts, hear my prayer,

attend, O God of Jacob.

Selah

- ⁹ Behold, O God, our defender,
and look upon your anointed,
¹⁰ for better a single day in your courts
than a thousand in my own chambers:
better stand at the door of the house of my God
than live in the tents of ungodliness,
¹¹ for the LORD is sun and shield,
the LORD gives grace and glory.
He withholds no good thing from the life that is
blameless.
¹² LORD of hosts,
happy those whose trust is in you.

85

Psalm 85 – A Prayer for National Restoration

For the leader. Of the Korahites, a psalm.

- ¹ Once, LORD, you did favour your land,
granting change of fortune to Jacob,
² forgiving the guilt of your people,
pardoning all their sin,
³ withdrawing all your fury,
turning from your hot anger.
⁴ Restore us, O God our saviour,
put away your displeasure against us.
⁵ Will you cherish your anger against us forever,
prolonging your wrath to all generations?
⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may be glad in you?
⁷ Show us your kindness, O LORD,

Selah

grant us your salvation.

- ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak;
for he will speak of peace
to his people, to those who love him,
and turn their hearts to him.
- ⁹ Soon those who fear him shall see how he saves,
and glory shall live in our land.
- ¹⁰ Kindness and loyalty meet;
peace and righteousness kiss.
- ¹¹ Loyalty springs from the earth;
righteousness looks from the sky.
- ¹² The LORD shall give all that is good,
our land yielding its increase,
- ¹³ righteousness marching before him,
and peace on the path he treads.

86

Psalm 86 – A Prayer for Divine Guidance and Favour

A prayer of David.

- ¹ Incline your ear, LORD, and answer me,
for I am afflicted and needy.
- ² Guard me, for I am loyal:
save your servant, who trusts in you.
- ³ LORD, be gracious to me, for you are my God;
I cry to you all the day.
- ⁴ Gladden the heart of your servant;
for to you, LORD, I set my hope.
- ⁵ For you, LORD, are good and forgiving,
rich in love towards all who call on you.

- 6 Listen, O LORD, to my prayer;
attend to my plea for mercy.
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call on you,
with assurance that you will answer me.
- 8 None of the gods is like you, LORD,
nor are any works like yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made
will come and bow down before you,
giving glory, O LORD, to your name.
- 10 For great are you, and a doer of wonders;
you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me, O LORD, your way,
that I may walk in your truth:
so my heart shall rejoice in your name.
- 12 I will give you thanks, O LORD,
with all my heart, my God,
I will honour your name forever.
- 13 For great is your love towards me,
from the depths of Sheol you have saved me.
- 14 Haughty men have risen up against me, O God,
a band of the violent seeking my life,
who think nothing of you.
- 15 But you are a God of pity and grace,
patient and rich in kindness and faithfulness;
turn to me with your grace, O LORD.
- 16 Grant your strength to your servant,
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favour,
which those who hate me may see with confusion,
since you, LORD, are my helper and comforter.

87

Psalm 87 – Zion, City of God

Of the Korahites, a psalm. A song.

- ¹ On the holy mountain stands
the city he founded.
- ² The LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
- ³ Glorious things he is speaking of you,
you city of God.

Selah

- ⁴ ‘Among those who are mine I name Rahab and
Babylon,
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia,
their people will say I was born in Zion.
- ⁵ As for Zion it will be said
each and all were born in her.’
The LORD will preserve her.

- ⁶ The LORD will count, when enrolling the peoples,
‘This one was born there, and that one was
born there.’

Selah

- ⁷ Singers and dancers alike will say
‘All my springs are in you.’

88

Psalm 88 – The Prayer of Despair

A Song, a psalm of the Korahites. To the leader:
according to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of
Heman the Ezrahite.

- ¹ O LORD my God,
I cry for help in the day-time,

in the night my cry is before you;
2 let my prayer come into your presence,
incline your ear to my cry.

3 For I am sated with sorrow,
my life draws near to Sheol.

4 I am counted with those who go down to the pit;
without strength am I.

5 My home is among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more
cut off as they are from your hand.

6 In the deepest pit you have put me,
in shadows deep and dark.

7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
waves of your anger roll over me.

Selah

8 You have put my friends far from me,
you have made them shun me.

I am shut in, and cannot escape,
9 my eyes are wasted with sorrow.

I call on you, LORD, every day,
spreading my hands out to you.

10 For the dead can you work wonders?
Can the shades rise again to praise you?

Selah

11 Can your kindness be told in the grave,
your faithfulness in the tomb?

12 Can your wonders be known in the darkness,
or your help in the land of forgetfulness?

- 13 I cry for help to you,
 in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- 14 Why, O LORD, do you spurn me,
 and hide your face from me?
- 15 From my youth I am wretched and dying,
 I am numbed by the terrors I bear.
- 16 The fires of your wrath have passed over me,
 your terrors destroy me,
 17 surging around me forever,
 hemming me in altogether.
- 18 Those who love me you put far from me;
 the dark is my only friend.

89

Psalm 89 – The Promise to David

A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

- 1 I will sing evermore of the love of the LORD,
 proclaiming to all generations his faithful-
 ness.
- 2 For your love you did promise to build up for-
 ever,
 your faithfulness firm as the heavens them-
 selves.
- 3 'I have made with my chosen a covenant,
 and sworn to David my servant,
 4 to establish his seed forever,
 and to build up his throne to all ages.'
- Selah
- 5 Then the holy assembly in heaven
 praised your marvellous faithfulness, LORD.
- 6 For who in the skies may compare with the LORD?

Who is like the LORD among the gods?

- 7 A God to be feared in the holy assembly,
awful and great above all who are round him.
- 8 O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you?
Your strength and faithfulness, LORD, surround you.
- 9 You are the LORD of the raging sea:
when its waves surge, it is you who still them.
- 10 It was you who did pierce and crush Rahab in pieces,
and scatter your foes by your mighty arm.
- 11 Yours are the heavens, yours also the earth,
the world and its fulness, it's you who did found them.
- 12 The north and the south, it's you have created them;
Tabor and Hermon shout praise to your name.
- 13 You have an arm with the might of a hero;
strong is your hand, high uplifted your right hand.
- 14 Justice and right are the base of your throne,
kindness and faithfulness ever attend you.
- 15 Happy the people who know the glad shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face.
- 16 They exult in your name all the day,
and your righteousness they extol.
- 17 For you are our strength and our pride.

- Your favour will lift us to honour.
18 For the holy LORD of Israel
keeps our defender and king.
- 19 In a vision of old you did speak
in this way to the one whom you loved:
'A crown I have set on the hero
I chose to be over the people
- 20 'I found my servant David,
and anointed with holy oil.
21 My hand will be with him forever,
my arm will give him strength.
- 22 'No enemy will dare to assail him,
nor the wicked to oppress him;
23 but his foes I will shatter before him,
I will strike down those who hate him.
- 24 'My loyal love shall attend him,
and I will lift him to honour.
25 I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.
- 26 'As for him, he will call me "My father,
my God, and my rock of salvation."
27 And I will make him my firstborn,
highest of kings on the earth.
- 28 'My love will I keep for him ever,
my covenant with him shall stand fast.
29 His line will I make everlasting,
and his throne as the days of the heavens.

- 30 'If his children forsake my law,
and walk not as I have ordained;
31 if they profane my statutes,
and do not keep my commandments;
- 32 'I will punish their sin with the rod,
their iniquity with scourges.
33 But my love will I not take from him,
nor will I belie my faithfulness.
- 34 'I will not profane my covenant
by changing the word that has passed my lips.
35 Once have I solemnly sworn
and I would not lie to David,
- 36 'that his line should endure forever,
and his throne as the sun before me,
37 firm as the moon which for ever
and ever is fixed in the sky.'
- Selah
- 38 But you have cast off in contempt,
and been furious with your anointed.
39 You have spurned the covenant with your ser-
vant,
and his sacred crown dashed to the ground.
- 40 You have broken down all his walls,
and laid his bulwarks in ruins.
41 All who pass on their way despoil him,
the scorn of his neighbours is he now.
- 42 You have given his foes the victory,
and made all his enemies glad.

43 You have turned back his sword from the foe,
you did not lift him up in the battle.

44 The sceptre you took from his hand,
and his throne you did hurl to the ground.

45 You have shortened the days of his youth,
and covered him with shame.

Selah

46 How long, LORD will you hide you forever?
How long are the fires of your wrath to burn?

47 Remember, LORD, the shortness of life
how fleeting you made all people.

48 Who can live without seeing death?
Who can rescue their life from the clutch of
Sheol?

Selah

49 Where, LORD, is your kindness of old,
which you in your faithfulness swore to
David?

50 Remember, O LORD, how your servants are
mocked,
how I bear in my heart the scorn of all nations

51 The scorn which your enemies hurl, O LORD,
which they hurl at the footsteps of your
anointed.

*52 Blest be the LORD, for ever and ever.
Amen and Amen.*

Book Four

90

Psalm 90 – Hymn of Eternity

A prayer of Moses, the man of God.

- ¹ LORD, you have been a home to us
one generation after another.
- ² Before the mountains were born,
or the earth and the world were brought
forth,
from everlasting to everlasting
you are God.
- ³ You bring us back to the dust,
you summon mortals to return.
- ⁴ For you see a thousand years
as the passing of yesterday,
as a watch in the night.
- ⁵ Your floods sweep them away;
they are like a dream,
or like grass which sprouts in the morning,
- ⁶ which blossoms and sprouts in the morning,
but by evening is cut and withered.
- ⁷ For your anger consumes us,
the heat of your wrath confounds us.
- ⁸ Our sins you have set before you,
our secrets in the light of your face.
- ⁹ For through your wrath our days are declining,
we bring our years to an end as a sigh.
- ¹⁰ The span of our life is seventy years,
or, if we are strong, maybe eighty;
yet is their breadth but empty toil,

for swiftly they go, and we fly away.

- 11 Who lays to heart the power of your anger?
Or who stands in reverent awe of your wrath?
- 12 O teach us to count our days
so our minds may learn wisdom.
- 13 Return, O LORD; why so long?
Relent on your servants.
- 14 Grant us your love to the full in the morning,
that all our days we may shout for joy.
- 15 Make us glad for the days you have humbled us,
for the evil years we have seen.
- 16 Let your servants see you in action,
show your majesty to their children.
- 17 Let the grace of the LORD our God be upon us,
uphold what our hands are striving to do.

91

Psalm 91 – In the Shelter of the Most High

- 1 You whose home is the shelter of God Most High,
whose abode is the shadow of God Almighty,
2 can say to the LORD, ‘My refuge, my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.’
- 3 For he saves you from fowler’s snare,
from deadly plague,
4 he shelters you with his pinions,
and under his wings you can hide.

His truth will be a shield and buckler.

- ⁵ You need not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the plague that stalks in darkness,
nor the pestilence raging at noon.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand:
but it will not draw near to you.
- ⁸ You will only look on with your eyes,
and see how the wicked are punished.
- ⁹ You have made the LORD your refuge,
you have made the Most High your defence.
- ¹⁰ You will never be met by misfortune,
no plague will come near your tent,
¹¹ for he orders his angels to guard you,
wherever you go.
- ¹² They will carry you with their hands,
so you don't hurt your foot on a stone.
- ¹³ You will trample down lions and snakes,
tread on young lions and cobras.
- ¹⁴ 'Because of their love for me, I will deliver them,
I will protect those who trust my name.
- ¹⁵ I will answer their cry and be with them in
trouble,
bringing them forth into safety and honour.
- ¹⁶ I will give them a life of many days,
I will show them my salvation.'

92

Psalm 92 – The Ways of God

A psalm. A song; for the sabbath day.

- ¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High,
- ² to declare your love in the morning,
and your faithfulness in the night,
- ³ with voice and a ten-stringed harp,
with music that throbs on the lyre.
- ⁴ For you make me glad by your deeds, LORD,
at the work of your hands I will ring out my
joy.

- ⁵ How great are your works, O LORD;
how deep are your thoughts!
- ⁶ The insensitive cannot know,
nor can a fool understand,
- ⁷ that, though the wicked flourish like grass,
and evildoers all blossom,
they will perish forever.

- ⁸ But you are exalted forever.
- ⁹ For see! Your enemies, LORD
For see! Your enemies perish,
all evildoers are scattered.
- ¹⁰ But you lift me to honour,
and anoint me afresh with oil.
- ¹¹ My eyes will feast on my foes,
and my ears will hear of the doom of the
wicked.

- ¹² The righteous will sprout like the palm,
will grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

- 13 In the house of the LORD are they planted,
in the courts of our God they will sprout.
14 They will still bear fruit in old age,
all sappy and fresh will they be
15 So they proclaim the LORD to be just,
my rock, in whom is no wrong.

93

Psalm 93 – The Lord, King of all the World

- 1 The LORD has taken his seat on the throne,
clothed with majesty, armed with might.
Now the world stands firm, to be shaken no more,
2 firm stands your throne from all eternity.
You are from everlasting.
- 3 The floods, O LORD, have lifted,
the floods have lifted their voice,
the floods lift up their roar.
4 But more grand than the great roaring waters,
more grand than the ocean waves,
grand on the height stands the LORD.
- 5 What you have ordained is most sure;
most sure shall your house stand inviolate,
O LORD, for ever and ever.

94

Psalm 94 – A Prayer for Vengeance on the Cruel

- 1 LORD, God of vengeance,
God of vengeance, shine forth.
2 Rise up, judge of the earth,
pay back the proud what they deserve.

- ³ LORD, how long shall the wicked,
 how long shall the wicked exult,
⁴ with their blustering arrogant words,
 their braggart and wicked speech,
⁵ crushing your people, LORD,
 and afflicting your heritage,
⁶ murdering widows and strangers,
 slaying the fatherless?
⁷ They think that the LORD does not see,
 nor the God of Jacob regard it.
- ⁸ Take heed, you dullest of people;
 when will you be wise, you fools?
⁹ Is he deaf, who shaped the ear?
 Is he blind, who fashioned the eye?
¹⁰ Can he who trains nations not punish them
 he who teaches knowledge to people?
¹¹ The LORD knows the thoughts of people,
 that only a breath are they.
- ¹² Happy are those whom you chasten,
 and teach out of your law,
¹³ keeping them calm in the day of misfortune,
 till a pit be dug for the wicked.
- ¹⁴ For the LORD will not leave his people,
 he will not forsake his inheritance.
¹⁵ For the righteous shall come to their rights,
 and all true-hearted people shall follow them.
- ¹⁶ Who will rise up for me against those who do
 evil?

Who will stand up for me against workers of wrong?

- 17 Were it not for the help of the LORD,
I would soon have gone to the silent grave.
- 18 When I thought that my foot was slipping,
your kindness, LORD, held me up.
- 19 When with cares my heart was crowded,
your comforts make me glad.
- 20 Can corrupt justice be your ally,
framing mischief by statute?
- 21 They assail the life of the righteous,
and innocent blood condemn.
- 22 But the LORD is my sure retreat,
my God is the rock of my refuge.
- 23 He will bring back their sin upon them,
for their wickedness he will destroy them;
the LORD our God will destroy them.

95

Psalm 95 – For a Festival. A Hymn of Praise and a Solemn Warning

- 1 Come! Let us ring out our joy to the LORD,
let us merrily shout to our rock of salvation.
- 2 Before his face let us come with thanks,
with songs of praise let us shout to him.
- 3 For the LORD is a great God,
king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth,
the heights of the mountains are his.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it:
the dry land was formed by his hands.

- 6 Come! Let us worship and bow
on our knees to the LORD our creator.
- 7 For he is our God; and we
are the people he tends, the sheep in his care.
- If only you would heed his voice today:
- 8 ‘Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,
or at Massah, that day in the desert,
9 when your ancestors tempted and tried me,
though they had seen my deeds.
- 10 ‘For forty years I was filled with loathing
for that generation, so I said:
“A people with wandering hearts are they,
and ignorant of my ways.”
- 11 So I solemnly swore to them in my anger,
that never would they enter my place of rest.’

96

Psalm 96 – The Lord’s Rule

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song,
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name,
from day to day herald his victory.
- 3 Tell his glory among the nations,
his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and worthy all praise;
held in awe, above all gods:
- 5 for all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD created the heavens.
- 6 Before him are splendour and majesty,
beauty and strength in his holy place.

- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you tribes of the nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory he manifests:
bring you an offering, enter his courts.
- 9 Bow to the LORD in holy array:
tremble before him, all the earth.
- 10 Say to the nations, 'The LORD is king.'
The world stands firm to be shaken no more.
He will judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice,
let the sea and its fulness thunder.
- 12 Let the field, and all that is in it, exult;
let the trees of the forest ring out their joy
- 13 before the LORD: for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with justice
and the nations with faithfulness.

97

Psalm 97 – The Lord's Judgment

- 1 The LORD is king, let the earth rejoice:
let her many isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him,
justice and right are the base of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him,
and blazes around his steps,
- 4 his lightnings illumine the world:
the earth quakes at the sight.
- 5 Mountains melt like wax
before the LORD of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens proclaim his justice,
all nations behold his glory.

- ⁷ Shamed are all image-worshippers,
 who make a boast of their idols.
 All the gods bow before him.
- ⁸ Zion is glad at the tidings,
 the towns of Judah rejoice
 because of your judgments, LORD.
- ⁹ For you are most high over all the earth,
 greatly exalted above all gods.
- ¹⁰ The LORD loves those who hate evil,
 he guards the lives of the faithful:
 from the hand of the wicked he saves them.
- ¹¹ Light arises for the righteous,
 and joy for the upright in heart.
- ¹² Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous:
 give thanks to his holy name.

98

Psalm 98 – A Song of Praise to the Lord

A psalm.

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD,
 for he has done wonders;
his right hand and holy arm
 have won him the victory.
- ² The LORD has made his victory known,
 and revealed to the eyes of the nations his
 righteousness.
- ³ Mindful he was of his kindness to Jacob,
 faithful he was to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
 the victory of our God.
- ⁴ Shout, all the earth, to the LORD:

- break into cries and music.
5 Play on the lyre to the LORD,
on the lyre and with loud melody.
6 With trumpet and sound of horn,
shout before the king.
- 7 Let the sea and its fulness roar,
the world and the dwellers upon it.
8 Let the streams clap their hands,
let the hills shout for gladness together
9 before the LORD for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with justice
and the nations with equity.

99

Psalm 99 – The Lord's Just and Holy Rule

- 1 The LORD is king; let the nations tremble:
he is throned upon cherubs; let earth quake.
2 The LORD is great in Zion,
he is high over all the nations.
3 Let them praise your great and terrible name.
Holy is he.
- 4 You are a king who loves justice,
equity you have established:
justice and right you have wrought for Jacob.
5 Exalt the LORD our God,
bow down at his footstool.
Holy is he.
- 6 Among his priests were Moses and Aaron,
Samuel among those who called on his name.

They called to the LORD, and he gave them answer.

⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud,
they kept his commands and the statute he gave them.

⁸ LORD our God, you gave them answer.
A God of forgiveness were you to them,
who suffered their deeds to go unpunished.

⁹ Exalt the LORD our God;
bow down at his holy mountain.
For holy is the LORD our God.

100

Psalm 100 – A Call to Worship

A psalm of praise.

¹ Shout, all the earth, to the LORD.

² Serve the LORD with gladness,
approach him with ringing cries.

³ Be sure that the LORD alone is God.
It is he who has made us, and his we are
his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good, his love is forever,
and to all ages endures his faithfulness.

101

Psalm 101 – A Model King

Of David, a psalm.

¹ If kindness and justice I sing,
making melody to you, LORD.

² I would look to the way that is blameless,
and make it my own.

Within my own house I would walk
with an innocent heart.

³ I would never direct my eyes
to a thing that is base.

The impulse to stray I abhor
it shall not cling to me.

⁴ Far from me be perverseness of heart,
or kinship with evil.

⁵ Who slanders their neighbour in secret,
I bring them to silence:
haughty looks and proud hearts
I will not abide.

⁶ I will favour the true in the land,
they shall live in my court.
Those who walk in a way that is blameless
will be my attendant.

⁷ No one will live in my house
who practises guile.
No one that speaks a lie
will abide in my presence.

⁸ Morn by morn I will wholly wipe out
all the bad in the land,
and cut off from the LORD's own city
all workers of evil.

102

Psalm 102 – A Prayer for Pity and for the Restoration of Zion

The prayer: for a weary and suffering person who pours out their grief to the LORD.

- ¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD;
let my cry for help come to you.
- ² Hide not your face from me
in the day of my distress.
Incline your ear to me:
when I call, answer me speedily.
- ³ For my days pass away like smoke:
my bones are burned through as with fire.
- ⁴ My heart is scorched, withered like grass;
I forget to eat my bread.
- ⁵ By reason of my loud groaning,
my flesh clings to my bones.
- ⁶ Like a desert-owl of the wilderness,
like an owl among ruins am I.
- ⁷ I make my sleepless lament
like a bird on the house-top alone.
- ⁸ All the day wild foes revile me,
using my name for a curse.
- ⁹ For ashes have been my bread,
and tears have been mixed with my cup.
- ¹⁰ Because of your passionate anger,
you did raise me, then hurl me to the ground.
- ¹¹ My days come to an end, shadows lengthen,
I wither like grass.

- 12 But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever,
your fame endures to all generations.
- 13 You will arise and have pity on Zion;
it's time to be gracious; her hour has come.
- 14 For even her stones are dear to your servants,
even the dust of her ruins they look on with
love.
- 15 Then the nations will revere the name of the
LORD
and all the kings of the earth his glory,
- 16 when the LORD shall have built up Zion,
and revealed himself in his glory,
- 17 in response to the prayer of the destitute,
whose prayer he will not despise.
- 18 Let this be recorded for ages to come,
that the LORD may be praised by a people yet
unborn.
- 19 For he shall look down from his holy height,
from the heavens the LORD will gaze on the
earth,
- 20 to hear the groans of the prisoner,
to free those who are doomed to die;
- 21 that people may recount the LORD's fame in
Zion,
and the praise of him in Jerusalem,
- 22 when the nations are gathered together,
and the kingdoms, to worship the LORD.
- 23 He has broken my strength on the way,
he has shortened my days.
- 24 I will say, 'My God, take me not hence
in the midst of my days.'

Your years endure age after age.
²⁵ Of old you have founded the earth,
 and the heavens are the work of your hands.
²⁶ They shall perish; but you do stand.
 They shall all wax old like a garment,
 and change as a robe you will change them.
²⁷ But you are the same, your years are endless.
²⁸ The children of your servants abide,
 evermore shall their seed be before you.'

103

Psalm 103 – Bless the Lord, O my Soul

Of David.

¹ O my soul, bless the LORD;
 and all that is in me, his holy name.
² O my soul, bless the LORD;
 and forget not one of his benefits.
³ He pardons all your sins,
 he heals all your diseases.
⁴ He ransoms your life from the pit,
 he crowns you with kindness and pity.
⁵ He gives you your heart's desire,
 renewing your youth like the eagle's.
⁶ The LORD executes justice –
 and right for all who are wronged.
⁷ He revealed his ways to Moses,
 his acts to the children of Israel.
⁸ Full of pity and grace is the LORD,
 patient, and rich in kindness:
⁹ he will not always chide,
 nor cherish his anger forever.
¹⁰ Not after our sins has he dealt with us,

nor requited us after our wickedness.

- 11 For high as the heavens o'er the earth
is his love over those who fear him.
12 Far as is east from the west
has he put our transgressions from us.
13 As a father pities his children,
so the LORD pities those who fear him;
14 for well he knows our frame,
he remembers that we are dust.
- 15 A person's days are as grass;
blossoms like a flower of the meadow.
16 At the breath of the wind it is gone,
and the place thereof knows it no more.
17 But the love of the LORD is eternal,
and his kindness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant
and mindfully do his behests.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in the heavens;
the whole world is under his sway.
20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his,
mighty heroes performing his word.
21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts,
you servants who do his will.
22 Bless the LORD, all you his works,
far as his sway extends.
O my soul, bless the LORD.

104

Psalm 104 – The Hymn of Creation

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul.
O LORD my God, you are very great,

clad in awful splendour,
2 covered with robe of light.
You stretch out the heavens like the cloth of a tent.
3 He lays the beams of his chambers on water.
He takes dark clouds for his chariot,
and rides on the wings of the wind.
4 He takes the winds for his messengers,
the fire and the flame for his servants.
5 He founded the earth upon pillars,
to sustain it unshaken forever.
6 With the garment of ocean he covered it,
waters towered over the mountains.
7 But at your rebuke they fled,
scared by the roar of your thunder,
8 mountains rose, valleys sank down
to the place appointed for them.
9 They dared not pass the bounds set for them,
or cover the earth any more.
10 He sent brooks into the valleys,
they meander between the mountains.
11 The wild beasts all drink from them,
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
12 The birds have their home by the banks,
and sing in the branches.
13 From his chambers above he gives drink to the
mountains,
and satisfies earth with the vials of heaven.
14 He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and herbs for people.
He brings bread out of the earth;
15 wine, to gladden hearts;

- oil, to make faces shine;
bread, to strengthen hearts.
- 16 The trees of the LORD drink their fill
the cedars he planted on Lebanon,
17 where the little birds build their nest,
and the stork whose home is the cypress.
- 18 The high hills are for the wild goats,
and the rocks are for coney to hide in.
- 19 He created the moon to mark seasons,
and told the sun when to set.
- 20 You make it dark: night comes,
when all the wild beasts creep out.
- 21 Young lions that roar for their prey,
seeking their meat from God.
- 22 At sunrise they slink away,
and lie down in their dens.
- 23 Then people go forth to their work,
and toil till evening.
- 24 How many, O LORD, are your works,
all of them made in wisdom!
The earth is filled with your creatures.
- 25 And there is the great broad sea,
where are countless things in motion,
living creatures, both great and small.
- 26 There go the ships,
and the Leviathan you made to play there.
- 27 They all look in hope to you,
to give them their food in due season.
- 28 And you give with open hand;
they gather and eat to their heart's desire.
- 29 When you hide your face, they are terrified;

- when you take their breath away,
they die and go back to their dust.
- 30 But a breath from your lips creates them,
and renews the face of the earth.
- 31 May the glory of the LORD be forever,
may the LORD rejoice in his works.
- 32 A glance of his makes the earth tremble,
a touch of his makes the hills smoke.
- 33 I will sing to the LORD while I live,
I will play to my God while I am.
- 34 May my musing be sweet to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
- 35 But may sinners be swept from the earth,
and the wicked vanish forever.
O my soul, bless the LORD.
Hallelujah.

105

Psalm 105 – The Inspiration of the Past

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name:
make known his deeds among the nations.
- 2 Sing to him, make music to him,
tell of all his wondrous works.
- 3 Make your boast in his holy name,
be glad at heart, you who seek the LORD.
- 4 Seek after the LORD and his strength,
seek his face evermore.
- 5 Remember the wonders he did,
his portents, the judgments he uttered,
- 6 you who are offspring of Abraham, his servant,
the children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- 7 He is the LORD our God:

- in all the earth are his judgments.
8 He remembers forever his covenant,
his promise for a thousand generations
9 The covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac,
10 and confirmed as a statute to Jacob,
a pact everlasting to Israel
11 to give them the land of Canaan
as the lot which they should inherit.
- 12 And when they were very few,
few and but pilgrims therein,
13 wandering from nation to nation,
journeying from people to people,
14 he allowed no one to oppress them,
even punishing kings for their sakes.
15 He forbade them to touch his anointed,
or do any hurt to his prophets.
- 16 When he called down famine on the land,
and cut off the bread which sustained them,
17 he sent before them a man,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
18 His feet were galled with fetters,
he was laid in chains of iron,
19 till the time that his word came to pass,
the word of the LORD that had tried him.
- 20 The king sent and freed him,
the ruler of nations released him.
21 He made him lord of his household,
and ruler of all his possessions,
22 to admonish his princes at will
and instruct his elders in wisdom.

- 23 Thus Israel came into Egypt,
 Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.
- 24 His people he made very fruitful,
 and mightier than their foes.
- 25 He inspired them to hate his people,
 and to deal with his servants craftily.
- 26 He sent his servant Moses,
 and Aaron whom he had chosen,
- 27 portents he wrought in Egypt,
 and signs in the land of Ham.
- 28 Darkness he sent, and it fell:
 yet they gave no heed to his word.
- 29 He turned their waters into blood,
 thus causing their fish to die.
- 30 Their land was alive with frogs,
 swarming even in the royal chambers.
- 31 At his command came flies,
 and lice in all their borders.
- 32 He gave them hail for rain
 and fire that flashed through the land,
- 33 smiting their vines and figs,
 breaking the trees of their border.
- 34 At his command came locusts,
 young locusts beyond all counting,
- 35 which ate every herb in the land,
 ate up, too, the fruit of their ground.
- 36 He struck down in their land all the firstborn,
 the firstlings of all their strength
- 37 Then forth he led Israel with silver and gold,
 and among his tribes no one was weary.

- 38 Egypt was glad when they left,
for terror had fallen upon them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud to screen them,
and fire to give light in the night.
- 40 He sent quails at their entreaty,
and heavenly bread in abundance.
- 41 He opened the rock; waters gushed:
in the desert they ran like a river.
- 42 For he remembered his holy promise
to Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led out his people with joy,
his elect with a ringing cry.
- 44 And he gave them the lands of the nations,
the fruit of their toil for possession,
- 45 that so they might keep his statutes,
and be of his laws observant.
Hallelujah.

106

Psalm 106 – The Nation's Sin against the Lord

¹ Hallelujah!

- Give thanks to the LORD for his goodness,
for his kindness endures forever.
- ² Who can describe his heroic deeds,
or publish all his praise?
- ³ Happy they who act justly,
and do righteousness evermore.
- ⁴ Remember me, LORD, as you remember your
people,
and visit me with your gracious help.
- ⁵ May I see the good fortune of your elect,

may I share in the joy of your nation,
and in the pride of your heritage.

- ⁶ We, like our fathers, have sinned,
we have done perversely and wickedly
- ⁷ In the land of Egypt our fathers,
all heedless of your wonders,
and unmindful of your great kindness,
at the Red Sea defied the Most High.
- ⁸ But true to his name he saved them,
in order to show his might.
- ⁹ He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried;
they marched through the depths as through
desert,
- ¹⁰ saved from the hand of the hostile,
redeemed from the hand of the foe.
- ¹¹ The waters covered their enemies:
not one of them was left.
- ¹² So then they believed in his words,
and began to sing his praise.
- ¹³ But soon they forgot his deeds:
they did not wait for his counsel.
- ¹⁴ Their greed was ravenous in the desert;
they put God to the test in the wilderness.
- ¹⁵ He gave them the thing they had asked for,
but sent wasting disease among them.
- ¹⁶ The camp grew jealous of Moses
and of Aaron, holy one of the LORD.
- ¹⁷ The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan,
and covered Abiram's company.
- ¹⁸ Fire broke out on their company,
flame kindled upon the wicked.

- 19 They made a calf in Horeb,
and bowed to the molten image.
- 20 They exchanged their glorious God
for the image of ox that eats grass.
- 21 They forgot the God who had saved them
by mighty deeds in Egypt
- 22 Wonders in the land of Ham,
terrors by the Red Sea.
- 23 So he vowed, and would have destroyed them,
but for Moses his elect,
who stepped into the breach before him,
to divert his deadly wrath.
- 24 They spurned the delightsome land,
they refused to believe in his word.
- 25 They grumbled in their tents,
would not listen to the voice of the LORD.
- 26 So he swore with uplifted hand
to lay them low in the wilderness;
27 to disperse their seed among heathen,
to scatter them over the world.
- 28 Then they joined them to Baal of Peor,
and ate what was offered the dead.
- 29 They provoked him to wrath by their deeds,
and plague broke out among them.
- 30 Then Phinehas stood between,
and so the plague was stayed;
- 31 and it was counted to him for righteousness
unto all generations forever.
- 32 They angered him at the waters of Meribah,
through them it went ill with Moses.
- 33 They rebelled against his spirit,

and he uttered speech that was rash.

³⁴ They did not destroy the nations,
as the LORD had commanded them;

³⁵ but they mingled with the heathen,
and learned to do as they did.

³⁶ Their idol gods they worshipped,
and they were ensnared by them.

³⁷ They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to the demons.

³⁸ They poured out innocent blood
the blood of their sons and daughters
whom they offered to Canaan's idols,
and the land was polluted with blood.

³⁹ They became unclean by their works,
and adulterous in their deeds.

⁴⁰ Then the LORD's fury was on his people,
filled with horror at his inheritance.

⁴¹ He delivered them to the heathen,
to the sway of those who hated them.

⁴² Their enemies oppressed them,
and subdued them under their hand.

⁴³ Many a time he saved them,
but they rebelled at his counsel,
and were brought low by their wrongdoing.

⁴⁴ Yet he looked upon their distress,
when he heard their cry.

⁴⁵ He remembered his covenant,
and, in his great kindness, relented.

⁴⁶ He caused them to be pitied
by all who carried them captive.

⁴⁷ Save us, O LORD our God,
and gather us out of the nations,

to give thanks to your holy name,
and to make our boast of your praise.

*48 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
And let all the people say 'Amen.'
Praise the LORD.*

Book Five

107

Psalm 107 – The Song of the Redeemed

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD for his goodness
for his kindness endures forever.
- ² Let this be the song of the ransomed,
whom the LORD has redeemed from distress,
- ³ gathering them from all lands,
east, west, north, and south.

- ⁴ In the wastes of the desert some wandered,
finding no way to a city inhabited.
- ⁵ Full of hunger and thirst,
their spirit failed.
- ⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distresses,
- ⁷ guiding them straight on the way,
till they reached an inhabited city.
- ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his kindness,
for his wonderful deeds for people;
- ⁹ for the thirsty he satisfies,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

- ¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and gloom

- prisoners in irons and misery,
11 for rebelling against God's word,
and spurning the Most High's counsel.
12 Their heart was bowed with toil;
there was no one to help when they stumbled.
13 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distresses.
14 Out of darkness and gloom he brought them,
and burst their chains.
15 Let them praise the LORD for his kindness,
for his wonderful deeds for people.
16 For he shattered the gates of bronze,
and broke bars of iron.
- 17 Some were sick from their wicked ways,
and suffering because of their sins.
18 All manner of food they hated;
they had come to the gates of death.
19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distresses.
20 He sent his word and healed them,
and delivered their life from the pit.
21 Let them praise the LORD for his kindness,
for his wonderful deeds for people.
22 Let them offer to him thankofferings,
and with joy tell what things he has done.
- 23 Some crossed the sea in ships,
doing business in great waters.
24 They have seen what the LORD can do,
and his wonderful deeds on the deep.
25 At his command rose a tempest,
which lifted the waves on high.

26 Up to heaven they went, down to the depths;
their courage failed them.

27 They staggered and reeled like drunkards;
all their skills useless.

28 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distresses.

29 He stilled the storm to a whisper,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

30 They were glad, because it was quiet;
they were led to the haven they longed for.

31 Let them praise the LORD, for his kindness,
for his wonderful deeds for people.

32 Where the people assemble, extol him,
and praise him in council of elders.

33 He turns streams into a wilderness,
springs of water into thirsty land,

34 fruitful land into a salt waste,
because of the sin of the people.

35 A desert he makes pools of water,
a land of drought into springs of water.

36 He settles the hungry therein,
they establish a city to live in.

37 They sow fields and plant vineyards,
which furnish a fruitful yield.

38 By his blessing they multiply greatly,
and he lets not their cattle decrease.

39 Yet when they are bowed and diminished
by oppression, misfortune, or sorrow,

40 he pours contempt upon princes,
and on trackless wastes leads them astray

41 He lifts the poor out of misery,

- and makes families fruitful as flocks.
⁴² At this sight shall the upright be glad,
 and all wicked mouths shall be stopped.
⁴³ Let those who are wise observe this,
 and consider the love of the LORD

108

Psalm 108 – A Prayer for Victory

A song. A psalm of David.

- ¹ My heart is steadfast, O God,
 my heart is steadfast.
 I would sing, I would make music;
 awake, my soul.
² Awake, harp and lyre;
 I would wake the dawn.
³ I would praise you among the peoples, O LORD;
 make music among the nations to you.
⁴ For great to heaven is your love,
 and your faithfulness to the clouds.
⁵ Be exalted, O God, o'er the heavens,
 and your glory o'er all the earth.
⁶ So those you love may be rescued,
 save by your right hand and answer us.
⁷ God did solemnly swear:
 'As victor will I divide Shechem,
 portion out the valley of Succoth.
⁸ Mine is Gilead, mine is Manasseh,
 Ephraim is my helmet,
 Judah my sceptre of rule,
⁹ Moab the pot that I wash in,
 on Edom I hurl my sandal,
 I shout o'er Philistia in triumph.'

- 10 O to be brought to the fortified city!
O to be led into Edom!
- 11 Have you not spurned us, O God?
You do not march forth with our armies.
- 12 Grant us help from the foe,
for human help is worthless.
- 13 With God we shall yet do bravely,
he himself will tread down our foes.

109

Psalm 109 – A Prayer for the Lord's Help

For the leader. Of David, a psalm.

- 1 O God whom I praise, keep not silence;
2 for their wicked mouths they have opened
against me,
they speak to me with tongues that are false,
3 they beset me with words of hatred,
and fight without cause against me.
4 My love they requite with hostility,
while for them I lift up my prayer.
5 Evil for good they reward me,
and hatred for my love.
- 6 'Set over him one who is godless,' they say,
'an opponent at his right hand.
7 From his trial let him come forth guilty,
may his prayer be counted as sin.
8 Grant that his days may be few,
that his office be seized by another.
9 Grant that his children be fatherless,
and that his wife be a widow.
10 Up and down may his children go begging,

- expelled from their desolate home.
- 11 May all that he owns be seized by the creditor
may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil.
- 12 'May none extend to him kindness,
or pity his fatherless children.
- 13 His descendants be doomed to destruction!
Blotted out be his name in one generation!
- 14 May his father's guilt be remembered,
and his mother's sin not blotted out:
- 15 on record always before the LORD,
and his memory root from the earth;
- 16 for he gave no thought to show kindness,
but pursued the poor and the needy,
drove the downhearted to death.
- 17 'May the curses he loved light upon him,
may the blessings he loathed be afar.
- 18 Like a garment he clothed him with curses;
may they pierce to his inwards like water,
and cling to his bones like oil.
- 19 Let them be like the robe he wraps round him,
like the belt he wears every day.'
- 20 Be this the reward of my adversaries,
of those who speak evil against me.
- 21 But you, LORD my GOD,
be true to your name,
deal kindly with me;
in your gracious kindness
save me.
- 22 For I am poor and needy,
and my heart is wounded within me.
- 23 I am gone like a lengthening shadow,

- I am shaken off like a locust.
24 My knees totter from fasting,
my flesh is shrivelled and spare.
25 They heap insults upon me:
when they see me, they shake their head.
- 26 Help me, O LORD my God,
and save me in your kindness.
27 Teach them that this is your hand,
and your own doing, O LORD.
28 Let them curse, if only you bless.
Put my assailants to shame,
and make your servant glad.
29 My opponents be clothed with dishonour,
and wrapped in a robe of shame.
- 30 I give thanks to you, LORD, with loud voice,
I give praise in the midst of the throng;
31 for he stands by the poor, at his right hand,
to save them from those who condemn them.

110

Psalm 110 – A Promise of Victory to the King
Of David, a psalm.

- 1 This said the LORD concerning my lord,
‘Sit at my right hand,
till I set your foot on the neck of your foes.’
- 2 On Zion the LORD is wielding
your sceptre of might, and charges you
to rule over the foes that surround you.
- 3 The day that you march to battle

your people will follow you gladly
young warriors in holy array,
like dew-drops, born of the morning.

⁴The LORD has sworn and will not repent,
'As for you, you are priest for ever
as Melchizedek was.'

⁵By your side will the LORD shatter kings
on the day of his wrath.

⁶He will execute judgment
filling the valleys with dead,
the broad fields with shattered heads.

⁷He will drink of the brook by the way,
and march onward with uplifted head.

111

Psalm 111 – In Praise of the Divine Goodness

¹Hallelujah.

I will thank the LORD with all my heart,
in the assembled congregation of his people.

²Great are the things that the LORD has done,
worthy of study by those who love them.

³Majestic and glorious is his work,
and his righteousness abides forever.

⁴For his marvellous deeds he has won renown;
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

⁵Food he gives to those who fear him,
always he remembers his covenant.

⁶His mighty works he has shown to his people,
in giving to them the nations for heritage.

⁷All that he does is faithful and right,
all his behests are firm and sure.

⁸ They are established for ever and ever,
executed with truth and uprightness.
⁹ To his people he sent redemption,
he has appointed his covenant forever.
His name is holy and awe-inspiring.
¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
wisdom
those who keep it are wise indeed.
His praise abides for ever and ever.

112

Psalm 112 – The Blessings of Godliness

¹ Hallelujah. Happy are those who fear
the LORD,
and greatly delight in his commandments.
² Mighty on earth shall be their seed;
a blessing shall rest on the race of the upright.
³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
their prosperity stands forever.
⁴ To the upright arises light in the darkness;
full of favour and pity and kindness are they.
⁵ It is well with those who show pity and lend,
who support all their affairs upon justice.
⁶ For they will never be shaken;
the just will be forever remembered.
⁷ They will not be afraid of evil tidings,
with steady heart they trust the LORD.
⁸ Their heart is firm and unafraid:
they know they will feast their eyes on their
enemies.
⁹ With lavish hands they give to the poor,
and their prosperity stands forever.

- They are lifted to heights of triumph and honour.
- ¹⁰ The sight of them fills the wicked with anger:
grinding their teeth with despair.
The hopes of the wicked will come to nothing.

113

Psalm 113 – The Lord loves the Humble

- ¹ Hallelujah.
- Praise the LORD, you his servants,
praise the name of the LORD.
- ² The name of the LORD be blessed
from now and for evermore.
- ³ From sunrise to sunset
is the name of the LORD to be praised.
- ⁴ High is the LORD above all nations,
above the heavens is his glory.
- ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
seated on high?
- ⁶ He bends down to look
at the heavens and earth.
- ⁷ He raises the weak from the dust,
he lifts the poor from the dunghill,
- ⁸ and sets them beside the princes,
even the princes of his people.
- ⁹ He gives the childless woman a home,
and makes her the happy mother of children.
Hallelujah.

114

Psalm 114 – The Marvel of the Exodus

- ¹ When Israel went out of Egypt,

- Jacob's house from a barbarous people,
2 God chose Judah for himself,
Israel became his kingdom.
- 3 The sea saw it, and fled,
Jordan river ran backwards.
- 4 Mountains skipped like rams,
hills like the young of the flock.
- 5 Why, sea, do you flee?
Jordan, why run backwards?
- 6 Mountains, why skip ram-like?
Why, hills, like the young of the flock?
- 7 Earth, tremble before the LORD,
at the presence of Jacob's God,
8 who turns rocks into pools of water,
and flint into fountains of water.

115

Psalm 115 – Israel's Incomparable God

- 1 Not to us, LORD, not to us,
but to your name give glory,
for your kindness' and faithfulness' sake.
- 2 Why should the heathen say,
'Where is now their God?'
- 3 Our God he is in heaven;
whatever he wishes, he does.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.
- 5 They have mouths, but cannot speak;
they have eyes, but cannot see.
- 6 They have ears, but cannot hear;

they have noses, but cannot smell.

⁷ They have hands, but cannot feel;
they have feet, but cannot walk:
no sound comes from their throats.

⁸ Their makers become like them,
so do all who trust in them.

⁹ O Israel, trust in the LORD:
he is their help and their shield.

¹⁰ House of Aaron, trust in the LORD:
he is their help and their shield.

¹¹ You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD
he is their help and their shield.

¹² The LORD, mindful of us, will bless us:
he will bless the house of Israel,
he will bless the house of Aaron.

¹³ He will bless those who fear the LORD,
the small and the great together.

¹⁴ May the LORD add to your numbers
to you and to your children.

¹⁵ Blessed be you of the LORD,
creator of heaven and earth.

¹⁶ The heavens are the heavens of the LORD,
but the earth has he given to people.

¹⁷ The dead cannot praise the LORD,
nor those who go down into silence.

¹⁸ But we will bless the LORD
from now and for evermore.
Hallelujah.

116

Psalm 116 – Song of Thanksgiving for Deliverance

- ¹ I love the LORD, for he hears
my voice, my pleas for mercy.
- ² For he has inclined his ear to me:
I will call upon him as long as I live.
- ³ About me were snares of death,
the anguish of Sheol was upon me:
distress and sorrow were mine.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
'I beseech you, O LORD, deliver me.'
- ⁵ Gracious and just is the LORD,
compassionate is our God.
- ⁶ The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was drooping, he saved me.
- ⁷ Be at peace, my heart, once more,
for the LORD has been good to you.
- ⁸ You have rescued me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
- ⁹ Before the LORD I will walk
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁰ I held fast my faith, though I said,
'Ah me! I am sore afflicted,'
- ¹¹ though in my alarm I said,
'Everyone is a liar.'
- ¹² What shall I render the LORD
for all his bounty to me?

- 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the LORD.
- 14 I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- 15 Grave in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his loyal and loved ones.
- 16 Ah, LORD! I am your servant,
your servant, child of your handmaid.
You have loosened my bonds.
- 17 I will offer to you a thank-offering,
and call on the name of the LORD.
- 18 I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
19 in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah.

117

Psalm 117 – A Call to Praise

- 1 Praise the LORD, all you nations:
laud him, all you peoples.
- 2 For his mighty love is over us:
the LORD is faithful forever.
Hallelujah.

118

Psalm 118 – Thanksgiving for Victory

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD for his goodness,
his kindness endures forever.
- 2 Let the house of Israel now say:
his kindness endures forever.
- 3 Let the house of Aaron now say:

- his kindness endures forever.
4 Let those who fear the LORD now say:
his kindness endures forever.
- 5 Out of straits I called on the LORD,
the LORD answered and gave me room.
- 6 The LORD is mine; I am fearless.
What can mere people do to me?
- 7 The LORD is mine, as my help:
I shall feast my eyes on my foes.
- 8 It is better to hide in the LORD
than to trust in mortals.
- 9 It is better to hide in the LORD
than to put any trust in princes.
- 10 Everywhere heathen swarmed round me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them down.
- 11 They swarmed, swarmed around me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them down,
- 12 they swarmed around me like bees,
they blazed like a fire of thorns:
in the name of the LORD I cut them down.
- 13 Sore they pushed me, to make me fall;
but the LORD gave me his help.
- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he is become my salvation.
- 15 Hark! In the tents of the righteous
glad cries of victory are ringing.
The hand of the LORD has wrought bravely,
16 the hand of the LORD is exalted,
the hand of the LORD has wrought bravely.
- 17 I shall not die: nay, I shall live,
to declare the works of the LORD.
- 18 Though the LORD has chastened me sore,

he has not given me over to death.

(The Procession arrives at the Temple)

19 'Open to me the gates of victory.
I would enter therein and give thanks to the LORD.'

(The Welcome)

20 'This is the gate of the LORD:
the righteous may enter therein;'

21 I thank you because you have heard me,
and are become my salvation.

22 The stone which the builders despised
is become the head-stone of the corner.
23 This has been wrought by the LORD;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This day is the LORD's own creation:
in it let us joy and be glad.

25 O LORD, save us, we pray,
O LORD, prosper, we pray.

26 Blessed the one who enters
in the name of the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless you.

27 The LORD is God,
he has given us light.
Wreathe the dance with boughs,
till they touch the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, I will thank you;
O my God, I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the LORD for his goodness:
his kindness endures forever.

119

Psalm 119 – The Power and Comfort of the Word of God

- ¹ Happy they whose life is blameless,
who walk by the law of the LORD.
- ² Happy they who keep his charges,
and seek him with all their hearts;
- ³ who have done no wrong,
but walk in his ways.
- ⁴ You yourself have appointed your precepts
to be kept with diligence.
- ⁵ O to be steadily guided
in the keeping of your statutes!
- ⁶ Then unashamed shall I be,
when I look towards all your command-
ments.
- ⁷ I will thank you with heart unfeigned,
when I learn your righteous judgments.
- ⁸ I will observe your statutes:
O forsake me not utterly.
- ⁹ How can a young person keep their life pure?
By giving heed to your word.
- ¹⁰ With all my heart have I sought you,
let me not stray from your commandments.
- ¹¹ In my heart have I treasured your word,
to keep from sinning against you.
- ¹² Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.

- 13 With my lips have I rehearsed
all the judgments of your mouth.
- 14 I delight in the way of your charges,
more than in riches of all sorts.
- 15 I will muse upon your precepts,
and look to your paths.
- 16 In your statutes I delight,
I will not forget your word.
- 17 Grant that your servant may live,
and I will observe your word.
- 18 Open my eyes, that I see
wondrous things out of your law.
- 19 But a guest am I on the earth:
hide not your commandments from me.
- 20 My heart is crushed with longing
for your ordinances, at all times.
- 21 You rebuke the proud, the accursed,
who wander from your commandments.
- 22 Roll away from me scorn and contempt,
for I have observed your charges.
- 23 Though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will muse on your statutes.
- 24 Your charges are my delight,
they are my counsellors.
- 25 I lie grovelling in the dust;
revive me, as you have promised.
- 26 I told of my ways, you made answer;
teach me your statutes.
- 27 Grant me insight into your precepts,
and I will muse on your wonders.
- 28 I am overcome with sorrow;

- raise me up, as you have promised.
- 29 Put the way of falsehood from me,
and graciously grant me your law.
- 30 I have chosen the way of fidelity,
your ordinances I long for.
- 31 I hold fast to your charges:
O put me not, LORD, to shame.
- 32 I will run in the way of your commandments,
for you give me room of heart.
- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will keep it to the end,
- 34 instruct me to keep your law,
and I will observe it with all my heart.
- 35 Guide me in the path of your commandments,
for therein do I delight.
- 36 Incline my heart to your charges,
and not to greed of gain.
- 37 Turn away my eyes from vain sights,
revive me by your word.
- 38 Confirm to your servant the promise
which is given to those who fear you.
- 39 Remove the reproach which I dread,
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your precepts.
Quicken me in your righteousness.
- 41 Visit me, LORD, with your love
and salvation, as you have promised.
- 42 So shall I answer my slanderers,
for my trust is in your word.
- 43 Snatch not from my mouth the word of truth,
for in your judgments I hope.

- 44 I will keep your law continually,
for ever and evermore.
- 45 So shall I walk in wide spaces,
for I give my mind to your precepts.
- 46 I will speak of your charge before kings,
and will not be ashamed thereof.
- 47 Your commandments are my delight,
I love them exceedingly.
- 48 I will lift up my hands to your commandments,
and muse upon your statutes.
- 49 Remember your word to your servant,
on which you have made me to hope.
- 50 This is my comfort in trouble,
that your word gives life to me.
- 51 The arrogant utterly scorn me,
but I have not declined from your law.
- 52 When I think of your judgments of old,
O LORD, I take to me comfort.
- 53 I am seized with glowing anger
at the wicked who forsake your law.
- 54 Your statutes have been to me songs
in the house of my pilgrimage.
- 55 I remember your name in the night,
O LORD and observe your law.
- 56 My lot has been this,
that I have kept your precepts.
- 57 My portion are you, O LORD:
I have promised to keep your words.
- 58 I entreat you with all my heart;
grant me your promised favour.
- 59 I have thought upon my ways,

- and turned my feet to your charges.
- 60 I hastened and tarried not
to give heed to your commandments.
- 61 Though the godless have wound their cords
round me,
I have not forgotten your law.
- 62 At midnight I rise to praise you
because of your righteous judgments.
- 63 With all those who fear you I company,
aid with those who observe your precepts.
- 64 The earth, LORD, is full of your kindness;
teach me your Statutes.
- 65 Well have you dealt with your servant,
as you have promised, O LORD.
- 66 Teach me discretion and knowledge,
for I have believed your commandments.
- 67 Till trouble came I was a wanderer,
but now I observe your word.
- 68 You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.
- 69 The proud have forged lies against me,
but I keep your precepts with all my heart.
- 70 Their heart is gross like fat,
but I delight in your law.
- 71 It was good for me to be humbled,
that I should learn your statutes.
- 72 The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.
- 73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me;
make me wise to learn your commandments.
- 74 Those who fear you shall see me with joy,

- for in your word have I hoped.
- 75 I know, O LORD, that your judgments are right,
and in faithfulness you have afflicted me.
- 76 Let your love be a comfort to me,
for so have you promised your servant.
- 77 Visit me with your quickening pity,
for your law is my delight.
- 78 Put the proud to shame, who have wronged me
falsely:
I will muse on your precepts.
- 79 Let those turn to me who fear you,
that they may learn your charges.
- 80 Let my heart be sound in your statutes,
that I may not be put to shame.
- 81 My long for you to rescue me,
I put my hope in your word.
- 82 My eyes pine away for your promise:
saying, 'When will you comfort me?'
- 83 Though shrivelled like wine-skin in smoke,
your statutes I have not forgotten.
- 84 How few are the days of your servant!
When will you judge those who harass me?
- 85 Proud people have dug for me pits
people who do not conform to your law.
- 86 All your commandments are trusty.
With falsehood they harass me: help me.
- 87 They had nearly made an end of me,
yet I did not forget your precepts.
- 88 Spare me in your kindness,
and I will observe the charge of your mouth.
- 89 Forever, O LORD, is your word

fixed firmly in the heavens.

- 90 Your truth endures age after age;
it is established on earth, and it stands.
- 91 By your appointment they stand this day,
for all are your servants.
- 92 Had not your law been my joy,
in my misery then had I perished.
- 93 I will never forget your precepts,
for through them you have put life in me.
- 94 I am yours, O save me,
for I give my mind to your precepts.
- 95 The wicked lay wait to destroy me,
but I give heed to your charge.
- 96 I have seen a limit to all things:
but your commandment is spacious exceedingly.
- 97 O how I love your law!
All the day long I muse on it.
- 98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my
enemies:
for it is mine forever.
- 99 I am prudent above all my teachers,
for your charges are my meditation.
- 100 I have insight more than the aged,
because I observe your precepts.
- 101 I refrain my foot from all wicked ways,
that I may keep your word.
- 102 I turn not aside from your judgments,
for you yourself are my teacher.
- 103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 Insight I win through your precepts,

therefore every false way I hate.

- 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet,
and a light to my path.
- 106 I have sworn an oath, and will keep it,
to observe your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am afflicted sorely:
revive me, O LORD, as you said.
- 108 Accept, LORD, my willing praise,
and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is in ceaseless peril;
but I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked set traps for me,
yet I do not stray from your precepts.
- 111 In your charges are my everlasting inheritance,
they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I am resolved to perform your statutes
forever, to the utmost.
- 113 I hate people of divided heart,
but your law do I love.
- 114 You are my shelter and shield:
in your word do I hope.
- 115 Begone, you wicked people,
I will keep the commands of my God.
- 116 Uphold me and spare me, as you have
promised:
O disappoint me not.
- 117 Hold me up, and I shall be saved:
and your statutes shall be my unceasing
delight.
- 118 All who swerve from your statutes you spurn:

- their cunning is in vain.
- 119 All the wicked of earth you count as dross,
therefore I love your charges.
- 120 My flesh, for fear of you, shudders,
and I stand in awe of your judgments.
- 121 Justice and right have I practised,
do not leave me to my oppressors.
- 122 Be your servant's surety for good,
let not the proud oppress me.
- 123 My eyes pine for your salvation,
and for your righteous promise.
- 124 Deal in your love with your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
- 125 Your servant am I; instruct me,
that I may know your charges.
- 126 It is time for the LORD to act:
they have violated your law.
- 127 Therefore I love your commandments
above gold, above fine gold.
- 128 So by all your precepts I guide me,
and every false way I hate.
- 129 Your decrees are wonderful,
gladly I keep them.
- 130 When your word is unfolded, light breaks;
it imparts to the simple wisdom.
- 131 With open mouth I pant
with longing for your commandments.
- 132 Turn to me with your favour,
as is just to those who love you.
- 133 Steady my steps by your word,
so that sin have no power over me.

- 134 Set me free from those who oppress me,
and I shall observe your precepts.
- 135 Shine with your face on your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
- 136 My eyes run down with rills of water,
because your law is not kept.
- 137 Righteous are you, O LORD,
and right are your ordinances.
- 138 The laws you has ordered are just,
and trusty exceedingly.
- 139 My jealousy has undone me,
that my foes have forgotten your words.
- 140 Your word has been tested well;
and your servant loves it.
- 141 I am little and held in contempt,
but your precepts I have not forgotten.
- 142 Just is your justice forever,
and trusty is your law.
- 143 Stress and strain are upon me,
but your commandments are my delight.
- 144 Right are your charges forever,
instruct me that I may live.
- 145 With my whole heart I cry; O answer me.
I would keep your statutes, O LORD.
- 146 I cry to you: O save me,
and I will observe your charges.
- 147 Ere the dawn I cry for your help:
in your word do I hope.
- 148 Awake I meet the night-watches,
to muse upon your sayings.
- 149 Hear my voice in your kindness:

- O LORD, by your judgments revive me.
150 Near me are wicked tormentors,
 who are far from thoughts of your law;
151 but near, too, are you, O LORD,
 and all your commandments are trusty.
152 Long have I known from your charges
 that you have founded them for all time.
- 153 Look on my misery, and rescue me;
 for I do not forget your law.
154 Defend my cause and redeem me:
 revive me, as you have promised.
155 Salvation is far from the wicked,
 for their mind is not in your statutes.
156 Great is your pity, O LORD:
 Revive me, as you have ordained.
157 My foes and tormentors are many,
 but I have not declined from your charges.
158 I behold the traitors with loathing,
 for they do not observe your word.
159 Behold how I love your precepts:
 revive me, O LORD!, in your kindness.
160 The sum of your word is truth,
 all your laws are just and eternal.
- 161 Princes have harassed me wantonly:
 but my heart stands in awe of your word.
162 Over your word I rejoice
 as one who finds great spoil.
163 Falsehood I hate and abhor,
 but your law do I love.
164 Seven times a day do I praise you
 because of your righteous judgments.

- 165 Right well do they fare who love your law:
they go on their way without stumbling.
- 166 I hope for your salvation;
O LORD I do your commandments.
- 167 I observe your charges:
I love them greatly.
- 168 I observe your precepts and charges:
all my ways are before you.
- 169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD:
give me insight, as you have promised.
- 170 Let my prayer enter into your presence:
deliver me, as you have said.
- 171 My lips shall be fountains of praise,
that you teach me your statutes.
- 172 My tongue shall sing of your word,
for all your commandments are right.
- 173 Let your hand be ready to help me,
for your precepts have been my choice.
- 174 I long, LORD, for your salvation,
and your law is my delight.
- 175 Revive me that I may praise you,
and let your precepts help me.
- 176 I have strayed like a wandering sheep
seek your servant, because
I do not forget your commandments.

120

Psalm 120 – Prayer for Deliverance from Slander and Treachery

A song of ascents.

¹ In distress I cried to the LORD,

- and he answered me.
2 'Deliver me, LORD,
from the lip that is false
and the tongue that is crafty.'
- 3 What shall he give to you,
you tongue that is crafty?
What yet shall he give to you?
- 4 Arrows of warrior, sharpened,
with glowing broom coals together.
- 5 Woe is me that I sojourn in Meshech,
that I live by the tents of Kedar.
- 6 Already too long have I dwelt
among those who hate peace.
- 7 I am for peace:
but when I speak of it,
they are for war.

121

Psalm 121 – The Lord Our Protector

A song of ascents.

- 1 I will lift up my eyes to the mountains.
O whence shall help for me come?
- 2 From the LORD comes help to me
the creator of heaven and earth.
- 3 Your foot he will not let totter:
he who guards you will not sleep.
- 4 The guardian of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD is he who guards you
your shelter upon your right hand.

⁶ The sun by day shall not strike you,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ From all evil the LORD will guard you,
he will guard your life.

⁸ The LORD will guard your going and coming
from now and for evermore.

122

Psalm 122 – The Joy and the Prayer of the Pilgrims

A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
‘We will go to the house of the LORD.’

² Now we are standing,
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ O Jerusalem, built close-packed,
like a city without breach or gap,

⁴ to you do the tribes come,
the tribes of the LORD,
as the law has ordained for Israel,
there to give thanks to the LORD.

⁵ There once stood thrones of justice
even thrones of the household of David.

⁶ Pray that all may be well with Jerusalem,
and well with those who love you,

⁷ well within your ramparts,
and well within your palaces.

⁸ For the sake of my brethren and friends,
I will wish you now prosperity:

⁹ for the sake of the house of the LORD
our God, I will seek your good.

123

Psalm 123 – A Prayer for Mercy

A song of ascents.

¹ I Lift up my eyes to you,
who are throned in the heavens.

² As the eyes of a servant
turn to the hand of his master,
or the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so do our eyes turn
to the LORD our God,
until he is gracious to us.

³ Be gracious, be gracious to us, LORD.
Scorn enough, and more, have we borne

⁴ More than enough have we borne
of derision from those at their ease,
of scorn from those who are haughty.

124

Psalm 124 – A Magnificent Deliverance

A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ 'Had it not been the LORD who was for us'
let Israel say

² 'Had it not been the LORD who was for us
when enemies rose against us,

³ then alive they'd have swallowed us up,
when their anger was kindled against us.

⁴ Then the waters would've swept us away,
and the torrent passed over us clean:

⁵ then most sure would've passed over us clean
the wild seething waters.'

⁶ Blest be the LORD who has given us not
to be torn by their teeth.

⁷ We are like a bird just escaped
from the snare of the fowler.

The snare is broken,
and we are escaped.

⁸ Our help is the name of the LORD,
the Creator of heaven and earth.

125

Psalm 125 – A Sure Defence

A song of ascents.

¹ Those who trust in the LORD
are like Mount Zion,
that cannot be moved,
but abides forever.

² Round Jerusalem are the mountains,
and the LORD is round his people
from now and for evermore.

³ For he will not suffer
the sceptre of wrong
to rest on the land
allotted to the righteous;
else the righteous might put forth
their own hand to evil.

⁴ Do good, O LORD,
to the good,
and to the true-hearted.

⁵ But those who swerve
into crooked ways
will the LORD lead away
with the workers of evil.

Peace be upon Israel.

126

Psalm 126 – Sowing in Tears

A song of ascents.

¹ When the LORD turned the fortunes of Zion,
we were like dreamers.

² Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
our tongue with glad shouts;
then among the nations they said,
‘The LORD has dealt greatly with them.’

³ The LORD had dealt greatly with us,
and we were rejoicing.

⁴ Turn our fortunes, O LORD,
as the streams in the Negreb.

⁵ They who sow in tears
shall reap with glad shouts.

⁶ Forth they fare, with their burden of seed,
and they weep as they go.

But home, home, with glad shouts they shall come
with their arms full of sheaves.

127

Psalm 127 – The Need of Heavenly Help

A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
Unless the LORD guards the city,

the watchman wakes in vain.

² In vain you rise early,
and finish so late,
and so eat sorrow's bread;
for he cares for his loved ones
in their sleep.

³ Children are a gift of the LORD,
the fruit of the womb, a reward.
⁴ Like arrows wielded by warriors,
are the children of youth.

⁵ Happy the man who has filled
his quiver full of them.
He will not be ashamed when he speaks
with enemies in the gate.

128

Psalm 128 – The Blessings of Home

A song of ascents.

¹ Happy all who fear the LORD,
who walk in his ways.
² You will eat what your hands have toiled for,
and be happy and prosperous!
³ Like a fruitful vine shall your wife be
in the innermost room of your house:
your children, like olive shoots,
round about your table.
⁴ See! This is the blessing
of the man who fears the LORD.
⁵ The LORD shall bless you from Zion.

You will see Jerusalem nourish
all the days of your life.

⁶ You will see your children's children.

Peace upon Israel.

129

*Psalm 129 – A Prayer for the Discomfiture of the
Enemies of Zion*

A song of ascents.

¹ 'Sore have they vexed me from youth'
thus let Israel say

² 'Sore have they vexed me from youth,
but they have not prevailed against me.

³ 'The ploughers ploughed on my back,
they made their furrows long.

⁴ But the LORD, who is righteous, has cut
the cords of the wicked.'

⁵ Let all who are haters of Zion
be put to shame and defeated.

⁶ May they be as the grass on the house-top,
which withers before it shoots up;

⁷ which fills not the arms of the reaper,
nor the lap of the binder of sheaves

⁸ whereof no one says as they pass,
'The blessing of God be upon you.'

In the name of the LORD we bless you.

130

Psalm 130 – Out of the Depths

A song of ascents.

¹ Out of the depths

I call to you, LORD.

² LORD, hear my voice:

give heed with your ears
to my loud plea.

³ If you should mark sin, LORD,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴ But with you is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

⁵ I wait for the LORD,

I wait for his word,

⁶ I look for the LORD

more than watchman for morning,
than watchman for morning.

⁷ Israel, hope in the LORD:

with the LORD there is love
with him plenteous redemption.

⁸ And he redeems Israel

from all his iniquities.

131

Psalm 131 – As a Little Child

A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ O LORD, my heart is not haughty,

my eyes are not lofty,

I walk not among great things,

things too wonderful for me.

² Yes, I have soothed and stilled myself,
like a young child on his mother's lap;
like a young child am I.

³ O Israel, hope in the LORD
from now and for evermore.

132

Psalm 132 – The Ancient Promise to David and Zion

A song of ascents.

¹ Remember, O LORD, David
all his sufferings,

² the oath that he swore to the LORD,
and his vow to the Strong One of Jacob,

³ never to enter his tent,
never to lie on his bed,

⁴ never to give his eyes sleep
or his eyelids slumber,

⁵ till he had found a place for the LORD,
for the Strong One of Jacob to live in.

⁶ We heard of it in Ephrathah,
in the fields of Jaar we found it.

⁷ We went to the place where he dwelt,
we bowed ourselves low at his footstool.

⁸ 'Arise, LORD, and enter your resting-place,
you and your mighty ark.

⁹ Let your priests wear a garment of righteous-
ness,
your faithful shout aloud for joy.

¹⁰ For the sake of David your servant,
do not reject your Anointed.'

- 11 The LORD swore an oath to David
an oath that he will not break;
‘I will set on your throne
a prince of your line.
- 12 If your sons keep my covenant
and the statutes I teach them,
then their sons, too, forever,
will sit on your throne.’
- 13 For the choice of the LORD is Zion;
she is the home of his heart.
- 14 ‘This is forever my resting-place,
this is the home of my heart.
- 15 I will royally bless her provision,
and give bread to her poor in abundance.
- 16 Her priests I will clothe with salvation;
her faithful will shout for joy.
- 17 There will I raise up for David
a dynasty of power.
- I have set my anointed a lamp
that shall never go out.
- 18 Robes of shame I will put on his foes,
but on his head a glittering crown.’

133

Psalm 133 – Family together

A song of ascents. Of David.

- 1 Behold! How good and how pleasant
is the dwelling of kindred together!
- 2 Like precious oil on the head
that ran down on the beard,
the beard of Aaron, running
over the collar of his robe:

³ like the dew upon Hermon which falls
on the mountains of Zion.
For there has the LORD ordained blessing –
life that is endless.

134

Psalm 134 – An Evening Invocation

A song of ascents.

- ¹ Come, praise the LORD,
all you the LORD's servants,
who stand by night
in the house of the LORD.
² Lift your hands to the holy place,
praise the LORD.
³ The LORD who made heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

135

Psalm 135 – The Lord's Power Revealed in Nature and History

- ¹ Hallelujah.
Praise the name of the LORD.
Praise the LORD, you his servants,
² who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God.
³ Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good:
Sing praise to his name it is pleasant.
⁴ The LORD for himself chose Jacob,
Israel as his own special treasure.
⁵ For I know that the LORD is great,
that our LORD is above all gods.
⁶ All that he wills he does

in the heavens and on the earth,
in the seas and in all the abysses.

7 Clouds he brings up from the ends of the earth,
lightnings he makes for the rain,
wind he brings out of his storehouses.

8 The firstborn of Egypt he struck,
both humans and animals.

9 Signs and wonders he sent
into your midst, O Egypt,
upon Pharaoh and all his servants.

10 Many nations he struck,
mighty kings he slew

11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
Og, king of Bashan,
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.

12 He gave their land for possession,
possession to Israel his people.

13 Your name, O LORD, is forever;
your memorial world without end.

14 For the LORD secures right for his people,
and takes pity upon his servants.

15 The idols of heathen are silver
made by human hands.

16 They have mouths, but cannot speak:
they have eyes, but cannot see.

17 They have ears, but cannot hear:
there is no breath in their mouths.

18 Their makers become like them,
so do all who trust in them.

19 House of Israel, praise the LORD:

- house of Araon, praise the LORD.
20 House of Levi, praise the LORD:
you who fear the LORD, praise the LORD.
21 Blest be the LORD out of Zion,
who lives in Jerusalem.
Hallelujah.

136

Psalm 136 – The Lord's Love Revealed in Nature and History

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD for his goodness:
for his kindness endures forever.
2 Give thanks to the God of gods:
for his kindness endures forever.
3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
for his kindness endures forever.
4 To him who alone does great wonders:
for his kindness endures forever.
5 Whose wisdom created the heavens:
for his kindness endures forever.
6 Who spread forth the earth on the waters:
for his kindness endures forever.
7 Who made great lights:
for his kindness endures forever.
8 The sun to rule over the day:
for his kindness endures forever.
9 Moon and stars to rule over the night:
for his kindness endures forever.
10 Who struck the firstborn of Egypt:
for his kindness endures forever.
11 And brought Israel out from their midst:
for his kindness endures forever.
12 With strong hand and outstretched arm:

- for his kindness endures forever.
13 Who cut the Red Sea in pieces:
for his kindness endures forever.
14 And brought Israel right through the midst:
for his kindness endures forever.
15 And shook Pharaoh with all his host into the sea
for his kindness endures forever.
- 16 Who led his people through the desert:
for his kindness endures forever.
17 Who struck down great kings:
for his kindness endures forever.
18 And slew noble kings:
for his kindness endures forever.
19 Sihon, king of the Amorites:
for his kindness endures forever.
20 And Og, king of Bashan:
for his kindness endures forever.
21 Who gave their land for possession:
for his kindness endures forever.
22 Possession to Israel his servant:
for his kindness endures forever.
- 23 Who remembered our low estate:
for his kindness endures forever.
24 And rescued us from our foes:
for his kindness endures forever.
25 Who gives to all flesh food:
for his kindness endures forever.
26 Give thanks to the God of heaven:
for his kindness endures forever.

137

Psalm 137 – By the Waters of Babylon

- 1 By the waters of Babylon there we sat,
and we wept at the thought of Zion.

² There on the poplars we hung our harps.

³ For there our captors called for a song:
our tormentors, rejoicing, saying:
'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'

⁴ How can we sing the LORD's song
in the foreigner's land?

⁵ If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand wither.

⁶ May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,
if I am unmindful of you,
or don't set Jerusalem
above my chief joy.

⁷ Remember the Edomites, LORD,
the day of Jerusalem's fall,
when they said, 'Lay her bare, lay her bare,
right down to her very foundation.'

⁸ Babylon, despoiler,
happy are those who pay you back
for all you have done to us.

⁹ Happy are they who seize and dash
your children against the rocks.

138

Psalm 138 – The Constancy of the Lord's Care

Of David.

¹ I will thank you, O LORD, with all my heart:
in the sight of the gods I will sing your praise,
² and prostrate before your holy temple,
will praise your name for your constant love,
for you have exulted your promise above all.

- ³ When I called you, you answered;
you gave me strength, you inspired me.
- ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
when they shall have heard the words you
have uttered;
- ⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
and tell of the LORD's transcendent glory.
- ⁶ For, high though the LORD is, he looks on the
lowly,
and strikes down the haughty from far away.
- ⁷ Though my way be distressful, yet you preserve
me:
you lay your hand on my angry foes,
and your right hand gives me victory.
- ⁸ The LORD will accomplish all that which con-
cerns me.
Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever.
O do not abandon the work of your hands.

139

Psalm 139 – The Ever-Present God

For the leader. Of David, a psalm.

- ¹ O LORD, you search and know me;
² when I sit, when I rise you know it,
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ When I walk, when I lie you sift it,
familiar with all my ways.
- ⁴ There is not a word on my tongue,
but see! LORD, you know it all.
- ⁵ Behind and before you beset me,
upon me you lay your hand.

⁶ It's too wonderful for me to know
too lofty I cannot attain it.

⁷ Whither shall I go from your spirit?
Or whither shall I flee from your face?

⁸ If I climb up to heaven, you are there:
or make Sheol my bed, you are there.

⁹ If I lift up the wings of the morning
and fly to the end of the sea,

¹⁰ there also your hand would grasp me,
and your right hand take hold of me.

¹¹ If I say, 'Let the darkness cover me,
and night be the light about me,'

¹² The dark is not dark for you,
but night is as light as the day.

¹³ For you did put me together;
in my mother's womb you did weave me.

¹⁴ I give you praise for my fashioning
so full of awe, so wonderful.
Your works are wonderful.

You knew me right well;

¹⁵ my bones were not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret,
and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw all my days:
they stood on your book every one
written down, before they were fashioned,
while none of them yet was mine.

17 But how far, O God, beyond measure
are your thoughts! How mighty their sum!
18 Should I count, they are more than the sand.
When I wake, I am still with you.

19 Will you slay the wicked, O God?
And remove from me the bloodthirsty,
20 who maliciously defy you
and take your name in vain.

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD?
Do I not loathe those who resist you?
22 With perfect hatred I hate them,
I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, O God, know my heart:
test me, and know my thoughts,
24 and see if guile be in me;
and lead me in the way everlasting.

140

Psalm 140 – A Prayer for Preservation

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

1 Rescue me, LORD, from evil people;
from the violent guard me
2 from those who plot evil in their heart,
and stir up war continually:
3 who make their tongue as sharp as a serpent's,
and under whose lips is the poison of adders.
Selah

4 Preserve me, O LORD, from the hands of the
wicked,

from the violent guard me
from those who are plotting to trip up my feet.

⁵ The proud have hidden a trap for me,
cords they have spread as a net for my feet:
snares they have set at the side of my track.
Selah

⁶ I have said to the LORD, 'My God are you;
attend, LORD, to my loud plea.

⁷ O LORD my LORD, my saviour mighty,
you did cover my head in the day of battle.

⁸ Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;
and what they have purposed, promote you
not.'

Selah

⁹ Let them not lift up their heads against me.
May the mischief they prate bring themselves
to destruction,

¹⁰ may he rain upon them coals of fire,
may he strike them down swiftly, to rise no
more,

¹¹ no place in the land may there be for the slan-
derer:
may the violent be hunted from sorrow to
sorrow.

¹² I know that the LORD will do right by the weak,
and will execute justice for those who are
needy.

¹³ Surely the righteous shall praise your name,
and they who are upright shall live in your
presence.

141

Psalm 141 – A Prayer for Protection from Persecutors

A psalm of David.

- ¹ LORD, I call to you: hasten, to me,
attend to my voice, when I call to you.
- ² Let my prayer be presented as incense before
you,
and my uplifted hands as the evening meal-
offering.
- ³ Set, O LORD, a watch on my mouth,
put a guard on the door of my lips.
- ⁴ Incline not my heart to an evil matter,
to busy myself in deeds of wickedness,
in company with workers of evil:
never may I partake of their dainties.
- ⁵ A wound or reproof from a good person in kind-
ness
is oil which my head shall never refuse.
In their misfortune my prayer is still with
them.
- ⁶ Abandoned they are to the hands of their judges:
they shall learn that my words are true.
- ⁷ Like stones on a country road cleft and broken
so lie our bones scattered for Death to devour.
- ⁸ But my eyes are turned towards you, O LORD.
Do not pour out my life, for in you I take
refuge.
- ⁹ Keep me safe from the trap they have laid for me,
from the snares of the workers of trouble.

¹⁰ Into their own nets let wicked people fall;
while I pass by in safety.

142

Psalm 142 – A Prayer for Deliverance from Persecutors

A maskil of David, while he was in the cave, a prayer.

¹ Loudly I cry to the LORD:
to the LORD plead loudly for mercy,

² I pour my complaint before him,
I tell my troubles to him.

³ When my spirit is faint within me,
my path is known to you.
In the way I am wont to walk in,
they have hidden a trap for me.

⁴ I look to the right and the left;
but not a friend have I.
No place of refuge is left me,
not a man to care for me.

⁵ So I cry to you, O LORD:
I say, 'My refuge are you,
all I have in the land of the living.'

⁶ Attend to my piercing cry,
for very weak am I.
Save me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.

⁷ Free me from prison,
that I may give thanks to your name,

for the righteous are patiently waiting
till you show your bounty to me.

143

Psalm 143 – A Prayer for Deliverance and Guidance

A psalm of David.

¹ Listen, O LORD, to my prayer;
attend to my plea.

In your faithfulness give me answer,
and in your righteousness.

² With your servant O enter you not into judgment,
for in your sight can no one alive be justified.

³ For the enemy persecutes me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me live in the darkness,
as those who have long been dead.

⁴ My spirit is faint within me,
my heart is bewildered within me.

⁵ I remember the days of old,
and brood over all you have done,
musing on all that your hands have wrought.

⁶ I spread out my hands to you:
I thirst for you,
like parched earth.

Selah

⁷ Answer me soon, LORD,
because my spirit is spent.
Hide not your face from me,

else become I like those who go down to the
pit.

⁸ Let me learn of your love in the morning,
for my trust is in you.

Teach me the way I should go:
for my heart longs for you.

⁹ Save me, O LORD, from my foes:
for to you I have fled for refuge.

¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you yourself are my God.
Guide me by your good spirit,
O LORD, on a way that is smooth.

¹¹ Be true to your name LORD, spare me,
bring me out of distress in your faithfulness.

¹² In your kindness extinguish my enemies,
and all those who vex me destroy;
for I am your servant.

144

Psalm 144 – The Warrior's Song

Of David.

¹ Blest be the LORD my rock,
who trains my hands for war,
my fingers for fighting.

² My rock and my fortress,
my tower, my deliverer,
my shield, behind whom I take refuge,
who lays nations low at my feet.

³ LORD, what are mortals
that you care for them,

humans,
that you think of them?

⁴ They are like a breath,
their days as a shadow that passes.

⁵ LORD, bow your heavens and come down:
touch the hills, so that they smoke.

⁶ Flash forth lightning and scatter them,
your arrows send forth and confound them.

⁷ Stretch out your hand from on high;
pluck me out of the mighty waters,
out of the hands of foreigners,

⁸ who speak with the mouth of falsehood,
and lift their right hand to swear lies.

⁹ O God, a new song I would sing you,
on a ten-stringed harp make you music.

¹⁰ For to kings you give the victory,
and David your servant you save.

¹¹ Snatch me from the cruel sword,
rescue me from the hand of foreigners,
who speak with the mouth of falsehood,
and lift their right hand to swear lies.

The Prosperity of the Lord's People

¹² May our sons in their youth
be as plants well tended:
our daughters like cornices
carved as in palaces.

¹³ May our barns be bursting
with produce of all kinds.
In the fields may our sheep bear

by thousands and ten thousands.

¹⁴ May our cattle be fat,
our walls unbreached,
may no cry of distress
ring in our streets.

¹⁵ Happy the people
who fares so well:
and so fares the people
whose God is the LORD.

145

Psalm 145 – The Kingdom Everlasting

A song of praise. Of David.

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God, O king:
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² I will bless you every day:
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and worthy all praise,
his greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴ One age to another shall praise your deeds,
declaring the mighty things you have done.
- ⁵ Of your glorious majesty they shall tell,
and I will muse of your many wonders.
- ⁶ Of the might of your terrible acts they shall
speak,
and the tale of your great deeds I will tell.
- ⁷ The fame of your abundant goodness
and righteousness they shall pour forth in
song.

- 8 The LORD is full of grace and pity,
patient and rich in loving-kindness.
- 9 The LORD is good to all the world,
and his pity is over all things that he made.
- 10 All your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and you are blessed of those who love you.
- 11 They shall speak of your glorious kingdom,
and of your might shall they discourse,
12 making known to all his mighty acts,
and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.
- 13 Yours is a kingdom that lives through all ages:
through all generations extends your dominion.
- 14 The LORD upholds all who fall;
he lifts up all who are bowed down.
- 15 The eyes of all look in hope to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
- 16 You yourself open your hand,
and fill with your favour all things that live.
- 17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways,
gracious is he in all that he does.
- 18 The LORD is near to all who call him,
to all who call upon him in truth.
- 19 He will fulfil the desires of those who fear him;
he will hear their cry for help and save them.
- 20 The LORD is the keeper of all who love him,
but all the wicked will he destroy.

²¹ My mouth will utter the praise of the LORD,
and all life will bless his holy name
for ever and ever.

146

Psalm 146 – The Great Protector

¹ My soul, praise the LORD.

² I will praise the LORD, while I live;
I will sing to my God, while I am.

³ Put not your trust in princes
mortals, in whom is no help.

⁴ When their breath goes out,
they go back to the dust:
on that very day
their purposes perish.

⁵ Happy those whose help
is the God of Jacob:
whose hope is set
on the LORD their God,
⁶ the Creator of heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them.

He remains eternally loyal.

⁷ For the wronged he executes justice;
he gives bread to the hungry;
the LORD releases the prisoners.

⁸ The LORD gives sight to the blind:
the LORD raises those who are bowed.
The LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD preserves the stranger,
upholds the widow and orphan,
but the wicked he leads to disaster.

10 The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Hallelujah.

147

Psalm 147 – The Lord's Love and Power Revealed in Nature

¹ Hallelujah.

It is good to sing praise to our God,
for praise is sweet and seemly.

² The LORD builds up Jerusalem,
the outcasts of Israel he gathers.

³ He heals the broken in heart,
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He counts the numberless stars,
he gives names to them all.

⁵ Great is our LORD, rich in power,
and measureless is his wisdom.

⁶ The LORD lifts up the down-trodden,
the wicked he brings to the ground.

⁷ Sing songs of thanks to the LORD,
and play on the lyre to our God.

⁸ For he covers the sky with clouds,
he prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass to grow on the mountains.

⁹ He gives the cattle their food
the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰ His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
his joy is not in the speed of a runner;

¹¹ but the LORD has his pleasure in those who fear
him,
in those who wait for his kindness.

- 12 Praise the LORD, then, O Jerusalem:
sing praise to your God, O Zion.
- 13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates,
and blesses your children within you.
- 14 He brings peace to your borders,
and choicest of wheat in abundance.
- 15 He sends his command to the earth:
his word runs very swiftly.
- 16 Snow he gives like wool,
frost he scatters like ashes.
- 17 He casts forth his ice like morsels:
who can stand before his cold?
- 18 He sends forth his word, and melts them:
his wind blows the waters flow.
- 19 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and judgments to Israel.
- 20 No other nation did he do this for,
they know nothing of his judgments.
Hallelujah.

148

Psalm 148 – The Universal Chorus of Praise

- 1 Praise the LORD from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for at his command they were made.

⁶ And he fixed them for ever and ever
by a law which they dare not transgress.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth:
you depths, with your monsters, all.

⁸ Fire, hail, snow and ice,
and stormy wind doing his word.

⁹ All you mountains and hills,
all you fruit trees and cedars,

¹⁰ all you wild beasts and tame,
creeping things, birds on the wing.

¹¹ All you kings and nations of earth;
all you princes and judges of earth:

¹² young men and maidens together,
old men and children together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted.
Over heaven and earth is his glory.

¹⁴ He has lifted his people to honour.

Wherefore this chorus of praise from his saints,
from Israel, the people who stand in his fel-
lowship.
Hallelujah.

149

Psalm 149 – Song of Victory

¹ Hallelujah.

Sing to the LORD a new song,

- sound his praise where the faithful are gathered.
- ² Let Israel rejoice in its maker,
sons of Zion exult in their king.
- ³ Let them praise his name in the dance,
making music with lyre and with timbrel.
- ⁴ For the LORD delights in his people,
adorning the humble with victory.
- ⁵ Let the faithful exult and extol him
with glad ringing cries all night long.
- ⁶ High praises of God in their mouth,
and a two-edged sword in their hand:
- ⁷ on the heathen to execute vengeance,
and chastisement sore on the nations,
- ⁸ binding their kings with chains,
and their nobles with fetters of iron,
- ⁹ to execute on them the doom that is written.

This is the glory of all his faithful.
Hallelujah.

150

Psalm 150 – Hallelujah

- ¹ Hallelujah.
Praise God in his holy place.
Praise him in the sky, his stronghold.
- ² Praise him for his deeds of power.
Praise him for his boundless greatness.
- ³ Praise him with blast of horn;
praise him with harp and lyre.
- ⁴ Praise him with timbrel and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe.

- ⁵ Praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing cymbals.
⁶ Let all that has breath praise the LORD.
Hallelujah.

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