

An EASY READER BIBLE[©] Introduction to

The PSALMS

An Invitation: Come... Visit... Meet this God

Psalms 1 – 150

**INTRODUCTION TO
THE PSALMS**

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An Invitation: Come... Visit... Meet this God.

Book I Psalms 1 – 41

PSALM 1

- ¹ Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
- ⁴ Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (NIV)
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PSALM 1 – LORD WATCHES OVER THOSE WHO CHOOSE LIGHT WHEN DARKNESS IS PRESENT.**PURSUING HIS WILL – IN A WORLD THAT DOES NOT****A. WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS – GOD’S WILL IS THE PATH LEADING TO LIFE****Blessed are you who**

1

1. REPENTANCE – CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE, SHIFT IN DIRECTION**TURNING FROM...; SETTING ASIDE THE DARKNESS WE WERE BORN INTO**

does NOT

walk in step with the wicked or**stand** in the way that sinners take or**sit** in the company of mockers,**TURNING TO...; FOLLOWING ANOTHER WAY, SEEKING THE WILL OF THE LORD****but**

whose delight is in my law, the law of YHWH, and

who meditates on my law day and night.

2

2. PROMISE – OF HOPE OF LIVING WATER FROM RIVER OF LIFE

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season and

whose leaf does not wither—

whatever they do prospers.

3

B. WAY OF THE WICKED – A PATH THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION

Not so the wicked!

4

1. NO REPENTANCE – NONE TO SPEAK OF, BLANK, AN EMPTY RECORD**2. PROMISE – HOPELESSNESS OF BEING SEPERATED FROM LORD AND HIS WILL**They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

Therefore

the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners **in the assembly of the righteous.**

5

SUMMARY – LORD WATCHES OVER HIS RIGHTEOUS CHILDREN - THOSE WHO PURSUE HIS WILLFor **I YHWH, watch over** the way of the righteous,

6

but

[the way of the wicked leads to destruction.]

God's eyes are on those who's eyes are on Him

PSALM 2

- ¹ Why do the nations conspire
and the peoples plot in vain?
- ² The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the LORD and against his anointed, saying,
- ³ “Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles.”
- ⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.
- ⁵ He rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
- ⁶ “I have installed my king
on Zion, my holy mountain.”
- ⁷ I will proclaim the LORD’s decree:
- He said to me, “You are my son;
today I have become your father.
- ⁸ Ask me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.
- ⁹ You will break them with a rod of iron;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”
- ¹⁰ Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear
and celebrate his rule with trembling.
- ¹² Kiss his son, or he will be angry
and your way will lead to your destruction,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (NIV)
-

**PSALM 2 – LORD, KING IN HEAVEN WHO RULES – ESTABLISHES HIS SON AS THE KING OF KINGS
SERVE HIM AND CELEBRATE HIS RULE**

A.1. MAN'S WORDS – DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF RULE, REJECTING LORD'S REIGN

Why do **the nations** conspire
and the peoples plot in vain? 1

The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against ^vme YHWH, and against ^vmy anointed, (saying)
“Let us break their chains
and throw off their shackles.” 2
3

A.2. LORD'S RESPONSE – TO THE IDEA OF A CONCEPT THAT DOES NOT EXIST

I the One enthroned in heaven ^vlaugh;
I the **Lord** ^vscoff at them.
I rebuke them in my anger
and terrify them in my wrath, saying,
“I have installed **my king**
on Zion, my holy mountain.” 4
5
6

B.1. LORD'S WORDS – ACCEPT LORD'S REIGN AND THE RULE OF HIS ANOINTED SON

Proclaim **my** decree, the decree of YHWH: 7

PROCLAMATION OF HIS SON AS ANOINTED KING

(I said) to *my son*,
“You are my son;
today I have become your father.
Ask me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.
You will break (rule) them with a rod of iron;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” 8
9

B.2. MAN'S RESPONSE – SUGGESTION TO SUBMIT TO LORD'S WILL AND SON

Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you **rulers of the earth**.
Serve me, me YHWH, with fear
and **celebrate my rule** with trembling. 10
11

Kiss my son,
or I will be angry
and [your way will lead to your destruction],
for my wrath can flare up in a moment. 12

Blessed are all who take refuge in me.

PSALM 3

A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom.

¹ LORD, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!

² Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”

³ But you, LORD, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

⁴ I call out to the LORD,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.

⁵ I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.

⁶ I will not fear though tens of thousands
assail me on every side.

⁷ Arise, LORD!
Deliver me, my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸ From the LORD comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people. (NIV)

PSALM 3 – LORD OUR DELIVERER ! – SUSTAINER OF THOSE WHO FACE CHALLENGES HAVING FAITH IN HIM
(1 - GOING TO BED)

MANY ARE SAYING, 'GOD DOES NOT DELIVER. HE DOES NOT MATTER, OR MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

SURROUNDED BY MANY THINGS SET AGAINST US – FACING FAILURE

SEEN SET OF FACTS

I YHWH, know how many are your foes!
How many rise up against you!

1

(Many are saying of you,
"God will not deliver him.")

2

BUT GOD DOES DELIVER !! LORD DOES MATTER, AND MAKES A DIFFERENCE

UNSEEN SET OF FACTS

But

I YHWH, am

- a *shield* around you,
- your glory,
- the One who lifts your head high.

3

Call out to me, me YHWH, and

WORK OF MAN

4

LORD'S ACTS OF POWER IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAN'S FAITH

WORKS OF GOD

I answer you from my holy mountain.

LORD AS OUR DEFENSE (INTERNAL) – LORD'S PEACE SUSTAINS IN OUR TROUBLES

You lie down

and sleep;

You wake again,

because I YHWH, sustain you.

5

Do not fear

though *tens* of thousands

assail you on *every* side.

6

LORD AS OUR OFFENSE (EXTERNAL) – VENGEANCE IS HIS; SHUTTING THEIR MOUTHS

I YHWH arise!

I deliver you, me your God!

7

I strike all your enemies on the jaw;

I break the teeth of the wicked.

SUMMARY – SALVATION COMES FROM THE HANDS OF LORD; OPPOSITION COUNTS FOR NOTHING

(From me, YHWH, comes deliverance.)
May my blessing be on my people.)

8

PSALM 4

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

¹ Answer me when I call to you,
my righteous God.
Give me relief from my distress;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

² How long will you people turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
³ Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴ Tremble and do not sin;
when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent.
⁵ Offer the sacrifices of the righteous
and trust in the LORD.

⁶ Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?”
Let the light of your face shine on us.

⁷ Fill my heart with joy
when their grain and new wine abound.

⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety. (NIV)

**PSALM 4 – LORD, THE LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS –
GIVES US SAFETY, AND PEACE AND JOY IN OUR SOUL
TO THOSE WHO TRUST HIM TO WALK WITH THEM THROUGH THEIR TROUBLES
(2 - THROUGHOUT THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT)**

A PLEA FOR LORD'S BLESSING, FROM AMIDST OUR OVERPOWERING DISTRESS

[I answer you when you (call to me), me your righteous God.] 1

I give you relief from your distress;
I have mercy on you and hear your prayer.

How long will people turn your glory into shame? 2
How long will they love delusions and seek false gods?

They ought to know that I, I YHWH, have set apart my faithful servant for myself; 3

[I YHWH, hear when you (call to me).]

TRUSTING LORD – WHO'S PEACE SUSTAINS US THROUGH TOUGH EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Tremble and do not sin; 4

when you are *on your beds*,
search your hearts and be silent.

Offer the sacrifices of the righteous 5
and **trust in me**, YHWH.

FELLOWSHIP WITH LORD GIVES POWER OF A JOY THAT PREVAILS

Many are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?" 6

I let the light of my face shine on you.

I fill your heart with joy 7
(greater than) when their grain and new wine abound.

SUMMARY – SAFETY COMES FROM THE HAND OF LORD

In **peace** lie down and sleep, 8

for **I alone**, I YHWH,
make you dwell in safety.

Kingdom of Heaven is a matter of righteousness, peace, and joy.

Looking at circumstances a whole new way,
through the filter of Lord
(like He looks at us thru the filter of the blood, in Jesus)

PSALM 5

For the director of music. For pipes. A psalm of David.

¹ Listen to my words, LORD,
consider my lament.

² Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.

³ In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

⁴ For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

⁵ The arrogant cannot stand
in your presence.

You hate all who do wrong;

⁶ you destroy those who tell lies.

The bloodthirsty and deceitful
you, LORD, detest.

⁷ But I, by your great love,
can come into your house;

in reverence I bow down
toward your holy temple.

⁸ Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness
because of my enemies—
make your way straight before me.

⁹ Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
their heart is filled with malice.

Their throat is an open grave;
with their tongues they tell lies.

¹⁰ Declare them guilty, O God!
Let their intrigues be their downfall.

Banish them for their many sins,
for they have rebelled against you.

¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

¹² Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your favor as with a shield. (NIV)

PSALM 5 – LORD OUR SHIELD – LEADS THOSE WHO SEEK HIS PRESENCE TO DO HIS WILL

(3 - IN THE MORNING)

CRYING OUT TO LORD AMIDST OUR INADEQUACY

I YHWH, listen to your words,
 I consider your lament.
 I hear your cry for help,
 your **King** and your God,
 for to me you pray.

1

2

COME TO LORD – LAYING OUR CONCERNS AND WILL BEFORE HIM...

In the morning, **I YHWH, hear** your voice;
 in the morning lay your requests before me
 and wait expectantly.

3

(HOPE)

LORD NOT ACCEPTING THE WICKED INTO HIS PRESENCE

For I am not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
 with me, evil people are not welcome.
 The arrogant cannot stand
in my presence.
 I hate all who do wrong;
 I destroy those who tell lies.
 The bloodthirsty and deceitful
I, YHWH, detest.

4

5

6

LORD WELCOMING CHILDREN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS INTO HIS PRESENCE

But

you, by my great love,
can come into my house;
in reverence you bow down
 toward my holy temple.

7

... LORD SHARING HIS WILL AND DIRECTION FOR THE DAY WITH US

I YHWH, lead you, in my righteousness
 because of your enemies—
 I make my way straight before you.

8

TRUST NOT IN GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM THE WICKED

Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
 their heart is filled with malice.
 Their throat is an open grave;
 with their tongues they tell lies.
 I declare them guilty, I God!
 I let their intrigues be their downfall.
 I banish them for their many sins,
 for they have rebelled against me.

9

10

REJOICE IN (FOLLOW) THE GUIDANCE OF LORD OUR PROTECTOR KING

But

let all who take refuge in ME **be glad**;
 let them ever sing for **joy**.
 I spread my protection over them,
 that those who love my name may **rejoice in me**.

11

SUMMARY – LORD IS LIGHT WALKING WITH US THROUGH THE MIDST OF OUR DARK TIMES

Surely, **I YHWH bless** the righteous;
 I surround them with my favor as with a shield.

12

wickedness causes relational disconnection
 tell him your story and ask him to help you

PSALM 6

**For the director of music. With stringed instruments.
According to *sheminith*. A psalm of David.**

- ¹ LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.
- ² Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint;
heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony.
- ³ My soul is in deep anguish.
How long, LORD, how long?
- ⁴ Turn, LORD, and deliver me;
save me because of your unfailing love.
- ⁵ Among the dead no one proclaims your name.
Who praises you from the grave?
- ⁶ I am worn out from my groaning.
- All night long I flood my bed with weeping
and drench my couch with tears.
- ⁷ My eyes grow weak with sorrow;
they fail because of all my foes.
- ⁸ Away from me, all you who do evil,
for the LORD has heard my weeping.
- ⁹ The LORD has heard my cry for mercy;
the LORD accepts my prayer.
- ¹⁰ All my enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish;
they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame. (NIV)
-

PSALM 6 – LORD OF LOVE AND MERCY – OUR HOPE... OUR ONLY HOPE SUFFICIENT FOR OUR WEARY SOUL

A.1. OUR SUFFERING – THE HEAVY WEIGHT OF LORD'S DISCIPLINE

I YHWH, do not rebuke you in my anger, or
discipline you in my wrath.

1

I YHWH have mercy on you, for
you are **faint**;

2

I YHWH heal you, for
your **bones** are in **agony**.

Your soul is in **deep anguish**.

3

How long, **how long**?

A.2. HIS LOVE – OUR ONLY HOPE SUFFICIENT FOR SALVATION / RESTORATION

I YHWH, turn and deliver you;

4

I save you because of my [unfailing love].

Among the dead no one proclaims my name.
Who praises me from the grave?

5

B.1. OUR PAIN – STRESS OF HOPELESSNESS AND DESPAIR THAT HE ALLOWS US TO EXPERIENCE

You are worn out from your **groaning**.

6

All night long you flood your bed with **weeping**
and drench your couch with **tears**.

7

Your eyes grow weak with **sorrow**;
they **fail** because of all your foes.

B.2. HIS MERCY – SUFFICIENT AS OUR ONLY CONFIDENCE / HOPE

Away from you, all those who do evil,

8

for

I YHWH have heard your weeping.

9

I YHWH have heard your cry for mercy;

I YHWH accept your prayer.

All your enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish;
they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

10

PSALM 7

A *shiggaion* of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning Cush, a Benjamite.

- ¹ LORD my God, I take refuge in you;
save and deliver me from all who pursue me,
² or they will tear me apart like a lion
and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me.
- ³ LORD my God, if I have done this
and there is guilt on my hands—
⁴ if I have repaid my ally with evil
or without cause have robbed my foe—
⁵ then let my enemy pursue and overtake me;
let him trample my life to the ground
and make me sleep in the dust.
- ⁶ Arise, LORD, in your anger;
rise up against the rage of my enemies.
Awake, my God; decree justice.
- ⁷ Let the assembled peoples gather around you,
while you sit enthroned over them on high.
- ⁸ Let the LORD judge the peoples.
Vindicate me, LORD, according to my righteousness,
according to my integrity, O Most High.
- ⁹ Bring to an end the violence of the wicked
and make the righteous secure—
you, the righteous God
who probes minds and hearts.
- ¹⁰ My shield is God Most High,
who saves the upright in heart.
- ¹¹ God is a righteous judge,
a God who displays his wrath every day.
- ¹² If he does not relent,
he will sharpen his sword;
he will bend and string his bow.
- ¹³ He has prepared his deadly weapons;
he makes ready his flaming arrows.
- ¹⁴ Whoever is pregnant with evil
conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment.
- ¹⁵ Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out
falls into the pit they have made.
- ¹⁶ The trouble they cause recoils on them;
their violence comes down on their own heads.
- ¹⁷ I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness;
I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High. (NIV)

PSALM 7 – SEEKING MOST HIGH LORD OF RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE – FOR A JUDGEMENT AGAINST AN ACCUSATION

Take refuge in me, me YHWH your God; 1

SEEKING LORD'S DELIVERENCE FROM OUR ENEMIES ...

I save and deliver you from all who pursue you,
or they would tear you apart like a lion 2
and rip you to pieces with no one to rescue you.

... WHILE IN THE MIDST OF OUR INNOCENCE

I YHWH your God, (know) **if** you have done this 3
and there is guilt on your hands—
if you have repaid your ally with evil 4
or without cause have robbed your foe—
then I let your enemy pursue and overtake you; 5
I let him trample your life to the ground
and make you sleep in the dust.

LOOKING TO LORD, MOST HIGH JUDGE, FOR HIS JUST AND RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT

I arise, I YHWH, in my anger; 6
I rise up against the rage of your enemies.
I awake, I your God; **I decree justice.**
Let the assembled peoples gather around me, 7
while I sit enthroned over them on high.
Let me, me YHWH, judge the peoples. 8
I vindicate you, I YHWH, according to your righteousness,
according to your integrity, I the **Most High.**
I bring to an end the violence of the wicked 9
and make the righteous secure—
I, the righteous God
who probes minds and hearts.

EXPRESSING TRUST IN LORD AND HIS ULTIMATE JUSTICE

Your shield is God **Most High,** 10
who saves the upright in heart.
I God, am a righteous judge, 11
a God who displays my wrath every day.
If I do not relent, 12
I will sharpen my sword;
I will bend and string my bow.
I have prepared my deadly weapons; 13
I make ready my flaming arrows.
Whoever is pregnant with evil 14
conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment.
Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out 15
falls into the pit they have made.
The trouble they cause recoils on them; 16
their violence comes down on their own heads.

SUMMARY – THANKFULNESS FOR A JUDGE WHOSE JUSTICE IS FAIR

Give thanks to me, me YHWH, because of my righteousness; 17
Sing the praises of my name, the name of YHWH Most High.

PSALM 8

For the director of music. According to *gittith*. A psalm of David.

¹ LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory
in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?

⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:

⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,

⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.

⁹ LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! (NIV)

PSALM 8 – LORD OF MAJESTIC GLORY SHARES HIS GLORY WITH MANKIND

(I YHWH, your **Lord**,
 how majestic is my name in all the earth!) 1

A.1. LORD'S GLORY IN HIS WORKS HIGH ABOVE

I have set my glory
 in the heavens.

A.2. MANKIND'S PLACE IN CELEBRATING LORD'S UNIQUE PLACE OF HONOR

Through the **praise** of children and infants 2
 I have established a stronghold against my enemies,
 to silence the foe and the avenger.

B.1. LORD'S SHARING HIS GLORY THROUGH A SPECIAL WORK BELOW

When you consider my heavens, 3
 the work of my fingers,
 the moon and the stars,
 which I have set in place,
 what is mankind that I am mindful of them, 4
 human beings that I care for them?

B.2. MANKINDS'S UNIQUE PLACE OF HONOR BEING CREATED IN HIS IMAGE

I have made them a little **lower** than the angels 5
 and **crowned** them with glory and honor.
 I made them **rulers** over the works of my hands; 6
 I put everything under their feet:
 all flocks and herds, 7
 and the animals of the wild,
 the birds in the sky, 8
 and the fish in the sea,
 all that swim the paths of the seas.

(I YHWH, your **Lord**,
 how majestic is my name in all the earth!) 9

PSALM 9

For the director of music. To the tune of "The Death of the Son." A psalm of David.

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
- ² I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.
- ³ My enemies turn back;
they stumble and perish before you.
- ⁴ For you have upheld my right and my cause,
sitting enthroned as the righteous judge.
- ⁵ You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;
you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.
- ⁶ Endless ruin has overtaken my enemies,
you have uprooted their cities;
even the memory of them has perished.
- ⁷ The LORD reigns forever;
he has established his throne for judgment.
- ⁸ He rules the world in righteousness
and judges the peoples with equity.
- ⁹ The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
- ¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.
- ¹¹ Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion;
proclaim among the nations what he has done.
- ¹² For he who avenges blood remembers;
he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.
- ¹³ LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,
- ¹⁴ that I may declare your praises
in the gates of Daughter Zion,
and there rejoice in your salvation.
- ¹⁵ The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.
- ¹⁶ The LORD is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.
- ¹⁷ The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.
- ¹⁸ But God will never forget the needy;
the hope of the afflicted will never perish.
- ¹⁹ Arise, LORD, do not let mortals triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.
- ²⁰ Strike them with terror, LORD;
let the nations know they are only mortal. (NIV)

PSALM 10

- ¹ Why, LORD, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
- ² In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak,
who are caught in the schemes he devises.
- ³ He boasts about the cravings of his heart;
he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.
- ⁴ In his pride the wicked man does not seek him;
in all his thoughts there is no room for God.
- ⁵ His ways are always prosperous;
your laws are rejected by him;
he sneers at all his enemies.
- ⁶ He says to himself, "Nothing will ever shake me."
He swears, "No one will ever do me harm."
- ⁷ His mouth is full of lies and threats;
trouble and evil are under his tongue.
- ⁸ He lies in wait near the villages;
from ambush he murders the innocent.
His eyes watch in secret for his victims;
- ⁹ like a lion in cover he lies in wait.
He lies in wait to catch the helpless;
he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net.
- ¹⁰ His victims are crushed, they collapse;
they fall under his strength.
- ¹¹ He says to himself, "God will never notice;
he covers his face and never sees."
- ¹² Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless.
- ¹³ Why does the wicked man revile God?
Why does he say to himself,
"He won't call me to account"?
- ¹⁴ But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted;
you consider their grief and take it in hand.
The victims commit themselves to you;
you are the helper of the fatherless.
- ¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked man;
call the evildoer to account for his wickedness
that would not otherwise be found out.
- ¹⁶ The LORD is King for ever and ever;
the nations will perish from his land.
- ¹⁷ You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted;
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,
- ¹⁸ defending the fatherless and the oppressed,
so that mere earthly mortals
will never again strike terror. (NIV)

PSALM 9 – TRUST LORD'S RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE TO STAND AGAINST THE TERROR OF MORTAL NATIONS

JOYOUS CELEBRATION

- (8) Give thanks to me, me YHWH, with all your heart;
 Tell of all my wonderful deeds.
 Be glad and rejoice in me;
 Sing the praises of my name, the Most High.

PAST HISTORY OF ANNIALATING ENEMIES

- (2) Your enemies *turn* back;
 they *stumble* and *perish* before me.
 For I have upheld your right and your cause,
 sitting enthroned as the righteous judge.
 (3) I have *rebuked* the nations and *destroyed* the wicked;
 I have *blotted out* their name for ever and ever.
 (7) Endless *ruin* has *overtaken* your enemies,
 I have *uprooted* their cities;
 even the memory of them has *perished*.

PRESENT CONSIDERATIONS

LORD THE JUDGE

- I YHWH, reign forever;
 I have established my throne for judgment.
 I rule the world in righteousness
 and judge the peoples with equity.
 (1) I YHWH, am a refuge for the oppressed,
 a stronghold in times of trouble.
 Those who know my name trust in me,
 for I, I YHWH, have never forsaken those who seek me.

LORD OUR DEFENDER

- (1) Sing my praises, praises of YHWH, enthroned in Zion;
 proclaim among the nations what I have done.
 For I who avenge blood remember;
 I do not ignore the cries of the afflicted.
 (7) I, I YHWH, see how your enemies persecute you!
 I have mercy and lift you up from the gates of death,
 that you may declare my praises
 in the gates of Daughter Zion,
 and there rejoice in my salvation.

FUTURE FATE OF WICKED NATIONS – AS IF ALREADY WRITTEN IN STONE (FAITH)

- (15) The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
 their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.
I YHWH, am known by my acts of justice;
 the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.
 (7) The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
 all the nations that forget God.
 (2) But I God, **will never forget the needy**;
 the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

ASSURANCE FROM OUR DEFENDER KING

- I arise, I YHWH, do not let mortals triumph;
 let the **nations** be judged in my presence.
I strike them with **/terror/**, I YHWH;
 let the nations know they are only **mortal**.

PSALM 10 – ...PSALM 9 CONTINUED

HOW IT SOMETIMES FEELS FOR LORD'S PEOPLE

(7) Why do I, I YHWH, stand far off? 1
 Why do I hide myself in times of trouble?

TERRORISM THAT SEEMINGLY GOES UNPUNISHED

In his **arrogance** the wicked man hunts down the weak, 2
 who are caught in the schemes he devises.

He **boasts** about the cravings of his heart; 3
 he blesses the greedy and reviles me, YHWH.

In his **pride** the wicked man does not seek me; 4
 in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

His ways are always prosperous; 5
 my laws are rejected by him;

he **sneers** at all his enemies. 6
 He **says** to himself, "Nothing will ever shake me."
 He **swears**, "No one will ever do me harm."

His mouth is full of **lies** and **threats**; 7
trouble and **evil** are under his tongue.

He lies in wait near the villages; 8
 from ambush he **murders** the **innocent**.

His eyes watch in secret for his **victims**; 9
 like a lion in cover he lies in wait.

He **lies in wait** to catch the helpless; 10
 he catches **the helpless** and drags them off in his net.

His victims are crushed, they collapse; 11
 they fall under his strength.

He **says** to himself, "God will never notice;
 he covers his face and never sees."

LORD'S PEOPLE LOOK TO THEIR DEFENDER JUDGE TO NOT FORGET THE NEEDY

(7) I arise, I YHWH! I lift up my hand, as your God. 12
 I do not forget the helpless.

Why does the wicked man revile me, me God? 13
 Why does he say to himself,
 "He won't call me to account"?

(7) But I, I God, see the trouble of the afflicted; 14
 I consider their grief and take it in hand.

The victims commit themselves to me;

I am the helper of the fatherless.

(7) I break the arm of the wicked man; 15
 I call the evildoer to account for his wickedness
 that would not otherwise be found out.

ASSURANCE FROM OUR DEFENDER KING

I YHWH, am King for ever and ever; 16
 the **nations** will perish from my land.

(7) I YHWH, hear the desire of the afflicted; 17

I encourage them, and I listen to their cry,

defending the fatherless and the oppressed, 18

so that mere earthly **mortals**
 will never again strike **/terror/**.

PSALM 11

For the director of music. Of David.

- ¹ In the LORD I take refuge.
How then can you say to me:
“Flee like a bird to your mountain.
² For look, the wicked bend their bows;
they set their arrows against the strings
to shoot from the shadows
at the upright in heart.
³ When the foundations are being destroyed,
what can the righteous do?”
- ⁴ The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD is on his heavenly throne.
He observes everyone on earth;
his eyes examine them.
⁵ The LORD examines the righteous,
but the wicked, those who love violence,
he hates with a passion.
⁶ On the wicked he will rain
fiery coals and burning sulfur;
a scorching wind will be their lot.
- ⁷ For the LORD is righteous,
he loves justice;
the upright will see his face. (NIV)
-

PSALM 11 – LORD OUR UNSHAKEABLE FOUNDATION IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING DISTRESS (DARKNESS)

MAIN POINT

In me YHWH, you take refuge. 1

FEAR BASED ADVICE FROM UNBELIEVERS – “RUN AWAY” – SAVE YOURSELF

How then can others say to you:

“Flee like a bird to my mountain.

For look, the wicked bend their bows; 2
they set their arrows against the strings
to shoot from the shadows
at the upright in heart.

ANOTHER OPTION AVAILABLE TO THE RIGHTEOUS

QUESTION:

When the foundations are being destroyed,
what can the righteous do?” 3

ANSWER: FEARLESS TRUST IN LORD – RUN TO HIM WHO IS THE ONE WHO SAVES

I YHWH, am in my holy temple;
I YHWH, am on my heavenly throne. 4

LORD IS AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON

I observe everyone on earth;
my eyes examine them.

I YHWH, examine the righteous,
but 5

the wicked, those who love violence,
I hate with a passion.

ULTIMATE OUTCOME

... OF THE WICKED

On the wicked I will rain 6
fiery coals and burning sulfur;
a scorching wind will be their lot.

... OF THE RIGHTEOUS

For I YHWH, am righteous,
I love justice;
the upright will see my face. 7

PSALM 12

For the director of music. According to *sheminith*. A psalm of David.

¹ Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore;
those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.

² Everyone lies to their neighbor;
they flatter with their lips
but harbor deception in their hearts.

³ May the LORD silence all flattering lips
and every boastful tongue—

⁴ those who say,
“By our tongues we will prevail;
our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?”

⁵ “Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan,
I will now arise,” says the LORD.

“I will protect them from those who malign them.”

⁶ And the words of the LORD are flawless,
like silver purified in a crucible,
like gold refined seven times.

⁷ You, LORD, will keep the needy safe
and will protect us forever from the wicked,

⁸ who freely strut about
when what is vile is honored by the human race. (NIV)

PSALM 12 – MAN TRYING TO BE GOD AND SAVE THEMSELVES – WHEN IT IS ONLY LORD WHO SAVES

OVERVIEW / INTRODUCTION

I YHWH, help, for no one is faithful anymore;
those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.

1

MAN'S FLAWED WORDS (MAN'S PLANS – WE WILL INDEPENDENTLY SAVE OURSELVES,
SELF-SUFFICIENCY, WE CAN DEFEND OURSELVES)

Everyone lies to their neighbor;
they flatter with their lips
but harbor deception in their hearts.

2

May I YHWH, silence all flattering lips
and every boastful tongue—
those who say,

3

4

“By our tongues we will prevail;
our own lips will defend us—
who is lord over us?”

LORD'S FLAWLESS WORDS (HIS WILL – I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO SAVES YOU)

“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan,
I will now arise,” say I, I YHWH.

5

“I will protect them from those who malign them.”

And **my words**, words of YHWH, are flawless,
like silver purified in a crucible,
like gold refined seven times.

6

I, I YHWH, will keep the needy safe
and will protect you forever from the wicked,
who freely strut about
when what is vile is honored by the human race.

7

8

PSALM 13

For the director of music. 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 wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look on me and answer, LORD my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing the LORD's praise,
for he has been good to me. (NIV)

PSALM 13 – LORD THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE – TO OPEN OUR EYES AS WE LOOK TO SEE HIS LOVE

BLINDLY PERPLEXED AMIDST ON-GOING TURMOIL OF WHAT FEELS LIKE LORD'S SILENCE

How long? Will I YHWH forget you forever? 1

How long will I hide my face from you? 2

How long must you wrestle with your thoughts
and day after day have *sorrow* in your *heart*? 2

How long will your enemy triumph over you?

ASKING GOD TO LOOK UPON US – TO OPEN OUR EYES AS WE LOOK UPON HIM

I look on you and answer, I YHWH your God. 3

I give light to your eyes,

or

you would sleep in death, and
your enemy would say, “I have overcome him,” and
your foes would rejoice when you fall. 4

... TRUSTING HIS LOVE AND GOODNESS

But 5

you **trust in my [unfailing love]**;
your *heart* rejoices in my salvation.
You will *sing* my, YHWH's, praise, 6

for

I have been good to you.

PSALM 14

¹ The fool says in his heart,
“There is no God.”
They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;
there is no one who does good.

² The LORD looks down from heaven
on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.

³ All have turned away, all have become corrupt;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

⁴ Do all these evildoers know nothing?

They devour my people as though eating bread;
they never call on the LORD.

⁵ But there they are, overwhelmed with dread,
for God is present in the company of the righteous.

⁶ You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores his people,
let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad! (NIV)

PSALM 14 – LORD IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF SALVATION FROM OUR HOPELESS SELVES (IN ADAM)

(SEE PSALM 53)

FAILINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE – APART FROM LORD

The fool says in his heart, 1
 “There is no God.”
 They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;
 there is **no one who does good.**

QUESTION: DOES ANYONE SEEK GOD?

I YHWH, look down from heaven 2
 on all mankind
 to see if there are any who understand,
 any who seek me God.

ANSWER: NO, NOT ONE.

All have turned away, all have become corrupt; 3
 there is **no one who does good,**
 not even one.

Do all these evildoers know nothing? 4
 They **devour** my people as though eating bread;
 they never call on me YHWH.

OUR ONLY HOPE IS LORD'S WORKS TO SAVE AND SUSTAIN OUR HEART

But there they are, **overwhelmed** with dread, 5
 for **I God, am present** in the company of the righteous.
 You evildoers **frustrate** the plans of the poor, 6
 but **I YHWH, am their refuge.**

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! 7
 When **I YHWH, restore** my people,
 let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

PSALM 15

A psalm of David.

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?

² The one whose walk is blameless,
who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from their heart;

³ whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
and casts no slur on others;

⁴ who despises a vile person
but honors those who fear the LORD;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,
and does not change their mind;

⁵ who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things
will never be shaken. (NIV)

PSALM 15 – WHO LORD ACCEPTS INTO HIS PRESENCE AND FELLOWSHIP**LORD HOLDS OUT PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE**

(As) YHWH, 1

who may dwell in my sacred tent?

Who may live on my holy mountain?

The one 2

WHAT HIS CHILDREN TURN TO

whose walk is **blameless**,
 who does what is **righteous**,
 who speaks the **truth** from their **heart**;

WHAT HIS CHILDREN TURN FROM

whose tongue utters **no slander**, 3

who does **no wrong** to a neighbor,

and casts **no slur** on others;

who **despises** a **vile** person 4

but **honors** those **who fear me** YHWH;

who **keeps** an **oath** even when it hurts,

and does **not change** their mind;

who **lends** money to the poor **without interest**; 5

who does **not accept** a **bribe** against the innocent.

Whoever does these things
 will never be shaken.

PSALM 16

A *miktam* of David.

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

² I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing.”

³ I say of the holy people who are in the land,
“They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”

⁴ Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.

⁵ LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.

⁷ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,

¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (NIV)

PSALM 16 – LORD IS OUR ONLY TRUE SECURITY IN AN INSECURE WORLD

OVERVIEW

I, I your God, keep you safe,
for in me you take refuge.

1

LORD IS THE ONLY SECURITY WE HAVE – UNDERLYING THE PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES

Say to me YHWH, “You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing.”

2

HOLY FELLOWSHIP

Say of the holy people who are in the land,
“They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”

3

UNGODLY PURSUITS

Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
Do not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on your lips.

4

LORD IS THE ONLY SECURITY WE HAVE – UNDERLYING THE POSSESSIONS WE ‘OWN’

I, I YHWH, I alone am your portion and your cup;
I make your lot secure.

5

The boundary lines have fallen for you in pleasant places;
surely you have a delightful inheritance.

6

Praise me YHWH, who counsels you;
even at night my heart instructs you.

7

Keep your eyes always on me YHWH.
With [me at your right hand], you will not be shaken.

8

LORD IS THE ONLY SECURITY WE HAVE – HOLDING OUR FUTURE IN HIS HANDS

Therefore your **heart** is glad and your tongue rejoices;
your **body** also will rest **secure**,

9

because

WHAT WILL NOT HAPPEN

I will not abandon you to the realm of the dead,
nor will I let my faithful one see decay.

10

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

I make known to you the path of life;
I will fill you with joy in my presence,
with eternal pleasures at my right hand.

11

PSALM 17

A prayer of David.

- ¹ Hear me, LORD, my plea is just;
listen to my cry.
Hear my prayer—
it does not rise from deceitful lips.
- ² Let my vindication come from you;
may your eyes see what is right.
- ³ Though you probe my heart,
though you examine me at night and test me,
you will find that I have planned no evil;
my mouth has not transgressed.
- ⁴ Though people tried to bribe me,
I have kept myself from the ways of the violent
through what your lips have commanded.
- ⁵ My steps have held to your paths;
my feet have not stumbled.
- ⁶ I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;
turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.
- ⁷ Show me the wonders of your great love,
you who save by your right hand
those who take refuge in you from their foes.
- ⁸ Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings
- ⁹ from the wicked who are out to destroy me,
from my mortal enemies who surround me.
- ¹⁰ They close up their callous hearts,
and their mouths speak with arrogance.
- ¹¹ They have tracked me down, they now surround me,
with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.
- ¹² They are like a lion hungry for prey,
like a fierce lion crouching in cover.
- ¹³ Rise up, LORD, confront them, bring them down;
with your sword rescue me from the wicked.
- ¹⁴ By your hand save me from such people, LORD,
from those of this world whose reward is in this life.
May what you have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies;
may their children gorge themselves on it,
and may there be leftovers for their little ones.
- ¹⁵ As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face;
when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness. (NIV)
-

PSALM 17 – LORD VINDICATING THE INNOCENT – BY REVEALING THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE TO THEM

OPENING PLEA FOR VINDICATION

I YHWH, hear you, your plea is just; 1
I listen to your cry.
I hear your prayer—
 it does not rise from deceitful lips.
 Let **your vindication come from me**; 2
 my eyes see what is right.

DECLARATION OF INNOCENCE

Though I probe your heart, 3
 though I examine you at night and test you,
 I find that you have planned no evil;
 your mouth has not transgressed.

TURNS FROM

Though people tried to bribe you, 4
 you have kept yourself from the ways of the violent
 through what my lips have commanded.

TURNS TO

Your steps have held to my paths; 5
 your feet have not stumbled.

PURSUING LORD'S LOVE ...

Call on me, me your God, for I will answer you; 6
I turn my ear to you and hear your prayer.
 I show you the wonders of my great love, 7
I who save by my right hand
 those who take refuge in me from their foes. 8
I keep you as the apple of my eye;
hiding you in the shadow of my wings

... EVEN AS THE ENEMY IS IN PURSUIT OF ME

from the wicked who are out to destroy you, 9
 from your mortal enemies who **surround** you.
 They close up their callous hearts, 10
 and their mouths speak with arrogance.
 They have tracked you down, they now **surround** you, 11
 with eyes alert, to throw you to the ground.
 They are like a lion hungry for prey, 12
 like a fierce lion crouching in cover.

REQUESTING LORD'S SALVATION

I, I YHWH, rise up confront them, bringing them down; 13
with my sword rescuing you from the wicked.
By my hand I save you from such people, I YHWH, 14
 from those of this world (whose reward is in this life).
 May what I have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies;
 may their children gorge themselves on it,
 and may there be leftovers for their little ones.

CLOSING PLEA FOR VINDICATION THROUGH HIS PRESENCE

(As for you, **you will be vindicated** and will see my face; 15
 when you awake, **you will be satisfied** with seeing my likeness.)

PSALM 18

- ¹ I love you, LORD, my strength.
- ² The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- ³ I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,
and I have been saved from my enemies.
- ⁴ The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.
- ⁵ The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.
- ⁶ In my distress I called to the LORD;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears.
- ⁷ The earth trembled and quaked,
and the foundations of the mountains shook;
they trembled because he was angry.
- ⁸ Smoke rose from his nostrils;
consuming fire came from his mouth,
burning coals blazed out of it.
- ⁹ He parted the heavens and came down;
dark clouds were under his feet.
- ¹⁰ He mounted the cherubim and flew;
he soared on the wings of the wind.
- ¹¹ He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him—
the dark rain clouds of the sky.
- ¹² Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced,
with hailstones and bolts of lightning.
- ¹³ The LORD thundered from heaven;
the voice of the Most High resounded.
- ¹⁴ He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy,
with great bolts of lightning he routed them.
- ¹⁵ The valleys of the sea were exposed
and the foundations of the earth laid bare
at your rebuke, LORD,
at the blast of breath from your nostrils.

- ¹⁶ He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.
- ¹⁷ He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong for me.
- ¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my disaster,
but the LORD was my support.
- ¹⁹ He brought me out into a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.
- ²⁰ The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.
- ²¹ For I have kept the ways of the LORD;
I am not guilty of turning from my God.
- ²² All his laws are before me;
I have not turned away from his decrees.
- ²³ I have been blameless before him
and have kept myself from sin.
- ²⁴ The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness,
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.
- ²⁵ To the faithful you show yourself faithful,
to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
- ²⁶ to the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the devious you show yourself shrewd.
- ²⁷ You save the humble
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.
- ²⁸ You, LORD, keep my lamp burning;
my God turns my darkness into light.
- ²⁹ With your help I can advance against a troop;
with my God I can scale a wall.
- ³⁰ As for God, his way is perfect:
The LORD's word is flawless;
he shields all who take refuge in him.
- ³¹ For who is God besides the LORD?
And who is the Rock except our God?
- ³² It is God who arms me with strength
and keeps my way secure.
- ³³ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;
he causes me to stand on the heights.
- ³⁴ He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
- ³⁵ You make your saving help my shield,
and your right hand sustains me;
your help has made me great.
- ³⁶ You provide a broad path for my feet,
so that my ankles do not give way.

³⁷ I pursued my enemies and overtook them;
I did not turn back till they were destroyed.
³⁸ I crushed them so that they could not rise;
they fell beneath my feet.
³⁹ You armed me with strength for battle;
you humbled my adversaries before me.
⁴⁰ You made my enemies turn their backs in flight,
and I destroyed my foes.
⁴¹ They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—
to the LORD, but he did not answer.
⁴² I beat them as fine as windblown dust;
I trampled them like mud in the streets.
⁴³ You have delivered me from the attacks of the people;
you have made me the head of nations.
People I did not know now serve me,
⁴⁴ foreigners cower before me;
as soon as they hear of me, they obey me.
⁴⁵ They all lose heart;
they come trembling from their strongholds.

⁴⁶ The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock!
Exalted be God my Savior!
⁴⁷ He is the God who avenges me,
who subdues nations under me,
⁴⁸ who saves me from my enemies.
You exalted me above my foes;
from a violent man you rescued me.
⁴⁹ Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;
I will sing the praises of your name.

⁵⁰ He gives his king great victories;
he shows unfailing love to his anointed,
to David and to his descendants forever. (NIV)

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PSALM 18 – LORD OUR ROCK AND Foothold AMIDST THE STORM – FOR THOSE SEEKING TO DO HIS WILL

STARTING WITH THE CONCLUSION:

Love **me**, me YHWH,
your strength. 1

I YHWH, am 2
 your **rock**,
 your fortress and
 your deliverer;
 your God is
 your **rock**,
 in whom you take refuge,
 your shield and
 the horn of your salvation,
 your stronghold.

SUMMARY – LORD ANSWERED PRAYER FROM PSALM 17

You called to **me** YHWH, who is worthy of praise, 3
 and you have been saved from your enemies.

THE STORY – (IN TERMS OF FOUR STEPS OF THE FAITH PROCESS)

1) SEEN SET OF FACTS (I WAS SURROUNDED AND BEATEN)

The cords of death entangled you; 4
 the torrents of destruction overwhelmed you.
 The cords of the grave coiled around you; 5
 the snares of death confronted you.

2) BELIEVER'S ACT OF FAITH IN RESPONSE TO UNSEEN PROMISE – LORD'S LOVE
 (WE LOOKED TO GOD FOR HELP AND HE HEARD)

In your distress you called to **me** YHWH; 6
 you cried to **me** God, for help.
 From my temple **I** heard your voice;
 your cry came before **me**, into my ears.

3) LORD'S ACT OF POWER IN RESPONSE TO ACT OF FAITH
 (PRESENCE OF POWER UNSEEN FROM OUR RESCUER)

The earth trembled and quaked, 7
 and the foundations of the mountains shook;
 they trembled because **I** was angry.
 Smoke rose from **my** nostrils; 8
 consuming fire came from **my** mouth,
 burning coals blazed out of it.
I parted the heavens and came down; 9
 dark clouds were under **my** feet.
I mounted the cherubim and flew; 10
I soared on the wings of the wind.
I made darkness **my** covering, **my** canopy around **me**— 11
 the dark rain clouds of the sky.
 Out of the brightness of **my** presence clouds advanced, 12
 with hailstones and bolts of lightning.
I YHWH. thundered from heaven; 13
my voice, the voice of the Most High, resounded.

I shot **my** arrows and scattered the enemy, 14
 with great bolts of lightning **I** routed them.
 The valleys of the sea were exposed 15
 and the foundations of the earth laid bare
 at **my** rebuke, the rebuke of YHWH,
 at the blast of breath from **my** nostrils.

4) SEEN RESULTS

I reached down from on high and took hold of you; 16
I drew you out of deep waters.
I rescued you from your powerful enemy, 17
 from your foes, who were too strong for you.
 They confronted you in the day of your disaster, 18
 but **I** YHWH, was your support.
I brought you out into a spacious place; 19
I rescued you because **I** delighted in you.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY – SEEKING LORD'S WILL

YOU HAD SOUGHT TO DO MY WILL

(**I** YHWH, have dealt with you according to your righteousness; 20
according to the cleanness of your hands **I** have rewarded you.)
 For you have kept **my** ways, the ways of the YHWH; 21
 you are not guilty of turning from **me** God.
 All **my** laws are before you; 22
 you have not turned away from **my** decrees.
 You have been blameless before **me** 23
 and have kept yourself from sin.
 (**I** YHWH, have rewarded you according to your righteousness, 24
according to the cleanness of your hands in **my** sight.)

LORD REVEALS HIMSELF AND HIS POWER TO THOSE WHO SEEK HIS WILL

To the faithful **I** show myself faithful, 25
 to the blameless **I** show myself blameless,
 to the pure **I** show myself pure, 26
 but to the devious **I** show myself shrewd.

I save the humble 27
 but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.
I, I YHWH, keep your lamp burning; 28
I, God, turn your darkness into light.
With **my** help you can advance against a troop; 29
with **me**, God, you can scale a wall.

DOING LORD'S WILL – NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER OF MAN, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAYS LORD

LORD'S WILL IS PERFECT

As for **me** God, **my way** is perfect: 30
My word, the word of YHWH, is flawless;
I shield all who take refuge in me.

For **who is God besides me YHWH?** 31
And **who is the Rock** except your God?

HIS POWER IS WHAT SAVES

It is I God, who **arms you with strength** 32
and **keeps your way** secure.

I make your feet like the feet of a deer; 33

I cause you to stand on the heights. 34

I train your hands for battle; 34

your arms can bend a bow of bronze. 35

I make **my** saving help your shield, 35

and **my** right hand sustains you;

my help has made you great. 36

I provide a broad path for your feet, 36

so that your ankles do not give way.

IT IS LORD WHO GIVES VICTORY

You pursued your enemies and overtook them; 37

You did not turn back till they were destroyed. 38

You crushed them so that they could not rise; 38

they fell beneath your feet. 39

I armed you with strength for battle; 39

I humbled your adversaries before you. 40

I made your enemies turn their backs in flight, 40

and you destroyed your foes. 41

They cried for help, but there was no one to save them— 41

to **me** YHWH, but **I** did not answer. 42

You beat them as fine as windblown dust; 42

you trampled them like mud in the streets. 43

I have delivered you from the attacks of the people; 43

I have made you the head of nations. 44

People you did not know now serve you, 44

foreigners cower before you;

as soon as they hear of you, they obey you. 45

They all lose heart; 45

they come trembling from their strongholds.

CONCLUSION – THOSE WHO SEEK TO DO HIS WILL, LORD GIVES THE POWER TO DO IT

I YHWH, live! Praise be to your **Rock**! 46

(**Exalt me**), me God your Savior!

I am God who **avenges** you, 47

who **subdues** nations under you,

who **saves** you from your enemies. 48

(**I exalted you**) above your foes;

from a violent man **I rescued** you.

Therefore **praise me**, me YHWH, among the nations; 49

Sing the **praises** of **my** name.

I give **my** king great victories; 50

I show [unfailing love] to **my** anointed,

to David and to **my** descendants forever.

He's the only one that can be self-centered, only one worthy

PSALM 19

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

² Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

³ They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. (NIV)

PSALM 19 – LORD, IN HIS GLORY, SHARES HIS GLORY WITH US – AMIDST OUR DARKNESS

A. THE MORE CLEARLY WE SEE HIS GLORY...

1 – REVELATION OF LORD'S CHARACTER – HIS WORKS FOREVER SHOUT OUT HIS GLORY

(IMPLICIT)

The heavens declare my glory, the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of my hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens I God, have pitched a tent for the sun.
It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

2 – REVELATION OF LORD'S CHARACTER – HIS WORD FOREVER PROCLAIMS THE GLORY OF HIS WILL

(EXPLICIT)

My law,	the law of	YHWH,	is perfect,	refreshing the soul.	7
My statutes,	the statutes of	YHWH,	are trustworthy,	making wise the simple.	
My precepts,	the precepts of	YHWH,	are right,	giving joy to the heart.	8
My commands,	the commands of	YHWH,	are radiant,	giving light to the eyes.	
Fearing me,	the fear of	YHWH,	is pure,	enduring forever.	9
My decrees,	the decrees of	YHWH,	are firm,	and all of them are righteous.	

They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

By them my servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

B. ...THE CLEARER WE SEE WE FALL SHORT OF HIS GLORY, HAVING LOST IT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY

3 – REVELATION OF LORD'S CHARACTER – HIS REDEMPTIVE LOVE IS OUR HOPE OF GLORY RESTORED

a. PART I – FELLOWSHIP RESTORED – CLEANSING THAT DRAWS US BACK NEAR

But who can discern your own errors?
I forgive your hidden faults.

b. PART II – FELLOWSHIP SUSTAINED – RENEWED HEART TO STAY NEAR

I keep my servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over you.
Then you will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

May the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart
be pleasing in my sight,
the sight of YHWH, your Rock and your Redeemer.

PSALM 20

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

- ¹ May the LORD answer you when you are in distress;
 may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
² May he send you help from the sanctuary
 and grant you support from Zion.
³ May he remember all your sacrifices
 and accept your burnt offerings.
⁴ May he give you the desire of your heart
 and make all your plans succeed.
⁵ May we shout for joy over your victory
 and lift up our banners in the name of our God.

May the LORD grant all your requests.

- ⁶ Now this I know:
 The LORD gives victory to his anointed.
He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary
 with the victorious power of his right hand.
⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
 but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
⁸ They are brought to their knees and fall,
 but we rise up and stand firm.
⁹ LORD, give victory to the king!
 Answer us when we call! (NIV)
-

PSALM 20 – LORD THE SOURCE OF POWER SHARES HIS VICTORY WITH US – UNTO LIFE

LOOKING TO LORD – THE SOURCE OF ALL BLESSING

May I **YHWH**, answer you when you are in distress; 1
 may **my name**, the name of the God of Jacob, protect you.

May I send you help from the sanctuary and 2
 grant you support from Zion.

May I remember all your sacrifices and 3
accept your burnt offerings.

May I give you the desire of your heart and 4
make all your plans succeed.

May you shout for joy over your victory 5
 and lift up your banners in **my name**, the name of your God.

May I **YHWH**, grant all your requests.

AND WHATEVER DOES HAPPEN... IS IT NOT LORD WHO DOES IT?

Now this you know: 6

(**I YHWH** give victory to my anointed.
I answer you from my heavenly sanctuary)

with the victorious power of **my** right hand.

NOT BY OUR MIGHT OR BY OUR POWER, BUT BY HIS SPIRIT (ZECHARIAH 4:6)

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, 7

but

you trust in my name, YHWH your God.

They are brought to their knees and fall, 8

but

you rise up and stand firm.

(**I YHWH**, give victory to the you! 9
I answer you when you call!)

PSALM 21

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹ The king rejoices in your strength, LORD.
How great is his joy in the victories you give!

² You have granted him his heart's desire
and have not withheld the request of his lips.

³ You came to greet him with rich blessings
and placed a crown of pure gold on his head.

⁴ He asked you for life, and you gave it to him—
length of days, for ever and ever.

⁵ Through the victories you gave, his glory is great;
you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty.

⁶ Surely you have granted him unending blessings
and made him glad with the joy of your presence.

⁷ For the king trusts in the LORD;
through the unfailing love of the Most High
he will not be shaken.

⁸ Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies;
your right hand will seize your foes.

⁹ When you appear for battle,
you will burn them up as in a blazing furnace.

The LORD will swallow them up in his wrath,
and his fire will consume them.

¹⁰ You will destroy their descendants from the earth,
their posterity from mankind.

¹¹ Though they plot evil against you
and devise wicked schemes, they cannot succeed.

¹² You will make them turn their backs
when you aim at them with drawn bow.

¹³ Be exalted in your strength, LORD;
we will sing and praise your might. (NIV)

PSALM 21 – LORD'S MIGHTY STRENGTH IS THE POWER THAT GIVES US HIS JOY – AMIDST STRUGGLES

(**Rejoice in my strength**, the strength of YHWH. 1
 How great is **your joy** in the victories I give!)

DISPLAYS OF HIS POWER IN PAST VICTORIES AND BLESSINGS THROUGH BREATH OF HIS PRESENCE

I have granted you your heart's desire 2
 and have not withheld the request of your lips.
 I came to greet you with rich blessings 3
 and placed a crown of pure gold on your head.
 You asked me for life, and I gave it to you— 4
 length of days, for ever and ever.
 Through the victories I gave, your glory is great; 5
 I have bestowed on you splendor and majesty.
 Surely I have granted you unending blessings 6
 and made you glad with **the joy of my presence**.

For 7
 you **trust in me** YHWH;
 through my [**unfailing love**], the love of the Most High,
you will not be shaken.

ACTS OF FAITH IN ASSURANCE OF MOVING FORWARD IN HIS CONTINUED LOVE
 = PERSUADED LORD HAS THE POWER TO PERFORM HIS PROMISE

Your hand will *lay hold* on all your enemies; 8
 your right hand will *seize* your foes.
 When you appear for battle, 9
 you will *burn them up* as in a blazing furnace.
 I, YHWH, will swallow them up in my wrath,
 and my fire will consume them. 10
 You will *destroy* their descendants from the earth,
 their posterity from mankind. 11
 Though they plot evil against you
 and devise wicked schemes, they cannot succeed.
 You will *make them turn their backs* 12
 when you *aim* at them *with drawn bow*.

(**I am exalted in my strength**, the strength of YHWH; 13
sing and praise **my might**.)

PSALM 22

For the director of music. To the tune of "The Doe of the Morning." A psalm of David.

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.

⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

⁸ "He trusts in the LORD," they say,
"let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him."

⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

¹⁰ From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

¹² Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

¹³ Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.

¹⁵ My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

- ¹⁶ Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.
- ¹⁷ All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.
- ¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.
- ¹⁹ But you, LORD, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.
- ²⁰ Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
- ²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
- ²² I will declare your name to my people;
in the assembly I will praise you.
- ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!
- ²⁴ For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.
- ²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.
- ²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,
- ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
those who cannot keep themselves alive.
- ³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.
- ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it! (NIV)

PSALM 22 – GOD IS PRESENT AND GOOD, EVEN NOW, THOUGH HIS PROMISE IS YET UNFULFILLED
(WHEN YOU ARE IN-BETWEEN THE PROMISE AND WAITING FOR THE ANSWER)

A. EVEN IN MIDDLE OF DISTRESS, WAITING ON LORD TO DELIVER ... ►

EVEN THOUGH IT FEELS LIKE LORD IS FAR AWAY...

Me, God, your God, why have I forsaken you? 1

Why am I so far from saving you,
so far from your cries of anguish?

Me, your God, you cry out by day, but I do not answer, 2
by night, but you find no rest.

... TRUSTING LORD, EVEN UNDER ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES

Yet **I am enthroned** as the Holy One; 3

I am the one Israel praises.

In me your ancestors put their **trust**; 4

they **trusted** and I delivered them.

To me they cried out and were saved; 5

in me they trusted and were not put to shame.

But you are a worm and not a man, 6

scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

All who see you mock you; 7

they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

“**He trusts in YHWH**,” they say, 8

“let YHWH rescue him.

Let him deliver him,

since he delights in him.”

Yet I brought you out of the womb; 9

I made you trust in me, even at my mother’s breast.

From birth you were cast on me; 10

from your mother’s womb I have been your God.

LORD IS AS NEAR AS OUR TROUBLES ARE

I am not far from you, 11

for trouble is near

and there is no one to help.

TROUBLE THAT IS NEAR

Many bulls surround you; 12

strong bulls of Bashan encircle you.

Roaring lions that tear their prey 13

open their mouths wide against you.

You are poured out like water, 14

and all your bones are out of joint.

Your heart has turned to wax;

it has melted within you.

Your mouth is dried up like a potsherd, 15

and your tongue sticks to the roof of your mouth;

I lay you in the dust of death.

Dogs surround you, 16
 a pack of villains encircles you;
 they pierce your hands and your feet. 17
 All your bones are on display;
 people stare and gloat over you. 18
 They divide your clothes among them
 and cast lots for your garment.

POWERFUL LORD WHO IS NEAR

But **I, I YHWH, am not far** from you. 19
I am your strength; and come quickly to help you. 20
 I deliver you from the sword,
 your precious life from the power of the dogs. 21
 I rescue you from the mouth of the lions;
 save you from the horns of the wild oxen.

B. ► ...WE NEED NOT WAIT UNTIL PRAYER IS ANSWERED TO DECLARE GOD IS INDEED GOOD

LORD, LET ME TELL YOU HOW GREAT YOU ARE – EVEN NOW !

Declare my name to your people; 22
in the assembly praise me.
 You who fear me YHWH, **praise** me! 23
 All you descendants of Jacob, **honor** me!
Revere me, all you descendants of Israel!
 For I have not despised or scorned 24
 the suffering of the afflicted one;
 I have not **hidden my face** from him
 but have listened to his cry for help.

From me comes the theme of your **praise in the great assembly**; 25
 before those who fear me you will fulfill your vows. 26
 The poor will eat and be satisfied;
 those who **seek me** YHWH, will **praise** me—
 may your hearts live forever!

LORD, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MY GOD – NO MATTER WHAT WILL HAPPEN

All the ends of the earth 27
 will **remember** and **turn** to me, me YHWH,
 and all the families of the nations
 will **bow down** before me,
 for dominion belongs to me, me YHWH 28
 and I rule over the nations.

All the rich of the earth will feast and **worship**; 29
 all who go down to the dust will **kneel** before me—
 those who cannot keep themselves alive.
 Posterity will **serve** me; 30
 future generations will be told about me, Lord.
 They will **proclaim** my righteousness, 31
declaring to a people yet unborn:
 I have done it!

PSALM 23

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever. (NIV)

PSALM 23 – LORD OUR GOOD AND LOVING SHEPHERD WALKS WITH US THROUGH OUR TROUBLES

I YHWH, am your shepherd, you lack nothing.

1

*(GOOD TIMES ARE FROM HIS HANDS)**LORD OUR SUSTENANCE...*

I make you lie down in green pastures,

2

I lead you beside quiet waters,

I refresh your soul.

3

I guide you along the right paths
for my name's sake.

*(TOUGH TIMES ARE IN HIS HANDS)**... THROUGH HIS PRESENCE ...*

Even though you walk
through the darkest valley,
fear no evil,

4

➤ for **I am with you**

my rod and my staff,
they comfort you.

... WILL WALK WITH US THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES

I prepare a table before you
in the presence of your enemies.

5

I anoint your head with oil;
your cup overflows.

CONCLUSION – DWELLING IN HIS PRESENCE... AND FINDING HIS SUSTAINING GOODNESS AND LOVE

Surely my goodness and love will follow you
all the days of your life,
and you will dwell in my house, the house of YHWH,
forever.

6

PSALM 24

Of David. A psalm.

¹ The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.

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

⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.

⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory. (NIV)

PSALM 24 – LORD OUR GLORIOUS KING WANTING US TO DARE SEEK HIS SAVING PRESENCE

VERSE 1 – WE BELONG TO LORD KING

The earth is mine, YHWH's, and everything in it, 1
 the world, and all who live in it; 2
 for I founded it on the seas
 and established it on the waters.

VERSE 2 – HOW CAN ONE ENTER INTO SUCH A GOD'S PRESENCE

Who may ascend my mountain, the mountain of YHWH? 3
 Who may stand in my holy place?
 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, 4
 who does not trust in an idol
 or swear by a false god.

VERSE 3 – SEEKING THE GIVER WHO IS THE GIFT

They will receive blessing from me, YHWH 5
 and vindication from me, God your Savior.
 Such is the generation of those who seek me, 6
 who seek my face, God of Jacob.

CHORUS 1 – CELEBRATING LORD WHO IS THE SEAT OF GLORIOUS POWER

Lift up your heads, you gates; 7
 be lifted up, you ancient doors,
 that I the King of glory, may come in.

Who am I, the King of glory? 8

YHWH strong and mighty,
 YHWH mighty in battle.

CHORUS 2 – CELEBRATING LORD WHO IS THE SEAT OF GLORIOUS RULE

Lift up your heads, you gates; 9
 lift them up, you ancient doors,
 that I the King of glory may come in.

Who am I, the King of glory? 10

YHWH Almighty—
 I am the King of glory.

PSALM 25

Of David.

¹ In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

² I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³ No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

⁴ Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

¹¹ For the sake of your name, LORD,
forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

- ¹² Who, then, are those who fear the LORD?
He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.
- ¹³ They will spend their days in prosperity,
and their descendants will inherit the land.
- ¹⁴ The LORD confides in those who fear him;
he makes his covenant known to them.
- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the LORD,
for only he will release my feet from the snare.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart
and free me from my anguish.
- ¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my distress
and take away all my sins.
- ¹⁹ See how numerous are my enemies
and how fiercely they hate me!
- ²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me;
do not let me be put to shame,
for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me,
because my hope, LORD, is in you.
- ²² Deliver Israel, O God,
from all their troubles! **(NIV)**
-

PSALM 25 – LORD OF LOVE GUIDES THOSE WHO TRUST HIM (HOPE IN HIS UNFAILING LOVE AND FEAR HIM)

MAIN TOPIC – THERE IS NO REGRET IN TRUSTING LORD WHOSE IS OUR HOPE / REFUGE

(8) **In me**, me YHWH your God,
put your trust. 1

(2) **Trust in me**; 2

I do not let you be put to [√]shame,
 nor let your enemies triumph over you.

(3) No one who **hopes in me** 3
 will ever be put to [√]shame,
 but shame will come on those
 who are treacherous without cause.

LORD IS LOVE – LIVING IN RELIANCE ON HIS MERCY, LOVE AND HIS UNWAVERING FAITHFULNESS

OUR HOPE IS LORD AND HIS LOVE

(7) I show you my ways, the ways of YHWH, 4
I teach you my paths.

(7) I guide you in my truth and teach you, 5

for **I am** God your Savior,
 and **your hope is in me** all day long.

LORD FOCUSES ON HIS MERCY, NOT OUR SIN – GRACE

(1) **I, I YHWH, remember my great mercy and love**, 6
 for they are from of old.

(1) **I do NOT remember the sins of your youth** 7
 and your rebellious ways;

according to my love I remember you,
 for I, YHWH, **am good**.

LORD WILL TEACH US IN HIS WAY OF LOVE

(7) Good and **upright am** I, I YHWH; therefore 8

I instruct sinners in my ways.

(7) I guide the humble in what is right 9
and teach them my way.

LORD FOCUSES ON HIS LOVE, NOT OUR SIN – GRACE

(*) **All my ways, the ways of YHWH, are loving and faithful** 10
 toward those who keep the demands of my covenant.

(2) For the sake of my name, YHWH,
I forgive your iniquity, though it is great. 11

FEAR LORD – FOLLOWING HIS GUIDANCE

- (7) Who, then, are those who fear me YHWH? 12
I will instruct them in the ways they should choose.
- (8) They will spend their days in prosperity, 13
and their descendants will inherit the land.
- (9) I YHWH, confide in those who fear ME; 14
I make my covenant known to them.
- (10) Your eyes are ever on ME, me YHWH, 15
for only I will release your feet from the snare.

LIVING BY FAITH, TAKING REFUGE AND TRUSTING IN LORD

- | FIND LORD'S | (BLESSINGS) | ... IN OUR | (TROUBLES) | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----|
| (11) I | turn to you | and | | 16 |
| | am gracious to you, | for you are lonely and afflicted. | | |
| (12) I | relieve | the troubles of your heart and | | 17 |
| | free you from | your anguish. | | |
| (13) I | look on | your affliction and your distress and | | 18 |
| | take away | all your sins. | | |

FACING THE (SEEN) FACTS – KNOWING THEY DO NOT MATTER; THEY COUNT FOR NOTHING

- (14) See how numerous are your enemies 19
and how fiercely they hate you!

LORD'S (UNSEEN) PROMISE – KNOWING LORD IS TAKING CARE OF THINGS HIS WAY

- (15) I guard your life and rescue you; 20
I do not let you be put to ^vshame,
for you take refuge in me.
- (16) May integrity and uprightness protect you, 21
because your hope is in ME, me YHWH.
- (17) I, your God, deliver Israel, 22
from all their troubles!

acrostic (3/9) – each verse is started by a letter of the alphabet, in alphabetical order
not necessarily about change in anything external
I am right, self-justification - they are wrong - I am a victim - I am entitled

PSALM 26

Of David.

- ¹ Vindicate me, LORD,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the LORD
and have not faltered.
- ² Test me, LORD, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;
- ³ for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.
- ⁴ I do not sit with the deceitful,
nor do I associate with hypocrites.
- ⁵ I abhor the assembly of evildoers
and refuse to sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,
and go about your altar, LORD,
- ⁷ proclaiming aloud your praise
and telling of all your wonderful deeds.
- ⁸ LORD, I love the house where you live,
the place where your glory dwells.
- ⁹ Do not take away my soul along with sinners,
my life with those who are bloodthirsty,
- ¹⁰ in whose hands are wicked schemes,
whose right hands are full of bribes.
- ¹¹ I lead a blameless life;
deliver me and be merciful to me.
- ¹² My feet stand on level ground;
in the great congregation I will praise the LORD. (NIV)

All You want us to do is to trust in You
A blameless life is simply to trust in Him
Faith is credited as righteousness
Be mindful of and live in reliance on your faithful love
Forsake sin
And seek your two-fold salvation that depends on Your love
Trust in Your care and direction

PSALM 26 – LORD SAVES THE BLAMELESS – THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIS UNFAILING LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS**WHAT DOES A RIGHTEOUS LIFE LOOK LIKE – TRUSTING HIM**

I vindicate you, I YHWH, 1
 (for **you have led a blameless life;**
you have trusted in me, me YHWH)
 and have not faltered.

WHAT TRUSTING IN HIM LOOKS LIKE – LIVING IN THE PROMISE OF HIS LOVE (UNSEEN FACT)

I YHWH, test you and try you, 2
 I examine your heart and your mind, and see;
 (you **have always been mindful of my [unfailing love]**
 and **have lived in reliance on my faithfulness.**) 3

WHAT LIVING IN THE PROMISE OF HIS LOVE LOOKS LIKE - REPENTENCE (MAN'S ACTS OF FAITH)**TURNING FROM EVIL (INTENTIONAL AVOIDANCE)**

You do not sit with the deceitful, 4
 nor do you associate with hypocrites.
 you abhor the assembly of evildoers 5
 and refuse to sit with the wicked.

TURNING TO LORD'S LOVING TWO-FOLD RESTORATION**I. FELLOWSHIP RESTORED**

You wash your hands in innocence, 6

II. FELLOWSHIP SUSTAINED

and go about my altar, the altar of YHWH,
 proclaiming aloud my praise 7
 and telling of all my wonderful deeds.

You love the house where I, YHWH, live, 8
 the place where my glory dwells.

WHAT DOES RESTORED RELATIONSHIP RESULTS IN – LIVING IN HIS CARE (ACTS OF GOD)**WE WILL NOT PERISH**

I will not take away your soul along with sinners, 9
 your life with those who are bloodthirsty,
 in whose hands are wicked schemes, 10
 whose right hands are full of bribes.

BUT WILL HAVE DELIVERANCE

(You **lead a blameless life;**
 I will deliver you and be merciful to you.) 11

Your feet stand on level ground; 12
 in the great congregation you will praise me, me YHWH.

PSALM 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

⁶ Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice when I call, LORD;
be merciful to me and answer me.

⁸ My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.

¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will receive me.

¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

¹² Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

¹³ I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD. (NIV)

You are my light, my salvation, the stronghold of my life
Even amidst surrounding troubles, I can be confident and not fear
I can seek Your face only – instead of focusing on troubles...that in comparison are irrelevant

PSALM 27 – LORD'S PRESENCE IS OUR PROTECTION – SEEKING THAT SOMETHING WHICH IS GREATER THAN FEAR

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE IS WITH US – START THERE
WITH LORD FOR US, WHAT CAN BE AGAINST US – HIS PRESENCE IS THE LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS

WHO CAN COMPARE TO LORD

- I YHWH, **am (1) your (light) and your salvation**—
whom shall you **fear**?
- I YHWH, **am (2) the stronghold of your life**—
of whom shall you be **afraid**?

1

THOUGH IN THE PRESENCE OF SURROUNDING TROUBLES – STANDING FEARLESS

When the wicked advance against you
to devour you,
it is your enemies and your foes
who will stumble and fall.

2

DO NOT FEAR

Though
an army besiege you,
your heart will not fear;

3

HAVE COURAGE

though
war break out against you,
even then you will **be confident.**

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING GIVEN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE IS...

SEEKING LORD'S PRESENCE – TO SEE THE BEAUTY OF HIS FACE

One thing ask from me, me YHWH,
this only seek:
that you may dwell in my **house**, the house of YHWH
all the days of your life,
to gaze on my beauty, the beauty of YHWH
and **to seek me in my temple.**

4

For in the day of trouble
I will keep you safe in my dwelling;
I will hide you in the shelter of my sacred tent
and set you high upon a rock.

5

Anything diff will not make any difference
Nothing diff will make anything diff; except God fulling our soul, our only hope
Something broken can not fix that which only something unbroken can fix
Nothing in this world is sufficient to fill our soul the way God is sufficient and can fill it.

AND THEN ONCE WE ARE IN LORD'S PRESENCE – JOY THAT OVERSHADOWS THE TROUBLES**Then**

your head will be exalted
 above the enemies who surround you;
at my sacred tent you will sacrifice with shouts of **joy**;
 you will sing and make music to me YHWH.

6

RECEIVING LORD'S MERCY – DRAWING NEAR TO HIM

I YHWH, hear your voice when **you call**;
I am merciful to you and answer you.
 Your heart says of me, "Seek his face!"
 Seek my face, the face of YHWH.

7

8

SEEK HIM, AND WE SHALL FIND HIM... OUR SAVIOR

I do not hide my face from you,
I do not turn my servant away in anger;
 I have been **your helper**.

9

I do not reject you or **forsake** you,
 God **your Savior**.
 Though your father and mother forsake you,
 I YHWH, will **receive you**.

10

I teach you my way, the way of YHWH;
I lead you in a straight path
 because of your oppressors.
 I do not turn you over to the desire of your foes,
 for false witnesses rise up against you,
 spouting malicious accusations.

11

12

CONCLUSION - COURAGEOUS JOY IN ASSURANCE THAT LORD, IN HIS LOVE, PRESERVES OUR LIFE

Remain **confident** of this:
you will see my goodness, the goodness of YHWH
in the land of the living.

13

Wait for me, me YHWH;
be strong and **take heart** and
 wait for me, me YHWH.

14

PSALM 28

- ¹ To you, LORD, I call;
you are my Rock,
do not turn a deaf ear to me.
For if you remain silent,
I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- ² Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your Most Holy Place.
- ³ Do not drag me away with the wicked,
with those who do evil,
who speak cordially with their neighbors
but harbor malice in their hearts.
- ⁴ Repay them for their deeds
and for their evil work;
repay them for what their hands have done
and bring back on them what they deserve.
- ⁵ Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD
and what his hands have done,
he will tear them down
and never build them up again.
- ⁶ Praise be to the LORD,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
- ⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.
- ⁸ The LORD is the strength of his people,
a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.
- ⁹ Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever. (NIV)
-

PSALM 28 – LORD OUR PROTECTIVE SHEPHERD IS OUR STRENGTH AND SHIELD**LOOKING TO OUR SHEPHERD, THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARS OUR EVERY CRY...**

To me, me, me YHWH, (you call),
I am your Rock,

1

I do not turn a deaf ear to you.
 For if I remain silent,
 You will be like those who go down to the pit.

(I hear) your cry for mercy
 as **you call** to me for help,
 as **you lift up your hands**
 toward my Most Holy Place.

2

...AND DOES NOT LET US PERISH WITH THE EVIL DOERS

I do not drag you away with the wicked,
 with those who do evil,
 who speak cordially with their neighbors
 but harbor malice in their hearts.
 I repay them for their deeds
 and for their evil work;
 repay them for what their hands have done
 and bring back on them what they deserve.
 Because they have no regard for my deeds, deeds of YHWH
 and what my hands have done,
 I will tear them down
 and never build them up again.

3

4

5

...BUT GIVES US LIFE

Praise be to me, YHWH,
 for **I have heard your cry for mercy.**
I YHWH, am your strength and your shield;
your heart trusts in me, and I help you.
 Your heart leaps for joy,
 and with your song, **you give thanks** to me.

6

7

SUMMARY – LORD CARRIES US IN HIS STRENGTH

I YHWH, am the strength of my people,
 a fortress of **salvation** for my anointed one.
I save my people and **bless** my inheritance;
 I am your **shepherd** and carry you forever.

8

9

PSALM 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,
Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes
with flashes of lightning.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the desert;
the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD twists the oaks
and strips the forests bare.
And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as King forever.
- ¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace. (NIV)
-

PSALM 29 – LORD OF GLORY HAS THE STRENGTH TO RULE ACCORDING TO HIS WILL – THROUGH HIS WORD

LORD ALMIGHTY, THE ONE AND ONLY HOLY ONE

Ascribe to me YHWH, you heavenly beings, ¹ 1
 ascribe to me YHWH, **glory** and **strength** 2
 Ascribe to me YHWH, the **glory** due my name; 2
 worship me YHWH, in the **splendor** of my holiness.

VOICE OF LORD – HIS WORD (HIS WILL) IS THE STRENGTH BEHIND HIS WORKS

My **voice**, the voice of YHWH 3
 is over the waters;
I God of glory, thunder,
 I YHWH, thunder over the mighty waters. 4
 My **voice**, the voice of YHWH 4
 is powerful;
 My **voice**, the voice of YHWH
 is majestic. 5
 My **voice**, the voice of YHWH 5
 breaks the cedars;
 I YHWH break in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. 6
 I make Lebanon leap like a calf,
 Sirion like a young wild ox. 7
 My **voice**, the voice of YHWH 7
 strikes
 with flashes of lightning. 8
 My **voice**, the voice of YHWH 8
 shakes the desert;
 I YHWH, shake the Desert of Kadesh. 9
 My **voice**, the voice of YHWH 9
 twists the oaks and
 strips the forests bare.

VOICE OF PEOPLE

And in my temple all cry, “**Glory!**”

HE IS ABLE (HAS POWER ENOUGH) TO RULE

I YHWH, **sit enthroned** over the flood; 10
 I YHWH, **am enthroned as King forever**.
 I YHWH, **give strength to my people**; 11
 I YHWH, **bless my people with peace**.

PSALM 30

- ¹ I will exalt you, LORD,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
- ² LORD my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.
- ³ You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.
- ⁴ Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.
- ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.
- ⁶ When I felt secure, I said,
“I will never be shaken.”
- ⁷ LORD, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain stand firm;
but when you hid your face,
I was dismayed.
- ⁸ To you, LORD, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:
- ⁹ “What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?”
- ¹⁰ Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me;
LORD, be my help.”
- ¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
¹² that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
LORD my God, I will praise you forever. (NIV)
-

**PSALM 30 – LORD OUR SUSTAINER AND SUSTENANCE IS BEHIND EVERY SUCCESS WE HAVE
– HE WHO HUMBLING US IS ALSO HE WHO RESTORES US
UP OUT OF OUR NOTHINGNESS BY THE MERCY OF HIS FAVOR**

PRAISE LORD...

Exalt me, me YHWH, 1
for I lifted you *out of the depths*
and did not let your enemies gloat over you.

... FOR HEALING

You called to me, me YHWH your God, for help, 2
and **I healed you**.

I, I YHWH, brought you up from the realm of the *dead*; 3
I spared you from going down to the pit.

LORD HAS RESTORED HIS FAVOR !!

Sing the praises of YHWH, you my faithful people; 4
praise my holy name.

For my *anger* lasts only a moment, 5
but my *favor* lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but *rejoicing* comes in the morning.

THE STORY OF THE HEALING THAT TOOK PLACE

**I HAD MISTAKENLY THOUGHT I WAS SELF SUFFICIENT, MAKING IT ON MY OWN
I CAN DO THIS, I AM SECURE**

When you felt **secure**, you said, 6
“I will never be shaken.”

When I, YHWH, **avored you**, 7
I made your royal mountain **stand firm**;

LORD HUMBLING ME AND SHOWED ME IT WAS HIM THE WHOLE TIME BEHND ANY SUCCESS

but when I **hid my face**,
You were **dismayed**.

I CALLED TO HIM FOR RESTORATION OF HIS PRESENCE...

To me, me YHWH, you called; 8
to me **Lord**, you cried **for mercy**:

“**What is gained if you are silenced**, 9
if you go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise me?
Will it **proclaim my faithfulness?**”

... AND HE SAVED ME – RESTORING HIS FAVOR YET ONCE AGAIN

I YHWH, hear and am merciful to you; 10
I YHWH, am your help.”

I turned your *wailing* into *dancing*; 11
I removed your *sackcloth* and clothed you with *joy*.

PRAISE LORD, TRULY OUR SUSTAINER(!) IN WHOM WE STAND FIRM BY THE MERCY OF HIS FAVOR

that your **heart may sing my praises and not be silent** 12
Me YHWH your God, praise me forever.

PSALM 31

- ¹ In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- ² Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.
- ³ Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
- ⁴ Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.
- ⁵ Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.
- ⁶ I hate those who cling to worthless idols;
as for me, I trust in the LORD.
- ⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in your love,
for you saw my affliction
and knew the anguish of my soul.
- ⁸ You have not given me into the hands of the enemy
but have set my feet in a spacious place.
- ⁹ Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,
my soul and body with grief.
- ¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish
and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction,
and my bones grow weak.
- ¹¹ Because of all my enemies,
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors
and an object of dread to my closest friends—
those who see me on the street flee from me.
- ¹² I am forgotten as though I were dead;
I have become like broken pottery.
- ¹³ For I hear many whispering,
“Terror on every side!”
They conspire against me
and plot to take my life.

- ¹⁴ But I trust in you, LORD;
I say, "You are my God."
¹⁵ My times are in your hands;
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,
from those who pursue me.
¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your unfailing love.
¹⁷ Let me not be put to shame, LORD,
for I have cried out to you;
but let the wicked be put to shame
and be silent in the realm of the dead.
¹⁸ Let their lying lips be silenced,
for with pride and contempt
they speak arrogantly against the righteous.
- ¹⁹ How abundant are the good things
that you have stored up for those who fear you,
that you bestow in the sight of all,
on those who take refuge in you.
²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them
from all human intrigues;
you keep them safe in your dwelling
from accusing tongues.
- ²¹ Praise be to the LORD,
for he showed me the wonders of his love
when I was in a city under siege.
²² In my alarm I said,
"I am cut off from your sight!"
Yet you heard my cry for mercy
when I called to you for help.
- ²³ Love the LORD, all his faithful people!
The LORD preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he pays back in full.
²⁴ Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the LORD. (NIV)
-

PSALM 31 – IN THE MIDST OF WICKED, WITH EVIL DOERS SET AGAINST YOU
ENTRUST YOUR SPIRIT AND LIFE TO LORD;

PRESENT YOURSELF AS A LIVING SACRIFICE
AND FIND HIS PREVAILING LOVE

COMFORT IN LORD'S LOVE

LORD IS OUR ROCK AND FORTRESS

In **me**, me YHWH, you have taken refuge; 1

I let you never be put to shame;

I deliver you in my righteousness.

I turn my ear to you, 2

coming quickly to your rescue;

I am your rock of refuge,

a strong fortress to save you.

COMMIT OUR SPIRIT TO HIS LEADING AND GUIDING

Since **I am** your rock and your fortress, 3

for the sake of my name I lead and guide you.

You are kept free from the trap that is set for you, 4

for I am your refuge.

Into my hands **commit your spirit**; 5

I deliver you, I YHWH, your faithful God.

THE JOY OF THE LORD'S LOVE REPLACES THE ANGUISH OF OUR SOUL

You hate those who *cling* to worthless idols; 6

as for you, you (**trust in me**), me YHWH.

You will be **glad** and **rejoice in my (love)**, 7

for I saw your affliction

and knew the anguish of your soul.

I HAVE NOT given you into the hands of the enemy 8

BUT HAVE set your feet in a spacious place.

THOUGH WE FEEL ANGUISH WITH IN AND WITH OUT...

WE FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE STRUGGLE INSIDE

I YHWH, am merciful to you for you are in **distress**; 9

your eyes grow **weak** with **sorrow**,

your soul and body with **grief**.

Your life is consumed by **anguish**, and 10

your years by **groaning**;

your strength **fails** because of your **affliction**, and

your bones grow **weak**.

AS WELL AS TROUBLES GOING ON AROUND US

Because of all your enemies, 11

you are the utter **contempt** of your neighbors

and an **object of dread** to your closest friends—

those who see you on the street flee from you.

You are **forgotten** as though you were dead; 12

you have become like broken pottery.

For you hear many whispering, 13

“Terror on every side!”

They conspire against you

and plot to take your life.

WE ARE REALLY STILL IN THE HANDS OF LORD'S LOVE

ENTRUST YOUR LIFE (YOURSELF, OTHERS, AND SITUATION) INTO LORD'S HANDS

But you (trust in me), me YHWH; 14
 you say, "You are my God."

Your times are in my hands; 15

I deliver you from the hands of your enemies,
 from those who pursue you.

(I let my face shine on my servant; 16
 I save you in my [unfailing love].)

I YHWH, 17

let you (not be put to shame)
for you have cried out to me;

but

let the wicked (be put to shame)
 and be silent in the realm of the dead.

Let their lying lips be silenced, 18
 for with pride and contempt
 they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

PRAISE AND TRUST IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS LOVE TO SEE US THROUGH

How abundant are the good things 19
 that I have stored up for those who fear me,
 that I bestow in the sight of all,
 on those who take refuge in me.

In the shelter of my presence I hide them 20
 from all human intrigues;

I keep them safe in my dwelling
 from accusing tongues.

Praise be to me YHWH, 21

for I showed you the wonders of my love
 when you were in a city under siege.

In your alarm you said, 22

"I am cut off from your sight!"

Yet I heard your cry for mercy
when you called to me for help.

Love me YHWH, all my faithful people! 23

I YHWH, preserve those who are true to me
 but the proud I pay back in full.

Be strong and take heart, 24

all you who hope in me YHWH.

PSALM 32

- ¹ Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
- ² Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- ³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
- ⁷ You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
- ⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.
- ¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart! (NIV)
-

PSALM 33

- ¹ Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
- ² Praise the LORD with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
- ³ Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.
- ⁴ For the word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.
- ⁵ The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;
he puts the deep into storehouses.
- ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.
- ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- ¹⁰ The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
- ¹¹ But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.
- ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance.
- ¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down
and sees all mankind;
- ¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth—
- ¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.
- ¹⁶ No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
- ¹⁷ A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
- ¹⁸ But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
- ¹⁹ to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.
- ²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.
- ²¹ In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
- ²² May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,
even as we put our hope in you. (NIV)

PSALM 32 – LORD'S LOVE RESTORES AND SUSTAINS FELLOWSHIP WHEN WE HAVE BROKEN OUR RELATIONSHIP

BLESSEDNESS OF THE PERSON WHO LORD DRAWS BACK NEAR TO HIM

Blessed are you 1
 whose transgressions are forgiven,
 whose sins are covered.

Blessed are you 2
 whose sin, I YHWH, do not count against them and
 in whose spirit is no deceit.

LORD'S FEARSOME DISCIPLINE / SUFFERING

When you kept silent, 3

your bones wasted away
 through your groaning all day long.

For day and night 4

my hand was heavy on you;
 your strength was sapped
 as in the heat of summer.

IN HONESTY ABOUT OUR WEAKNESS, WE FIND HIS LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE

Then you acknowledged your **sin** to me 5

and did not cover up your **iniquity**.

You said, "I will confess
 my **transgressions** to the YHWH."

LORD'S LOVING SALVATION – TWO-FOLD PROMISE OF LOVING FELLOWSHIP**(1) LORD'S LOVE RESTORING FELLOWSHIP (BRINGING US NEAR TO HIM AND LIFE)**

(And I forgave
 the guilt of your **sin**.)

SEEK LORD WHILE HE CAN BE FOUND

Therefore let all the faithful pray to me 6

while I may be found;
 surely the rising of the mighty waters
 will not reach them.

I **am** your hiding place; 7

I will protect you from trouble
 and surround you with songs of deliverance.

(2) LORD'S LOVE SUSTAINING FELLOWSHIP (AMIDST OUR CONTINUED INADEQUACY)**PROMISE OF CONTINUED GUIDANCE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

(I will **instruct** you and **teach** you in the way you should go;) 8
 I will **counsel** you with my loving eye on you.

... BUT BE RESPONSIVE TO HIM WHEN HE DOES – TRUST HIS LEADING

Do not be like the horse or the mule, 9

which have no understanding
 but must be controlled by bit and bridle
 or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked, 10

But my [unfailing love]
 surrounds you who trust in me.

REJOICING IN LORD'S LOVE AND THE HOPE OF HIS PROMISE OF (1) RESTORATION OF (2) FELLOWSHIP ► 11

Rejoice in me YHWH, and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

PSALM 33 – CELEBRATING FEARING LORD AND HOPING IN HIS LOVE TO RESTORE BROKEN RELATIONSHIP

▶ ... REJOICING IN LORD'S LOVE(!) AND HIS PROMISE OF (1) RESTORATION OF (2) FELLOWSHIP

Sing **joyfully** to me YHWH, you righteous; 1
 it is fitting for the upright to praise me. 2
Praise me YHWH. with the harp; 3
 make music to me on the ten-stringed lyre. 4
Sing to me a new song; 5
 play skillfully, and shout **for joy**. 6

LORD'S WORD FORMS THE UNIVERSE AND REDEMPTION

(UNSEEN FACTS)

For my **word** is **right** and true; 7
I am faithful in all I do. 8
I YHWH, love **righteousness** and justice; 9
 the earth is full of my **[unfailing (love)]**. 10
 By my **word** the heavens were made, 11
 their starry host by the breath of my **mouth**. 12
 I gather the waters of the sea into jars; 13
 I put the deep into storehouses. 14
 Let all the earth **(fear)** me, me YHWH; 15
 let all the people of the world revere me. 16
 For I **spoke**, and it came to be; 17
 I **commanded**, and it stood firm. 18

LORD'S SOVEREIGNTY FORMS NATIONS

I YHWH, foil the **plans of the nations**; 19
 I thwart the purposes of the peoples. 20
 But **my plans** stand firm forever, 21
 the purposes of my heart through all generations. 22

LORD WATCHES OVER THOSE WHOSE HEART'S HE FORMED TO FEAR HIM

(PROMISE)

Blessed is the nation whose God is me, YHWH, 23
 the people I chose for my inheritance. 24
 From heaven **I YHWH, look** down 25
 and **see** all mankind; 26
 from my dwelling place **I watch** 27
 all who live on earth— 28
I who form the hearts of all, 29
 who **considers everything they do**. 30

FALSE HOPE (WE REALLY HAVE NO OTHER HOPE BUT HIS PROMISE)

(TURN FROM)

No king is saved by the size of his army; 31
 no warrior escapes by his great strength. 32
 A horse is a **vain hope** for deliverance; 33
 despite all its great strength it **cannot save**. 34

TRUE HOPE – FEAR LORD AND BE SAVED THROUGH THE HOPE OF HIS LOVE

(TURN TO)

But **my eyes** are **on those who (fear) me**, 35
 on those **whose (hope is in my [unfailing (love)])**, 36
 to 37
 (1) **deliver** them **from death** and 38
 (2) **keep** them **alive in famine**. 39

(SIN PENALTY)

(SIN PRINCIPLE)

WE ALREADY HOPE IN SOMETHING... JUST SHIFT YOUR HOPE TO LORD

You wait in **hope** for **ME**, YHWH; 40
I am your **help** and your shield. 41
 In **ME** your hearts rejoice, 42
 for you **trust in MY** holy name. 43
[MY [unfailing (love)] is with you, 44
 even **as** you put your **hope in ME**]. 45

PSALM 34

Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he left.

- ¹ I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
- ² I will glory in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- ³ Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
- ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
- ⁶ This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
- ⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- ¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
- ¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- ¹² Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,
- ¹³ keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.
- ¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

- ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;
- ¹⁶ but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.
- ¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- ¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the LORD delivers him from them all;
- ²⁰ he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.
- ²¹ Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
- ²² The LORD will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned. (NIV)
-

PSALM 34 – LORD’S INVITATION TO COME TO THE ONLY FEARSOME ONE... SEEKING HIS GOODNESS

CALL TO WORSHIP

- (8) Extol me, me YHWH, at all times; 1
 my praise will always be on your lips.
- (2) Glory in me, me YHWH; 2
 let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- (3) Glorify me, me YHWH, with others; 3
 exalt my name together.

GOODNESS OF LORD TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM AND SEEK HIM – FEAR OF NOTHING ELSE

- (7) You sought me, me YHWH, 4
 and **I answered** you;
 I delivered you from all your **fears**.
- (n) Those who look to me 5
 are radiant;
 their faces are never covered with shame.
- (1) You poor man called, 6
 and **I YHWH, heard** you;
 I saved you out of all your troubles.
- (t) My angel, the angel of the YHWH 7
 encamps around you who fear me,
 and **he delivers** you.

- (n) **Taste and see that I, I YHWH, am good;** 8
 Blessed are you who take refuge in me.

- (v) **Fear me**, me YHWH, you my holy people, 9
 for **those who fear me** lack nothing.
- (s) The lions may grow weak and hungry, 10
 but **those who seek me** YHWH, lack no good thing.

THE RIGHTEOUS FEAR LORD

(2) Come, my children, listen to me; 11
I will teach you the fear of me, YHWH.

(7) Whoever of you loves life 12
 and desires to see many good days,

CLEANSE YOUR HEART...

(8) keep your tongue from evil 13
and your lips from telling lies.

(1) Turn from evil and do good; 14
seek peace and pursue it.

...LORD ACCEPTS THOSE WHO ACCEPT HIM

(3) My eyes are on the **righteous**, 15
 and my ears are attentive to their cry;

...LORD'S CONDEMNATION; HE REJECTS THOSE WHO REJECT HIM

(5) but my face is against those who do **evil**, 16
 to blot out their name from the earth.

(5) The righteous cry out, and **I YHWH, hear** them; 17
I deliver them from all their troubles.

(3) **I YHWH, am close** to the brokenhearted 18
and save those who are crushed in spirit.

(7) The righteous person may have many troubles, 19
 but **I YHWH, deliver** him from them all;

(7) **I protect** all his bones, 20
 not one of them will be broken.

(7) Evil will slay the wicked; 21
 the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

SUMMARY

(7) **I YHWH, will rescue** my servants; 22
 no one who takes refuge in me will be condemned.

PSALM 35

Of David.

- ¹ Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me.
- ² Take up shield and armor;
arise and come to my aid.
- ³ Brandish spear and javelin
against those who pursue me.
Say to me,
“I am your salvation.”
- ⁴ May those who seek my life
be disgraced and put to shame;
may those who plot my ruin
be turned back in dismay.
- ⁵ May they be like chaff before the wind,
with my angel of the LORD driving them away;
- ⁶ may their path be dark and slippery,
with my angel of the LORD pursuing them.
- ⁷ Since they hid their net for me without cause
and without cause dug a pit for me,
⁸ may ruin overtake them by surprise—
may the net they hid entangle them,
may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.
- ⁹ Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD
and delight in his salvation.
- ¹⁰ My whole being will exclaim,
“Who is like you, LORD?
You rescue the poor from those too strong for them,
the poor and needy from those who rob them.”
- ¹¹ Ruthless witnesses come forward;
they question me on things I know nothing about.
- ¹² They repay me evil for good
and leave me like one bereaved.
- ¹³ Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth
and humbled myself with fasting.
When my prayers returned to me unanswered,
- ¹⁴ I went about mourning
as though for my friend or brother.
I bowed my head in grief
as though weeping for my mother.
- ¹⁵ But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee;
assailants gathered against me without my knowledge.
They slandered me without ceasing.
- ¹⁶ Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked;
they gnashed their teeth at me.

- ¹⁷ How long, Lord, will you look on?
Rescue me from their ravages,
my precious life from these lions.
- ¹⁸ I will give you thanks in the great assembly;
among the throngs I will praise you.
- ¹⁹ Do not let those gloat over me
who are my enemies without cause;
do not let those who hate me without reason
maliciously wink the eye.
- ²⁰ They do not speak peaceably,
but devise false accusations
against those who live quietly in the land.
- ²¹ They sneer at me and say, "Aha! Aha!
With our own eyes we have seen it."
- ²² LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent.
Do not be far from me, Lord.
- ²³ Awake, and rise to my defense!
Contend for me, my God and Lord.
- ²⁴ Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God;
do not let them gloat over me.
- ²⁵ Do not let them think, "Aha, just what we wanted!"
or say, "We have swallowed him up."
- ²⁶ May all who gloat over my distress
be put to shame and confusion;
may all who exalt themselves over me
be clothed with shame and disgrace.
- ²⁷ May those who delight in my vindication
shout for joy and gladness;
may they always say, "The LORD be exalted,
who delights in the well-being of his servant."
- ²⁸ My tongue will proclaim your righteousness,
your praises all day long. (NIV)
-

**PSALM 35 – LORD OUR DEFENDER AGAINST THOSE WHO MEAN US HARM –
ENTRUST IT TO THE LORD OF VENGEANCE, AND DO NOT RETURN EVIL FOR EVIL**

PART I – LORD OUR DEFENDER AGAINST WICKED SCHEMES

I, I YHWH, contend with those who contend with you; 1
 fight against those who fight against you.
 Taking up shield and armor; 2
 rising and coming to your aid.
 Brandishing spear and javelin 3
 against those who pursue you.
 Saying to you,
 “**I am your salvation.**”
 May those who seek your life 4
 be disgraced and put to shame;
 may those who plot your ruin
 be turned back in dismay.
 May they be like chaff before the wind, 5
 with my angel, the angel of the YHWH driving them away;
 may their path be dark and slippery, 6
 with my angel, the angel of the YHWH pursuing them.
 Since they hid their net for you without cause 7
 and without cause dug a pit for you,
 may ruin overtake them by surprise— 8
 may the net they hid entangle them,
 may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.

OUR RESPONSE TO HIM – NOT OTHERS

Then your soul will rejoice in me YHWH 9
 and **delight in my salvation.**
 Your whole being will exclaim, 10
 “**Who is like you, YHWH?**
 You rescue the poor
 from those (too strong for them),
 the poor and needy
 from those who rob them.”

PART II – WHEN YOU DO NOT REPAY EVIL FOR EVIL, LOVING THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE YOU

EVEN IN THEIR UNKINDNESS TO YOU...

Ruthless witnesses come forward; 11
 they question you on things you know nothing about.
 They repay you evil for good 12
 and leave you like one bereaved.

YOU RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THEM

Yet when they were ill, 13
 you put on sackcloth
 and humbled yourself with fasting.
 When your prayers returned to you unanswered, 14
 you went about (mourning)
 as though for your friend or brother.
 You bowed your head in grief
 as though weeping for your mother.

EVEN THOUGH THEY RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO YOU IN YOUR KINDNESS

But when you stumbled, 15
they gathered in (glee);
 assailants gathered against you without your knowledge.
 They slandered you without ceasing.
 Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked; 16
 they gnashed their teeth at you.
 How long, (as) your Lord, will I look on? 17
 To rescue you from their ravages,
 your precious life from these lions.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE HOPE OF HIS SALVATION

You will give me thanks in the great assembly; 18
 among the throngs you will praise me.

PART III – LORD IS A TRUE AND JUST WITNESS, ENTRUST IT TO LORD TO DEAL WITH THEM RIGHTLY

I will not let those gloat over you 19
 who are your enemies without cause;
 I will not let those who hate you without reason
 maliciously wink the eye.
 They do not speak peaceably, 20
 but devise false accusations
 against those who live quietly in the land.
They sneer at you and say, “Aha! Aha!” 21
 With our own eyes you have seen it.”
 I, I YHWH, have seen this; not being silent. 22
I am not far from you, me **your Lord**.
 Awakening, and rising to **your defense!** 23
Contending for you, me **your God and Lord**.
 Vindicating you in my **righteousness**, YHWH **your God**;
 not letting them gloat over you. 24
 Not letting them think, “Aha, just what we wanted!” 25
 or say, “We have swallowed him up.”
 May all who gloat over your distress 26
 be put to shame and confusion;
 may all who exalt themselves over you
 be clothed with shame and disgrace.

OUR RESPONSE TO HIS RIGHTEOUS VINDICATION

May those who delight in your vindication 27
 shout for joy and gladness;
 may they always say,
 “YHWH be exalted,
 who delights in the well-being of his servant.”
 Your tongue will proclaim my **righteousness**, 28
 my praises all day long.

7, 35, 69, 109

PSALM 36

For the director of music. Of David the servant of the LORD.

¹ I have a message from God in my heart
concerning the sinfulness of the wicked:
There is no fear of God
before their eyes.

² In their own eyes they flatter themselves
too much to detect or hate their sin.
³ The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful;
they fail to act wisely or do good.
⁴ Even on their beds they plot evil;
they commit themselves to a sinful course
and do not reject what is wrong.

⁵ Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
⁶ Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.
⁷ How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

¹⁰ Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.
¹¹ May the foot of the proud not come against me,
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.
¹² See how the evildoers lie fallen—
thrown down, not able to rise! (NIV)

PSALM 36 – LORD'S NEVER ENDING LOVE IS OUR SHELTER – PRESERVING US FROM SIN

ALTHOUGH WICKEDNESS IS PRESENT WITH US LIKE WEEDS IN A WHEAT FIELD...

I have a message from me, your God, from my heart
concerning the sinfulness of the wicked:

1

WICKEDNESS THAT NEITHER FEARS LORD OR LOVES HIS FELLOWSHIP

There is no fear of me God,
before their eyes.

In their own eyes they flatter themselves
too much to detect or hate their sin.

2

The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful;
they fail to act wisely or do good.

3

Even on their beds they plot evil;
they commit themselves to a sinful course
and do not reject what is wrong.

4

... BUT, LORD'S LOVE IS STRONGER, PRESERVING US FROM SIN

LORD'S GRACIOUS CHARACTER ...

My **love**, the love of YHWH, reaches to the heavens,
My **faithfulness** to the skies.

5

My **righteousness** is like the highest mountains,
my **justice** like the great deep.

6

I, I YHWH, preserve both people and animals.

MAKES IT SAFE TO APPROACH ...

How **priceless is my [unfailing love]**, the love of God!

7

People take refuge in the **shadow of my wings**.

They feast on the abundance of my house;

8

I give them drink from my river of delights.

For with me is the fountain of life;

9

in my light you see light.

... AND TRUST IN HIS LOVE TO CARE FOR US AND SEE US THROUGH

I continue

10

my **love** to those who know me,
my **righteousness** to the upright in heart.

May the foot of the proud not come against you,
nor the hand of the wicked drive you away.

11

See how the evildoers lie fallen—
thrown down, not able to rise!

12

PSALM 37

Of David.

- ¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
² for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.
- ³ Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:
⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.
- ¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.
¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.
- ¹² The wicked plot against the righteous
and gnash their teeth at them;
¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he knows their day is coming.
- ¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword
and bend the bow
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose ways are upright.
¹⁵ But their swords will pierce their own hearts,
and their bows will be broken.

¹⁶ Better the little that the righteous have
than the wealth of many wicked;

¹⁷ for the power of the wicked will be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.

¹⁸ The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care,
and their inheritance will endure forever.

¹⁹ In times of disaster they will not wither;
in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.²⁰ But the wicked will perish:
Though the LORD's enemies are like the flowers of the field,
they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.

²¹ The wicked borrow and do not repay,
but the righteous give generously;

²² those the LORD blesses will inherit the land,
but those he curses will be destroyed.

²³ The LORD makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;

²⁴ though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

²⁵ I was young and now I am old,
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.

²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely;
their children will be a blessing.

²⁷ Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.

²⁸ For the LORD loves the just
and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed;
the offspring of the wicked will perish.

²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land
and dwell in it forever.

- ³⁰ The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak what is just.
- ³¹ The law of their God is in their hearts;
their feet do not slip.
- ³² The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,
intent on putting them to death;
- ³³ but the LORD will not leave them in the power of the wicked
or let them be condemned when brought to trial.
- ³⁴ Hope in the LORD
and keep his way.
He will exalt you to inherit the land;
when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.
- ³⁵ I have seen a wicked and ruthless man
flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,
- ³⁶ but he soon passed away and was no more;
though I looked for him, he could not be found.
- ³⁷ Consider the blameless, observe the upright;
a future awaits those who seek peace.
- ³⁸ But all sinners will be destroyed;
there will be no future for the wicked.
- ³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- ⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him. (NIV)
-

PSALM 37 – WALKING WITH LORD WHO HIMSELF IS OUR SALVATION – NOW AND FOREVER

DO NOT GET DISTRACTED BY PRESENTLY COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS

(8) Do not fret because of those who are evil 1
 or be envious of those who do wrong; 2
 for like the grass they will soon wither,
 like green plants they will soon die away.

MAIN POINT INTRODUCED – KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON LORD

(2) Trust in me YHWH, and do good; 3
 dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
 Take delight in me YHWH, 4
 and I will give you the desires of your heart.

(3) Commit your way to me YHWH; 5
 trust in me and I will do this:
 I will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, 6
 your vindication like the noonday sun.

(7) Be still before me YHWH, 7
 and wait patiently for me;

do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
 when they carry out their wicked schemes.

THE FATE OF THE WICKED AND THE INHERITANCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS...

(11) Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; 8
 do not fret—it leads only to evil.
 For those who are evil will be destroyed, 9
but
 those who hope in me YHWH, will *inherit* the land.

(1) A little while, and the wicked will be no more; 10
 though you look for them, they will not be found.
But 11
 the meek will *inherit* the land
 and enjoy peace and prosperity.

(1) The wicked plot against the righteous 12
 and gnash their teeth at them;
but 13
 I, I Lord laugh at the wicked,
 for I know their day is coming.

(n)	The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.	14
	But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.	15
(v)	Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but I YHWH, uphold the righteous.	16 17
(s)	The blameless spend their days under my, YHWH's, care, and their <i>inheritance</i> will endure forever. In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.	18 19
(z)	But the wicked will perish: Though my enemies, enemies of YHWH, are like the flowers of the field, they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.	20
(7)	The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously; those I, YHWH, bless will <i>inherit</i> the land, but those I curse will be destroyed.	21 22
PRESENTLY WALKING WITH LORD, WHERE YOU ARE, ALL ALONG THE WAY UNTIL WE GET THERE		
(z)	I YHWH, make firm the steps of the one who delights in me; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for I YHWH, uphold him with my hand.	23 24
(1)	You were young and now you are old, yet you have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.	25 26
(b)	Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever. For I YHWH, love the just and will not forsake my faithful ones.	27 28
(v)	Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish. The righteous will <i>inherit</i> the land and dwell in it forever.	29

- (5) The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, 30
and their tongues speak what is just.
- My law, the law of their God, is in their hearts; 31
their feet do not slip.
- (3) The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, 32
intent on putting them to death;
- but I YHWH, will not leave them in the power of the wicked 33
or let them be condemned when brought to trial.
- (7) Hope in me, YHWH 34
and keep my way.
- I will exalt you to *inherit* the land; 34
when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.
- (7) You have seen a wicked and ruthless man 35
flourishing like a luxuriant native tree, 36
but he soon passed away and was no more; 36
though you looked for him, he could not be found.
- (ψ) Consider the blameless, observe the upright; 37
a future awaits those who seek peace.
- But all sinners will be destroyed; 38
there will be no future for the wicked.

MAIN POINT RECAPPED – KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON LORD

- (n) The **salvation of the righteous comes from me, YHWH;** 39
- I** am their stronghold in time of trouble. 40
I YHWH, help them and deliver them;
I deliver them from the wicked and save them,
because they take refuge **in me.**

acrostic (5/9)

PSALM 38

A psalm of David. A petition.

- ¹ LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.
- ² Your arrows have pierced me,
and your hand has come down on me.
- ³ Because of your wrath there is no health in my body;
there is no soundness in my bones because of my sin.
- ⁴ My guilt has overwhelmed me
like a burden too heavy to bear.
- ⁵ My wounds fester and are loathsome
because of my sinful folly.
- ⁶ I am bowed down and brought very low;
all day long I go about mourning.
- ⁷ My back is filled with searing pain;
there is no health in my body.
- ⁸ I am feeble and utterly crushed;
I groan in anguish of heart.
- ⁹ All my longings lie open before you, Lord;
my sighing is not hidden from you.
- ¹⁰ My heart pounds, my strength fails me;
even the light has gone from my eyes.
- ¹¹ My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds;
my neighbors stay far away.
- ¹² Those who want to kill me set their traps,
those who would harm me talk of my ruin;
all day long they scheme and lie.

- ¹³ I am like the deaf, who cannot hear,
like the mute, who cannot speak;
- ¹⁴ I have become like one who does not hear,
whose mouth can offer no reply.
- ¹⁵ LORD, I wait for you;
you will answer, Lord my God.
- ¹⁶ For I said, "Do not let them gloat
or exalt themselves over me when my feet slip."
- ¹⁷ For I am about to fall,
and my pain is ever with me.
- ¹⁸ I confess my iniquity;
I am troubled by my sin.
- ¹⁹ Many have become my enemies without cause;
those who hate me without reason are numerous.
- ²⁰ Those who repay my good with evil
lodge accusations against me,
though I seek only to do what is good.
- ²¹ LORD, do not forsake me;
do not be far from me, my God.
- ²² Come quickly to help me,
my Lord and my Savior. (NIV)
-

PSALM 38 – LORD'S DISCIPLINE DRAWING US BACK TO HIM**SEEKING RELIEF FROM WEIGHT OF LORD'S DISCIPLINE**

I, I YHWH, do not rebuke you in my anger
or discipline you in my wrath.

1

A SINNER'S SUFFERINGS DUE TO LORD'S DISCIPLINE

My arrows have pierced you,
and my hand has come down on you.
Because of my wrath there is no health in your body;
there is no soundness in your bones because of your **sin**.
Your guilt has overwhelmed you
like a burden too heavy to bear.

2

3

4

Your wounds fester and are loathsome
because of your sinful folly.

5

You are bowed down and brought very low;
all day long you go about mourning.

6

Your back is filled with searing pain;
there is no health in your body.

7

You are feeble and utterly crushed;
You groan in anguish of heart.

8

LORD IS AWARE, AND ALLOWS US TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SIN

All your longings lie open before me **Lord**;
your sighing is not hidden from me.

9

OUR WEAKNESS BECOMES APPARENT

Your heart pounds, your strength fails you;
even the light has gone from your eyes.

10

SEVERED RELATIONSHIPS

Your friends and companions avoid you because of your wounds;
your neighbors stay far away.

11

Those who want to kill you set their traps,
those who would harm you talk of your ruin;
all day long they scheme and lie.

12

WE REALLY HAVE NO HOPE IN AND OF OURSELVES – HOPELESSNESS OF SIN

You are like the deaf, who cannot hear,
like the mute, who cannot speak;
You have become like one who does not hear,
whose mouth can offer no reply.

13

14

*THE ONLY, AND ANY, HOPE WE HAVE LIES OUTSIDE OURSELVES – IN LORD AND HIS WILLINGNESS**LOOKING TO LORD FOR ANY SALVATION THERE COULD POSSIBLY BE*

Me, me **YHWH**, **wait** for me; 15
I will answer, I **Lord** your **God**.

For you said, “Do not let them gloat
 or exalt themselves over me when my feet slip.” 16

For you are about to fall,
 and your pain is ever with you. 17

OUR CONFESSION

You **confess** your iniquity; 18
 You are troubled by your sin.

Many have become your enemies without cause;
 those who hate you without reason are numerous. 19

Those who repay your good with evil
 lodge accusations against you,
 though you seek only to do what is good. 20

LORD'S RESTORATION TO DRAW US BACK NEAR

I, I **YHWH**, do not forsake you; 21

I am not far from you, I your **God**.

I come quickly to help you,
 your **Lord** and your **Savior**. 22

PSALM 39

For the director of music. For Jeduthun. A psalm of David.

¹ I said, "I will watch my ways
and keep my tongue from sin;
I will put a muzzle on my mouth
while in the presence of the wicked."

² So I remained utterly silent,
not even saying anything good.
But my anguish increased;

³ my heart grew hot within me.
While I meditated, the fire burned;
then I spoke with my tongue:

⁴ "Show me, LORD, my life's end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.

⁵ You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you.
Everyone is but a breath,
even those who seem secure.

⁶ "Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom;
in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth
without knowing whose it will finally be.

⁷ "But now, Lord, what do I look for?
My hope is in you.

⁸ Save me from all my transgressions;
do not make me the scorn of fools.

⁹ I was silent; I would not open my mouth,
for you are the one who has done this.

¹⁰ Remove your scourge from me;
I am overcome by the blow of your hand.

¹¹ When you rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin,
you consume their wealth like a moth—
surely everyone is but a breath.

¹² "Hear my prayer, LORD,
listen to my cry for help;
do not be deaf to my weeping.

I dwell with you as a foreigner,
a stranger, as all my ancestors were.

¹³ Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again
before I depart and am no more." (NIV)

PSALM 39 – LORD'S DISCIPLINE DRAWING US BACK TO HIM – OUR ONLY TRUE HOPE

TRYING TO BE SILENT AND NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT ANGUISH

You said, 1
 “I will watch my ways
 and keep my tongue from sin;
 I will put a muzzle on my mouth
 while in the presence of the wicked.”

So you remained utterly silent, 2
 not even saying anything good.

But your anguish increased; 3
 your heart grew hot within you.
 While you meditated, the fire burned;
 then you spoke with your tongue:

BUT UNABLE TO KEEP IT QUIET INSIDE ANY LONGER

OUR WEAKNESS – LORD'S DISCIPLINE SHOWING US OUR HOPELESSNESS WITHOUT HIM

“I show you, I YHWH, your life’s end 4
 and the number of your days;
 I let you know **how fleeting your life is.**
 I have made your days a **mere handbreadth**; 5
 the span of your years is **as nothing** before me.

[Everyone is **but a breath**],
 even those who seem secure.

“Surely everyone goes around like a mere phantom; 6
in vain they rush about, heaping up *wealth*
without knowing whose it will finally be.

LORD'S STRENGTH – TEACHING US THAT HIS STRENGTH IS ONLY HOPE WE HAVE

“But now, as your **Lord**, what do you look for? 7
Your hope is in me.
 I save you from all your transgressions; 8
 I do not make you the scorn of fools.
 You were silent; you would not open your mouth, 9
 for **I am the one who has done this.**

HIS POWER HUMBLER AND DESTROYS OUR IDOLS

I remove my scourge from you; 10
 You are overcome by the blow of my hand.
When I rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin, 11
I consume their *wealth* like a moth—
surely [everyone is but a breath].

“I hear your prayer, I YHWH, 12
 I listen to your cry for help;
I am not deaf to your weeping.
 You dwell with me as a foreigner,
 a stranger, as all your ancestors were.

I look away from you, that you may enjoy life again 13
 before you depart and are no more.”

PSALM 40

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
- ² He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
- ³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the LORD
and put their trust in him.
- ⁴ Blessed is the one
who trusts in the LORD,
who does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to false gods.
- ⁵ Many, LORD my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.
None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.
- ⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—
but my ears you have opened—
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
- ⁷ Then I said, “Here I am, I have come—
it is written about me in the scroll.
- ⁸ I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart.”

⁹ I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;
I do not seal my lips, LORD,
as you know.

¹⁰ I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness
from the great assembly.

¹¹ Do not withhold your mercy from me, LORD;
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

¹² For troubles without number surround me;
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.
They are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails within me.

¹³ Be pleased to save me, LORD;
come quickly, LORD, to help me.

¹⁴ May all who want to take my life
be put to shame and confusion;
may all who desire my ruin
be turned back in disgrace.

¹⁵ May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"
be appalled at their own shame.

¹⁶ But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who long for your saving help always say,
"The LORD is great!"

¹⁷ But as for me, I am poor and needy;
may the Lord think of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
you are my God, do not delay. (NIV)

PSALM 40 – LORD IS HE WHOSE LOVE WORKS RESTORATION ON OUR BEHALF

PRAISE FOR LORD'S LONG AWAITED DELIVERENCE

You waited patiently for me, me YHWH; 1

LORD RESTORED US... THROUGH HIS WORKS

I turned to you and heard your cry.

I lifted you out of the slimy pit, (FROM) 2
out of the mud and mire;

I set your feet on a rock (TO)
and gave you a firm place to stand.

I put a new song in your mouth, (RESULT) 3
a hymn of praise to me, your God.

Many will see and *fear me*, me YHWH
and put their trust in me.

THE NEW SONG – A HYMN OF PRAISE

REASSURANCE OF TRUSTING IN AN ALLIANCE WITH LORD

Blessed are you 4
who trusts in me, me YHWH, (DOES)
who does not look to the proud, (DOES NOT)
to those who turn aside to false gods.

LOOKING TO THE WORKS OF GOD

Many, as YHWH your God, 5
are the *wonders I have done*, (PAST)
the *things I planned for you*. (FUTURE)
None can compare with me;
were you to speak and tell of my deeds,
they would be *too many to declare*.

AS WE TRUST HIM WITH OUR HEART AND WILL – REPENT

Sacrifice and offering I did not desire— 6
but your ears I have opened—
burnt offerings and sin offerings I did not require.

Then **you said**, 7

“Here I am, I have come—
it is written about me in the scroll.

I desire to do your will, my God; 8
your law is within my heart.”

DO NOT WITHHOLD CELEBRATING THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF LORD'S LOVE AND HIS WORKS

Proclaim my saving acts in the great assembly; 9
do not seal your lips,
as I, I YHWH, know you do.
Do not hide **my righteousness** in your heart; 10
speak of **my faithfulness** and **my saving help**.
Do not conceal **my love** and **my faithfulness**
from the great assembly.

LORD DOES NOT WITHHOLD HIS FELLOWSHIP – SUSTAINING HIS CONTINUAL LOVE AND WORKS

LORD OF LOVE IS FAITHFUL – EVEN THOUGH WE ARE UNFAITHFUL

I, I YHWH, do not withhold my **mercy** from you; 11
may my love and faithfulness always **protect** you.

For troubles without number surround you; (EXTERNAL) 12
your sins have overtaken you, and you cannot see. (INTERNAL)
They are more than the hairs of your head,
and your heart fails within you.

LORD WORKS ON OUR BEHALF

I, I YHWH, am pleased to **save you**; (SEE PSALM 70:1-5) 13
I come quickly, I YHWH, to **help you**.

DELIVERING US FROM EVIL

May all who want to take your life 14
be put to **shame** and confusion;
may all who desire your ruin
be turned back in **disgrace**.
May those who say to you, “Aha! Aha!” 15
be appalled at their own **shame**.

GIVING US EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

But 16
may all who *seek me*
rejoice and be glad in me;
may those who *long for my saving help* always say,
“YHWH is great!”

But as for you, *you are poor and needy*; 17
may I Lord think of you.
I am your help and your deliverer;
I am your God, and do not delay.

PSALM 41

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

- ¹ Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;
the LORD delivers them in times of trouble.
- ² The LORD protects and preserves them—
they are counted among the blessed in the land—
he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.
- ³ The LORD sustains them on their sickbed
and restores them from their bed of illness.
- ⁴ I said, “Have mercy on me, LORD;
heal me, for I have sinned against you.”
- ⁵ My enemies say of me in malice,
“When will he die and his name perish?”
- ⁶ When one of them comes to see me,
he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander;
then he goes out and spreads it around.
- ⁷ All my enemies whisper together against me;
they imagine the worst for me, saying,
- ⁸ “A vile disease has afflicted him;
he will never get up from the place where he lies.”
- ⁹ Even my close friend,
someone I trusted,
one who shared my bread,
has turned against me.
- ¹⁰ But may you have mercy on me, LORD;
raise me up, that I may repay them.
- ¹¹ I know that you are pleased with me,
for my enemy does not triumph over me.
- ¹² Because of my integrity you uphold me
and set me in your presence forever.
- ¹³ Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and Amen. (NIV)
-

PSALM 41 – LORD OF MERCY AND FORGIVENESS WHO HEALS BOTH OUR BODY AND RELATIONSHIP

SEEKING LORD'S MERCY

Blessed are you who have regard for the weak; 1

I YHWH deliver you in times of trouble.

I YHWH protect and preserve you— 2

you are counted among the blessed in the land—

HE WHO LIFTS US UP FROM THE WEIGHT OF HIS DISCIPLINE

I do not give you over to the desire of your foes.

I YHWH sustain you on your sickbed 3

and restore you from your bed of illness.

You said, "Have mercy on me YHWH; 4

heal me, for I have sinned against you."

THE DESIRES OF OUR FOES WHO STAND AGAINST US – SAYING "HE WILL NOT BE SAVED"

Your enemies 5

say of you in malice,

"**When will he die** and his name perish?"

When one of them comes to see you, 6

he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander;

then he goes out and spreads it around.

All your enemies whisper together against you; 7

they imagine the worst for you, saying,

"A vile disease has afflicted him; 8

he will never get up from the place where he lies."

Even your close friend, 9

someone you trusted,

one who shared your bread,

has turned against you.

RELYING ON LORD'S MERCY ALONE – A SALVATION THAT PREVAILS

But 10

PHYSICAL HEALING

may **I have mercy on you,** I YHWH;

I raise you up, that you may repay them.

You know that I am pleased with you, 11

for your enemy does not triumph over you.

ULTIMATE HEALING

HIS FELLOWSHIP

Because of your integrity **I uphold you** 12

and set you in my presence forever.

OUR WORSHIP – IN RESPONSE TO LORD'S MERCIES

Praise be to me YHWH, the God of Israel, 13

from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen and Amen.

Book II Psalms 42 – 72

PSALM 42

For the director of music. A *maskil* of the Sons of Korah.

- ¹ As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
- ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?
- ³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”
- ⁴ These things I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise
among the festive throng.
- ⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.
- ⁶ My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.
- ⁷ Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.
- ⁸ By day the LORD directs his love,
at night his song is with me—
a prayer to the God of my life.
- ⁹ I say to God my Rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?”
- ¹⁰ My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”
- ¹¹ Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God. (NIV)

PSALM 43

¹ Vindicate me, my God,
and plead my cause
against an unfaithful nation.
Rescue me from those who are
deceitful and wicked.

² You are God my stronghold.
Why have you rejected me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?

³ Send me your light and your faithful care,
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell.

⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God, my joy and my delight.
I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.

⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God. (NIV)

PSALM 42 – REPLACING ANGUISH WITH HOPE AS WE ANTICIPATE THE RESTORATION OF LORD'S PRESENCE

PART I – LORD – IT IS HE WHO UPLIFTS

As the deer pants for streams of water,

so **your soul pants for me**, **your God**.

Your soul thirsts for me, God, for **the living God**.

When can you **come** and **meet with me**, God?

THOUGH LORD CAN SOMETIMES SEEM TO BE ABSENT

Your tears have been your food

day and night,

while people say to you all day long,

["Where is your God?"]

BE MINDFUL OF THE SWEETNESS OF HIS PRESENCE

These things you **remember**

as you pour out your soul:

how you used to go to **my house**, the house of God

under **my protection**, **the Mighty One**

with shouts of joy and praise

among the festive throng.

CHORUS

Why, your soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within you?

Put your hope in me, God,

for you will yet **praise me**,

your Savior and **your God**.

PART II – LOOKING TO LORD'S PRESENCE THAT OVERCOMES EMPTINESS OF THE SOUL

Your [√]soul is downcast within you;

therefore **I will remember you**

from the land of the Jordan,

the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to [√]deep

in the roar of my [√]waterfalls;

all my waves and [√]breakers

have [√]swept over you.

By day I YHWH direct my love,

at night my song, to be with you—

a prayer to **me**, **God of your life**.

THOUGH LORD MAY SOMETIMES SEEMINGLY BE ABSENT

You say to **me**, **God your Rock**,

"Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?"

Your bones suffer mortal agony

as your foes taunt you,

saying to you all day long,

["Where is your God?"]

CHORUS

Why, your soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within you?

Put your hope in me, God,

for you will yet **praise me**,

your Savior and **your God**.

PSALM 43 – ... PSALM 42 CONTINUED

PART III – LORD FILLS OUR HEART WITH JOY

I vindicate you, your God, 1
and plead your cause
 against an unfaithful nation.
I rescue you from those who are
 deceitful and wicked.

WHY FRET

I am God **your stronghold**. 2
 Why have I rejected you?

Why must you go about mourning,
 oppressed by the enemy?

LORD DRAWS US TO HIMSELF

I send you my light and my faithful care, 3
let them lead you;

let them bring you to my holy ^vmountain,
to the place ^vwhere I dwell.

Then you will go ^vto my ^valtar, of God, 4
to ^vme, God, ^vyour joy and ^vyour delight.

You will **praise me** with the lyre,
me God, your God.

CHORUS

Why, your soul, are you downcast?
 Why so disturbed within you?

Put your hope in me, God, 5
 for you will yet **praise me,**
your Savior and **your God.**

PSALM 44

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A *maskil*.

- ¹ We have heard it with our ears, O God;
our ancestors have told us
what you did in their days,
in days long ago.
- ² With your hand you drove out the nations
and planted our ancestors;
you crushed the peoples
and made our ancestors flourish.
- ³ It was not by their sword that they won the land,
nor did their arm bring them victory;
it was your right hand, your arm,
and the light of your face, for you loved them.
- ⁴ You are my King and my God,
who decrees victories for Jacob.
- ⁵ Through you we push back our enemies;
through your name we trample our foes.
- ⁶ I put no trust in my bow,
my sword does not bring me victory;
- ⁷ but you give us victory over our enemies,
you put our adversaries to shame.
- ⁸ In God we make our boast all day long,
and we will praise your name forever.
- ⁹ But now you have rejected and humbled us;
you no longer go out with our armies.
- ¹⁰ You made us retreat before the enemy,
and our adversaries have plundered us.
- ¹¹ You gave us up to be devoured like sheep
and have scattered us among the nations.
- ¹² You sold your people for a pittance,
gaining nothing from their sale.

- ¹³ You have made us a reproach to our neighbors,
the scorn and derision of those around us.
- ¹⁴ You have made us a byword among the nations;
the peoples shake their heads at us.
- ¹⁵ I live in disgrace all day long,
and my face is covered with shame
- ¹⁶ at the taunts of those who reproach and revile me,
because of the enemy, who is bent on revenge.
- ¹⁷ All this came upon us,
though we had not forgotten you;
we had not been false to your covenant.
- ¹⁸ Our hearts had not turned back;
our feet had not strayed from your path.
- ¹⁹ But you crushed us and made us a haunt for jackals;
you covered us over with deep darkness.
- ²⁰ If we had forgotten the name of our God
or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
²¹ would not God have discovered it,
since he knows the secrets of the heart?
- ²² Yet for your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.
- ²³ Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep?
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.
- ²⁴ Why do you hide your face
and forget our misery and oppression?
- ²⁵ We are brought down to the dust;
our bodies cling to the ground.
- ²⁶ Rise up and help us;
rescue us because of your unfailing love. (NIV)
-

PSALM 44 – LORD OF STRENGTH... HE WHO HUMBLIS IS HE WHO IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF RESTORATION

PAST – IT IS BY LORD'S POWER THAT HE LIFTS US UP

IT WAS LORD WHO GAINED VICTORY

You have heard it with your ears; 1
 your ancestors have told you
 what I did in their days,
 in days long ago.
 With **my** hand I drove out the nations 2
 and planted your ancestors;
 I crushed the peoples
 and made your ancestors flourish.

NOT BY OUR MIGHT NOR POWER

It was not by their sword that they won the land, 3
 nor did their arm bring them victory;

BUT BY SPIRIT OF LORD

it was **my** right hand, **my** arm,
 and the [light of **my** face], for I loved them.

VICTORY CAME FROM THE HAND OF LORD AND WE LEARNED TO BE FAITHFUL

I am your **King** and your **God**, 4
 who decrees victories for Jacob.

Through **me** you push back your enemies; 5
 through **my** name you trample your foes.

NOT BY OUR MIGHT NOR POWER

Put no trust in your bow, 6
 your sword does not bring you victory;

BUT BY SPIRIT OF LORD

but I give you victory over your enemies, 7
 I put your adversaries to shame.

In **me**, God, you make our boast all day long, 8
 and you will praise **my** name forever.

PRESENT – IS IT NOT THE LORD'S POWER THAT HAS ALSO DONE THIS NOW AND BROUGHT US LOW

But now 9

I have rejected and humbled you;
 I no longer go out with your armies. 10

I made you retreat before the enemy,
 and your adversaries have plundered you. 11

I gave you up to be devoured like sheep
 and have scattered you among the nations. 12

I sold my people for a pittance,
 gaining nothing from their sale. 13

I have made you a reproach to your neighbors,
 the scorn and derision of those around you. 14

I have made you a byword among the nations;
 the peoples shake their heads at you. 15

You live in disgrace all day long,
 and your face is covered with shame 16
 at the taunts of those who reproach and revile you,
 because of the enemy, who is bent on revenge.

REMAINING FAITHFUL TO LORD – EVEN THOUGH SUFFERING WHILE INNOCENT

All this came upon you, 17

though you had not forgotten me;

you had not been false to my covenant.

Your hearts had not turned back; 18

your feet had not strayed from my path.

But 19

I crushed you and made you a haunt for jackals;

I covered you over with deep darkness.

If you had forgotten my name, of your God 20

or spread out your hands to a foreign god,

would not I, God, have discovered it, 21

since **I** know the secrets of the heart?

Yet 22

for my sake you face death all day long;

you are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

FUTURE – IS IT NOT THE LORD WHOSE POWER WILL RESTORE – WHO REMAINS OUR ONLY HOPE

Awake, (me) **Lord!** Why do I sleep? 23

Rouse myself! I will not reject you forever.

Why do I **hide my face** 24

and forget your misery and oppression?

You are brought down to the dust; 25

your bodies cling to the ground.

(I) rise up and help you; 26

rescue you because of my [unfailing love].

PSALM 45

**For the director of music. To the tune of "Lilies." Of the Sons of Korah.
A maskil. A wedding song.**

- ¹ My heart is stirred by a noble theme
as I recite my verses for the king;
my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.
- ² You are the most excellent of men
and your lips have been anointed with grace,
since God has blessed you forever.
- ³ Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one;
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.
- ⁴ In your majesty ride forth victoriously
in the cause of truth, humility and justice;
let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.
- ⁵ Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies;
let the nations fall beneath your feet.
- ⁶ Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
- ⁷ You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.
- ⁸ All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia;
from palaces adorned with ivory
the music of the strings makes you glad.
- ⁹ Daughters of kings are among your honored women;
at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.
- ¹⁰ Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention:
Forget your people and your father's house.
- ¹¹ Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;
honor him, for he is your lord.
- ¹² The city of Tyre will come with a gift,
people of wealth will seek your favor.
- ¹³ All glorious is the princess within her chamber;
her gown is interwoven with gold.
- ¹⁴ In embroidered garments she is led to the king;
her virgin companions follow her—
those brought to be with her.
- ¹⁵ Led in with joy and gladness,
they enter the palace of the king.
- ¹⁶ Your sons will take the place of your fathers;
you will make them princes throughout the land.
- ¹⁷ I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever. (NIV)
-

PSALM 45 – A WEDDING SONG**INTRODUCTION**

My heart is stirred by a noble theme
 as I recite my verses for the king;
 my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.

1

HONOR TO THE GROOM

You are the most excellent of men
 and your lips have been anointed with grace,
 since God has blessed you forever.

2

Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one;
 clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

3

In your majesty ride forth victoriously
 in the cause of truth, humility and justice;
 let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.

4

Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies;
 let the nations fall beneath your feet.

5

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
 a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

6

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
 therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
 by anointing you with the oil of joy.

7

All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia;
 from palaces adorned with ivory
 the music of the strings makes you glad.

8

Daughters of kings are among your honored women;
 at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.

9

HONOR TO THE BRIDE

Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention:
 Forget your people and your father's house.

10

Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;
 honor him, for he is your lord.

11

The city of Tyre will come with a gift,
 people of wealth will seek your favor.

12

All glorious is the princess within her chamber;
 her gown is interwoven with gold.

13

In embroidered garments she is led to the king;
 her virgin companions follow her—
 those brought to be with her.

14

Led in with joy and gladness,
 they enter the palace of the king.

15

LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR LEGACY

Your sons will take the place of your fathers;
 you will make them princes throughout the land.

16

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;
 therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

17

PSALM 46

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. According to *alamoth*. A song

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
- ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- ⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. (NIV)
-

PSALM 46 – LORD ALMIGHTY IS CONSTANTLY WITH US – TO BE OUR STRENGTH, STRONGHOLD, AND FORTRESS

INTRODUCTION – GOD, IN HIS STRENGTH, CALLS US TO FEARLESSNESS

I God, am your refuge and strength, 1
an **ever-present** help in trouble.

Therefore you will not fear, 2
though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam 3
and the mountains quake with their surging.

LORD OUR PROTECTOR, KEEPS US FROM EVIL

LORD IS OUR LIFE – EVEN UNDER THREAT OF DEATH

There is a river whose streams make glad my city, the city of God, 4
the holy place where I, the Most **High**, dwell.

I God, am within her, she will not fall; 5

I God, will help her at break of day. 6

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; 6

I lift my voice, the earth melts.

I YHWH Almighty, am with you; 7

I God of Jacob, am **your fortress**.

LORD OUR STRENGTH GIVES VICTORY – EVEN OVER DEATH

Come and see what **I**, YHWH, have done, 8
the desolations **I** have brought on the earth.

I make wars cease 9

to the ends of the earth.

I break the bow and shatter the spear;

I burn the shields with fire.

LORD'S DECLARATION OF EXALTATION

I say, "**Be still, and know that I am God;**" 10

I will be **exalted** among the nations,

I will be **exalted** in the earth."

I YHWH Almighty, am with you; 11

I God of Jacob, am **your fortress**.

PSALM 47

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.
- ² For the LORD Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.
- ³ He subdued nations under us,
peoples under our feet.
- ⁴ He chose our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.
- ⁵ God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- ⁷ For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.
- ⁸ God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
- ⁹ The nobles of the nations assemble
as the people of the God of Abraham,
for the kings of the earth belong to God;
he is greatly exalted. (NIV)
-

PSALM 47 – LORD MOST HIGH KING OF KINGS – EXALTED IN ALL THE EARTH, OVER ALL THE NATIONS

OUR RESPONSE – CELEBRATING OUR KING

Clap your hands, *all you nations*;
shout to me, God, with cries of joy. 1

THE MOST HIGH

For **I YHWH Most High**, am awesome,
the great **King** over *all the earth*. 2

OUR OVERSEER

I subdued nations under you, 3
peoples under your feet.
I chose your inheritance for you, 4
the pride of Jacob, whom I loved.

OUR RESPONSE – WORSHIPPING OUR KING

I God have ascended amid [√]shouts of joy, 5
I YHWH, amid the [√]sounding of trumpets.
[√]Sing praises to me God, [√]sing praises; 6
[√]sing praises to your **King**, [√]sing praises.

THE KING OF KINGS

For I God, **am** the **King** of *all the earth*;
[√]sing to me a psalm of [√]praise. 7
I God, reign over *the nations*; 8
I God, am seated on my holy throne.

POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BE SOVEREIGN

The nobles of *the nations* assemble 9
as my people, of the God of Abraham,
for the kings of *the earth* belong to me God;
I am greatly exalted.

PSALM 48

A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah.

¹ Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

² Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,
the city of the Great King.

³ God is in her citadels;
he has shown himself to be her fortress.

⁴ When the kings joined forces,
when they advanced together,
⁵ they saw her and were astounded;
they fled in terror.

⁶ Trembling seized them there,
pain like that of a woman in labor.

⁷ You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish
shattered by an east wind.

⁸ As we have heard,
so we have seen
in the city of the LORD Almighty,
in the city of our God:
God makes her secure
forever.

⁹ Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.

¹⁰ Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.

¹¹ Mount Zion rejoices,
the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments.

¹² Walk about Zion, go around her,
count her towers,

¹³ consider well her ramparts,
view her citadels,
that you may tell of them
to the next generation.

¹⁴ For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end. (NIV)

PSALM 48 – LORD, IN ALL HIS GREATNESS, IS THE ONLY ONE BEHIND OUR SAFETY, SECURITY, AND JOY

INTRODUCTION

Great am I YHWH, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of your God, my holy mountain.

1

BECAUSE OF HIS PRESENCE

Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,
my city, the city of the **Great King**.

2

I God, am in her citadels;
I have shown myself to be her fortress.

3

EVEN WHILE UNDER ATTACK

When the kings joined forces,
when they advanced together,
they saw her and were astounded;
they fled in terror.
Trembling seized them there,
pain like that of a woman in labor.
I destroyed them like ships of Tarshish
shattered by an east wind.

4

5

6

7

IT IS HE WHO MAKE US SECURE

As you have heard,
so you have seen
in my city, the city of **YHWH Almighty**,
in my city, the city of your God:

8

I God, make her secure
forever.

FIND JOY IN WHO HE IS

Within my temple, the temple of God,
you meditate on my [unfailing ^vlove].
Like my name, the name of God,
my praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
my right hand is filled with ^vrighteousness.
Mount Zion rejoices,
the villages of Judah are glad
because of my ^vjudgments.

9

10

11

CONSIDER HIS POWER AND WORKS

Walk about Zion, go around her,
count her towers,
consider well her ramparts,
view her citadels,
that you may tell of them
to the next generation.

12

13

For I God, am your God for ever and ever;
I will be your guide even to the end

14

PSALM 49

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

- ¹ Hear this, all you peoples;
listen, all who live in this world,
² both low and high,
rich and poor alike:
³ My mouth will speak words of wisdom;
the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.
⁴ I will turn my ear to a proverb;
with the harp I will expound my riddle:
- ⁵ Why should I fear when evil days come,
when wicked deceivers surround me—
⁶ those who trust in their wealth
and boast of their great riches?
⁷ No one can redeem the life of another
or give to God a ransom for them—
⁸ the ransom for a life is costly,
no payment is ever enough—
⁹ so that they should live on forever
and not see decay.
¹⁰ For all can see that the wise die,
that the foolish and the senseless also perish,
leaving their wealth to others.
¹¹ Their tombs will remain their houses forever,
their dwellings for endless generations,
though they had named lands after themselves.
- ¹² People, despite their wealth, do not endure;
they are like the beasts that perish.

- ¹³ This is the fate of those who trust in themselves,
and of their followers, who approve their sayings.
- ¹⁴ They are like sheep and are destined to die;
death will be their shepherd
(but the upright will prevail over them in the morning).
Their forms will decay in the grave,
far from their princely mansions.
- ¹⁵ But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead;
he will surely take me to himself.
- ¹⁶ Do not be overawed when others grow rich,
when the splendor of their houses increases;
- ¹⁷ for they will take nothing with them when they die,
their splendor will not descend with them.
- ¹⁸ Though while they live they count themselves blessed—
and people praise you when you prosper—
- ¹⁹ they will join those who have gone before them,
who will never again see the light of life.
- ²⁰ People who have wealth but lack understanding
are like the beasts that perish. (NIV)
-

**PSALM 49 – ONLY GOD CAN PAY THE RANSOM TO REDEEM US –
TO TAKE US UNTO HIMSELF - FROM DEATH / UNTO LIFE**

INTRODUCTION – CALL TO ATTENTION; CALL TO UNDERSTANDING

Hear this, all you peoples; 1
 listen, all who live in this world, 2
both low and high, 2
 rich and poor alike: 3
 My mouth will speak words of wisdom; 3
 the meditation of my heart will give you understanding. 4
 I will turn my ear to a proverb; 4
 with the harp I will expound my riddle:

QUESTION: WHY FEAR WHEN RICH AND POWERFUL MISUSE THEIR BLESSING AGAINST YOU

NO ONE CAN SAVE THEMSELVES ETERNALLY

Why should you **fear** when evil days come, 5
 when wicked deceivers surround you— 6
 those who trust in their wealth 6
 and boast of their great riches?

**(No one can redeem the life of another
 or give to me God, a ransom for them—)**

the ransom for a life is costly, 8
 no payment is ever enough— 9
 so that they should live on forever 9
 and not see decay.

DEATH IS EVERYONE'S COMMON DENOMINATOR

For all can see that the wise die, 10
 that the foolish and the senseless also perish,
 leaving their wealth to others.
 Their tombs will remain their houses forever, 11
 their dwellings for endless generations,
 though they had named lands after themselves.

PROVERB:

People, despite their wealth, do not endure; 12
 they are like the beasts that perish.

HINT: BUT THAT IS WHERE ANY SIMILARITY ENDS – ONLY LORD CAN REDEEM AFTER DEATH...

THE WICKED HAVE NO HOPE, BUT ONLY DEATH AND DECAY

This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, 13
 and of their followers, who approve their sayings.
 They are like sheep and are destined to die; 14
 death will be their shepherd
 (but the upright will prevail over them in the morning).
Their forms will decay in the grave,
 far from their princely mansions.

IN LORD, THERE IS HOPE OF NEWNESS OF LIFE

But **I God, will redeem you** from the realm of the dead; 15
I will surely take you to myself.

ANSWER: FEAR NOT – IT IS GOD, NOT RICHES THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE OF LIFE

Do not be overawed when others grow rich, 16
 when the splendor of their houses increases;
 for they will take nothing with them when they **die**, 17
their splendor will not descend with them.

Though 18
 while they live they count themselves blessed—
 and people praise you when you prosper—
they will 19
 join those who have gone before them,
 who will never again see the light of **life**.

PROVERB:

People who have wealth but lack understanding 20
 are like the beasts that perish.

PSALM 50

A psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.
- ² From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth.
- ³ Our God comes
and will not be silent;
a fire devours before him,
and around him a tempest rages.
- ⁴ He summons the heavens above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:
- ⁵ “Gather to me this consecrated people,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”
- ⁶ And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,
for he is a God of justice.
- ⁷ “Listen, my people, and I will speak;
I will testify against you, Israel:
I am God, your God.
- ⁸ I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices
or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.
- ⁹ I have no need of a bull from your stall
or of goats from your pens,
- ¹⁰ for every animal of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.
- ¹¹ I know every bird in the mountains,
and the insects in the fields are mine.
- ¹² If I were hungry I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
- ¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
- ¹⁴ “Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,
- ¹⁵ and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

¹⁶ But to the wicked person, God says:

“What right have you to recite my laws
or take my covenant on your lips?

¹⁷ You hate my instruction
and cast my words behind you.

¹⁸ When you see a thief, you join with him;
you throw in your lot with adulterers.

¹⁹ You use your mouth for evil
and harness your tongue to deceit.

²⁰ You sit and testify against your brother
and slander your own mother’s son.

²¹ When you did these things and I kept silent,
you thought I was exactly like you.

But I now arraign you
and set my accusations before you.

²² “Consider this, you who forget God,
or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you:

²³ Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me,
and to the blameless I will show my salvation.” (NIV)

PSALM 50 – LORD HATES INSINCERE AND UNRIGHTEOUS WORSHIP – DESIRING GRATITUDE

INTRODUCTION – LORD ANNOUNCES THAT HE IS ABOUT TO SPEAK A JUDGEMENT

I the **Mighty One, God, YHWH,**

1 speak and summon the earth
 from the rising of the sun to where it sets.
 2 From Zion, perfect in beauty,
 I God, shine forth.
 3 your God, comes
 and will not be silent;
 a fire devours before me,
 and around me a tempest rages.

4 I summon the heavens above,
 and the earth, that I may judge my people:

GOD'S WORD INSTRUCTING THOSE CONSECRATED COVENANTIAL PEOPLE
 – WHO SACRIFICE SUPERFICIALLY

5 “Gather to me this consecrated people,
 who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

6 And the heavens proclaim my righteousness,
 for **I am a God of justice**.

7 “Listen, my people, and I will speak;
I will testify against you, Israel:

EXTERNAL – GOD IS NOT SO CONCERNED ABOUT GOING THROUGH THE RIGHT MOTIONS

I am God, your God.

8 I bring no charges against you **concerning your sacrifices**
 or **concerning your burnt offerings**, which are ever before me.

9 I have no need of a bull from your stall
 or of goats from your pens,
 10 for every animal of the forest is mine,
 and the cattle on a thousand hills.
 11 I know every bird in the mountains,
 and the insects in the fields are mine.
 12 If I were hungry I would not tell you,
 for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
 13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls
 or drink the blood of goats?

INTERNAL – GOD'S WILL REGARDING THEIR SPIRIT AND EMPTINESS OF SACRIFICE

14 “Sacrifice **thank offerings to me**, your God,
 fulfill your vows to me, the Most High,
 15 and call on me in the day of trouble;
 I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

GOD'S WORD WARNING RIGHTEOUS HYPOCRITES – WHO FORGET GOD AND HIS INSTRUCTION

But to the wicked person, I God say:

16

FALSELY PROCLAIMING LORD'S LAW – IE., HIS WILL (THOSE WHO 'TALK'...)

“What right have you to recite my laws
or take my covenant on your lips?

WHILE BREAKING LORD'S TEN (10) COMMANDMENTS – IE., HIS WILL (...BUT DO NOT 'DO')**MAN'S REJECTION OF GOD'S TRUE WORD – BY FALSE WORSHIP, INDIFFERENCE**

You hate my instruction
and cast my words behind you.

17

When you see a thief, you join with him;
you throw in your lot with adulterers.

18

GOD'S REJECTION OF MAN'S FALSE WORDS

You use your mouth for evil
and harness your tongue to deceit.

19

You sit and testify against your brother
and slander your own mother's son.

20

GOD'S SILENCE HAS ENDED

When you did these things and I kept silent,
you thought I was exactly like you.

21

But I now arraign you
and set my accusations before you.

GOD REPEATS HIS WORD – AND WATCH OUT IF YOU FORGET IT !

“Consider this, you who forget me, your God,
or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you:

22

Those who sacrifice **thank offerings** honor me,
and to the blameless I will show my salvation.”

23

to confess thankfulness is, partly, an admission you are NOT lord; submission; not self-sufficient, nor independent

PSALM 51

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
- ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁷ My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.
- ¹⁸ May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar. (NIV)

(This page intentionally left blank – Psalm 51 (Personalized) continued on next page.)

PSALM 51 – LORD'S MERCY ALONE DRAWS THE HUMBLE BACK NEAR – TO HIS SAVING PRESENCE / INTIMACY

TRUSTING OURSELVES UNTO THE HOLY ONE'S ETERNAL LOVE AND MERCY

I, your God, have mercy on you,
 according to **my** [unfailing love];
 according to **my** great compassion

1

PART I. RELATIONSHIP RESTORED – FORGIVENESS – REMOVES OUR NEGATIVE

I **blot out** **your** transgressions.
Wash away all **your** iniquity and
cleanse you from **your** sin.

2

HONEST CONFESSION/OWNERSHIP OF OUR PART IN WHAT I'VE DONE, AND WHO I'VE HURT

For you know your transgressions,
 and your sin is always before you.
 Against me, me only, have you sinned
 and done what is evil in my sight;
 so I **am** right in my verdict
 and justified when I judge.

3

4

Surely you were sinful at birth,
 sinful from the time your mother conceived you.
 Yet I desired faithfulness even in the womb;
 I taught you wisdom in that secret place.

5

6

I **cleanse you** with hyssop, and you will be clean;
 I **wash you**, and you will be whiter than snow.
 I **let you hear joy** and gladness;
 let the bones I have crushed rejoice.
 I **hide my face** from your sins
 and **blot out** all your iniquity.

7

8

9

PART II. RELATIONSHIP SUSTAINED – RESTORATION OF HIS SPIRIT – EMPOWERING US WITH POSITIVE

I, your God, **create** in you a pure heart,
and **renew** a steadfast spirit within you. 10

PURIFIED SPIRIT

I do not cast you from my presence
or take my Holy Spirit from you. 11

I restore to you the **joy** of my salvation
and **grant** you a willing spirit, to sustain you. 12

GOD WILL BE LIFTED UP (BEFORE MAN), MAN WILL REPENT

REPENTENCE

Then you will teach transgressors my ways,
so that sinners will turn back to me. 13

PURIFIED WORSHIP

INDIVIDUALLY

PRAISE DUE TO FORGIVENESS AND SUSTAINED FELLOWSHIP

I deliver you from the guilt of bloodshed, I your God
I who am God your Savior, 14

and your tongue will sing of my righteousness.
I, Lord, open your lips,
and your mouth will declare my praise. 15

MAN AND HIS WORKS WILL BE BROUGHT LOW (BEFORE GOD)

I do not delight in sacrifice, or you would bring it;
I do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 16

Your sacrifice is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
I God, will not despise. 17

AS A CONGREGATION

May it please me to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem. 18

Then I will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on my altar. 19

PSALM 52

- ¹ Why do you boast of evil, you mighty hero?
Why do you boast all day long,
you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?
- ² You who practice deceit,
your tongue plots destruction;
it is like a sharpened razor.
- ³ You love evil rather than good,
falsehood rather than speaking the truth.
- ⁴ You love every harmful word,
you deceitful tongue!
- ⁵ Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin:
He will snatch you up and pluck you from your tent;
he will uproot you from the land of the living.
- ⁶ The righteous will see and fear;
they will laugh at you, saying,
- ⁷ "Here now is the man
who did not make God his stronghold
but trusted in his great wealth
and grew strong by destroying others!"
- ⁸ But I am like an olive tree
flourishing in the house of God;
I trust in God's unfailing love
for ever and ever.
- ⁹ For what you have done I will always praise you
in the presence of your faithful people.
And I will hope in your name,
for your name is good. (NIV)
-

PSALM 52 – LORD’S PRESENCE AND LOVE IS OUR ONLY TRUE SECURITY

FALSE SECURITY – OF THE WICKED

WAY OF THE WICKED

Why do you boast of evil, you mighty hero? 1
 Why do you boast all day long,
 you who are a disgrace in my eyes, the eyes of God?
 You who practice deceit, 2
 your tongue plots destruction;
 it is like a sharpened razor.
 You love evil rather than good, 3
 falsehood rather than speaking the truth.
 You love every harmful word, 4
 you deceitful tongue!

WAGES/REWARD OF THE WICKED

Surely I God, will bring you down to everlasting ruin: 5
 I will snatch you up and pluck you from your tent;
 I will uproot you from the land of the living.
 The righteous will see and fear; 6
 they will laugh at you, saying,
 “Here now is the man 7
 who **did not make God his stronghold**
 but trusted in his great wealth
 and grew strong by destroying others!”

TRUE SECURITY – OF THE RIGHTEOUS – GOD’S PRESENCE AND LOVE

But 8

WAGES/REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS

you are like an olive tree
 flourishing in the house of God;

WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

You **trust in my [unfailing love]**, the love of God
 for ever and ever.

For **what I have done** you will always praise me 9
 in the presence of my faithful people.
 And you will **hope in my name**,
 for my name is good.

PSALM 53

¹ The fool says in his heart,
“There is no God.”
They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;
there is no one who does good.

² God looks down from heaven
on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.

³ Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

⁴ Do all these evildoers know nothing?

They devour my people as though eating bread;
they never call on God.

⁵ But there they are, overwhelmed with dread,
where there was nothing to dread.
God scattered the bones of those who attacked you;
you put them to shame, for God despised them.

⁶ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When God restores his people,
let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad! (NIV)

PSALM 53 – LORD YEARNING FOR SOMEONE – ANYONE – TO SEEK HIM AND HIS RESTORATION (SEE PSALM 14)

EVIL-DOERS ABOUND

The fool says in his heart, 1
 “There is no God.”
 They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;
 there is **no one who does good.**

QUESTION: DOES ANYONE REALLY SEEK AFTER GOD

I God, look down from heaven 2
 on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek me God.

ANSWER: NO, NOT ONE

Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt; 3
there is no one who does good,

not even one.

Do all these evildoers know nothing? 4

They **devour** my people as though eating bread;
they never call on me God. 5
 But there they are, **overwhelmed** with dread,
 where there was nothing to dread.

LORD'S RESTORATION IS OUR ONLY HOPE TO SUSTAIN JOY IN OUR HEART

I God, scattered the bones of those who **attacked** you;
 you put them to shame, for I, God, despised them.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! 6
 When I God, restore my people,
 let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

PSALM 54

- ¹ Save me, O God, by your name;
vindicate me by your might.
- ² Hear my prayer, O God;
listen to the words of my mouth.
- ³ Arrogant foes are attacking me;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—
people without regard for God.
- ⁴ Surely God is my help;
the Lord is the one who sustains me.
- ⁵ Let evil recoil on those who slander me;
in your faithfulness destroy them.
- ⁶ I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;
I will praise your name, LORD, for it is good.
- ⁷ You have delivered me from all my troubles,
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes. (NIV)
-

PSALM 54 – LORD OUR GOD, HELP, AND SUSTENANCE – IS HE WHO DELIVERS THOSE WHO TRUST HIM**IN GOD WE TRUST**

I, I your God, save you **by** my name;
 I vindicate you **by my might**.
 I, I your **God, hear** your prayer,
 I listen to the words of your mouth.

1

2

SEEN FACTS – FOES ARE ATTACKING

Arrogant foes are attacking you;
 ruthless people are trying to kill you—
 people without regard for me, God.

3

UNSEEN FACT – GOD OUR HOPE US

Surely **I God, am your help**;
I, the **Lord**, am the one who **sustains you**.

4

LORD'S WORKS OF POWER**UNRIGHTEOUS ARE DESTROYED**

Let evil recoil on those who slander you;
 in my faithfulness I destroy them.

5

RIGHTEOUS ARE DELIVERED

Sacrifice a freewill offering to me;
 Praise my name, me **YHWH**, for it is good.
I have delivered you from all your troubles,
 and your eyes have looked in triumph on your foes.

6

7

PSALM 55

¹ Listen to my prayer, O God,
do not ignore my plea;
² hear me and answer me.
My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught
³ because of what my enemy is saying,
because of the threats of the wicked;
for they bring down suffering on me
and assail me in their anger.

⁴ My heart is in anguish within me;
the terrors of death have fallen on me.
⁵ Fear and trembling have beset me;
horror has overwhelmed me.
⁶ I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest.
⁷ I would flee far away
and stay in the desert;
⁸ I would hurry to my place of shelter,
far from the tempest and storm."

⁹ Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their words,
for I see violence and strife in the city.
¹⁰ Day and night they prowl about on its walls;
malice and abuse are within it.
¹¹ Destructive forces are at work in the city;
threats and lies never leave its streets.

¹² If an enemy were insulting me,
I could endure it;
if a foe were rising against me,
I could hide.
¹³ But it is you, a man like myself,
my companion, my close friend,
¹⁴ with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship
at the house of God,
as we walked about
among the worshipers.

¹⁵ Let death take my enemies by surprise;
let them go down alive to the realm of the dead,
for evil finds lodging among them.

- ¹⁶ As for me, I call to God,
and the LORD saves me.
- ¹⁷ Evening, morning and noon
I cry out in distress,
and he hears my voice.
- ¹⁸ He rescues me unharmed
from the battle waged against me,
even though many oppose me.
- ¹⁹ God, who is enthroned from of old,
who does not change—
he will hear them and humble them,
because they have no fear of God.
- ²⁰ My companion attacks his friends;
he violates his covenant.
- ²¹ His talk is smooth as butter,
yet war is in his heart;
his words are more soothing than oil,
yet they are drawn swords.
- ²² Cast your cares on the LORD
and he will sustain you;
he will never let
the righteous be shaken.
- ²³ But you, God, will bring down the wicked
into the pit of decay;
the bloodthirsty and deceitful
will not live out half their days.

But as for me, I trust in you. (NIV)

PSALM 55 – LORD OUR SUSTAINER SEES US THROUGH THE PAIN OUR FRIEND'S HURTFUL WORDS

A CRY TO LORD

I, I your God, listen to your prayer, 1
 I do not ignore your plea; 2
I hear you and answer you.

SEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

INTERNAL STRIFE – TROUBLED HEART

Your thoughts trouble you and you are **distraught** 3
 because of what your enemy is saying,
 because of the **threats** of the wicked;
 for they bring down **suffering** on you
 and **assail you** in their anger.

Your heart is in **anguish** within you; 4
 the **terrors** of death have fallen on you. 5
Fear and **trembling** have **beset** you;
horror has **overwhelmed** you.

You said, 6
 “Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
 I would fly **away** and be at rest.
 I would flee far **away** 7
 and stay in the desert;
 I would **hurry** to my place of shelter, 8
 far from the tempest and storm.”

EXTERNAL ENEMIES

CONSTANT BARRAGE AND DISTRESS FROM ENEMIES

I, Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their **words**, 9
 for you see violence and strife in the city.
 Day and night they prowl about on its walls; 10
 malice and abuse are within it.
 Destructive forces are at work in the city; 11
 threats and lies never leave its streets.

EVEN REJECTION OF A ONCE TRUSTED FRIEND

If an enemy were **insulting** you, 12
 you could endure it;
 if a foe were rising against you,
 you could hide.
 But it is another, a man like yourself, 13
 your **companion**, your close friend,
 with whom you once enjoyed sweet fellowship 14
 at the house of God,
 as you walked about
 among the worshipers.

HOW BAD IT FEELS AT TIMES

Let death take your enemies by surprise; 15
 let them go down alive to the realm of the dead,
 for evil finds lodging among them.

UNSEEN PROMISE OF HOPE**LOOKING TO LORD, OUR ONLY FRIEND, FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR DESPAIR**

As for you, **you call to me God,** 16
and I YHWH, save you.

Evening, morning and noon 17
you cry out in distress,
 and **I hear** your voice.

I rescue you unharmed 18
 from the battle waged against you,
 even though many oppose you.

I God, who am enthroned from of old, 19
 who does not change—

I will hear them and *humble* them,
 because they have no fear of me, God.

FALSE COMPANION (FALSE EXTERNAL HOPE) – EVER-PRESENT MISREPRESENTATION

Your companion attacks his friends; 20
 he violates his covenant.

His **talk** is smooth as butter, 21
 yet war is in his heart;
 his **words** are more soothing than oil,
 yet they are drawn swords.

TRUE COMPANION (TRUE INTERNAL HOPE)

Cast your cares on me YHWH 22
and I will sustain you;

LORD SUSTAINS THE RIGHTEOUS THROUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES

I will never let
 the righteous be shaken.

THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL DECAY AND NOT SEE LIFE

But I, I God, will bring down the wicked 23
 into the pit of decay;
 the bloodthirsty and deceitful
 will not live out half their days.

But as for you, you **trust in me.**

PSALM 56

- ¹ Be merciful to me, my God,
for my enemies are in hot pursuit;
all day long they press their attack.
- ² My adversaries pursue me all day long;
in their pride many are attacking me.
- ³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
- ⁴ In God, whose word I praise—
in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?
- ⁵ All day long they twist my words;
all their schemes are for my ruin.
- ⁶ They conspire, they lurk,
they watch my steps,
hoping to take my life.
- ⁷ Because of their wickedness do not let them escape;
in your anger, God, bring the nations down.
- ⁸ Record my misery;
list my tears on your scroll—
are they not in your record?
- ⁹ Then my enemies will turn back
when I call for help.
By this I will know that God is for me.
- ¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise—
- ¹¹ in God I trust and am not afraid.
What can man do to me?
- ¹² I am under vows to you, my God;
I will present my thank offerings to you.
- ¹³ For you have delivered me from death
and my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life. (NIV)
-

PSALM 56 – TRUSTING IN LORD'S PROMISE OF LIFE THAT OVERSHADOWS FEAR

I, I your God, **am merciful** to you,

1

IN THE FACE OF FEAR – OF EVEN DEATH... (KNOWING IT DOES NOT MATTER !)

for your enemies are in hot pursuit;
all day long they press their attack.
Your adversaries pursue you all day long;
in their pride many are attacking you.

2

When you are afraid, put your **trust in me**.

3

In me God, whose word you praise—
in me God, trust and be not afraid.
What can mere mortals do to you?

4

All day long they twist your words;
all their schemes are for your ruin.
They conspire, they lurk,
they watch your steps,
hoping to take your life.

5

6

Because of their wickedness I do not let them escape;
in my anger, I, I God, bring the nations down.

7

...LORD IS OUR LIFE

(I record) your misery;
list your tears on my scroll—
are they not (in my record)?

8

Then your enemies will turn back - retreat
when you call for help.

9

By this you will know that I God, am for you.

In me, God, whose word (ie., my will) you praise,
in me, YHWH, whose word you praise—
in me, God, trust and be not afraid.
What can man do to you?

10

11

WALK IN HIS LIFE... AMONG THE WALKING DEAD

You are under vows to me, me your God;
Present your thank offerings to me.

12

For I have delivered
you

13

from death and
your feet
from stumbling,

that you may walk
before me God
in the light of life.

(...what Lord does...) [...what we do...]

PSALM 57

¹ Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me,
for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed.

² I cry out to God Most High,
to God, who vindicates me.

³ He sends from heaven and saves me,
rebuking those who hotly pursue me—
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

⁴ I am in the midst of lions;
I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—
men whose teeth are spears and arrows,
whose tongues are sharp swords.

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.

⁶ They spread a net for my feet—
I was bowed down in distress.
They dug a pit in my path—
but they have fallen into it themselves.

⁷ My heart, O God, is steadfast,
my heart is steadfast;
I will sing and make music.

⁸ Awake, my soul!
Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.

⁹ I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples.

¹⁰ For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth. (NIV)

**PSALM 57 – THE EXALTED GLORIOUS LORD OF FAITHFUL LOVE,
THOUGH UNSEEN, CAN BE TRUSTED AMIDST SEEN TROUBLES**

LOOK TO GOD'S MERCY

I have mercy on you, I your God, have mercy on you, 1
for in me you take refuge.
 Take refuge in the shadow of my wings
 until the disaster has passed.

GOD HAS WHAT IT TAKES

Cry out to me God Most High, 2
 to me God, who vindicates you.
I send from heaven and save you, 3
 rebuking those who hotly pursue you—

(**I God, send forth my love and my faithfulness.**)

WE DO NOT HAVE WHAT IT TAKES FOR THE DAY

You are in the midst of lions; 4
 you are forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—
 men whose teeth are spears and arrows,
 whose tongues are sharp swords.

I am exalted, I God, above the heavens; 5
let my glory be over all the earth.

HIS POWER BRINGS THEM LOW

They spread a net for your feet— 6
 You were bowed down in distress.
 They dug a pit in your path—
 but they have fallen into it themselves.

HIS POWER LIFTS US UP – FOR THE DAY

Your **heart**, is steadfast, 7
 your heart is steadfast;
 you will sing and make music.
 Awake, your **soul!** 8
 Awake, harp and lyre!
 You will awaken the dawn.

ULTIMATE RELATIONSHIP

Praise me, Lord, among the nations; 9
 Sing of me among the peoples.

(For **great is my love, reaching to the heavens;** 10
my faithfulness reaches to the skies.)

I am exalted, I God, above the heavens; 11
let my glory be over all the earth.

midst of distress, take refuge, cry out
 mercy, vindicate, save, send forth
 enemies succumb
 heart/soul restored, praise/sing/exalting/glorifying

PSALM 58

- ¹ Do you rulers indeed speak justly?
Do you judge people with equity?
- ² No, in your heart you devise injustice,
and your hands mete out violence on the earth.
- ³ Even from birth the wicked go astray;
from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.
- ⁴ Their venom is like the venom of a snake,
like that of a cobra that has stopped its ears,
⁵ that will not heed the tune of the charmer,
however skillful the enchanter may be.
- ⁶ Break the teeth in their mouths, O God;
LORD, tear out the fangs of those lions!
- ⁷ Let them vanish like water that flows away;
when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short.
- ⁸ May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along,
like a stillborn child that never sees the sun.
- ⁹ Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns—
whether they be green or dry—the wicked will be swept away.
- ¹⁰ The righteous will be glad when they are avenged,
when they dip their feet in the blood of the wicked.
- ¹¹ Then people will say,
“Surely the righteous still are rewarded;
surely there is a God who judges the earth.” (NIV)
-

PSALM 58 – GOD IS THE ONE WHO JUDGES – THOSE WHO JUDGE UNJUSTLY, WILL BE JUDGED JUSTLY

MAN'S JUDGEMENT – IS UNJUST

Do you rulers indeed **speak** justly? 1
 Do you judge people with equity? 2
 No, **in your heart you devise injustice**,
 and your hands mete out violence on the earth.

Even from **birth** the wicked go astray; 3
 from the womb they are wayward, spreading **lies**. 4
 Their venom is like the venom of a snake, 5
 like that of a cobra that has stopped its ears,
 that will not heed the tune of the charmer,
 however skillful the enchanter may be.

GOD'S JUDGEMENT – JUST

PLIGHT OF THE WICKED

I, I God, break the teeth in their **mouths;** 6
I, I YHWH, tear out the fangs of those lions!

Let them vanish like water that flows away; 7
 when they draw the bow, let their arrows fall short.
⁸ May they be like a slug that melts away as it moves along, 8
 like a **stillborn** child that never sees the sun.

Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns— 9
 whether they be green or dry—the wicked will be swept away.

HOPE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The righteous will **be glad** when they are avenged, 10
 when they dip their feet in the blood of the wicked.
 Then people will **say**, 11
 “Surely the righteous still are rewarded;
 surely **there is a God who judges** the earth.”

PSALM 59

- ¹ Deliver me from my enemies, O God;
be my fortress against those who are attacking me.
- ² Deliver me from evildoers
and save me from those who are after my blood.
- ³ See how they lie in wait for me!
Fierce men conspire against me
for no offense or sin of mine, LORD.
- ⁴ I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me.
Arise to help me; look on my plight!
- ⁵ You, LORD God Almighty,
you who are the God of Israel,
rouse yourself to punish all the nations;
show no mercy to wicked traitors.
- ⁶ They return at evening,
snarling like dogs,
and prowl about the city.
- ⁷ See what they spew from their mouths—
the words from their lips are sharp as swords,
and they think, “Who can hear us?”
- ⁸ But you laugh at them, LORD;
you scoff at all those nations.
- ⁹ You are my strength, I watch for you;
you, God, are my fortress,
¹⁰ my God on whom I can rely.
- God will go before me
and will let me gloat over those who slander me.
- ¹¹ But do not kill them, Lord our shield,
or my people will forget.
In your might uproot them
and bring them down.
- ¹² For the sins of their mouths,
for the words of their lips,
let them be caught in their pride.
For the curses and lies they utter,
¹³ consume them in your wrath,
consume them till they are no more.
- Then it will be known to the ends of the earth
that God rules over Jacob.
- ¹⁴ They return at evening,
snarling like dogs,
and prowl about the city.
- ¹⁵ They wander about for food
and howl if not satisfied.
- ¹⁶ But I will sing of your strength,
in the morning I will sing of your love;
for you are my fortress,
my refuge in times of trouble.
- ¹⁷ You are my strength, I sing praise to you;
you, God, are my fortress,
my God on whom I can rely. (NIV)

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PSALM 59 – LORD GOD ALMIGHTY OUR STRENGTH... RULES AND IS OUR FORTRESS

CHORUS

I, **I God, deliver** you from your enemies; 1
I am your fortress against those who are attacking you. 2
I deliver you from evildoers
and save you from those who are after your blood.

VERSE 1 – LORD KEEPS TRACK OF UNJUST SUFFERING

I, **YHWH, see** how they lie in wait for you! 3
 Fierce men conspire against you
 for no offense or sin of yours,.
 You have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack you. 4
I arise to help you; **I look** on your plight!
 I, **I YHWH God Almighty,** 5
 I who **am** the God of Israel,
rouse myself to punish all the nations;
 showing no mercy to wicked traitors.

REFRAIN 1

They return at evening, 6
 snarling like dogs,
 and prowl about the city.
 See what they spew from their mouths— 7
 the words from their lips are sharp as swords,
 and they think, “Who can hear us?”
 But I laugh at them, I YHWH; 8
I scoff at all those nations.
 | **I am your strength, watch** for me; 9
 | I, I God, am **your fortress,**
 | **I God, on whom you can rely.** 10

VERSE 2 – LORD REVEALS HIS POWER... AS LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

I God, will go before you

and will let you gloat over those who slander you.
But I do not kill them, I Lord your shield,
or your people will forget.

11

In my might I uproot them

and bring them down.
For the sins of their mouths,
for the words of their lips,
let them be caught in their pride.

12

For the curses and lies they utter,
I consume them in my wrath,
consume them till they are no more.

13

Then it will be known to the ends of the earth
that **I God, rule** over Jacob.

REFRAIN 2

They return at evening,
snarling like dogs,
and prowl about the city.

14

They wander about for food
and howl if not satisfied.

15

But you will **sing of my strength**,
in the morning you will **sing of my love**;
for **I am your fortress**,
your refuge in times of trouble.

16

I am your strength, sing praise to me;
I, I God, am **your fortress**,
I God, on whom you can rely.

17

PSALM 60

- ¹ You have rejected us, God, and burst upon us;
you have been angry—now restore us!
- ² You have shaken the land and torn it open;
mend its fractures, for it is quaking.
- ³ You have shown your people desperate times;
you have given us wine that makes us stagger.
- ⁴ But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner
to be unfurled against the bow.
- ⁵ Save us and help us with your right hand,
that those you love may be delivered.
- ⁶ God has spoken from his sanctuary:
“In triumph I will parcel out Shechem
and measure off the Valley of Sukkoth.
- ⁷ Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet,
Judah is my scepter.
- ⁸ Moab is my washbasin,
on Edom I toss my sandal;
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”
- ⁹ Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?
- ¹⁰ Is it not you, God, you who have now rejected us
and no longer go out with our armies?
- ¹¹ Give us aid against the enemy,
for human help is worthless.
- ¹² With God we will gain the victory,
and he will trample down our enemies. (NIV)
-

PSALM 60 – HE WHO HUMBLER... IS HE WHO RESTORES

BY GOD'S POWER WE ARE HUMBLER

... BY GOD'S POWER, WE ARE RESTORED

I, I God, have rejected you, and burst upon you; 1
I have been angry —now **I** restore you!

I have shaken the land and torn it open; 2
I mend its fractures, for it is quaking.

I have shown my people desperate times; 3
I have given you wine that makes you stagger.

But for those who fear me, **I** have raised a 4
 banner
 to be unfurled against the bow.

I save you and help you with my right hand, 5
 that those **I** love may be delivered.

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE NATIONS

I God, have spoken from my sanctuary: 6

“In triumph **I** will parcel out Shechem 7
 and measure off the Valley of Sukkoth.
 Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;

Ephraim is my helmet,
 Judah is my scepter.

Moab is my washbasin, 8
 on Edom I toss my sandal;
 over Philistia I shout in triumph.”

ESPECIALLY UNDER GOD'S JUDGEMENT

... GOD IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF HIS RESTORATION

Who will bring you to the fortified city? 9
Who will lead you to Edom?

Is it not I, **I** God, **I** who have now rejected you 10
 and no longer go out with your armies?

I give you aid against the enemy, 11
 for human help is worthless.

With **me** God, you will gain the victory, 12
 and **I** will trample down your enemies.

PSALM 61

¹ Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.

² From the ends of the earth I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

³ For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.

⁴ I long to dwell in your tent forever
and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

⁵ For you, God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

⁶ Increase the days of the king's life,
his years for many generations.

⁷ May he be enthroned in God's presence forever;
appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him.

⁸ Then I will ever sing in praise of your name
and fulfill my vows day after day. (NIV)

PSALM 61 – OH, THAT LORD OUR ROCK AND SUSTENANCE – WOULD DRAW US CLOSE TO HIMSELF**BEFORE – I AM FAINT****(SEEN FACTS)**

I, your God, hear your cry;
I listen to your prayer.

1

From the ends of the earth **call to me,**
call as your heart grows faint;

2

RE-CONNECT WITH GOD**(UNSEEN PROMISE)****PART I – DRAW ME BACK NEAR TO YOU**

I lead you to the rock that is higher than you.
For I have been your refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.

3

TO DWELL IN YOUR PRESENCE

Long to **dwell** in my tent forever
and take refuge **in the shelter of my wings.**
For I, I God, have heard your vows;
I have given you the heritage of those who fear my name.

4

5

PART II – SUSTAIN ME

I increase the days of your life,
your years for many generations.
May you be in my **presence** forever, the presence of God;
 I appoint my love and faithfulness to protect you.

6

7

AFTER – WE CAN FULFILL MY RESPONSIBILITIES TOGETHER**(WORKS OF GOD – RESULTS)**

Then you will ever sing in praise of my name
and fulfill your vows day after day.

8

PSALM 62

- ¹ Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.
- ² Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.
- ³ How long will you assault me?
Would all of you throw me down—
this leaning wall, this tottering fence?
- ⁴ Surely they intend to topple me
from my lofty place;
they take delight in lies.
With their mouths they bless,
but in their hearts they curse.
- ⁵ Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
- ⁶ Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.
- ⁷ My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
- ⁸ Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our refuge.
- ⁹ Surely the lowborn are but a breath,
the highborn are but a lie.
If weighed on a balance, they are nothing;
together they are only a breath.
- ¹⁰ Do not trust in extortion
or put vain hope in stolen goods;
though your riches increase,
do not set your heart on them.
- ¹¹ One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:
“Power belongs to you, God,
¹² and with you, Lord, is unfailing love”;
and, “You reward everyone
according to what they have done.” (NIV)
-

PSALM 62 – LORD OF POWER AND LOVE SETS OUR SOUL AT REST – AMIDST MEN SET AGAINST US

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Truly your soul **finds rest** in me God;
your salvation comes from me.

Truly I **am your rock and your salvation**;
I am your fortress, you will never be shaken.

IN THE MIDST OF BEING TORN DOWN

How long will they **assault** you?
 Would all of them **throw you down**—
 this leaning wall, this tottering fence?
 Surely they intend **to topple you**
 from your lofty place;
 they take delight in **lies**.
 With their mouths they bless,
 but in their hearts they **curse**.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Yes, your soul, **finds rest** in me God;
your hope comes from me.

Truly I **am your rock and your salvation**;
I am your fortress, you will not be shaken.

TRUSTING GOD TO HOLD US UP

Your salvation and **your honor** depend on me, God;
 I **am** your mighty **rock, your refuge**.
Trust in me at all times, you people;
 pour out your heart to me,
 for I God, **am** your **refuge**.

MAN'S GODLESS EFFORTS REALLY COUNT FOR NOTHING

Surely the lowborn are but a breath,
 the highborn are but a lie.
 If weighed on a balance, they are nothing;
 together they are only a breath.

Do not trust in extortion
 or put vain hope in stolen goods;
 though your riches increase,
 do not **set your heart** on them.

LORD AND OUR TRUST IN HIM IS ALL THAT COUNTS FOR ANYTHING

One thing I God, have spoken,
 two things you have heard:

LORD IS WILLING (LOVE) AND ABLE (POWER)

“Power belongs to me, me God,
 and with me, me Lord, is [unfailing love]”;

BOTH POSITIVELY AND NEGATIVELY

and, “I reward everyone
 according to what they have done.”

PSALM 63

- ¹ You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.
- ² I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.
- ³ Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
- ⁴ I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
- ⁵ I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
- ⁶ On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
- ⁷ Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸ I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.
- ⁹ Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;
they will go down to the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁰ They will be given over to the sword
and become food for jackals.
- ¹¹ But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by God will glory in him,
while the mouths of liars will be silenced. (NIV)
-

PSALM 63 – THE GOSPEL: GOD IS THE LIVING WATER FOR OUR DRY PARCHED SOUL**ON MY OWN, MY HEART AND SOUL ARE EMPTY AND VOID – FASHIONED TO BE FILLED BY LORD**

I, I God, am your God,

earnestly [√]seek me;

[√]thirst for me,

[√]your whole being longs for me,

in a dry and parched land

where there is no water.

1

SO TURN, LOOK TO LORD TO FILL OUR EMPTY HEART AND SOUL – WITH GLORY, POWER, LOVE ...

See me in the sanctuary

and behold [√]my power and [√]my glory.

Because [√]my love is better than life,

your lips will glorify me.

2

3

... AND TO BE WHOLLY SATISFIED INSIDE

[√]Praise me as long as you live,

and in my name lift up your hands.

You will be [√]fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;

with singing lips your mouth will praise me.

4

5

FIX OUR SOUL ON LORD OUR HELPER

On your bed [√]remember me;

Think of me through the watches of the night.

Because I am your help,

[√]sing in the shadow of my wings.

[√]Cling to me;

my right hand upholds you.

6

7

8

AS WE TRUST LORD WHO PROMISES TO:**PROTECT US THROUGH THE SITUATION EXTERNALLY**

Those who want to kill you will be [√]destroyed;

they will go down to the depths of the earth.

They will be [√]given over to the sword

and become food for jackals.

9

10

AND WALK WITH US THROUGH IT

But the king will [√]rejoice in me God;

all who swear by me God, will [√]glory in me,

while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

11

me, me, me... my power, my glory, my love, my name... your help.

PSALM 64

- ¹ Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint;
protect my life from the threat of the enemy.
- ² Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked,
from the plots of evildoers.
- ³ They sharpen their tongues like swords
and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.
- ⁴ They shoot from ambush at the innocent;
they shoot suddenly, without fear.
- ⁵ They encourage each other in evil plans,
they talk about hiding their snares;
they say, "Who will see it?"
- ⁶ They plot injustice and say,
"We have devised a perfect plan!"
Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.
- ⁷ But God will shoot them with his arrows;
they will suddenly be struck down.
- ⁸ He will turn their own tongues against them
and bring them to ruin;
all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.
- ⁹ All people will fear;
they will proclaim the works of God
and ponder what he has done.
- ¹⁰ The righteous will rejoice in the LORD
and take refuge in him;
all the upright in heart will glory in him! (NIV)
-

PSALM 64 – GOD OUR PROTECTOR – FROM OTHER'S PLOTS AND THREATS

MAIN POINT

I, your God, **hear you** as you voice your complaint; 1
I protect your life from the threat of the enemy. 2
I hide you from the conspiracy of the wicked,
from the plots of evildoers.

MAN'S WORKS – PLOTS OF EVIL

They sharpen their tongues like swords 3
and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.
They shoot from ambush at the innocent; 4
they shoot suddenly, without fear.
They encourage each other in evil plans, 5
they talk about hiding their snares;
they say, "Who will see it?"
They plot injustice and say, 6
"We have devised a perfect plan!"
Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.

GOD'S WORKS – PROTECTION

But 7
I God, will shoot them with my arrows;
they will suddenly be struck down.
I will turn their own tongues against them 8
and bring them to ruin;
all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.

PEOPLES RESPONSE

BOTH THE RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED

All people 9
will **fear**;
they will proclaim my works, the works of God
and ponder what I have done.

ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS

The righteous 10
will rejoice in me YHWH
and **take refuge in me**;
all the upright in heart will glory in me!

PSALM 65

- ¹ Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.
- ² You who answer prayer,
to you all people will come.
- ³ When we were overwhelmed by sins,
you forgave our transgressions.
- ⁴ Blessed are those you choose
and bring near to live in your courts!
We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.
- ⁵ You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,
God our Savior,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,
- ⁶ who formed the mountains by your power,
having armed yourself with strength,
- ⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.
- ⁸ The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.
- ⁹ You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.
- ¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.
- ¹² The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;
the hills are clothed with gladness.
- ¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing. (NIV)
-

PSALM 65 – GOD OUR SAVIOUR AND SUSTAINER IS THE WATER OF LIFE – BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY**PRAISE FOR LORD – THE WATER THAT GIVES LIFE TO OUR SOUL SPRITUALLY**

Praise awaits me, your God, in Zion; 1
to me your vows will be fulfilled.
I who **answer** prayer, 2
to me all people will **come**.

LORD RESTORING LIFE**PART I. RELATIONSHIP RESTORED – DELIVERING US FROM DEATH**

When you were overwhelmed by sins, 3
I forgave your transgressions.

PART II. RELATIONSHIP SUSTAINED – KEEPING US ALIVE IN FAMINE

Blessed are those **I** choose 4
and **bring near** to live in my courts!
You are **filled with** the **good things** of my house,
of my holy temple.

GOD IS THE ONE WITH POWER TO SAVE

I, God **your Savior**, answer you with awesome and righteous deeds, 5
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas,
who formed the mountains by my **power**, 6
having armed myself with **strength**, 7
who stilled the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the turmoil of the nations.

The whole earth is filled with awe at my wonders; 8
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
I call forth songs of joy.

... JUST AS HAND OF GOD GIVES LIFE GIVING WATER TO THE EARTH PHYSICALLY**RAIN IS A PICTURE OF GODS LOVE – HE RAINS ON BOTH GOOD AND BAD**

I care for the land and water it; 9
I enrich it abundantly.

RAIN GIVING LIFE TO THE LAND...

My streams, the streams of God, are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so I have ordained it.
I drench its furrows and level its ridges; 10
I soften it with showers and bless its crops.

...LAND GIVING LIFE AT THE HARVEST

I crown the year with my bounty, 11
and my carts overflow with abundance.
The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; 12
the hills are clothed with gladness.
The meadows are covered with flocks 13
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.

PSALM 66

- ¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth!
² Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious.
³ Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power
that your enemies cringe before you.
⁴ All the earth bows down to you;
they sing praise to you,
they sing the praises of your name.”
- ⁵ Come and see what God has done,
his awesome deeds for mankind!
⁶ He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the waters on foot—
come, let us rejoice in him.
⁷ He rules forever by his power,
his eyes watch the nations—
let not the rebellious rise up against him.
- ⁸ Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;
⁹ he has preserved our lives
and kept our feet from slipping.
¹⁰ For you, God, tested us;
you refined us like silver.
¹¹ You brought us into prison
and laid burdens on our backs.
¹² You let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.
- ¹³ I will come to your temple with burnt offerings
and fulfill my vows to you—
¹⁴ vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke
when I was in trouble.
¹⁵ I will sacrifice fat animals to you
and an offering of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.
- ¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.
¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
¹⁹ but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.
²⁰ Praise be to God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld my love from you! (NIV)

PSALM 66 – PRAISE TO THE GOD OF AWESOME DEEDS – WORKS OF LOVE

CALL TO WORSHIP

√Shout for joy to me God, all the earth! 1
 √Sing the glory of my name; 2
 make my √praise glorious.
 Say to me God, 3
 “**How awesome are your deeds!**
So great is your power
 that your enemies cringe before you.
 All the earth bows down to you; 4
 they sing √praise to you,
 they sing the √praises of your name.”

GOD'S DEEDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Come and see **what I God, have done,** 5
my awesome deeds for (mankind)!

 I turned the sea into dry land, 6
 they passed through the waters on foot—
 come, rejoice in me.
 I rule forever by my **power,** 7
 my eyes watch the nations—
 let not the rebellious rise up against me.

 √Praise me your God, all peoples, 8
 let the sound of my √praise be heard;
 I have preserved your lives 9
 and kept your feet from slipping.

 For I, I God, tested you; 10
I refined you like silver.
I brought you into prison 11
 and laid burdens on your backs.
I let people ride over your heads; 12
 you went through fire and water,
 but I brought you to a place of abundance.

You will come to my temple with burnt offerings 13
 and fulfill your vows to me—
 vows your lips promised and your mouth spoke 14
 when you were in trouble.
You will sacrifice fat animals to me 15
 and an offering of rams;
You will offer bulls and goats.

GOD'S DEEDS AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Come and hear, all you who fear me God; 16
 let me tell you **what I have done for (you).**

You cried out to me with your mouth; 17
 my praise was on your tongue.
 If you had (cherished sin in your heart), 18
 I, Lord, would not have listened;
 but I God, have surely listened 19
 and have heard your prayer.

 √Praise be to me God, 20
 who has not rejected your prayer
 or withheld my love from you!

PSALM 67

- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
- ⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him. (NIV)
-

**PSALM 67 – MAY GOD OF THE WORLD BECOME KNOWN BY THE WORLD;
ALL PEOPLES AND NATIONS OF THE EARTH**

GOD OF ISRAEL... (BEACON OF LIGHT SET DOWN AMIDST DARKNESS)

May I God, be gracious to you and **ble**ss**** you
and make my face shine on you—

1

... AND OF THE WORLD (SO DARKNESS MIGHT SEE, KNOW AND COME TO HIM)

so that
my ways may be known on *earth*,
my salvation among [√]all [√]nations.

2

ALL THE PEOPLES ...

May the peoples praise me, me God;
may [√]all the peoples praise me.

3

May the [√]nations be glad and sing for joy,
for I rule the peoples with equity
and guide the [√]nations of the *earth*.

4

... AND THE MEANS TO SUSTAIN THEM

May the peoples praise me, me God;
may [√]all the peoples praise me.

5

The land yields its harvest;
I God, your God, **ble**ss**** you.

6

GOD OF ISRAEL...AND OF THE WORLD

(AS AN EXAMPLE TO A DARK WORLD, OF WHAT LIFE WITH GOD IS LIKE)

May I God, **ble**ss**** you still,
so that [√]all the ends of the *earth* will fear me.

7

v 1 – NU 6

v 2 – GEN 12:3

PSALM 68

- ¹ May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;
may his foes flee before him.
- ² May you blow them away like smoke—
as wax melts before the fire,
may the wicked perish before God.
- ³ But may the righteous be glad
and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful.
- ⁴ Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the LORD.
- ⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
- ⁶ God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
- ⁷ When you, God, went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
- ⁸ the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,
before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.
- ⁹ You gave abundant showers, O God;
you refreshed your weary inheritance.
- ¹⁰ Your people settled in it,
and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.
- ¹¹ The Lord announces the word,
and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng:
- ¹² “Kings and armies flee in haste;
the women at home divide the plunder.
- ¹³ Even while you sleep among the sheep pens,
the wings of my dove are sheathed with silver,
its feathers with shining gold.”
- ¹⁴ When the Almighty scattered the kings in the land,
it was like snow fallen on Mount Zalmon.
- ¹⁵ Mount Bashan, majestic mountain,
Mount Bashan, rugged mountain,
- ¹⁶ why gaze in envy, you rugged mountain,
at the mountain where God chooses to reign,
where the LORD himself will dwell forever?
- ¹⁷ The chariots of God are tens of thousands
and thousands of thousands;
the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.
- ¹⁸ When you ascended on high,
you took many captives;
you received gifts from people,
even from the rebellious—
that you, LORD God, might dwell there.

- ¹⁹ Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior,
 who daily bears our burdens.
- ²⁰ Our God is a God who saves;
 from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.
- ²¹ Surely God will crush the heads of his enemies,
 the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins.
- ²² The Lord says, "I will bring them from Bashan;
 I will bring them from the depths of the sea,
- ²³ that your feet may wade in the blood of your foes,
 while the tongues of your dogs have their share."
- ²⁴ Your procession, God, has come into view,
 the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.
- ²⁵ In front are the singers, after them the musicians;
 with them are the young women playing the timbrels.
- ²⁶ Praise God in the great congregation;
 praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel.
- ²⁷ There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them,
 there the great throng of Judah's princes,
 and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.
- ²⁸ Summon your power, God;
 show us your strength, our God, as you have done before.
- ²⁹ Because of your temple at Jerusalem
 kings will bring you gifts.
- ³⁰ Rebuke the beast among the reeds,
 the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations.
 Humbled, may the beast bring bars of silver.
 Scatter the nations who delight in war.
- ³¹ Envoys will come from Egypt;
 Cush will submit herself to God.
- ³² Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,
 sing praise to the Lord,
- ³³ to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,
 who thunders with mighty voice.
- ³⁴ Proclaim the power of God,
 whose majesty is over Israel,
 whose power is in the heavens.
- ³⁵ You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary;
 the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.

Praise be to God! (NIV)

PSALM 68 – PRESENCE OF LORD OUR SAVIOR – ARRIVING IN A DISPLAY OF POWER AND STRENGTH

GOD RISES UP TO GO OUT BEFORE HIS CREATION – FROM HIS MOUNTAIN TO HIS SANCTUARY

May I God, ^varise,

THE WICKED

may my enemies be **scattered**;
 may my **foes flee before me**.
 May I blow them away like smoke—
 as wax melts before the fire,
 may the **wicked perish before me** God.

THE RIGHTEOUS

But may the **righteous be glad**
 and **rejoice before me** God;
 may they be happy and joyful.

Sing to me God, sing in praise of **my name**,
 extol me who rides on the clouds;
 rejoice **before me** — **my name** is YHWH.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
 I **am** God in my holy dwelling.
 I God, set the lonely in families,
 I lead out the prisoners with singing;
 but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

HEAVENS, EARTH, AND NATIONS BOW DOWN BEFORE THE MASTER MOVING TOWARD HIS PEOPLE

When I God, went out before my people,
 when I marched through the wilderness,
the earth shook, **the heavens poured down** rain,
before me God, the One of Sinai,
before me God, the God of Israel.
 I gave abundant showers, I your God;
 I refreshed my weary inheritance.
 my people settled in it,
 and **from my bounty, the bounty of God, I provided** for the poor.

I **Lord**, announce the word,
 and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng:
 “Kings and armies **flee** in haste;
 the women at home divide the plunder.
 Even while you sleep among the sheep pens,
 the wings of my dove are sheathed with silver,
 its feathers with shining gold.”

When I, the **Almighty**, **scattered** the kings in the land,
 it was like snow fallen on Mount Zalmon.

Mount Bashan, majestic mountain,
 Mount Bashan, rugged mountain,
 why gaze in envy, you rugged mountain,
 at the mountain where I God, choose to reign,
 where I YHWH, I myself will **dwell** forever?

My chariots, the **chariots** of God, are tens of thousands
 and thousands of thousands;

I, Lord, have come from Sinai into my sanctuary.

When I ascended on high,

I took many captives;
 I received gifts from people,
 even from the rebellious—
 that I, I YHWH God, might dwell there.

THE MASTER BRINGS HIS SALVATION...WHICH IS HIS PRESENCE

Praise be to me **Lord**, God your **Savior**, 19
 who daily bears your burdens.
 I your God, am a God who saves; 20
 from me, **Sovereign YHWH**, comes escape from death.
 Surely I God, will crush the heads of my enemies, 21
 the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins.
 I **Lord** say, 22
 “I will bring them from Bashan;
 I will bring them from the depths of the sea,
 that your feet may wade in the blood of your foes, 23
 while the tongues of your dogs have their share.”

THE MASTER ARRIVES !

My procession, the procession of God, has come into view, 24
 the procession of your God and **King**, into the sanctuary. 25
 In front are the singers, after them the musicians;
 with them are the young women playing the timbrels. 26
 Praise me, me God, in the great congregation;
 praise me, me YHWH, in the assembly of Israel. 27
 There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them,
 there the great throng of Judah’s princes,
 and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.

THE MASTER DISPLAYS HIS MIGHT – ASSERTING ‘MIGHTY’ POWER AND ‘GREAT’ STRENGTH (ISAIAH 40:26)

I summon my **power**, the power of God; 28
 I show you my **strength**, I your God, as I have done before. 29
 Because of my temple at Jerusalem
 kings will bring me gifts. 30
 Rebuke the beast among the reeds,
 the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations.
Humbled, may the beast bring bars of silver.
 Scatter the nations who delight in war. 31
 Envoys will come from Egypt;
 Cush will **submit** herself to me God. 32
 Sing to me God, you kingdoms of the earth,
 sing praise to me **Lord**, 33
 to me who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,
 who thunders with **mighty** voice. 34
 Proclaim my **power**, the power of God,
 whose majesty is over Israel,
 whose **power** is in the heavens.

SUMMARY – GOD’S PRESENCE IS THE POWER AND STRENGTH OF HIS PEOPLE

I, I God, am awesome in my sanctuary; 35
 I the God of Israel give **power** and **strength** to my people.

Praise be to me God!

PSALM 69

- ¹ Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.
- ² I sink in the miry depths,
where there is no foothold.
I have come into the deep waters;
the floods engulf me.
- ³ I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.
My eyes fail,
looking for my God.
- ⁴ Those who hate me without reason
outnumber the hairs of my head;
many are my enemies without cause,
those who seek to destroy me.
I am forced to restore
what I did not steal.
- ⁵ You, God, know my folly;
my guilt is not hidden from you.
- ⁶ Lord, the LORD Almighty,
may those who hope in you
not be disgraced because of me;
God of Israel,
may those who seek you
not be put to shame because of me.
- ⁷ For I endure scorn for your sake,
and shame covers my face.
- ⁸ I am a foreigner to my own family,
a stranger to my own mother's children;
- ⁹ for zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.
- ¹⁰ When I weep and fast,
I must endure scorn;
- ¹¹ when I put on sackcloth,
people make sport of me.
- ¹² Those who sit at the gate mock me,
and I am the song of the drunkards.
- ¹³ But I pray to you, LORD,
in the time of your favor;
in your great love, O God,
answer me with your sure salvation.
- ¹⁴ Rescue me from the mire,
do not let me sink;
deliver me from those who hate me,
from the deep waters.
- ¹⁵ Do not let the floodwaters engulf me
or the depths swallow me up
or the pit close its mouth over me.

- ¹⁶ Answer me, LORD, out of the goodness of your love;
in your great mercy turn to me.
- ¹⁷ Do not hide your face from your servant;
answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.
- ¹⁸ Come near and rescue me;
deliver me because of my foes.
- ¹⁹ You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed;
all my enemies are before you.
- ²⁰ Scorn has broken my heart
and has left me helpless;
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found none.
- ²¹ They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.
- ²² May the table set before them become a snare;
may it become retribution and a trap.
- ²³ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,
and their backs be bent forever.
- ²⁴ Pour out your wrath on them;
let your fierce anger overtake them.
- ²⁵ May their place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in their tents.
- ²⁶ For they persecute those you wound
and talk about the pain of those you hurt.
- ²⁷ Charge them with crime upon crime;
do not let them share in your salvation.
- ²⁸ May they be blotted out of the book of life
and not be listed with the righteous.
- ²⁹ But as for me, afflicted and in pain—
may your salvation, God, protect me.
- ³⁰ I will praise God's name in song
and glorify him with thanksgiving.
- ³¹ This will please the LORD more than an ox,
more than a bull with its horns and hooves.
- ³² The poor will see and be glad—
you who seek God, may your hearts live!
- ³³ The LORD hears the needy
and does not despise his captive people.
- ³⁴ Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and all that move in them,
- ³⁵ for God will save Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah.
Then people will settle there and possess it;
- ³⁶ the children of his servants will inherit it,
and those who love his name will dwell there. (NIV)
-

PSALM 69 – LORD OUR ROCK – OUR FOOTHOLD AMIDST THE STORM

I. OUR EXPERIENCE – THE STORMS OF LIFE

(A) OUR CIRCUMSTANCES – OVERCOME, WITHOUT A FOOTHOLD

I your God, save you,	<i>Problems</i>	1
for the waters have come up to your neck.	(--a--)	
You sink in the miry depths,	(--b--)	2
where there is no foothold.		
You have come into the deep waters;	(--c--)	
the floods engulf you.	(--d--)	

(B) OUR LONELINESS – LORD SEEMS DISTANT

You are worn out <u>calling</u> for help;		3
your <u>throat</u> is parched.		
Your <u>eyes</u> fail,		
<u>looking</u> for me, God.		

(C) OUR ENEMIES - PREVAILING

Those who hate you without reason	(--e--)	4
outnumber the hairs of your head;		
many are your enemies without cause,		
those who seek to destroy you.		
<i>You are forced to restore</i>		
<i>what you did not steal.</i>		

I, God, know your folly;		5
your guilt is not hidden from me.		

Me, Lord , YHWH Almighty ,		6
may those who hope in me		
not be disgraced because of you;		
Me, God of Israel,		
may those who seek me		
not be put to shame because of you.		

(D) OUR PAIN – AMIDST FAITH

For you endure [√] scorn for my sake,	(--g--)	7
and [√] shame covers your face.	(--f--)	
You are a foreigner to your own family,		8
a stranger to your own mother's children;		
for zeal for my house consumes you,		9
and the [√] insults of those who insult me fall on you.	(--h--)	
When you weep and fast,		10
you must endure [√] scorn;	(--f--)	
when you put on sackcloth,		11
people make [√] sport of you.	(--h--)	
Those who sit at the gate [√] mock you,	(--h--)	12
and you are the [√] song of the drunkards.	(--h--)	

II. LORD, GOD OF OUR EXPERIENCE – OUR ROCK, OUR Foothold AMIDST THE STORMS

(A) GOD OF OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

But you pray to **me**, YHWH, 13
 in the time of **my** favor;
 in **my** great love, your God,
 I answer you with **my** sure salvation.

I **rescue** you from the mire, Resolution 14
 I do not let you sink; (--b--)
 I **deliver** you from those who hate you, (--a--)
 from the deep waters. (--e--)
 I do not let the floodwaters engulf you, (--c--)
 or the depths swallow you up, (--d--)
 or the pit close its mouth over you. 15

(B) GOD OF OUR LONELINESS – LORD IS PRESENT

I, YHWH, **answer** you out of the goodness of my **love**; 16
 in my great **mercy** turn to you.
 I **do not hide** my face from my servant; 17
 I **answer** you quickly, for you are in trouble.
 I **come near** and **rescue** you; 18
 I **deliver** you because of your foes.

(C) GOD OF ALL OUR ENEMIES

I **know** how you are scorned, disgraced and shamed; (--g-- (--h-- (--f--)) 19
 all your enemies are before me. 20
 Scorn has broken your heart
 and has left you helpless;
 you looked for sympathy, but there was none,
 for comforters, but you found none. 21
 They put *gall* in your food
 and gave you *vinegar* for my thirst. 22
 May the table set before them become a snare;
 may it become retribution and a trap. 23
 May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,
 and their backs be bent forever. 24
 I *pour out my wrath* on them;
 let my fierce *anger* overtake them. 25
 May their place be deserted;
 let there be no one to dwell in their tents. 26
 For they persecute those I **wound**
 and talk about the pain of those I **hurt**. 27
 I charge them with crime upon crime;
 I *do not let them share in my salvation*. 28
 May they be blotted out of the book of life
 and not be listed with the righteous.

(D) GOD OF OUR PAIN – LORD IS OUR ONLY HOPE

But as for you, afflicted and in pain— 29
may my salvation, the salvation of God, protect you.

you will **praise** my name, the name of God, in song 30
and glorify me with **thanksgiving**.

This will please me, YHWH more than an ox, 31
more than a bull with its horns and hooves.

The poor will see and be glad— 32

you who **seek me**, God, may your hearts live! 33
I, YHWH, hear the needy
and do not despise my captive people.

E GOD OF OUR RESTORATION

Let heaven and earth praise me, 34
the seas and all that move in them,

for I, God, will **save** Zion 35
and rebuild the cities of Judah.

Then people will settle there and possess it; 36
the children of my servants will inherit it,
and those who love my name will dwell there.

LORD – YOU ARE GREATER THAN ME
YOU ARE GREATER THAN THE STORM

PSALM 70

¹ Hasten, O God, to save me;
come quickly, LORD, to help me.

² May those who want to take my life
be put to shame and confusion;
may all who desire my ruin
be turned back in disgrace.

³ May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.

⁴ But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who long for your saving help always say,
"The LORD is great!"

⁵ But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come quickly to me, O God.
You are my help and my deliverer;
LORD, do not delay. (NIV)

PSALM 70 – LORD OUR DELIVERER GOES WITH US THROUGH OUR TROUBLES

I, your God, **hasten** to save you;
I, YHWH, come **quickly** to help you.

1

TRUST LORD TO PROTECT – EVEN THOUGH IN DISTRESS

May those who want to take your life
 be put to shame and confusion;
 may all who desire your ruin
 be turned back in disgrace.

2

May those who say to you, “Aha! Aha!”
 turn back because of their shame.

3

TRUST BASED RESPONSE – SUSTAINING JOY IN LORD OUR SALVATION

But may all who **seek me**
 rejoice and be glad in me;
 may those who long for my saving help always **say**,
 “YHWH is great!”

4

But as for you, you are poor and needy;
I, your God, come **quickly** to you.
I am your help and your deliverer;
I, YHWH, **do not delay**.

5

(SEE PSALM 40:13-17)

PSALM 71

- ¹ In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
- ² In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;
turn your ear to me and save me.
- ³ Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;
give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
- ⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.
- ⁵ For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,
my confidence since my youth.
- ⁶ From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you.
- ⁷ I have become a sign to many;
you are my strong refuge.
- ⁸ My mouth is filled with your praise,
declaring your splendor all day long.
- ⁹ Do not cast me away when I am old;
do not forsake me when my strength is gone.
- ¹⁰ For my enemies speak against me;
those who wait to kill me conspire together.
- ¹¹ They say, "God has forsaken him;
pursue him and seize him,
for no one will rescue him."
- ¹² Do not be far from me, my God;
come quickly, God, to help me.
- ¹³ May my accusers perish in shame;
may those who want to harm me
be covered with scorn and disgrace.
- ¹⁴ As for me, I will always have hope;
I will praise you more and more.
- ¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds,
of your saving acts all day long—
though I know not how to relate them all.
- ¹⁶ I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD;
I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.
- ¹⁷ Since my youth, God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
- ¹⁸ Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come.

¹⁹ Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens,
you who have done great things.

Who is like you, God?

²⁰ Though you have made me see troubles,
many and bitter,

you will restore my life again;

from the depths of the earth

you will again bring me up.

²¹ You will increase my honor

and comfort me once more.

²² I will praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, my God;

I will sing praise to you with the lyre,

Holy One of Israel.

²³ My lips will shout for joy
when I sing praise to you—

I whom you have delivered.

²⁴ My tongue will tell of your righteous acts
all day long,

for those who wanted to harm me

have been put to shame and confusion. (NIV)

PSALM 71 – LORD OUR ONLY HOPE, ESPECIALLY FACING DEATH – THE ULTIMATE TEST OF FAITH

DECLARATION OF FAITH IN LORD OUR STRONGHOLD

In me, me YHWH, you have taken refuge; 1
 I let you never be put to shame.

In my righteousness, I rescue you and deliver you; 2
 I turn my ear to you and save you.

I am your rock of refuge, 3
 to which you can always go;

I give the command to save you,
 for I am your rock and your fortress. 4

I, your God, deliver you from the hand of the wicked,
 from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. 4

PAST – REMEMBER HIS FAITHFULNESS FROM THE TIME OF YOUR YOUTH

For I, Sovereign YHWH, have been your hope, 5
 your confidence since your youth.

From birth you have relied on me; 6
 I brought you forth from your mother's womb.
 You will ever praise me.

You have become a sign to many; 7
 I am your strong refuge.

Your mouth is filled with my praise, 8
 declaring my splendor all day long.

PRESENT – HIS FAITHFULNESS REMAINS CONSTANT

I do not cast you away when you are old; 9
 I do not forsake you when your strength is gone.

For your enemies speak against you; 10
 those who wait to kill you conspire together.

They say, "God has forsaken him; 11
 pursue him and seize him,
 for no one will rescue him."

I, your God, am not far from you; 12
 I, God, come quickly to help you.

May your accusers perish in shame; 13
 may those who want to harm you
 be covered with scorn and disgrace.

FUTURE – COUNT ON HIS RESTORATION TO COME

As for you, **you will always have hope**; 14
 you will praise me more and more.

PROCLAIM LORD'S PROMISE OF POWER

Your mouth will tell of my righteous deeds, 15
 of my saving acts all day long—
 though you know not how to relate them all.

You will come and proclaim my mighty acts, **Sovereign YHWH**; 16

You will proclaim my righteous deeds, **mine alone**.

Since your youth, I God, have taught you, 17

and to this day you declare my marvelous deeds.

Even when you are old and gray, 18

I, your God, do not forsake you,

till you declare my power to the next generation,

my mighty acts to all who are to come.

SUMMARY – OUR HOPE EVEN IN DEATH**LORD'S ROLE****LORD IS BEYOND COMPARE – AND WILL RESTORE EVEN YET ONCE MORE**

My righteousness, (the righteousness of) God, reaches to the heavens, 19

I who have done great things.

Who is like me, God?

Though **I have made you see troubles**, 20

many and bitter,

I will restore your life again;

from the depths of the earth

I will again bring you up.

I will increase your honor 21

and **comfort you once more**.

OUR ROLE**PRAISE HIM!**

You will praise me, your God, with the harp 22

for my faithfulness;

You will sing praise to me, **Holy One** of Israel, with the lyre.

Your lips will shout for joy 23

when you sing praise to me—

you whom I have delivered.

Your tongue will tell of my righteous acts 24

all day long,

for those who wanted to harm you

have been put to shame and confusion.

PSALM 72

- ¹ Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
- ² May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
- ³ May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- ⁴ May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.
- ⁸ May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ⁹ May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.
- ¹² For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
- ¹³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
- ¹⁴ He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.

- ¹⁵ Long may he live!
 May gold from Sheba be given him.
May people ever pray for him
 and bless him all day long.
- ¹⁶ May grain abound throughout the land;
 on the tops of the hills may it sway.
May the crops flourish like Lebanon
 and thrive like the grass of the field.
- ¹⁷ May his name endure forever;
 may it continue as long as the sun.

Then all nations will be blessed through him,
 and they will call him blessed.

- ¹⁸ Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel,
 who alone does marvelous deeds.
- ¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever;
 may the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen and Amen.

²⁰ This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse. (NIV)

PSALM 72 – LORD GOD HEALS NATIONS THAT PRACTICE RIGHTEOUS SOCIAL JUSTICE

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE -- COME FROM THE HANDS OF LORD

I, your God, endow the king with **my justice**, 1
 the royal son with **my righteousness**. 2
 May **he** judge my people in righteousness,
 my afflicted ones with justice.

May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, 3
 the hills the fruit of righteousness. 4
 (May he defend the afflicted among the people)
 and save the children of the needy;
 may he crush the oppressor.)

May he endure as long as the sun, 5
 as long as the moon, through all generations. 6
 May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
 like showers watering the earth. 7
 In his days may the righteous flourish
 and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

RIGHTEOUS SOCIAL JUSTICE – EXTENDS THROUGH FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ALL NATIONS

May he rule from sea to sea 8
 and from the River to the ends of the earth. 9
 May the desert tribes bow before him
 and his enemies lick the dust. 10
 May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
 bring tribute to him. 11
 May the kings of Sheba and Seba
 present him gifts. 12
 May all kings bow down to him
 and all nations serve him. 13

RIGHTEOUS SOCIAL JUSTICE -- DEFINED

For he will deliver the **needy** who cry out, 12
 the **afflicted** who have no one to help. 13
 He will take pity on the **weak** and the **needy**
 and save the **needy** from death. 14
 He will rescue them from **oppression** and **violence**,
 for precious is their blood in his sight.

RIGHTEOUS SOCIAL JUSTICE -- REWARDED

Long may he live! 15

May **gold** from Sheba be given him.

May **people** ever pray for him
and bless him all day long.

May **grain** abound throughout the land; 16

on the tops of the hills may it sway.

May the **crops** flourish like Lebanon
and thrive like the grass of the field.

May his name **endure forever**; 17

may it continue as long as the sun.

Then all nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.

GOD IS THE ONLY ONE BEHIND ANY RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE AND ITS HEALING

Praise be to me **YHWH** God, God of Israel, 17

who **alone does marvelous deeds**.

Praise be to my glorious name forever; 18

may the whole earth be filled with my glory.

Amen and Amen.

This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse. 20

Book III Psalms 73 – 89

PSALM 73

- ¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
- ² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
- ³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- ⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
- ⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.
- ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.
- ⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.
- ⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.
- ⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.
- ¹⁰ Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.
- ¹¹ They say, “How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?”
- ¹² This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
- ¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
- ¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.
- ¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
- ¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply
- ¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.

- ¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.
- ¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
- ²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.
- ²¹ When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
- ²² I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.
- ²³ Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
- ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
- ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
- ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.
- ²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
- ²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds. (NIV)
-

PSALM 73 – GOD'S INTIMACY (PRESENCE) IS PROMISED ONLY TO THE RIGHTEOUS TO ENJOY

Surely I God, am good to Israel, 1
to those who are pure in heart.

SOMETIMES IT APPEARS LIFE DOES NOT SEEM FAIR...

But as for you, your feet had almost slipped; 2
you had nearly lost your foothold.

For you envied the arrogant 3
when you saw the prosperity of the wicked.

...THE WICKED SEEM TO BE ALLOWED TO PROSPER

They have no struggles; 4
their bodies are healthy and strong.

They are free from common human burdens; 5
they are not plagued by human ills.

Therefore pride is their necklace; 6
they clothe themselves with violence.

From their callous hearts comes iniquity; 7
their evil imaginations have no limits.

They scoff, and speak with malice; 8
with arrogance they threaten oppression.

Their mouths lay claim to heaven, 9
and their tongues take possession of the earth.

Therefore their people turn to them 10
and drink up waters in abundance.

They say, "How would God know? 11
Does the Most High know anything?"

Does the Most High know anything?"

This is what the wicked are like— 12
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

...WHILE THE RIGHTEOUS SEEM TO BE STRUGGLING MORE THAN EXPECTED

Surely in vain have you kept your heart pure 13
and have washed your hands in innocence?

All day long you have been afflicted, 14
and every morning brings new punishments.

and every morning brings new punishments.

AT FIRST THIS WAS CONFUSING AND TROUBLING, UNTIL WE COME INTO YOUR PRESENCE

If you had spoken out like that, 15
 you would have betrayed my children.
 When you tried to understand all this, 16
 it troubled you deeply
 till you entered my sanctuary, the sanctuary of God; (PSALM 92:6-7) 17
 then you understood their final destiny.

AND WHILE IN YOUR PRESENCE, WE FIND THE WICKED ARE NO WHERE TO BE FOUND

Surely I place them on slippery ground; 18
 I cast them down to ruin.
 How suddenly are they destroyed, 19
 completely swept away by terrors!
 They 20
 are like a dream when one awakes;
 when I, **Lord**, arise,
 I will despise them as fantasies.

DON'T FORGET THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH – LORD

When your heart was grieved 21
 and your spirit embittered,
 You were senseless and ignorant; 22
 you were a brute beast before me.

ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS CAN DRAW NEAR TO GOD – WHOSE PRESENCE IS BEYOND PRECIOUS

Yet you 23
 are always with me;
 I hold you by my right hand. 24
 I guide you with my counsel,
 and afterward I will take you into glory.

Whom have you in heaven but me? 25
 And earth has nothing you desire besides me.

Your flesh and your heart may fail, 26
 but I, God, am the strength of your heart
 and your portion forever.

*CONCLUSION**THOSE WHO ARE FAR v. THOSE WHO ARE NEAR*

Those who are far from me 27
 will perish;
 I destroy all who are unfaithful to me.
But as for you, 28
 it is good to be near me, God.
 You have made me Sovereign YHWH, your refuge;
 you will tell of all my deeds.

PSALM 74

- ¹ O God, why have you rejected us forever?
Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture?
- ² Remember the nation you purchased long ago,
the people of your inheritance, whom you redeemed—
Mount Zion, where you dwelt.
- ³ Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins,
all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary.
- ⁴ Your foes roared in the place where you met with us;
they set up their standards as signs.
- ⁵ They behaved like men wielding axes
to cut through a thicket of trees.
- ⁶ They smashed all the carved paneling
with their axes and hatchets.
- ⁷ They burned your sanctuary to the ground;
they defiled the dwelling place of your Name.
- ⁸ They said in their hearts, “We will crush them completely!”
They burned every place where God was worshiped in the land.
- ⁹ We are given no signs from God;
no prophets are left,
and none of us knows how long this will be.
- ¹⁰ How long will the enemy mock you, God?
Will the foe revile your name forever?
- ¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?
Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!

- ¹² But God is my King from long ago;
he brings salvation on the earth.
- ¹³ It was you who split open the sea by your power;
you broke the heads of the monster in the waters.
- ¹⁴ It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan
and gave it as food to the creatures of the desert.
- ¹⁵ It was you who opened up springs and streams;
you dried up the ever-flowing rivers.
- ¹⁶ The day is yours, and yours also the night;
you established the sun and moon.
- ¹⁷ It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth;
you made both summer and winter.
- ¹⁸ Remember how the enemy has mocked you, LORD,
how foolish people have reviled your name.
- ¹⁹ Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts;
do not forget the lives of your afflicted people forever.
- ²⁰ Have regard for your covenant,
because haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land.
- ²¹ Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace;
may the poor and needy praise your name.
- ²² Rise up, O God, and defend your cause;
remember how fools mock you all day long.
- ²³ Do not ignore the clamor of your adversaries,
the uproar of your enemies, which rises continually. (NIV)
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PSALM 74 – LOOKING TO GOD OUR SALVATION FOR RESTORATION OF HIS PRESENCE / POWER

THE EMPTINESS OF HAVING PUSHED GOD AWAY

PAIN OF BEING SEPERATED FROM GOD

I, your God, **why** have I rejected you forever? 1
Why does my anger smolder against the sheep of my pasture?

I remember the nation I purchased long ago, 2
 the people of my inheritance, whom I redeemed—
 Mount Zion, where I dwelt.

I turn my steps toward these everlasting ruins, 3
 all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary.

GOD EVEN GAVE HIS TEMPLE DWELLING PLACE OVER TO BE RUINED

My foes roared in the place where I met with you; 4
 they set up their standards as signs. 5
 They behaved like men wielding axes
 to cut through a thicket of trees. 6
 They smashed all the carved paneling
 with their axes and hatchets. 7
 They burned my sanctuary to the ground;
 they defiled the dwelling place of my Name. 8
 They said in their hearts, “We will crush them completely!”
 They burned every place where I, God, was worshiped in the land. 9

GOD IS NOW EVEN WITHHOLDING HIS GUIDENCE AND POWER

You are given no signs from me God; 9
no prophets are left,
 and none of you know how long this will be.

How long will the enemy mock me, me God? 10
 Will the foe revile my name forever?

Why do I hold back my hand, my right hand? 11
 Take it from the folds of my garment and destroy them!

STILL... GOD IS THERE, IN CONTROL AND OUR SALVATION IS IN HIS HANDS

But I God, am your King from [long ago]; 12
 I bring salvation on the earth.

IT IS GOD FROM WHOM POWER COMES

It was me who split open the sea by my power; 13

I broke the heads of the monster in the waters.

It was me who crushed the heads of Leviathan 14
 and gave it as food to the creatures of the desert.

It was me who opened up springs and streams; 15

I dried up the ever-flowing rivers.

The day is mine, and mine also the night; 16

I established the sun and moon.

It was me who set all the boundaries of the earth; 17

I made both summer and winter.

*A PLEA FOR GOD ...**... TO RESTORE THE STRENGTH OF HIS FAVOR (PREVAIL WITH POSITIVE)*

I remember how the enemy has mocked me, me YHWH, 18
 how foolish people have reviled my name.

I do not hand over the life of my dove to wild beasts; 19

I do not forget the lives of my afflicted people forever.

I have regard for my covenant, 20

because haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land.

I do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; 21

may the poor and needy praise my name.

... TO REMOVE DARKNESS (OVERCOME NEGATIVE)

I, your God, [rise up and defend] my cause; 22

I remember how fools mock me all day long.

I [do not ignore] the clamor of my adversaries, 23

the uproar of my [enemies], which rises continually.

PSALM 75

- ¹ We praise you, God,
we praise you, for your Name is near;
people tell of your wonderful deeds.
- ² You say, "I choose the appointed time;
it is I who judge with equity.
- ³ When the earth and all its people quake,
it is I who hold its pillars firm.
- ⁴ To the arrogant I say, 'Boast no more,'
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horns.
- ⁵ Do not lift your horns against heaven;
do not speak so defiantly.'"
- ⁶ No one from the east or the west
or from the desert can exalt themselves.
- ⁷ It is God who judges:
He brings one down, he exalts another.
- ⁸ In the hand of the LORD is a cup
full of foaming wine mixed with spices;
he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth
drink it down to its very dregs.
- ⁹ As for me, I will declare this forever;
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob,
- ¹⁰ who says, "I will cut off the horns of all the wicked,
but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up." (NIV)
-

PSALM 75 – GOD THE ONLY JUDGE WHO IS THE ONE WHO HUMBLER ONE AND EXALTS ANOTHER

A CALL FOR CELEBRATION

Praise me, me God,

1

praise me, for (1) **my Name is near**;
tell of (2) **my wonderful deeds**.

(1) FOR HIS NAME – THE JUDGE (WHO HE IS)

I say, “I choose the appointed time;

2

it is I who **judge** with equity.

When the **earth** and all its people **quake**,

3

it is I who **hold its pillars firm**.

To the arrogant I say, ‘Boast no more,’

4

and to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up your horns.

Do not lift your horns against heaven;

5

do not speak so defiantly.’”

(2) FOR HIS DEEDS – HIS JUDGEMENTS (WHAT HE DOES)

No one from the east or the west

6

or from the desert **can exalt themselves**.

It is I, God, who **judges**:

7

[**I bring one down, I exalt another.**]

BRINGING ONE DOWN

In my hand, the hand of YHWH, is a cup

8

full of foaming wine mixed with spices;

I pour it out, and all the wicked of the earth

drink it down to its very dregs.

EXALTING ANOTHER

As for you, declare this forever;

9

sing praise to me, the God of Jacob,

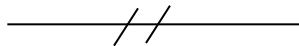
[who says, “I will cut off the horns of all the wicked,
but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.”]

10

LORD, may You exalt me above sin/brought sin down
I condemned sin – now go possess what I have given you

PSALM 76

- ¹ God is renowned in Judah;
in Israel his name is great.
- ² His tent is in Salem,
his dwelling place in Zion.
- ³ There he broke the flashing arrows,
the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.
- ⁴ You are radiant with light,
more majestic than mountains rich with game.
- ⁵ The valiant lie plundered,
they sleep their last sleep;
not one of the warriors
can lift his hands.
- ⁶ At your rebuke, God of Jacob,
both horse and chariot lie still.
- ⁷ It is you alone who are to be feared.
Who can stand before you when you are angry?
- ⁸ From heaven you pronounced judgment,
and the land feared and was quiet—
- ⁹ when you, God, rose up to judge,
to save all the afflicted of the land.
- ¹⁰ Surely your wrath against mankind brings you praise,
and the survivors of your wrath are restrained.
- ¹¹ Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them;
let all the neighboring lands
bring gifts to the One to be feared.
- ¹² He breaks the spirit of rulers;
he is feared by the kings of the earth. (NIV)



PSALM 76 – A WAR THAT TELLS THE STORY OF ONE WHO’S PASSION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS TO BE FEARED

(AS A RESPONSIVE READING)

LEADER: LORD IS GREAT ...

I, God, am renowned in Judah;
in Israel **my name is great.**

1

CONGREGATION: ... HIS PRESENCE CONDEMNS SIN

My tent is in Salem,
My dwelling place in Zion.
There I broke the flashing arrows,
the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.

2

3

LEADER: LORD SHINES FORTH WITH GLORY ...

I am radiant with light,
more majestic than mountains rich with game.

4

CONGREGATION: ... WHICH POWERFULLY OVERCOMES DARKNESS

The valiant lie plundered,
they “sleep their last sleep”;
not one of the warriors
can lift his hands.
At my rebuke, God of Jacob,
both horse and chariot lie still.

5

6

LEADER: FEAR HIS WRATH ...

It is me alone who is to be feared.
Who can stand before me when I am angry?

7

CONGREGATION: ... AS HE PURSUES HIS PASSION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

From heaven I pronounced **judgment,**
and the **land feared** and was quiet—
when I, God, rose up to **judge,**
to save all the afflicted of the land.

8

9

LEADER: TURN ...TO HIM ...FROM SIN (REPENT) ...

Surely my wrath against mankind brings me praise,
and the survivors of my wrath are restrained.

10

CONGREGATION: ... AND COMMIT TO FELLOWSHIPING WITH HIM

Make vows to me, YHWH your God, and fulfill them;
let all the neighboring lands
bring gifts to me, **the One to be feared.**
I break the spirit of rulers;
I am feared by the kings of the earth.

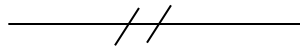
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12

PSALM 77

- ¹ I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
- ² When I was in distress, I sought the;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.
- ³ I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.
- ⁴ You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
- ⁵ I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
- ⁶ I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:
- ⁷ “Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?
- ⁸ Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
- ⁹ Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”

- ¹⁰ Then I thought, “To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.
- ¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
- ¹² I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”
- ¹³ Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?
- ¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.
- ¹⁵ With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
- ¹⁶ The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.
- ¹⁷ The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.
- ¹⁸ Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.
- ¹⁹ Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.
- ²⁰ You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron. (NIV)



PSALM 77 - GOD OUR SHEPHERD PROTECTOR – WHOSE PRESENCE IS NEAR, EVEN THOUGH UNSEEN

I. SEEKING GOD, BUT WONDERING IF HE EVEN HEARS

SEEKING THE MASTER’S PRESENCE IN OUR DISTRESS

You cried out to me, me God, for help; 1
 you cried out to me, me God, to hear you.
 When you were in distress, you sought me, **Lord**; 2
 at night you stretched out untiring hands,
 and you would not be comforted.

FRUSTRATED WHEN HE SEEMS SILENT AND ABSENT

You remembered me, me God, and you groaned; 3
 you meditated, and your spirit grew faint.
 I kept your eyes from closing; 4
 you were too troubled to speak.

You thought about the former days, 5
 the years of long ago;
 you remembered your songs in the night. 6
 Your heart meditated and your spirit asked:

WONDERING WHERE GOD IS AND IF WE WILL EVER KNOW HIS PRESENCE AGAIN

“Will the **Lord** reject forever? 7
 Will he never show his favor again?
Has his [unfailing love] vanished forever? 8
Has his promise failed for all time?
Has God forgotten to be merciful? 9
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”

II. REMEMBERING EVIDENCE OF THINGS UNSEEN – AND TO LIVE BY FAITH

Then you thought,

10

RECONSIDERING THE MIGHT OF HIS WORKS IN THE PAST

“To this I will appeal:

the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.

I will remember the deeds of YHWH;

yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

I will consider all your works

and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”

11

12

WHO BUT ONLY GOD COULD DO SUCH THINGS

My ways, the ways of God are holy.

What god is as great as me, your God?

I am the God who performs miracles;

I display my power among the peoples.

13

14

AN EXAMPLE OF GOD BEING THERE EVEN THOUGH UNSEEN**GOD OUR POWERFUL REDEEMER LEADS US**

With my mighty arm I redeemed my people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

15

SEEING US THROUGH AND OUT OF THE TOUGH TIMES

The waters saw me, God,

the waters saw me and writhed;

the very depths were convulsed.

The clouds poured down water,

the heavens resounded with thunder;

my arrows flashed back and forth.

my thunder was heard in the whirlwind,

my lightning lit up the world;

the earth trembled and quaked.

My path led through the sea,

my way through the mighty waters,

though my footprints were not seen.

16

17

18

19

I led my people like a flock

by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

20

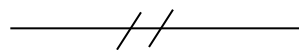
PSALM 78

- ¹ My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
- ³ things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
- ⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
- ⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
- ⁶ so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
- ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.
- ⁸ They would not be like their ancestors—
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.
- ⁹ The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,
turned back on the day of battle;
- ¹⁰ they did not keep God's covenant
and refused to live by his law.
- ¹¹ They forgot what he had done,
the wonders he had shown them.
- ¹² He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.
- ¹³ He divided the sea and led them through;
he made the water stand up like a wall.
- ¹⁴ He guided them with the cloud by day
and with light from the fire all night.
- ¹⁵ He split the rocks in the wilderness
and gave them water as abundant as the seas;
- ¹⁶ he brought streams out of a rocky crag
and made water flow down like rivers.

- ¹⁷ But they continued to sin against him,
rebelling in the wilderness against the Most High.
- ¹⁸ They willfully put God to the test
by demanding the food they craved.
- ¹⁹ They spoke against God;
they said, “Can God really
spread a table in the wilderness?”
- ²⁰ True, he struck the rock,
and water gushed out,
streams flowed abundantly,
but can he also give us bread?
Can he supply meat for his people?”
- ²¹ When the LORD heard them, he was furious;
his fire broke out against Jacob,
and his wrath rose against Israel,
- ²² for they did not believe in God
or trust in his deliverance.
- ²³ Yet he gave a command to the skies above
and opened the doors of the heavens;
- ²⁴ he rained down manna for the people to eat,
he gave them the grain of heaven.
- ²⁵ Human beings ate the bread of angels;
he sent them all the food they could eat.
- ²⁶ He let loose the east wind from the heavens
and by his power made the south wind blow.
- ²⁷ He rained meat down on them like dust,
birds like sand on the seashore.
- ²⁸ He made them come down inside their camp,
all around their tents.
- ²⁹ They ate till they were gorged—
he had given them what they craved.
- ³⁰ But before they turned from what they craved,
even while the food was still in their mouths,
- ³¹ God’s anger rose against them;
he put to death the sturdiest among them,
cutting down the young men of Israel.
- ³² In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;
in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.
- ³³ So he ended their days in futility
and their years in terror.
- ³⁴ Whenever God slew them, they would seek him;
they eagerly turned to him again.
- ³⁵ They remembered that God was their Rock,
that God Most High was their Redeemer.

- ³⁶ But then they would flatter him with their mouths,
lying to him with their tongues;
³⁷ their hearts were not loyal to him,
they were not faithful to his covenant.
³⁸ Yet he was merciful;
he forgave their iniquities
and did not destroy them.
Time after time he restrained his anger
and did not stir up his full wrath.
³⁹ He remembered that they were but flesh,
a passing breeze that does not return.
- ⁴⁰ How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness
and grieved him in the wasteland!
⁴¹ Again and again they put God to the test;
they vexed the Holy One of Israel.
⁴² They did not remember his power—
the day he redeemed them from the oppressor,
⁴³ the day he displayed his signs in Egypt,
his wonders in the region of Zoan.
⁴⁴ He turned their river into blood;
they could not drink from their streams.
⁴⁵ He sent swarms of flies that devoured them,
and frogs that devastated them.
⁴⁶ He gave their crops to the grasshopper,
their produce to the locust.
⁴⁷ He destroyed their vines with hail
and their sycamore-figs with sleet.
⁴⁸ He gave over their cattle to the hail,
their livestock to bolts of lightning.
⁴⁹ He unleashed against them his hot anger,
his wrath, indignation and hostility—
a band of destroying angels.
⁵⁰ He prepared a path for his anger;
he did not spare them from death
but gave them over to the plague.
⁵¹ He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt,
the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.
⁵² But he brought his people out like a flock;
he led them like sheep through the wilderness.
⁵³ He guided them safely, so they were unafraid;
but the sea engulfed their enemies.
⁵⁴ And so he brought them to the border of his holy land,
to the hill country his right hand had taken.

- ⁵⁵ He drove out nations before them
and allotted their lands to them as an inheritance;
he settled the tribes of Israel in their homes.
- ⁵⁶ But they put God to the test
and rebelled against the Most High;
they did not keep his statutes.
- ⁵⁷ Like their ancestors they were disloyal and faithless,
as unreliable as a faulty bow.
- ⁵⁸ They angered him with their high places;
they aroused his jealousy with their idols.
- ⁵⁹ When God heard them, he was furious;
he rejected Israel completely.
- ⁶⁰ He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh,
the tent he had set up among humans.
- ⁶¹ He sent the ark of his might into captivity,
his splendor into the hands of the enemy.
- ⁶² He gave his people over to the sword;
he was furious with his inheritance.
- ⁶³ Fire consumed their young men,
and their young women had no wedding songs;
- ⁶⁴ their priests were put to the sword,
and their widows could not weep.
- ⁶⁵ Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
as a warrior wakes from the stupor of wine.
- ⁶⁶ He beat back his enemies;
he put them to everlasting shame.
- ⁶⁷ Then he rejected the tents of Joseph,
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;
- ⁶⁸ but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loved.
- ⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary like the heights,
like the earth that he established forever.
- ⁷⁰ He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheep pens;
- ⁷¹ from tending the sheep he brought him
to be the shepherd of his people Jacob,
of Israel his inheritance.
- ⁷² And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;
with skillful hands he led them. (NIV)



**PSALM 78 — THE RIGHTEOUS LIVE BY FAITH... TRUSTING (HIS POWER AND MERCY) AND OBEYING (HIS WILL)
(IN PROCESS)**

DO NOT IGNORE LORD LIKE FOREFATHERS DID;

INSTEAD, BE PERSUADED OF HIS POWER TO PERFORM HIS PROMISES

My people, hear my teaching; 1
listen to the words of my mouth. 2
I will open my mouth with a parable; 3
I will utter hidden things, **things from of old**—
things you have heard and known, 4
things your ancestors have told you.
Do not hide them from your descendants;
tell the next generation

RELY ON WHO LORD IS (POWER), HIS WORDS (WILL), AND HIS WORKS

the praiseworthy deeds of mine, deeds of YHWH,
my power, and the wonders I have done. 5
I decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which I commanded your ancestors
to teach their children, 6
so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in me, God, 7
HIS WORDS AND HIS WORKS
and would not forget my deeds
but would keep my commands.

They would not be like their ancestors— 8
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to me, God,
whose spirits were not faithful to me.

MEN OF EPHRAIM LOST FAITH IN BATTLE BECAUSE THEY FORGOT; THEY FORGOT HIS STRENGTH

The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, 9
turned back on the day of battle;
HIS WORDS AND HIS WORKS
they did not keep my, God's, covenant 10
and refused to live by my law.
They **forgot** what I had done, 11
the wonders I had shown them.

LORD'S STRENGTH THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY RELEASED FOREFATHERS FROM EGYPT

I did **miracles** in the sight of their ancestors 12
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.
I divided the sea and led them through; 13
I made the water stand up like a wall. 14
I guided them with the cloud by day
and with light from the fire all night. 15
I split the rocks in the wilderness
and gave them water as abundant as the seas;
I brought streams out of a rocky crag 16
and made water flow down like rivers.

LORD'S STRENGTH THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY SUSTAINED FOREFATHERS ON THEIR WAY TO CANAAN

But they continued to sin against me, 17
rebelling in the wilderness against me, the Most High. 18
 They willfully put me, God, to the test 18
 by demanding the food they craved. 19
 They spoke against me, God; 19
 they said, “**Can** God really 19
 spread a table in the wilderness? 20
 True, he struck the rock, 20
 and water gushed out, 20
 streams flowed abundantly, 20
 but **can** he also give us bread? 20
Can he supply meat for his people?” 21
 When I, YHWH, heard them, I was furious; 21
 my fire broke out against Jacob, 21
 and my wrath rose against Israel, 22
 for they did not **believe** in me, God 22
 or **trust** in my deliverance. 22

Yet I gave a command to the skies above 23
 and opened the doors of the heavens; 24
 I rained down manna for the people to eat, 24
 I gave them the grain of heaven. 25
 Human beings ate the bread of angels; 25
 I sent them all the food they could eat. 26
 I let loose the east wind from the heavens 26
 and by my power made the south wind blow. 27
 I rained meat down on them like dust, 27
 birds like sand on the seashore. 28
 I made them come down inside their camp, 28
 all around their tents. 29
 They ate till they were gorged— 29
 I had given them what they craved. 30
 But before they turned from what they craved, 30
 even while the food was still in their mouths, 31
 my, God’s, anger rose against them; 31
 I put to death the sturdiest among them, 31
 cutting down the young men of Israel. 32

In spite of all this, they **kept on sinning**; 32
in spite of my wonders, they did not believe. 33
 So I ended their days in futility 33
 and their years in terror. 34
 Whenever I, God, slew them, they would seek me; 34
 they eagerly turned to me again. 35
 They remembered that I, God, was their Rock, 35
 that I, God Most High, was their Redeemer. 35

But then they would flatter me with their mouths, 36
 lying to me with their tongues;
 their hearts were not loyal to me, 37
 they were not faithful to my covenant.

Yet I was merciful; 38
 I forgave their iniquities
 and did not destroy them.
 Time after time I restrained my anger
 and did not stir up my full wrath.
 I remembered that they were but flesh, 39
 a passing breeze that does not return.

THEY FORGOT HIS POWER THAT FREED, REDEEMED, AND SUSTAINED FOREFATHERS IN WILDERNESS

How often they rebelled against me in the wilderness 40
 and grieved me in the wasteland!
 Again and again they put me, God, to the test; 41
 they vexed me, the Holy One of Israel. 42
They did not remember my power—
 the day I redeemed them from the oppressor, 43
 the day I displayed my signs in Egypt,
 my wonders in the region of Zoan. 44
 I turned their river into blood;
 they could not drink from their streams. 45
 I sent swarms of flies that devoured them,
 and frogs that devastated them. 46
 I gave their crops to the grasshopper,
 their produce to the locust. 47
 I destroyed their vines with hail
 and their sycamore-figs with sleet. 48
 I gave over their cattle to the hail,
 their livestock to bolts of lightning. 49
 I unleashed against them my hot anger,
 my wrath, indignation and hostility—
 a band of destroying angels. 50
 I prepared a path for my anger;
 I did not spare them from death
 but gave them over to the plague. 51
 I struck down all the firstborn of Egypt,
 the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham. 52
 But I brought my people out like a flock;
 I led them like sheep through the wilderness. 53
 I guided them safely, so they were unafraid;
 but the sea engulfed their enemies. 54
 And so I brought them to the border of my holy land,
 to the hill country my right hand had taken.

THEY FORGOT HIS POWER REVEALED EVEN TO NEXT GENERATION IN THE PROMISE LAND

I drove out nations before them 55
 and allotted their lands to them as an inheritance;
 I settled the tribes of Israel in their homes.

But they put me, God, to the test 56
 and rebelled against me, the Most High;
 they **did not keep my statutes**.

Like their ancestors they were disloyal and faithless, 57
 as unreliable as a faulty bow.

They angered me with their high places; 58
 they aroused my jealousy with their idols.

THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS**IT IS LORD WHO IS THE ONE WHO POWERFULLY HUMBLER AND BRINGS DOWN**

When I, God, heard them, I was furious; 59
 I rejected Israel completely.

I abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh, 60
 the tent I had set up among humans.

I sent the ark of my might into captivity, 61
 my splendor into the hands of the enemy.

I gave my people over to the sword; 62
 I was furious with my inheritance.

Fire consumed their young men, 63
 and their young women had no wedding songs;

their priests were put to the sword, 64
 and their widows could not weep.

IT IS LORD WHO IS THE ONE WHO POWERFULLY RESTORES AND LIFTS UP

Then I, the Lord, awoke as from sleep, 65
 as a warrior wakes from the stupor of wine.

I beat back my enemies; 66
 I put them to everlasting shame.

Then I rejected the tents of Joseph, 67
 I did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;

but I chose the tribe of Judah, 68
 Mount Zion, which I loved.

I built my sanctuary like the heights, 69
 like the earth that I established forever.

I chose David my servant 70
 and took him from the sheep pens;

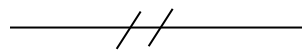
from tending the sheep I brought him 71
 to be the shepherd of my people Jacob,

of Israel my inheritance.

And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; 72
 with skillful hands he led them.

PSALM 79

- ¹ O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple,
they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.
- ² They have left the dead bodies of your servants
as food for the birds of the sky,
the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.
- ³ They have poured out blood like water
all around Jerusalem,
and there is no one to bury the dead.
- ⁴ We are objects of contempt to our neighbors,
of scorn and derision to those around us.
- ⁵ How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever?
How long will your jealousy burn like fire?
- ⁶ Pour out your wrath on the nations
that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms
that do not call on your name;
- ⁷ for they have devoured Jacob
and devastated his homeland.
- ⁸ Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;
may your mercy come quickly to meet us,
for we are in desperate need.
- ⁹ Help us, God our Savior,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
for your name's sake.
- ¹⁰ Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
- Before our eyes, make known among the nations
that you avenge the outpoured blood of your servants.
- ¹¹ May the groans of the prisoners come before you;
with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die.
- ¹² Pay back into the laps of our neighbors seven times
the contempt they have hurled at you, Lord.
- ¹³ Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will praise you forever;
from generation to generation
we will proclaim your praise. (NIV)



PSALM 79 – A REQUEST TO LORD OF MERCY AND FORGIVENESS – TO REMOVE WEIGHT OF HIS DISCIPLINE

REGRETTING THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SIN

I, (I) God, (know) the nations have invaded my inheritance; 1
 they have defiled my holy temple,
 they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.
 They have left the dead bodies of my servants 2
 as food for the birds of the sky,
 the flesh of my own people for the animals of the wild.
 They have poured out blood like water 3
 all around Jerusalem,
 and there is no one to bury the dead.
 You are objects of contempt to your neighbors, 4
 of scorn and derision to those around you.

BUT REMEMBERING IT IS LORD WHO'S DISCIPLINE HUMBLER US AND DRAWS US BACK TO HIM

How long? Will I YHWH be **angry** forever? 5
 How long will my **jealousy** burn like fire?
 I will pour out my **wrath** on the nations 6
 that do not acknowledge me,
 on the kingdoms
 that do not call on my name; 7
 for they have devoured Jacob
 and devastated his homeland.

IT IS LORD WHOSE MERCY AND POWER RESTORES US

I do not hold against you the sins of past generations; 8
 may my mercy come quickly to meet you,
 for you are in desperate need.
 I help you, God your Savior, 9
 for the glory of my name;
 deliver you and forgive your sins
 for my name's sake. 10
 Why should the nations say,
 "Where is their God?"

HE WHO HUMBLER IS HE WHO RESTORES

REMOVING NEGATIVE

Before your eyes, I make known among the nations
 that I avenge the outpoured blood of my servants.
 May the groans of the prisoners come before me; 11
 with my strong arm preserving those condemned to die.
 I pay back into the laps of your neighbors seven times 12
 the contempt they have hurled at me, **Lord**.

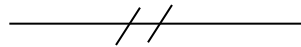
RESTORING POSITIVE

Then you my people, the sheep of my pasture, 13
 will praise me forever;
 from generation to generation
 you will proclaim my praise.

PSALM 80

- ¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.
- ³ Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
- ⁴ How long, LORD God Almighty,
will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
- ⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.
- ⁷ Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

- ⁸ You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
- ⁹ You cleared the ground for it,
and it took root and filled the land.
- ¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
- ¹¹ Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.
- ¹² Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
- ¹³ Boars from the forest ravage it,
and insects from the fields feed on it.
- ¹⁴ Return to us, God Almighty!
Look down from heaven and see!
Watch over this vine,
- ¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.
- ¹⁶ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.
- ¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
- ¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.
- ¹⁹ Restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved. (NIV)



PSALM 80 – LORD OUR SHEPHERD – TURNS FROM WRATH, BACK TO US TO RESTORE HIS SAVING PRESENCE

HE HAS NOT LEFT OUR SIDE - LORD IS STILL GOD AMONG US, OUR ONLY HOPE

I hear you, I, Shepherd of Israel, 1

I who lead Joseph like a flock.

I who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. 2

I awaken my might;
come and save you.

(I) restore you, (I) God; 3

make my face shine on you,
that you may be saved.

WE LEFT HIS SIDE – LORD IS OUR ONLY HOPE TO RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE BROKEN

How long, as YHWH God Almighty, 4

will my anger smolder
against the prayers of my people?

I have fed them with the bread of tears; 5

I have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

I have made you an object of derision to your neighbors,
and your enemies mock you. 6

(I) restore you, (I) God Almighty; 7

make my face shine on you,
that you may be saved.

AN EXAMPLE OF A SIMILAR RESTORATION

LORD HAD RAISED UP A VINE AND CARED FOR IT

I transplanted a vine from Egypt; 8
 I drove out the nations and planted it.
I cleared the ground for it, 9
 and it took root and filled the land. 10
 The mountains were covered with its shade,
 the mighty cedars with its branches. 11
 Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
 its shoots as far as the River. 12

BUT LORD HAS SINCE REMOVED ITS WALLS OF PROTECTION

Why have I broken down its walls 12
 so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
 Boars from the forest ravage it, 13
 and insects from the fields feed on it.

LOOKING TO LORD OF MERCY TO RESTORE HIS FELLOWSHIP AND CARE

I return to you, I God Almighty! 14
I look down from heaven and see!
I watch over this vine, 15
the root my right hand has planted,
the son (I have raised up for myself).

My vine is cut down, it is burned with fire; 16
 at my rebuke my people perish.
I let my hand rest on the man at my right hand, 17
the son of man (I have raised up for myself).

Then you will not turn away from me; 18
(I) revive you, and you will call on my name.

(I) restore you, I, YHWH God Almighty;
make my face shine on you,
that you may be saved.

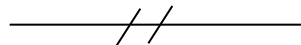
19

PSALM 81

- ¹ Sing for joy to God our strength;
shout aloud to the God of Jacob!
- ² Begin the music, strike the timbrel,
play the melodious harp and lyre.
- ³ Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,
and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;
- ⁴ this is a decree for Israel,
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.
- ⁵ When God went out against Egypt,
he established it as a statute for Joseph.

I heard an unknown voice say:

- ⁶ "I removed the burden from their shoulders;
their hands were set free from the basket.
- ⁷ In your distress you called and I rescued you,
I answered you out of a thundercloud;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.
- ⁸ Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—
if you would only listen to me, Israel!
- ⁹ You shall have no foreign god among you;
you shall not worship any god other than me.
- ¹⁰ I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.
- ¹¹ "But my people would not listen to me;
Israel would not submit to me.
- ¹² So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own devices.
- ¹³ "If my people would only listen to me,
if Israel would only follow my ways,
- ¹⁴ how quickly I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!
- ¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.
- ¹⁶ But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you." (NIV)



PSALM 81 – FIRST COMMANDMENT: HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE LORD – HE IS THE ONLY GOD, FOLLOW HIM

Sing for joy to **me, God, your strength;** 1
 shout aloud to me, God of Jacob!

Begin the music, strike the timbrel, 2
 play the melodious harp and lyre.

Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, 3
 and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;

ANNOUNCING A DECREE TO BE PROCLAIMED REMINDING THEM OF SOMETHING SAID ONCE BEFORE

this is a decree for Israel, 4

an ordinance of mine, God of Jacob.

When I, God, went out against Egypt, 5

I established it as a statute for Joseph.

LORD IS A GOD OF SALVATION – LOOK AT WHAT JUST HAPPENED – HE JUST PROVED HIMSELF

You heard an unknown voice say:

“I removed the burden from their shoulders; 6
 their hands were set free from the basket.

In your distress you called and I rescued you, 7
 I answered you out of a thundercloud;
 I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

LORD'S DECREE

Hear me, my people, and I will warn you— 8

FIRST COMMANDMENT – MAKE LORD TO BE OUR GOD

*if you would only **listen** to me, Israel!*

Have no foreign god among you; 9

do not worship any god other than me.

I am YHWH your God, 10

who brought you up out of Egypt.

Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

ACTS OF MAN: REPENT – FROM OUR WAY TO HIS WAY**TURN FROM SELF – MAKING OURSELF TO BE OUR OWN GOD (SEE GENESIS 3:17)**

“But my people **would not listen** to me; 11

Israel **would not submit** to me.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts 12

to **follow their own** devices.

TURN TO LORD – FOLLOW HIS WAY – MAKING LORD TO BE OUR GOD

“If my people **would only **listen** to me,** 13

if Israel **would only **follow** my ways,**

ACTS OF GOD: LORD (OUR HOPE) TURNS TO US – WITH WORKS OF MERCY

how quickly I would subdue their enemies 14

and **turn my hand** against their foes!

Those who hate YHWH would cringe before him, 15

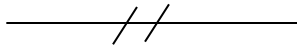
and their punishment would last forever.

But **you would be fed** with the finest of wheat; 16

with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

PSALM 82

- ¹ God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:
- ² “How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?
- ³ Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
- ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
- ⁵ “The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ “I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
- ⁷ But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”
- ⁸ Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance. (NIV)



PSALM 82 – GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT AGAINST THOSE WHO JUDGE UNJUSTLY

COURT COMES TO SESSION – TO JUDGE THOSE WHO JUDGE

I, God, preside in the great assembly;

I render **judgment** among the “gods”:

1

READING OF THE CHARGES AGAINST FALSE JUDGES

UNRIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT AND INJUSTICE OF MAN

“How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?”

2

Defend the weak and the fatherless;

uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

3

Rescue the weak and the needy;

deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

4

READING OF THE CASE SUMMARY

THE VERDICT

“The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

5

THEIR DEFENSE ARGUMENT

“I said,

‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’

6

THE SENTENCE

But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”

7

COURT DISMISSED

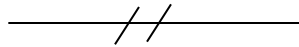
I rise up, your God, **judge** the earth,

for all the nations are my inheritance.

8

PSALM 83

- ¹ O God, do not remain silent;
do not turn a deaf ear,
do not stand aloof, O God.
- ² See how your enemies growl,
how your foes rear their heads.
- ³ With cunning they conspire against your people;
they plot against those you cherish.
- ⁴ “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation,
so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”
- ⁵ With one mind they plot together;
they form an alliance against you—
- ⁶ the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
of Moab and the Hagrites,
- ⁷ Byblos, Ammon and Amalek,
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
- ⁸ Even Assyria has joined them
to reinforce Lot’s descendants.
- ⁹ Do to them as you did to Midian,
as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,
- ¹⁰ who perished at Endor
and became like dung on the ground.
- ¹¹ Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
- ¹² who said, “Let us take possession
of the pasturelands of God.”
- ¹³ Make them like tumbleweed, my God,
like chaff before the wind.
- ¹⁴ As fire consumes the forest
or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,
- ¹⁵ so pursue them with your tempest
and terrify them with your storm.
- ¹⁶ Cover their faces with shame, LORD,
so that they will seek your name.
- ¹⁷ May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;
may they perish in disgrace.
- ¹⁸ Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth. (NIV)



**PSALM 83 – GOD'S PROTECTION FROM THREAT FROM AN ENEMY THAT IS STRONGER THAN US
– FOR HIS NAME SAKE**

I, God, do not remain silent; 1
I do not turn a deaf ear,
I, God, do not stand aloof.

PLANS OF MAN – REJECT AND DESTROY THE NAME

See how my enemies growl, 2
how my foes rear their heads.
With cunning they conspire against my people; 3
they plot against those I cherish.

**“Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation,
so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”** 4

With one mind they plot together; 5
they form an alliance against me—
the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, 6
of Moab and the Hagrites,
Byblos, Ammon and Amalek, 7
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
Even Assyria has joined them 8
to reinforce Lot’s descendants.

PLANS OF GOD – DEFEND AND EXALT HIS NAME

I do to them as I did to Midian, 9
as I did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,
who perished at Endor 10
and became like dung on the ground.
I Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, 11
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
who said, “Let us take possession 12
of the pasturelands of God.”

I, your God, make them like tumbleweed, 13
like chaff before the wind. 14
As fire consumes the forest
or a flame sets the mountains ablaze, 15
so I pursue them with my tempest
and terrify them with my storm.

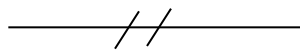
**I cover their faces with shame, I, YHWH,
so that they will seek my name.** 16

May they ever be ashamed and dismayed; 17
may they perish in disgrace.

I let them **know that I, whose name is YHWH**— 18
that **I alone am the Most High over all the earth.**

PSALM 84

- ¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
LORD Almighty!
- ² My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.
- ⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
- ⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
- ⁷ They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.
- ⁸ Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.
- ⁹ Look on our shield, O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.
- ¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.
- ¹² LORD Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you. (NIV)



PSALM 84 – LORD'S PRESENCE – IS WHAT FILLS OUR SOUL WITH STRENGTH

How lovely is my dwelling place,
YHWH Almighty!

1

LORD'S PRESENCE IS WHAT FULFILLS THE LONGINGS OF OUR SOUL AND HEART

Your soul yearns, even faints,
for my courts, the courts of the YHWH;
your heart and your flesh cry out
for me, the living God.

2

LORD'S PRESENCE IS A HOME FOR THE HOMELESS

Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near my altar,
YHWH Almighty, your King and your God.
Blessed are those who dwell in my house;
they are ever praising me.

3

4

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY OF SEEKING LORD'S PRESENCE

Blessed are those whose strength is in me,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before me, God in Zion.

5

6

7

BASKING IN THE AWE OF ARRIVING AND BEING BLESSED IN LORD'S PRESENCE

I hear your prayer, I, YHWH God Almighty;
I listen to you, I, God of Jacob.
I look, as your shield, I God;
I look with favor on my anointed one.

8

9

Better is one day in my courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
You would rather be a doorkeeper in my house, the house of God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
For I, YHWH God, am a sun and shield;
I, YHWH, bestow favor and honor;
no good thing do I withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.

10

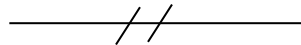
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Me, YHWH Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in me.

12

PSALM 85

- ¹ You, LORD, showed favor to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ² You forgave the iniquity of your people
and covered all their sins.
- ³ You set aside all your wrath
and turned from your fierce anger.
- ⁴ Restore us again, God our Savior,
and put away your displeasure toward us.
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- ⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
- ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ I will listen to what God the LORD says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- ¹² The LORD will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
- ¹³ Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps. (NIV)



PSALM 85 – LORD TURNS FROM ANGER TO FORGIVENESS TO DRAW US NEAR AND PROVIDE FOR US

OUR DESIRE – RECONNECTION WITH LORD

IN THE PAST, LORD HAS BEEN A GOD OF FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

I, YHWH, showed favor to my land; 1

I restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2

I forgave the iniquity of my people
and covered all their sins.

I set aside all my wrath
and turned from my fierce anger. 3

ASKING GOD FOR MERCY ONCE AGAIN

I restore you again, I, God your Savior, 4

and put away my displeasure toward you.
Will I be angry with you forever?
Will I prolong my anger through all generations? 5

Is it not I who will revive you again,
that my people may rejoice in me? 6

I show you my [unfailing love], I, YHWH,
and grant you my salvation. 7

LORD'S DESIRE – RECONNECTION WITH US

BENEFITS OF FELLOWSHIPING WITH LORD OF HOPE

Listen to what I, I God YHWH, say; 8

I promise peace to my people, my faithful servants—

REPENT

but let them not turn to folly.

Surely my salvation is near those who fear me,
that my glory may dwell in your land. 9

Love and faithfulness meet together; 10

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, 11

and righteousness looks down from heaven.

I, YHWH will indeed give what is good, 12

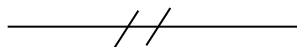
and your land will yield its harvest.

Righteousness goes before me 13

and prepares the way for my steps.

PSALM 86

- ¹ Hear me, LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
- ² Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; ³ have mercy on me, Lord,
for I call to you all day long.
- ⁴ Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
for I put my trust in you.
- ⁵ You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to you.
- ⁶ Hear my prayer, LORD;
listen to my cry for mercy.
- ⁷ When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.
- ⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.
- ⁹ All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.
- ¹⁰ For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.
- ¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.
- ¹² I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.
- ¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,
from the realm of the dead.
- ¹⁴ Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—
they have no regard for you.
- ¹⁵ But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me;
show your strength in behalf of your servant;
save me, because I serve you
just as my mother did.
- ¹⁷ Give me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,
for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me. (NIV)



PSALM 86 – SEEKING OUR MERCIFUL MASTER'S STRENGTH AMIDST OUR WEAKNESS

(a) A TRUSTING SERVANT SEEKING HIS MASTERS MERCY

I hear you, I YHWH, and answer you,
for you are poor and needy.

I guard your life,
for you are faithful to me;

I save my servant who trusts in me.
I am your God; I have mercy on you, I Lord,
for you call to me all day long.

I bring joy to my servant, I Lord,
for you put your trust in me.

(b) LORD OF GRACIOUS LOVE

I, I Lord, am forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to me.

I hear your prayer, I YHWH;
I listen to your cry for mercy.

When you are in distress, you call to me,
because I answer you.

(c) PRAISING OUR MASTER – FOR THE GREATNESS OF HIS DEEDS

Among the gods there is none like me, me Lord;
no deeds can compare with mine.

All the nations I have made
will come and worship before me, me Lord;
they will bring glory to my name.

For I am great and do marvelous deeds;
I alone am God.

(d) SEEKING RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH LORD

I teach you my way, I YHWH,
that you may rely on my faithfulness;
I give you an undivided heart,
that you may fear my name.

(c) PRAISING OUR MASTER FOR GRANTING US LIFE (KNOWLEDGE OF HIM)

Praise me, Lord your God, with all your heart;
Glorify my name forever.

(b) LORD IS A GRACIOUS MASTER WHO LOVES

For great is my love toward you;
I have delivered you from the depths,
from the realm of the dead.

Arrogant foes are attacking you,;
ruthless people are trying to kill you—
they have no regard for me.

But I, I Lord, am a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

(a) A MASTER SEEKING TO GRANT MERCY TO HIS TRUSTING SERVANT

I turn to you and have mercy on you;
I show my strength on behalf of my servant;

I save you, because you serve me
just as your mother did.

I give you a sign of my goodness,
that your enemies may see it and be put to shame,
for I, I YHWH, have helped you and comforted you.

PSALM 87

¹ He has founded his city on the holy mountain.

² The LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the other dwellings of Jacob.

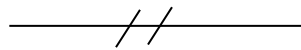
³ Glorious things are said of you,
city of God:

⁴ “I will record Rahab and Babylon
among those who acknowledge me—
Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush—
and will say, ‘This one was born in Zion.’”

⁵ Indeed, of Zion it will be said,
“This one and that one were born in her,
and the Most High himself will establish her.”

⁶ The LORD will write in the register of the peoples:
“This one was born in Zion.”

⁷ As they make music they will sing,
“All my fountains are in you.” (NIV)

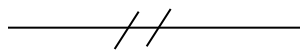


PSALM 87 – LORD FINDS PLEASURE IN HIS DWELLING PLACE

I have founded my city on the holy mountain.	1
I, YHWH, love the gates of Zion	2
more than all the other dwellings of Jacob.	
Glorious things are said of you,	3
city of God:	
“I will record Rahab and Babylon	4
among those who acknowledge me—	
Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush—	
and will say, <u>“This one was born in Zion.”</u> ”	
Indeed, of Zion it will be said, ¹	
<u>“This one and that one were born in her,</u>	
and the Most High himself will establish her.”	
I YHWH, will write in the register of the peoples:	5
<u>“This one was born in Zion.”</u>	
As they make music they will sing,	6
“All my fountains are in you.”	

PSALM 88

- ¹ LORD, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.
- ² May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.
- ³ I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.
- ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.
- ⁵ I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.
- ⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.
- ⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.
- ⁸ You have taken from me my closest friends
and have made me repulsive to them.
I am confined and cannot escape;
- ⁹ my eyes are dim with grief.
- I call to you, LORD, every day;
I spread out my hands to you.
- ¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the dead?
Do their spirits rise up and praise you?
- ¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Destruction?
- ¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?
- ¹³ But I cry to you for help, LORD;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- ¹⁴ Why, LORD, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?
- ¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;
I have borne your terrors and am in despair.
- ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.
- ¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a flood;
they have completely engulfed me.
- ¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and neighbor—
darkness is my closest friend. (NIV)



PSALM 88 – TRUSTING LORD AS WE LEAN INTO OUR DESPAIR AND HOPELESSNESS FROM HIS HAND

SEEKING LORD – OUR ONLY HOPE

I, YHWH, am the God who saves you; 1
 day and night you cry out to me.
 Let your prayer come before me; 2
 to turn my ear to your cry.

OTHERWISE WE ARE LIFELESSNESS WITHOUT HIM

You are overwhelmed with troubles 3
 and your life draws near to death.
 You are counted among those who go down to the pit; 4
 You are like one without strength.
 You are set apart with the dead, 5
 like the slain who lie in the grave,
 whom I remember no more,
 who are cut off from my care.

IT IS LORD OF MY EXPERIENCE, WHO HAS SHOWN US THIS?

I have put you in the lowest pit, 6
 in the darkest depths.
 My wrath lies heavily on you; 7
 I have overwhelmed you with all my waves.
 I have taken from you your closest friends 8
 and have made you repulsive to them.
 You are confined and cannot escape; 9
 your eyes are dim with grief.

EVEN AS WE WASTE AWAY – LORD CONTINUES TO BE OUR ONLY HOPE

Call to me, YHWH, every day;
 Spread out your hands to me.

THOSE IN SHOEL ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO SEEK LORD'S PRESENCE

Do I show my wonders to the dead? 10
 Do their spirits rise up and praise me?
 Is my love declared in the grave, 11
 my faithfulness in Destruction?
 Are my wonders known in the place of darkness, 12
 or my righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

LOOKING TO ONLY LORD WHO CONTINUES TO BE THE ONE AND ONLY REMAINING HOPE BEYOND HOPE

But you cry to me for help, me, YHWH; 13
 in the morning your prayer comes before me.

ASSURANCE OF BEING IN LORD'S HANDS AND CONTROL

Why do I, YHWH, reject you 14
 and hide my face from you?
 From your youth you have suffered and been close to death; 15
 you have borne my terrors and are in despair.
 My wrath has swept over you; 16
 my terrors have destroyed you.
 All day long they surround you like a flood; 17
 they have completely engulfed you.
 I have taken from you friend and neighbor— 18
 darkness is your closest friend.

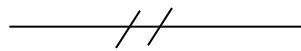
PSALM 89

- ¹ I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴ 'I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.'"
- ⁵ The heavens praise your wonders, LORD,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.
- ⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?
Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings?
- ⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared;
he is more awesome than all who surround him.
- ⁸ Who is like you, LORD God Almighty?
You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.
- ⁹ You rule over the surging sea;
when its waves mount up, you still them.
- ¹⁰ You crushed Rahab like one of the slain;
with your strong arm you scattered your enemies.
- ¹¹ The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;
you founded the world and all that is in it.
- ¹² You created the north and the south;
Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.
- ¹³ Your arm is endowed with power;
your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.
- ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
love and faithfulness go before you.
- ¹⁵ Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.
- ¹⁶ They rejoice in your name all day long;
they celebrate your righteousness.
- ¹⁷ For you are their glory and strength,
and by your favor you exalt our horn.
- ¹⁸ Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD,
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁹ Once you spoke in a vision,
to your faithful people you said:
“I have bestowed strength on a warrior;
I have raised up a young man from among the people.
²⁰ I have found David my servant;
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.
²¹ My hand will sustain him;
surely my arm will strengthen him.
²² The enemy will not get the better of him;
the wicked will not oppress him.
²³ I will crush his foes before him
and strike down his adversaries.
²⁴ My faithful love will be with him,
and through my name his horn will be exalted.
²⁵ I will set his hand over the sea,
his right hand over the rivers.
²⁶ He will call out to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, the Rock my Savior.’
²⁷ And I will appoint him to be my firstborn,
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.
²⁸ I will maintain my love to him forever,
and my covenant with him will never fail.
²⁹ I will establish his line forever,
his throne as long as the heavens endure.

³⁰ “If his sons forsake my law
and do not follow my statutes,
³¹ if they violate my decrees
and fail to keep my commands,
³² I will punish their sin with the rod,
their iniquity with flogging;
³³ but I will not take my love from him,
nor will I ever betray my faithfulness.
³⁴ I will not violate my covenant
or alter what my lips have uttered.
³⁵ Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—
and I will not lie to David—
³⁶ that his line will continue forever
and his throne endure before me like the sun;
³⁷ it will be established forever like the moon,
the faithful witness in the sky.”

- ³⁸ But you have rejected, you have spurned,
you have been very angry with your anointed one.
- ³⁹ You have renounced the covenant with your servant
and have defiled his crown in the dust.
- ⁴⁰ You have broken through all his walls
and reduced his strongholds to ruins.
- ⁴¹ All who pass by have plundered him;
he has become the scorn of his neighbors.
- ⁴² You have exalted the right hand of his foes;
you have made all his enemies rejoice.
- ⁴³ Indeed, you have turned back the edge of his sword
and have not supported him in battle.
- ⁴⁴ You have put an end to his splendor
and cast his throne to the ground.
- ⁴⁵ You have cut short the days of his youth;
you have covered him with a mantle of shame.
- ⁴⁶ How long, LORD? Will you hide yourself forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?
- ⁴⁷ Remember how fleeting is my life.
For what futility you have created all humanity!
- ⁴⁸ Who can live and not see death,
or who can escape the power of the grave?
- ⁴⁹ Lord, where is your former great love,
which in your faithfulness you swore to David?
- ⁵⁰ Remember, Lord, how your servant has been mocked,
how I bear in my heart the taunts of all the nations,
- ⁵¹ the taunts with which your enemies, LORD, have mocked,
with which they have mocked every step of your anointed one.
- ⁵² Praise be to the LORD forever!
Amen and Amen. (NIV)



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PSALM 89 – CELEBRATING LORD'S FAITHFULNESS AS WE YEARN FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS PROMISE

You will sing of my great **love**, great love of YHWH, forever; 1
 with your mouth you will make my **faithfulness** known
 through all generations.

You will declare that **my love stands firm forever**, 2
 that **I have established my faithfulness in heaven itself**.

A DISTANT PROMISED WORK ONCE GIVEN LONG AGO, NOT YET FULFILLED

I said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, 3

I have sworn to David my servant,

'I will establish your line forever 4

and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

*CELEBRATING FOR LORD'S POWER (ABILITY) TO PERFORM HIS WORKS**THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM IN THE HEAVENS*

The heavens praise my **wonders**, wonders of YHWH, 5

my faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

For who in the skies above can compare with me, YHWH? 6

Who is like me, YHWH, among the heavenly beings?

In the council of the holy ones, I, God, am greatly feared; 7

I am more awesome than all who surround me.

Who is like me, **YHWH God Almighty**? 8

I, YHWH, am mighty, and my faithfulness surrounds me.

THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM ON THE EARTH

I rule over the surging sea; 9

when its waves mount up, **I still** them.

I crushed Rahab like one of the slain; 10

with my strong arm **I scattered** your enemies.

The heavens are mine, and mine also the earth; 11

I founded the world and all that is in it.

I created the north and the south; 12

Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at my name.

My arm is endowed with power; 13

my hand is strong, my right hand exalted.

CELEBRATING LORD'S SPLENDOR AND PRESENCE

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of my throne; 14

love and faithfulness go before me.

Blessed are those who have **learned to acclaim me**, 15

who **walk in the light of my presence**, the presence of YHWH.

They **rejoice in my name** all day long; 16

they **celebrate my righteousness**.

For **I am their glory and strength**, 17

and **by my favor I exalt your horn**.

Indeed, your shield belongs to me, **me YHWH**, 18

your king to me, **the Holy One** of Israel.

MORE DETAIL TO THE PROMISE AND FAITHFULNESS – LOOKING TO A NEW KING

Once I spoke in a vision, 19
to my faithful people I said:

“I have bestowed strength on a warrior;
I have raised up a young man from among the people. 20
I have found David my servant;
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.

My hand will sustain him; 21
surely my arm will strengthen him.
The enemy will not get the better of him; 22
the wicked will not oppress him.

I will crush his foes before him 23
and strike down his adversaries.

My faithful love will be with him, 24
and through my name his horn will be exalted.

I will set his hand over the sea, 25
his right hand over the rivers.

He will call out to me, ‘You are my **Father**, 26
my **God**, the **Rock** my **Savior**.’

And I will appoint him to be my firstborn, 27
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.

I will maintain my love to him forever, 28
and my covenant with him will never fail.

I will establish his line forever, 29
his throne as long as the heavens endure.

...LORD WILL NEVER WITHDRAW HIS LOVE, PRESENCE, OR HIS PROMISE

“If 30

his sons forsake my law
and do not follow my statutes, 31
³¹ if they violate my decrees
and fail to keep my commands,

I will 32
punish their sin with the rod,
their iniquity with flogging;

...LORD WILL NEVER WITHDRAW HIS LOVE, PRESENCE, OR HIS PROMISE

but 33

I will not take my love from him,
nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. 34

I will not violate my covenant
or alter what my lips have uttered.

Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness— 35
and I will not lie to David—

that **his line will continue forever** 36
and his throne endure before me like the sun;

it will be established forever like the moon, 37
the faithful witness in the sky.”

CONFUSION THAT COMES WHILE LORD'S PROMISE GOES UNFULFILLED AMIDST HIS DISCIPLINE

But 38
 I have rejected, I have spurned,
 I have been very angry with my **anointed one**.
 I have renounced the covenant with my servant 39
 and have defiled his crown in the dust.
 I have broken through all his walls 40
 and reduced his strongholds to ruins.
 All who pass by have plundered him; 41
 he has become the scorn of his neighbors.
 I have exalted the right hand of his foes; 42
 I have made all his enemies rejoice.
 Indeed, I have turned back the edge of his sword 43
 and have not supported him in battle.
 I have put an end to his splendor 44
 and cast his throne to the ground.
 I have cut short the days of his youth; 45
 I have covered him with a mantle of shame.

ASKING LORD TO REMEMBER HIS PROMISE OF LONG AGO

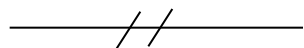
How long, as YHWH? Will I hide myself forever? 46
 How long will my wrath burn like fire?
 I remember how fleeting is your life. 47
 For what futility I have created all humanity!
 Who can live and not see death, 48
 or who can escape the power of the grave?
 I, I Lord, where is my former great **love**, 49
 which in my **faithfulness** I swore to David?
 I, I Lord, remember how my servant has been mocked, 50
 how you bear in your heart the taunts of all the nations,
 the taunts with which my enemies, enemies of YHWH, have mocked, 51
 with which they have mocked every step of my **anointed one**.

 Praise be to me, me YHWH, forever! 52
 Amen and Amen.

Book IV Psalms 90 – 106

PSALM 90

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³ You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
- ⁴ A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:
- ⁶ In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.
- ⁷ We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.
- ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- ⁹ All our days pass away under your wrath;
we finish our years with a moan.
- ¹⁰ Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- ¹¹ If only we knew the power of your anger!
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
- ¹² Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
- ¹³ Relent, LORD! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.
- ¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.
- ¹⁷ May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands. (NIV)



PSALM 90 – LORD DELIGHTS IN THOSE WHO FEAR HIM AND TRUST IN HIS LOVE (PSALM 147:11)

GIVEN WHO EACH OF US IS ...

GOD – WHO IS FROM EVERLASTING BEFORE, TO EVERLASTING AFTER

I, **Lord**, I have been your dwelling place 1
 throughout all generations.
 Before the mountains were born 2
 or I brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting I am God.

MAN – WHO IS NOT EVERLASTING... AND IS FRAIL IN THE HANDS OF GOD

I turn people back to dust, 3
 saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.”
 A thousand years in my sight 4
 are like a day that has just gone by,
 or like a watch in the night.
 Yet I sweep people away in the sleep of death— 5
 they are like the new grass of the morning:
 In the morning it springs up new, 6
 but by evening it is dry and withered.

... LIFE'S PRIMARY LESSON – TRUST AND OBEY

FEAR HIM IN PROPORTION TO HIS WRATH

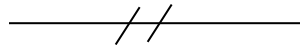
Be consumed by my anger 7
 and terrified by my indignation.
 I have set your iniquities before me, 8
your secret sins in the light of my presence.
 All your **days** pass away under my wrath; 9
 you finish your years with a moan.
 Your **days** may come to seventy years, 10
 or eighty, if your strength endures;
 yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
 for they quickly pass, and you fly away.
If only you knew the power of my anger! 11
My wrath is as great as the (fear that is my due).
 I teach you to number your **days**, 12
 that you may gain a heart of wisdom.

HOPE IN HIS UNFAILING LOVE - LIVING OFF HIS MERCY THAT DRAWS US BACK NEAR

I relent, (I) YHWH! How long will it be? 13
I have compassion on my servants.
I satisfy you in the morning with my (unfailing love), 14
that you may sing for joy and be glad all your days.
I make you glad for as many days as I have afflicted you, 15
 for as many years as you have seen trouble.
 May my deeds be shown to my servants, 16
my splendor to their children.
May my favor, favor of the Lord your God, rest on you; 17
establish the work of your hands for you—
yes, establish the work of your hands.

PSALM 91

- ¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
- ³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- ⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
- ⁸ You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
- ⁹ If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
¹⁰ no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
¹² they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
- ¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- ¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
- ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation." (NIV)



PSALM 91 – LORD'S INVITATION: 'I JUST WANT YOU TO TRUST ME TO DO MY WORKS – AS YOU REST'

MAIN POINT – THESIS STATEMENT

Whoever dwells in my shelter, the shelter of the **Most High**,
will rest in the shadow of the **Almighty**.

Say of me, O YHWH, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

GOD'S WORKS

Surely it is I who will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
I will cover you with my feathers,
and under my wings you will find refuge;
my faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

OUR REST

You will not fear

the terror of *night*,
nor the arrow that flies by *day*,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the *darkness*,
nor the plague that destroys at *midday*.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, "The YHWH is my refuge,"
and you make me, the Most High, your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

GOD'S WORKS

For I will command my angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

OUR REST

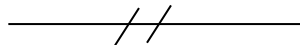
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

LORD PROMISES HIS WORKS TO THOSE WHO TRUST HIM

"Because you love me," says YHWH,
"I will rescue you;
I will protect you, for you acknowledge my name.
You will call on me, and
I will answer you;
I will be with you in trouble,
I will deliver you and honor you.
With long life I will satisfy you
and show you my salvation."

PSALM 92

- ¹ It is good to praise the LORD
and make music to your name, O Most High,
² proclaiming your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,
³ to the music of the ten-stringed lyre
and the melody of the harp.
- ⁴ For you make me glad by your deeds, LORD;
I sing for joy at what your hands have done.
⁵ How great are your works, LORD,
how profound your thoughts!
⁶ Senseless people do not know,
fools do not understand,
⁷ that though the wicked spring up like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they will be destroyed forever.
- ⁸ But you, LORD, are forever exalted.
- ⁹ For surely your enemies, LORD,
surely your enemies will perish;
all evildoers will be scattered.
¹⁰ You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox;
fine oils have been poured on me.
¹¹ My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries;
my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.
- ¹² The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
¹³ planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
¹⁵ proclaiming, "The LORD is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him." (NIV)



PSALM 92 – LORD WATCHES OVER THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS**CELEBRATING LORD'S LOVE**

It is good to praise me, **me** YHWH 1
 and make music to **my name**, me Most High, 2
proclaiming my love in the morning 2
 and **my faithfulness at night**, 3
 to the music of the ten-stringed lyre 3
 and the melody of the harp. 3

LORD'S WORKS OF LOVE LIFTS THE RIGHTEOUS UP

For I make you glad by **my deeds**, deeds of YHWH; 4
 sing for joy at what **my hands** have done. 4
 How great are **my works**, works of YHWH, 5
 how profound **my thoughts!** 5

WAY OF THE WICKED LEADS TO DESTRUCTION

Senseless people do not know, 6
 fools do not understand, 6
 that though the wicked spring up like grass 7
 and all evildoers flourish, 7
 they will be **destroyed forever.** 7

LET US EXALT LORD

But I, **I** YHWH, am **forever exalted.** 8

EVIL DOERS WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN

For surely my enemies, enemies of YHWH 9
 surely **my enemies will** perish; 9
 all evildoers will be scattered. 9

THE RIGHTEOUS WILL BE LIFTED UP

I have exalted your horn like that of a wild ox; 10
 fine oils have been poured on you. 10
 Your eyes have seen the defeat of your adversaries; 11
 your ears have heard the rout of your wicked foes. 11

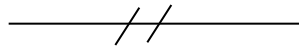
The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, 12
 they **will** grow like a cedar of Lebanon; 12
 planted **in my house**, the house of YHWH, 13
 they **will** flourish **in my courts**, the courts of your God. 13
 They **will** still bear fruit in old age, 14
 they **will** stay fresh and green, 14

CELEBRATING LORD OUR ROCK

proclaiming, 15
 “**YHWH is upright;**
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.” 15

PSALM 93

- ¹ The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.
- ² Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.
- ³ The seas have lifted up, LORD,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.
- ⁴ Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea—
the LORD on high is mighty.
- ⁵ Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days. (NIV)



PSALM 93 – OUR MIGHTY HOLY LORD, HAS THE POWER IT TAKES TO RULE !**LORD RULES**

I, YHWH, **reign,**

1

I am robed in **majesty;**

I, YHWH, am robed in **majesty**

and armed with **strength;**

indeed, the world is **established, firm and secure.**

My throne was established long ago;

2

I am from all eternity.

LORD HAS THE POWER TO DO SO

The seas have lifted up, YHWH,

3

the seas have lifted up their voice;

the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,

4

mightier than the breakers of the sea—

I, YHWH on high, am **mighty.**

LORD'S HOLY WILL RULES FOREVER

My statutes, statutes of YHWH, stand firm;

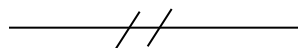
5

holiness adorns my house

for endless days.

PSALM 94

- ¹ The LORD is a God who avenges.
O God who avenges, shine forth.
- ² Rise up, Judge of the earth;
pay back to the proud what they deserve.
- ³ How long, LORD, will the wicked,
how long will the wicked be jubilant?
- ⁴ They pour out arrogant words;
all the evildoers are full of boasting.
- ⁵ They crush your people, LORD;
they oppress your inheritance.
- ⁶ They slay the widow and the foreigner;
they murder the fatherless.
- ⁷ They say, “The LORD does not see;
the God of Jacob takes no notice.”
- ⁸ Take notice, you senseless ones among the people;
you fools, when will you become wise?
- ⁹ Does he who fashioned the ear not hear?
Does he who formed the eye not see?
- ¹⁰ Does he who disciplines nations not punish?
Does he who teaches mankind lack knowledge?
- ¹¹ The LORD knows all human plans;
he knows that they are futile.
- ¹² Blessed is the one you discipline, LORD,
the one you teach from your law;
- ¹³ you grant them relief from days of trouble,
till a pit is dug for the wicked.
- ¹⁴ For the LORD will not reject his people;
he will never forsake his inheritance.
- ¹⁵ Judgment will again be founded on righteousness,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.
- ¹⁶ Who will rise up for me against the wicked?
Who will take a stand for me against evildoers?
- ¹⁷ Unless the LORD had given me help,
I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death.
- ¹⁸ When I said, “My foot is slipping,”
your unfailing love, LORD, supported me.
- ¹⁹ When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought me joy.
- ²⁰ Can a corrupt throne be allied with you—
a throne that brings on misery by its decrees?
- ²¹ The wicked band together against the righteous
and condemn the innocent to death.
- ²² But the LORD has become my fortress,
and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
- ²³ He will repay them for their sins
and destroy them for their wickedness;
the LORD our God will destroy them. (NIV)



PSALM 94 – LORD WILL REPAY THE WICKEDNESS OF THOSE HE USES TO DISCIPLINE US**LOOKING TO LORD FOR RELIEF FROM OPPRESSORS**

I, YHWH, am a God who avenges. 1

I, God, who avenges, shine forth. 2

I rise up, Judge of the earth; 2

I pay back to the proud what they deserve. 3

How long, as YHWH, will the wicked, 3

how long will the wicked be jubilant? 3

CHARGES AGAINST THEIR PROUD AND THE WICKED WICKEDNESS

They pour out arrogant words; 4

all the evildoers are full of boasting. 5

They crush my people, the people of the YHWH; 5

they oppress my inheritance. 6

They slay the widow and the foreigner; 6

they murder the fatherless. 7

They say, "YHWH does not see; 7

the God of Jacob takes no notice." 7

LORD HEARS, SEES, AND KNOWS

Take notice, you senseless ones among the people; 8

you fools, when will you become wise? 9

Do I who fashioned the ear not hear? 9

Do I who formed the eye not see? 10

Do I who disciplines nations not punish? 10

Do I who teaches mankind lack knowledge? 11

I, YHWH, know all human plans; 11

I know that they are futile. 11

ACCEPTING THAT LORD'S DISCIPLINE TEACHES US HIS WAY, EVEN THROUGH OTHERS WICKEDNESS

Blessed is the one I discipline, I, YHWH, 12

the one I teach from my law; 12

RESTORATION FROM LORD'S DISCIPLINE WILL COME

I grant them relief from days of trouble, 13

till a pit is dug for the wicked. 14

For I, I YHWH, will not reject my people; 14

I will never forsake my inheritance. 15

Judgment will again be founded on righteousness, 15

and all the upright in heart will follow it. 15

LORD SUSTAINS US THROUGH HIS DISCIPLINE IN THE MEANTIME

Who will rise up for you against the wicked? 16

Who will take a stand for you against evildoers? 17

Unless I, YHWH, had given you help, 17

you would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. 18

When you said, "My foot is slipping," 18

my [unfailing love], love of YHWH, supported you. 19

When anxiety was great within you, 19

my consolation brought you joy. 19

KNOWING THE WICKED OPPRESSORS WILL RECEIVE THEIR OWN DISCIPLINE

Can a corrupt throne be allied with ME — 20

a throne that brings on misery by its decrees? 21

The wicked band together against the righteous 21

and condemn the innocent to death. 22

But I, I YHWH, have become your fortress, 22

and your God the rock in whom you take refuge. 23

I will repay them for their sins 23

and destroy them for their wickedness; 23

I, YHWH your God, will destroy them. 23

PSALM 95

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

³ For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

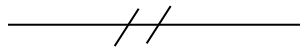
Today, if only you would hear his voice,

⁸ “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.’

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’” (NIV)



PSALM 95 – CALL TO WORSHIP IN PURITY ... BEFORE LORD HIMSELF

LOVE HIM

WORSHIP THE GREAT ONE...

Come, 1
sing for joy to me, YHWH;
shout aloud to the Rock of your salvation.
come before me with **thanksgiving** 2
and extol me with music and song. 3

For 3
I, YHWH, am the great God,
the great King above all gods. 4
In my hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain **peaks** belong to me. 4
The sea is mine, for I made it, 5
and **my hands formed the dry land.** 5

... WHO CARES FOR US

Come, 6
bow down in **worship,**
kneel before me, **YHWH your Maker;** 7

for 7
I am your God
and **you are** the people of my pasture,
the flock under my care.

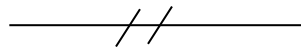
FEAR HIM

WE CAN NOT DISOBEY LORD WHILE CLAIMING TO BE WORSHIPPING HIM

Today, if only you would hear my voice, 8
“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, 9
where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did. 9
For forty years I was angry with that generation; 10
I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.’ 10
So I declared on oath in my anger, 11
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

PSALM 96

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- ¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness. (NIV)



PSALM 96 – A UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO ALL THE EARTH TO FOLLOW LORD WHO REIGNS

ALL NATIONS ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE LORD'S GLORIOUS WORKS

Sing to me, YHWH, a new song; 1
sing to me, YHWH, (all the earth).
Sing to me, YHWH, 2
praise my name;
proclaim my salvation day after day.
Declare my glory among (the nations), 3
my marvelous deeds among (all peoples).

LEAVE ALL NON-'GODS' BEHIND

For 4
great am I, YHWH, and most worthy of praise;
I am to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of (the nations) are idols, 5
but I, YHWH, made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before me; 6
strength and glory are in my sanctuary.

ALL PEOPLES ARE INVITED TO LORD'S RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE

Ascribe to me, YHWH, all you (families of nations), 7
ascribe to me, YHWH glory and strength.
Ascribe to me, YHWH the glory due my name; 8

bring an offering and come into my courts.
Worship me, YHWH in the splendor of my holiness; 9
tremble before me, (all the earth).
Say among (the nations), "YHWH reigns." 10

(The world) is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
I will judge (the peoples) with equity.

EVEN INANIMATE NATURE IS INVITED TO CELEBRATE LORD

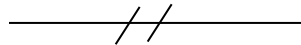
Let the **heavens** rejoice, 11
let the **earth** be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; 12
let all the trees of the forest
sing for joy.
Let **all creation** rejoice before me, YHWH, 13

for

I come,
I come to judge (the earth).
I will judge (the world) in righteousness
and (the peoples) in my faithfulness.

PSALM 97

- ¹ The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
- ² Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- ³ Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
- ⁴ His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
- ⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
- ⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.
- ⁷ All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols—
worship him, all you gods!
- ⁸ Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, LORD.
- ⁹ For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹⁰ Let those who love the LORD hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- ¹¹ Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
- ¹² Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name. (NIV)



PSALM 97 – EXALTING LORD OF GLORY WHO CARES FOR US

THE ONE WHO IS MIGHTY (GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE)

AT THE THRONE

I, YHWH, reign, let the **earth** be glad; 1
 let the distant shores rejoice.
 Clouds and thick darkness surround me; 2
righteousness and justice are the foundation of my throne.

COMING OUT FROM THE THRONE

Fire goes before me 3
 and consumes my foes on every side.
 My lightning lights up the world; 4
 the earth sees and trembles.

WITNESSES

The mountains melt like wax before me, YHWH, 5
 before me, Lord of all the **earth**.
 The **heavens** proclaim my righteousness, 6
 and all **peoples** see my glory.

HIS PLACE BEFORE OTHER GODS

All who worship images are put to shame, 7
 those who boast in idols—
worship me, all you gods!

SURROUNDING

Zion hears and rejoices 8
 and the villages of Judah are glad
 because of my judgments, YHWH.
 For I, YHWH, am the Most High over all the earth; 9
 I am exalted far above all gods.

IS THE ONE WHO CARES FOR US (INDIVIDUAL PERSPECTIVE)

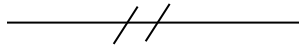
Let those who love me, YHWH, hate evil, 10
 for I guard the lives of my faithful ones
and deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
 Light shines on the righteous 11
 and joy on the upright in heart.
Rejoice in me, YHWH, me who is righteous, 12
 and praise my holy name.

PSALM 98

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
⁹ let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity. (NIV)



PSALM 98 – RESOUNDING CELEBRATION FOR LORD – WHOSE FAITHFUL LOVE IS OUR ONLY SALVATION**LORD'S SALVATION REVEALED**

Sing to me, YHWH, a new song, 1
 for I have done marvelous things;
 my right hand and my holy arm
 have worked **salvation** for me.
 I, YHWH, have made my **salvation** known 2
 and revealed **my righteousness** to the nations.
 I have remembered **my love** 3
 and **my faithfulness** to Israel;
 all the ends of the earth have seen
 the **salvation** of your God.

RESPONSIVE CELEBRATION BEFORE THE KING**MELODIC CHORUS AND STRINGS**

Shout for **joy** to me, YHWH, all the earth, 4
 burst into jubilant song with music;
 make music to me, YHWH, with the harp, 5
 with the harp and the sound of singing,

RICH WOODWINDS AND RESOUNDING BRASS DEVELOPMENT OF THEME

with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— 6
 shout for **joy** before me, YHWH, the King.

LARGER BACKGROUND PERCUSSION RYTHM

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, 7
 the world, and all who live in it.
 Let the rivers clap their hands, 8
 let the mountains sing together for **joy**;
 let them sing before me, YHWH, 9

for

I come to judge the earth.
 I will judge the world **in righteousness**
 and the peoples **with equity.**

PSALM 99

- ¹ The LORD reigns,
let the nations tremble;
he sits enthroned between the cherubim,
let the earth shake.
- ² Great is the LORD in Zion;
he is exalted over all the nations.
- ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name—
he is holy.
- ⁴ The King is mighty, he loves justice—
you have established equity;
in Jacob you have done
what is just and right.
- ⁵ Exalt the LORD our God
and worship at his footstool;
he is holy.
- ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel was among those who called on his name;
they called on the LORD
and he answered them.
- ⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.
- ⁸ LORD our God,
you answered them;
you were to Israel a forgiving God,
though you punished their misdeeds.
- ⁹ Exalt the LORD our God
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy. (NIV)



PSALM 99 – IT IS LORD WHO IS HOLY, AND EXALTED FOR HIS RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE

LORD KING, THE ONE WHO ALONE IS EXALTED

It is I, YHWH, who reign, 1
 let the nations tremble;
 I sit enthroned between the cherubim,
 let the earth shake.
 Great am I, YHWH, in Zion; 2

I am exalted over all the nations.
 Let them praise my great and awesome name—
 I am holy. 3

LORD, HE WHO CREATED RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE

I, the King, am mighty, I love justice— 4
 It is I who has established equity;
 in Jacob it is I who has done
 what is just and right.

Exalt me, YHWH your God 5
 and worship at my footstool;
 I am holy.

EXAMPLE: LORD'S RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE IN ACTION

Moses and Aaron were among my priests, 6
 Samuel was among those who called on my name;
 they called on me, YHWH

and it is I who answered them.
 I spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; 7
 they kept my statutes and the decrees I gave them.

YHWH your God, 8
 it is I who answered them;
 I was to Israel a forgiving God,
 though I punished their misdeeds.

Exalt me, YHWH your God 9
 and worship at my holy mountain,
 for I, YHWH your God am holy.

PSALM 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

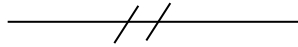
¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³ Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations. (NIV)



PSALM 100 – A CALL TO WORSHIP LORD OF COMPASSION AND UNRELENTING LOVE

JOY OF...

Shout for *joy* to me, YHWH, all the earth. 1

Worship me, YHWH, with *gladness*; 2

come before me with *joyful* songs.

...BELONGING TO LORD

Know that **I**, YHWH, **am** **God**. 3

It is **I** who **made you**, and you are mine;

you are my people, the sheep of my pasture.

THANKFUL PRAISE...

Enter my gates with *thanksgiving* and 4

my courts with *praise*;

give *thanks* to me and

praise my name.

...FOR HIS LOVE

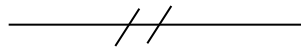
For I, YHWH, am **good** and my **love** endures forever; 5

my **faithfulness** continues through all generations.

PSALM 101

Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ I will sing of your love and justice;
to you, LORD, I will sing praise.
- ² I will be careful to lead a blameless life—
when will you come to me?
- I will conduct the affairs of my house
with a blameless heart.
- ³ I will not look with approval
on anything that is vile.
- I hate what faithless people do;
I will have no part in it.
- ⁴ The perverse of heart shall be far from me;
I will have nothing to do with what is evil.
- ⁵ Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret,
I will put to silence;
whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart,
I will not tolerate.
- ⁶ My eyes will be on the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell with me;
the one whose walk is blameless
will minister to me.
- ⁷ No one who practices deceit
will dwell in my house;
no one who speaks falsely
will stand in my presence.
- ⁸ Every morning I will put to silence
all the wicked in the land;
I will cut off every evildoer
from the city of the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 101 – LORD'S LOVE AND JUSTICE REFLECTED IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Sing of my love and justice; 1
 to me, YHWH, sing praise. 2
 Be careful to lead a blameless life—
 when will I come to you?

WHAT IT IS TO LEAD A BLAMELESS LIFE:

TURN TO

TURN FROM

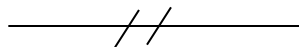
<p>Conduct the affairs of your house with a blameless heart.</p>	<p>Look not with approval on anything that is <u>vile</u>.</p>	3
	<p>Hate what <u>faithless</u> people do; Have no part in it. The <u>perverse</u> of heart shall be far from you; Have nothing to do with what is <u>evil</u>.</p>	4
	<p>Whoever <u>slanders</u> their neighbor in secret, Put to silence; whoever has <u>haughty</u> eyes and a <u>proud</u> heart, do not tolerate.</p>	5
<p>Your eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with you; the one whose walk is blameless will minister to you.</p>		6
	<p>No one who practices <u>deceit</u> will dwell in your house; no one who <u>speaks falsely</u> will stand in your presence.</p>	7
	<p>Every morning put to silence all the <u>wicked</u> in the land; Cut off every <u>evildoer</u> from my city, the city of YHWH.</p>	8

PSALM 102

A prayer of an afflicted person who has grown weak and pours out a lament before the LORD.

- ¹ Hear my prayer, LORD;
let my cry for help come to you.
- ² Do not hide your face from me
when I am in distress.
Turn your ear to me;
when I call, answer me quickly.
- ³ For my days vanish like smoke;
my bones burn like glowing embers.
- ⁴ My heart is blighted and withered like grass;
I forget to eat my food.
- ⁵ In my distress I groan aloud
and am reduced to skin and bones.
- ⁶ I am like a desert owl,
like an owl among the ruins.
- ⁷ I lie awake; I have become
like a bird alone on a roof.
- ⁸ All day long my enemies taunt me;
those who rail against me use my name as a curse.
- ⁹ For I eat ashes as my food
and mingle my drink with tears
- ¹⁰ because of your great wrath,
for you have taken me up and thrown me aside.
- ¹¹ My days are like the evening shadow;
I wither away like grass.
- ¹² But you, LORD, sit enthroned forever;
your renown endures through all generations.
- ¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to show favor to her;
the appointed time has come.
- ¹⁴ For her stones are dear to your servants;
her very dust moves them to pity.
- ¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the LORD,
all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.
- ¹⁶ For the LORD will rebuild Zion
and appear in his glory.
- ¹⁷ He will respond to the prayer of the destitute;
he will not despise their plea.

- ¹⁸ Let this be written for a future generation,
that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:
- ¹⁹ “The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high,
from heaven he viewed the earth,
²⁰ to hear the groans of the prisoners
and release those condemned to death.”
- ²¹ So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion
and his praise in Jerusalem
- ²² when the peoples and the kingdoms
assemble to worship the LORD.
- ²³ In the course of my life he broke my strength;
he cut short my days.
- ²⁴ So I said:
“Do not take me away, my God, in the midst of my days;
your years go on through all generations.
- ²⁵ In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
- ²⁶ They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
Like clothing you will change them
and they will be discarded.
- ²⁷ But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.
- ²⁸ The children of your servants will live in your presence;
their descendants will be established before you.” (NIV)



PSALM 102 – LORD OUR GLORY – OUR ONLY HOPE OF RESTORATION (‘PENITENTIAL’ 5 of 7)

I, YHWH, hear your prayer;	1
let your cry for help come to me.	
I do not hide my face from you	2
when you are in distress.	
I turn my ear to you;	
when you call,	
I answer you quickly.	
<i>MEN IN ALL THEIR GLORY, ONLY WITHER AND FADE</i>	
For your days vanish like smoke;	3
your bones burn like glowing embers.	
Your heart is blighted and withered like grass;	4
you forget to eat your food.	
In your distress you groan aloud	5
and are reduced to skin and bones.	
You are like a desert owl,	6
like an owl among the ruins.	
You lie awake; you have become	7
like a bird alone on a roof.	
All day long your enemies taunt you;	8
those who rail against you use your name as a curse.	
For you eat ashes as your food	9
and mingle your drink with tears	
because of my great wrath,	10
for I have taken you up and thrown you aside.	
Your days are like the evening shadow;	11
You wither away like grass.	
<i>IN CONTRAST, LORD'S GLORY IS FROM AN EVERLASTING BEGINING, TO EVERLASTING WITHOUT END</i>	
But I, YHWH,	12
sit enthroned forever;	
my renown endures through all generations.	
I will arise and have compassion on Zion,	13
for it is time to show favor to her;	
the appointed time has come.	
For her stones are dear to my servants;	14
her very dust moves them to pity.	
The nations will fear my name, YHWH,	15
all the kings of the earth will revere my glory.	
For I, YHWH, will rebuild Zion	16
and appear in my glory.	
I will respond to the prayer of the destitute;	17
I will not despise their plea.	

IN HOPE AGAINST HOPE, ANTICIPATED RESTORATION LIES ALONE IN LORD OUR SALVATION

Let this be written for a future generation, 18

that a people not yet created may praise me, YHWH:

“**I, YHWH, looked** down from my sanctuary on high, 19

from heaven I viewed the earth,

to hear the groans of the prisoners 20

and release those condemned to death.”

So 21

my name, YHWH, will be declared in Zion

and my praise in Jerusalem

when the peoples and the kingdoms 22

assemble to worship me, YHWH.

IN OUR WEAKNESS, WE MORE CLEARLY SEE LORD OUR STRENGTH AS OUR ONLY HOPE

In the course of your life I broke your strength; 23

I cut short your days.

So you said: 24

“Do not take me away, my God, in the midst of my days;

your years go on through all generations.

In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, 25

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

They will perish, **but you remain**; 26

they will all wear out like a garment.

Like clothing you will change them

and they will be discarded.

But you remain the same, 27

and your years will **never end.**

The children of your servants will live in your presence; 28

their descendants will be established before you.”

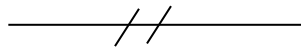
PSALM 103

Of David.

- ¹ Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
- ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
- ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

- ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
- ¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
- ²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
²² Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, my soul. (NIV)



PSALM 103 – LORD'S ETERNAL LOVE FILLS OUR SOUL

(Praise me, YHWH, your soul;
all your inmost being, praise my holy name.) 1

Praise me, YHWH, your soul,
and forget not all my benefits— 2

LORD'S CONSTANT AND CONTINUAL MERCY TOWARD US

who forgives all your sins 3

and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit 4

and crowns you with love and compassion,

who satisfies your desires with good things 5

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

I, YHWH, work righteousness 6

and justice for all the oppressed.

LORD'S UPRIGHT WAYS

I made known my ways to Moses, 7

my deeds to the people of Israel:

HE REMEMBERS US ACCORDING TO HIS LOVE (NOT OUR SIN)

I, YHWH, am compassionate and gracious, 8

slow to anger, abounding in love.

I will **not** always accuse, 9

nor will I harbor my anger forever;

I do **not** treat you as our sins deserve 10

or repay you according to your iniquities.

(For as high as the heavens are above the earth,) 11

so great is my love for those who fear me;

as far as the east is from the west, 12

so far have I removed **your transgressions** from you.

AND THOUGH WE ARE MORTAL, HIS LOVE FOR US IS ETERNAL

As a father has compassion on his children,
so I, YHWH, have compassion on those who fear me;

for I know how you are formed,
I remember that you are dust.

¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.

〔 **But** from everlasting to everlasting
my love, love of YHWH, is with those who fear me,
and my righteousness with their children's children—
with those who keep my covenant
and remember to obey my precepts.

I, YHWH, have established my throne in heaven,
and my kingdom rules over all.

Praise me, YHWH, you my angels,
you mighty ones who do my bidding,
who obey my word.

Praise me, YHWH, all my heavenly hosts,
you my servants who do my will.

Praise me, YHWH, all my works
everywhere in my dominion.

〔 Praise me, YHWH, your soul. 〕

PSALM 104

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul.

LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

² The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent

³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.
He makes the clouds his chariot
and rides on the wings of the wind.

⁴ He makes winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.

⁵ He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.

⁶ You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;

⁸ they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,
to the place you assigned for them.

⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.

¹⁰ He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.

¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.

¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:

¹⁵ wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

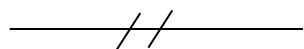
¹⁷ There the birds make their nests;
the stork has its home in the junipers.

¹⁸ The high mountains belong to the wild goats;
the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.

- ¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.
- ²⁰ You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.
- ²¹ The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.
- ²² The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.
- ²³ Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.
- ²⁴ How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- ²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.
- ²⁶ There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.
- ²⁷ All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
- ²⁸ When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
- ²⁹ When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.
- ³⁰ When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
- ³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
- ³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
- ³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.
- ³⁵ But may sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 104 – LORD'S GREAT POWER AND HIS CARE FILLS OUR SOUL

Praise me, YHWH, your soul.

1

YHWH your God, I am very great;
I am clothed with splendor and majesty.

THE HEAVENS

I, YHWH, wrap myself in light as with a garment;
I stretch out the heavens like a tent
and lay the beams of my upper chambers on their waters.
I make the clouds my chariot
and ride on the wings of the wind.
I make winds my messengers,
 flames of fire my servants.

2

3

4

5

THE EARTH

I set the earth on its foundations;
 it can never be moved.

5

THE WATERS

I covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
 the waters stood above the mountains.

6

But at my rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of my thunder they took to flight;
 they flowed over the mountains,
 they went down into the valleys,
to the place I assigned for them.
I set a boundary they cannot cross;
 never again will they cover the earth.

7

8

9

LIFE ON LAND

I make springs pour water into the ravines;
 it flows between the mountains.
 They give water to all the beasts of the field;
 the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
 The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
 they sing among the branches.
I water the mountains from my upper chambers;
 the land is satisfied by the fruit of my work.
I make grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:
 wine that gladdens human hearts,
 oil to make their faces shine,
 and bread that sustains their hearts.
My trees, the trees of the YHWH, are well watered,
 the cedars of Lebanon that I planted.
 There the birds make their nests;
 the stork has its home in the junipers.
 The high mountains belong to the wild goats;
 the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

ORDER OUT OF NOTHINGNESS

I made the moon to mark the seasons, 19
and the sun knows when to go down. 20
I bring darkness, it becomes night, 21
 and all the beasts of the forest prowl.
 The lions roar for their prey 22
 and **seek their food from me**, God. 23
 The sun rises, and they steal away;
 they return and lie down in their dens.
 Then people go out to their work,
 to their labor until evening.

LIFE IN THE SEAS

How many are my works, works of YHWH! 24
 In wisdom **I made them all**;
the earth is full of my creatures. 25
 There is the sea, vast and spacious,
 teeming with creatures beyond number—
 living things both large and small. 26
 There the ships go to and fro,
 and Leviathan, which **I formed** to frolic there.

LIFE THROUGH HIS SPIRIT

All creatures **look to me** 27
to give them their food at the proper time.
 When **I give it** to them, 28
 they gather it up;
 when **I open my hand**,
they are satisfied with good things. 29
 When **I hide my face**,
they are terrified;
 when **I take away their breath**,
they die and return to the dust. 30
 When **I send my Spirit**,
they are created,
 and **I renew the face of the ground**.

May my glory, the glory of the YHWH, endure forever; 31
may I, YHWH, rejoice in my works—
I who look at the earth, and it trembles, 32
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

You will **sing to me**, YHWH, all your life; 33
 You will **sing praise** to your God as long as you live.
 May your meditation be pleasing to me, 34
as you rejoice in me, YHWH.
 But may sinners vanish from the earth 35
 and the wicked be no more.

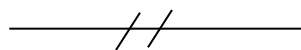
Praise me, YHWH, your soul.
Praise me YHWH.

PSALM 105

- ¹ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
- ² Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.
- ⁵ Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
- ⁶ you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.
- ⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
- ⁸ He remembers his covenant forever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,
- ⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.
- ¹⁰ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
- ¹¹ “To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit.”
- ¹² When they were but few in number,
few indeed, and strangers in it,
- ¹³ they wandered from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another.
- ¹⁴ He allowed no one to oppress them;
for their sake he rebuked kings:
- ¹⁵ “Do not touch my anointed ones;
do my prophets no harm.”
- ¹⁶ He called down famine on the land
and destroyed all their supplies of food;
- ¹⁷ and he sent a man before them—
Joseph, sold as a slave.
- ¹⁸ They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons,
- ¹⁹ till what he foretold came to pass,
till the word of the LORD proved him true.
- ²⁰ The king sent and released him,
the ruler of peoples set him free.
- ²¹ He made him master of his household,
ruler over all he possessed,
- ²² to instruct his princes as he pleased
and teach his elders wisdom.
- ²³ Then Israel entered Egypt;
Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

- ²⁴ The LORD made his people very fruitful;
 he made them too numerous for their foes,
²⁵ whose hearts he turned to hate his people,
 to conspire against his servants.
²⁶ He sent Moses his servant,
 and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
²⁷ They performed his signs among them,
 his wonders in the land of Ham.
²⁸ He sent darkness and made the land dark—
 for had they not rebelled against his words?
²⁹ He turned their waters into blood,
 causing their fish to die.
³⁰ Their land teemed with frogs,
 which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.
³¹ He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
 and gnats throughout their country.
³² He turned their rain into hail,
 with lightning throughout their land;
³³ he struck down their vines and fig trees
 and shattered the trees of their country.
³⁴ He spoke, and the locusts came,
 grasshoppers without number;
³⁵ they ate up every green thing in their land,
 ate up the produce of their soil.
³⁶ Then he struck down all the firstborn in their land,
 the firstfruits of all their manhood.
³⁷ He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold,
 and from among their tribes no one faltered.
³⁸ Egypt was glad when they left,
 because dread of Israel had fallen on them.
³⁹ He spread out a cloud as a covering,
 and a fire to give light at night.
⁴⁰ They asked, and he brought them quail;
 he fed them well with the bread of heaven.
⁴¹ He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
 it flowed like a river in the desert.
⁴² For he remembered his holy promise
 given to his servant Abraham.
⁴³ He brought out his people with rejoicing,
 his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
⁴⁴ he gave them the lands of the nations,
 and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—
⁴⁵ that they might keep his precepts
 and observe his laws.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 105 – LIVING BY FAITH – PERSUADED THAT LORD HAS THE POWER TO PERFORM HIS PROMISES
(HISTORICAL)

Give praise to me, YHWH, proclaim my name; 1
 make known among the nations what I have done. 2
 Sing to me, sing praise to me; 3
 tell of all my wonderful acts. 4
 Glory in my holy name; 5
 let the hearts of those who seek me, YHWH, rejoice. 6
Look to me, YHWH, and my strength; 7
 seek my face always. 8

Remember the wonders I have done, 9
my miracles, and the judgments I pronounced, 10
 you my servants, the descendants of Abraham, 11
 my chosen ones, the children of Jacob. 12
 I am YHWH, your God; 13
my judgments are in all the earth. 14

PROMISE GIVEN – TO FOREFATHERS

I remember my covenant forever, 15
 the promise I made, for a thousand generations, 16
 the covenant I made **with Abraham**, 17
 the oath I swore **to Isaac**. 18
 I confirmed it **to Jacob** as a decree, 19
to Israel as an everlasting covenant: 20
“To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit.” 21

FROM THE TIME OF ABRAHAM'S HOMELESS WANDERINGS

When they were but few in number, 22
 few indeed, and strangers in it, 23
 they wandered from nation to nation, 24
 from one kingdom to another. 25
 I allowed no one to oppress them; 26
 for their sake I rebuked kings: 27
¹⁵“Do not touch my anointed ones; 28
 do my prophets no harm.” 29

THROUGH JOSEPH'S RISE IN EGYPT

I called down famine on the land 30
 and destroyed all their supplies of food; 31
 and I sent a man before them— 32
 Joseph, sold as a slave. 33
 They bruised his feet with shackles, 34
 his neck was put in irons, 35
 till what I foretold came to pass, 36
 till my word, the word of YHWH, proved him true. 37
 The king sent and released him, 38
 the ruler of peoples set him free. 39
 He made him master of his household, 40
 ruler over all he possessed, 41
 to instruct his princes as he pleased 42
 and teach his elders wisdom. 43

Then Israel entered Egypt; 44
 Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of Ham. 45

IN ISRAEL'S SLAVERY TO EGYPT

I, YHWH, made my people very fruitful; 24
 I made them too numerous for their foes,
 whose hearts I turned to hate my people, 25
 to conspire against my servants.

TO ISREAL'S REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT

I sent Moses my servant, 26
 and Aaron, whom I had chosen.
 They performed my signs among them, 27
 my wonders in the land of Ham.
 I sent darkness and made the land dark— 28
 for had they not rebelled against my words?
 I turned their waters into blood, 29
 causing their fish to die.
 Their land teemed with frogs, 30
 which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.
 I spoke, and there came swarms of flies, 31
 and gnats throughout their country.
 I turned their rain into hail, 32
 with lightning throughout their land;
 I struck down their vines and fig trees 33
 and shattered the trees of their country.
 I spoke, and the locusts came, 34
 grasshoppers without number;
 they ate up every green thing in their land, 35
 ate up the produce of their soil.
 Then I struck down all the firstborn in their land, 36
 the firstfruits of all their manhood.
 I brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold, 37
 and from among their tribes no one faltered.
 Egypt was glad when they left, 38
 because dread of Israel had fallen on them.

DURING THEIR WANDERINGS IN THE WILDERNESS UNDER JUDGEMENT

I spread out a cloud as a covering, 39
 and a fire to give light at night.
 They asked, and I brought them quail; 40
 I fed them well with the bread of heaven.
 I opened the rock, and water gushed out; 41
 it flowed like a river in the desert.

PROMISE FULFILLED GENERATIONS LATER – INTO THE PROMISE LAND

For **I remembered my holy promise** 42
 given to my servant Abraham.
 I brought out my people with rejoicing, 43
 my chosen ones with shouts of joy;
 I gave them the lands of the nations, 44
 and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—
 that they might keep my precepts 45
 and observe my laws.

Praise me, YHWH.

PSALM 106

¹ Praise the LORD.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

² Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD
or fully declare his praise?

³ Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right.

⁴ Remember me, LORD, when you show favor to your people,
come to my aid when you save them,

⁵ that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may share in the joy of your nation
and join your inheritance in giving praise.

⁶ We have sinned, even as our ancestors did;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.

⁷ When our ancestors were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to your miracles;
they did not remember your many kindnesses,
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

⁸ Yet he saved them for his name's sake,
to make his mighty power known.

⁹ He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;
he led them through the depths as through a desert.

¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.

¹¹ The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.

¹² Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.

¹³ But they soon forgot what he had done
and did not wait for his plan to unfold.

- ¹⁴ In the desert they gave in to their craving;
in the wilderness they put God to the test.
- ¹⁵ So he gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease among them.
- ¹⁶ In the camp they grew envious of Moses
and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD.
- ¹⁷ The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan;
it buried the company of Abiram.
- ¹⁸ Fire blazed among their followers;
a flame consumed the wicked.
- ¹⁹ At Horeb they made a calf
and worshiped an idol cast from metal.
- ²⁰ They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.
- ²¹ They forgot the God who saved them,
who had done great things in Egypt,
- ²² miracles in the land of Ham
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.
- ²³ So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.
- ²⁴ Then they despised the pleasant land;
they did not believe his promise.
- ²⁵ They grumbled in their tents
and did not obey the LORD.
- ²⁶ So he swore to them with uplifted hand
that he would make them fall in the wilderness,
- ²⁷ make their descendants fall among the nations
and scatter them throughout the lands.
- ²⁸ They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor
and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;
- ²⁹ they aroused the LORD's anger by their wicked deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.
- ³⁰ But Phinehas stood up and intervened,
and the plague was checked.
- ³¹ This was credited to him as righteousness
for endless generations to come.
- ³² By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD,
and trouble came to Moses because of them;
- ³³ for they rebelled against the Spirit of God,
and rash words came from Moses' lips.

³⁴ They did not destroy the peoples
as the LORD had commanded them,
³⁵ but they mingled with the nations
and adopted their customs.
³⁶ They worshiped their idols,
which became a snare to them.
³⁷ They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to false gods.
³⁸ They shed innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was desecrated by their blood.
³⁹ They defiled themselves by what they did;
by their deeds they prostituted themselves.

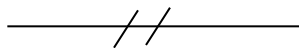
⁴⁰ Therefore the LORD was angry with his people
and abhorred his inheritance.
⁴¹ He gave them into the hands of the nations,
and their foes ruled over them.
⁴² Their enemies oppressed them
and subjected them to their power.
⁴³ Many times he delivered them,
but they were bent on rebellion
and they wasted away in their sin.
⁴⁴ Yet he took note of their distress
when he heard their cry;
⁴⁵ for their sake he remembered his covenant
and out of his great love he relented.
⁴⁶ He caused all who held them captive
to show them mercy.

⁴⁷ Save us, LORD our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.

⁴⁸ Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Let all the people say, "Amen!"

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



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PSALM 106 – LEANING ON LORD WHO REMEMBERS US ACCORDING TO HIS LOVE, AND NOT OUR SIN

(HISTORICAL)

Praise me .

Give thanks to the me , for I am good;
my love endures forever.

Who can proclaim the mighty acts of mine
or fully declare my praise?

Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right.

LOOK TO THE LORD AS OUR ONLY HOPE FOR CONTINUED SAFETY

LORD REMEMBERS US ACCORDING TO HIS LOVE

I remember you, I YHWH,
when I show favor to my people,
come to your aid when I save them,
that you may enjoy the prosperity of my chosen ones,
that you may share in the joy of my nation
and join my inheritance in giving praise.

LORD DOES NOT REMEMBER ME ACCORDING TO MY SIN

You have sinned, even as your ancestors did;
you have done wrong and acted wickedly.

JUST LIKE IN THE PAST – WHEN LORD HAD REPEATEDLY BLESSED THEIR ANCESTORS

10 PLAGUES ON PHAROAH TO ESCAPE EGYPT

When your ancestors were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to my miracles;
AND THEY TURNED THEIR BACKS TO ME
they did not remember my many kindnesses,
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

AT THE RED SEA

Yet I saved them for my name's sake,
to make my mighty power known.
I rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;
I led them through the depths as through a desert.
I saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy I redeemed them.
The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.

Then they believed my promises
and sang my praise.

AND THEY TURNED THEIR BACKS TO ME

But they soon forgot what I had done
and did not wait for my plan to unfold.

THREE MONTHS TRAVEL TO PROMISE LAND

In the desert they gave in to their craving; 14

in the wilderness they put me to the test.

So 15

I gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease among them.

In the camp they grew envious of Moses 16

and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the me, me YHWH.

The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; 17

it buried the company of Abiram.

Fire blazed among their followers; 18

a flame consumed the wicked.

WHEN LORD GAVE THEM THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

At Horeb they made a calf 19

and worshiped an idol cast from metal.

They exchanged their glorious God 20

for an image of a bull, which eats grass.

They forgot **I am who saved them,** 21

who had done great things in Egypt,

miracles in the land of Ham 22

and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

So 23

I said I would destroy them—

had not Moses, his chosen one,

stood in the breach before me

to keep my wrath from destroying them.

REACHING CANAAN AND THE 12 SPIES GAVE A REPORT OF THE PROMISE LAND

Then they despised **the pleasant land;** 24

they did not believe my promise.

They grumbled in their tents 25

and did not obey me, me YHWH.

So 26

I swore to them with uplifted hand

that I would make them fall in the wilderness,

make their descendants fall among the nations 27

and scatter them throughout the lands.

WANDERING 40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS UNDER JUDGEMENT

They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor 28

and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;

they aroused my anger by their wicked deeds, 29

and a plague broke out among them.

But **Phinehas** stood up and intervened, 30

and the plague was checked.

This was **credited to him as righteousness** 31

for endless generations to come.

By the waters of Meribah they angered me, 32

and trouble came to Moses because of them;

for they rebelled against my Spirit, 33

and rash words came from Moses' lips.

EVEN THE NEW GENERATION THAT EVENTUALLY DID CROSS INTO PROMISE LAND

They did not destroy the peoples 34
as I had commanded them,
but they mingled with the nations 35
and adopted their customs.
They worshiped their idols, 36
which became a snare to them.
They sacrificed their sons 37
and their daughters to false gods.
They shed innocent blood, 38
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was desecrated by their blood.
They defiled themselves by what they did; 39
by their deeds they prostituted themselves.

REPEATEDLY DURING THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

Therefore 40

LORD'S JUDGEMENT

I was angry with my people
and abhorred my inheritance. 41
I gave them into the hands of the nations,
and their foes ruled over them. 42
Their enemies oppressed them
and subjected them to their power.

MAN'S CONTINUED SIN

Many times I delivered them, 43
but they were bent on rebellion
and they wasted away in their sin.

LORD'S UNRELENTLESS MERCIFUL LOVE

Yet I took note of their distress 44
when I heard their cry;
for their sake I remembered my covenant 45
and out of his great love I relented.
I caused all who held them captive 46
to show them mercy.

TRUST IN LORD'S LOVE AND NOT IN OUR FALSE SENSE OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

I save you, me, your God, 47
and gather you from the nations,
that you may give thanks to my holy name
and glory in my praise.

Praise be to me, the God of Israel, 48
from everlasting to everlasting.

Let all the people say, "Amen!"

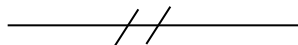
Praise me.

Book V Psalms 107 - 150

PSALM 107

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
³ those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.
- ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
⁵ They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.
⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
⁷ He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.
⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
⁹ for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.
- ¹⁰ Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness,
prisoners suffering in iron chains,
¹¹ because they rebelled against God's commands
and despised the plans of the Most High.
¹² So he subjected them to bitter labor;
they stumbled, and there was no one to help.
¹³ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness,
and broke away their chains.
¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
¹⁶ for he breaks down gates of bronze
and cuts through bars of iron.
- ¹⁷ Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
¹⁸ They loathed all food
and drew near the gates of death.
¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.
²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them;
he rescued them from the grave.
²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
²² Let them sacrifice thank offerings
and tell of his works with songs of joy.

- ²³ Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.
- ²⁴ They saw the works of the LORD,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.
- ²⁵ For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.
- ²⁶ They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.
- ²⁷ They reeled and staggered like drunkards;
they were at their wits' end.
- ²⁸ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
- ²⁹ He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.
- ³⁰ They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven.
- ³¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
- ³² Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders.
- ³³ He turned rivers into a desert,
flowing springs into thirsty ground,
- ³⁴ and fruitful land into a salt waste,
because of the wickedness of those who lived there.
- ³⁵ He turned the desert into pools of water
and the parched ground into flowing springs;
- ³⁶ there he brought the hungry to live,
and they founded a city where they could settle.
- ³⁷ They sowed fields and planted vineyards
that yielded a fruitful harvest;
- ³⁸ he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased,
and he did not let their herds diminish.
- ³⁹ Then their numbers decreased, and they were humbled
by oppression, calamity and sorrow;
- ⁴⁰ he who pours contempt on nobles
made them wander in a trackless waste.
- ⁴¹ But he lifted the needy out of their affliction
and increased their families like flocks.
- ⁴² The upright see and rejoice,
but all the wicked shut their mouths.
- ⁴³ Let the one who is wise heed these things
and ponder the loving deeds of the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 107 – STORIES OF LORD'S POWERFUL WORKS OF LOVING RESTORATION

(HISTORICAL)

Give thanks to me, for I YHWH am good;
my love endures forever.

THE REDEEMED HAVE VARIOUS STORIES THAT TELL OF LORD GIVING BACK LIFE

Let my redeemed tell their story—
those I redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those I gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.

THE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY (HUMBLLED) HAVE BEEN FED (RESTORED)

Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.

Then they cried out to me in their trouble,
and I delivered them from their distress.

I led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.

Let them give thanks to me for my [unfailing love]
and my wonderful deeds for mankind,
for I satisfy the thirsty
and fill the hungry with good things.

CAPTIVES (HUMBLLED) HAVE BEEN SET FREE (RESTORED)

Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness,
prisoners suffering in iron chains,
because they rebelled against my commands
and despised my plans, plans of the Most High.
So I subjected them to bitter labor;
they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

Then they cried to me in their trouble,
and I saved them from their distress.

I brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness,
and broke away their chains.

Let them give thanks to me for my [unfailing love]
and my wonderful deeds for mankind,
for I break down gates of bronze
and cut through bars of iron.

THE SPIRITUALLY SICK (HUMBLLED) HAVE BEEN HEALED (RESTORED)

Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.
They loathed all food
and drew near the gates of death.

Then they cried to me in their trouble,
and I saved them from their distress.

I sent out my word and healed them;
I rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to me for my [unfailing love]
and my wonderful deeds for mankind.
Let them sacrifice thank offerings
and tell of my works with songs of joy.

THOSE WITHOUT HOPE (HUMBLLED) HAVE BEEN GIVEN PEACE (RESTORED)

Some went **out on the sea** in ships; 23
 they were merchants on the mighty waters.
 They saw my works, works of mine, 24
 my wonderful deeds in the deep.
 For **I spoke and stirred up a tempest** 25
 that lifted high the waves.
 They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; 26
in their peril their courage melted away.
 They *reeled and staggered* like drunkards; 27
 they were at their wits' end.

Then they cried out to me in their trouble, 28
 and **I brought them out of their distress.**
I stilled the storm to a whisper; 29
the waves of the sea were hushed.
 They were glad when **it grew calm,** 30
 and **I guided them** to their desired haven.
 Let them **give thanks** to me for my **[unfailing love]** 31
 and **my wonderful deeds** for mankind.
 Let them **exalt me** in the assembly of the people 32
 and **praise me** in the council of the elders.

LORD'S POWER TO BOTH HUMBLE AND RESTORE**SUCH POWER OVER THE LAND**

I turned rivers into a desert, 33
 flowing springs into thirsty ground,
 and fruitful land into a salt waste, 34
 because of the wickedness of those who lived there.

I turned the desert into pools of water 35
 and the parched ground into flowing springs;
 there I brought the hungry to live, 36
 and they founded a city where they could settle.
 They sowed fields and planted vineyards 37
 that yielded a fruitful harvest;
 I blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, 38
 and I did not let their herds diminish.

SUCH POWER OVER THE PEOPLE

Then their numbers decreased, and they were humbled 39
 by oppression, calamity and sorrow;
I who pour contempt on nobles 40
 made them wander in a trackless waste.

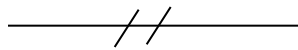
But I lifted the needy out of their affliction 41
 and increased their families like flocks.
 The upright see and rejoice, 42
 but all the wicked shut their mouths.

Let the one who is wise **heed these things** 43
 and **ponder my loving deeds,** loving deeds of YHWH.

PSALM 108

A song. A psalm of David.

- ¹ My heart, O God, is steadfast;
I will sing and make music with all my soul.
- ² Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.
- ³ I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;
I will sing of you among the peoples.
- ⁴ For great is your love, higher than the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.
- ⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.
- ⁶ Save us and help us with your right hand,
that those you love may be delivered.
- ⁷ God has spoken from his sanctuary:
“In triumph I will parcel out Shechem
and measure off the Valley of Sukkoth.
- ⁸ Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet,
Judah is my scepter.
- ⁹ Moab is my washbasin,
on Edom I toss my sandal;
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”
- ¹⁰ Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?
- ¹¹ Is it not you, God, you who have rejected us
and no longer go out with our armies?
- ¹² Give us aid against the enemy,
for human help is worthless.
- ¹³ With God we will gain the victory,
and he will trample down our enemies. (NIV)



PSALM 108 – LORD'S LOVE AND POWER FILLS OUR HEART WITH STRENGTH AND OUR SOUL WITH JOY

Your **heart**, is steadfast; 1
 Sing and make music with all your **soul**. 2
 Awake, harp and lyre!
 Awaken the dawn. 3
 Praise me, me YHWH, among the nations;
 Sing of me among the peoples.

LORD IS LOVING (WILLING)

For 4
great is my love, higher than the heavens;
my faithfulness reaches to the skies.
I am exalted, as God, above the heavens; 5
 let **my glory** be over all the earth.

... AND LORD WILL DELIVER

I save you and help you with my right hand, 6
 that those **I love** may be delivered.

LORD IS POWERFUL (ABLE)**LORD ASSERTS HIS SOVEREIGNTY**

I have spoken from my sanctuary: 7

CITIES

“In triumph I will parcel out Shechem
 and measure off the Valley of Sukkoth.

ISRAELI TRIBES

Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine; 8
 Ephraim is my helmet,
 Judah is my scepter.

ENEMIES

Moab is my washbasin, 9
 on Edom I toss my sandal;
 over Philistia I shout in triumph.”

LORD IS OUR ONE AND ONLY TRUE HOPE; OUR TIMES ARE IN HIS LOVING HANDS

Who will bring you to the fortified city? 10
Who will lead you to Edom?

LORD IS THE ONE WITH POWER TO HUMBLE

Is it not I, I God, I who have rejected you 11
 and no longer go out with your armies?

LORD IS THE ONE WITH POWER TO RESTORE

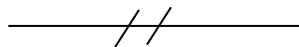
I give you aid against the enemy, 12
 for **human help is worthless**.
With me you will gain the victory, 13
 and you will trample down your enemies.

PSALM 109

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ My God, whom I praise,
do not remain silent,
² for people who are wicked and deceitful
have opened their mouths against me;
they have spoken against me with lying tongues.
³ With words of hatred they surround me;
they attack me without cause.
⁴ In return for my friendship they accuse me,
but I am a man of prayer.
⁵ They repay me evil for good,
and hatred for my friendship.
- ⁶ Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy;
let an accuser stand at his right hand.
⁷ When he is tried, let him be found guilty,
and may his prayers condemn him.
⁸ May his days be few;
may another take his place of leadership.
⁹ May his children be fatherless
and his wife a widow.
¹⁰ May his children be wandering beggars;
may they be driven from their ruined homes.
¹¹ May a creditor seize all he has;
may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor.
¹² May no one extend kindness to him
or take pity on his fatherless children.
¹³ May his descendants be cut off,
their names blotted out from the next generation.
¹⁴ May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD;
may the sin of his mother never be blotted out.
¹⁵ May their sins always remain before the LORD,
that he may blot out their name from the earth.
- ¹⁶ For he never thought of doing a kindness,
but hounded to death the poor
and the needy and the brokenhearted.
¹⁷ He loved to pronounce a curse—
may it come back on him.
He found no pleasure in blessing—
may it be far from him.

- ¹⁸ He wore cursing as his garment;
it entered into his body like water,
into his bones like oil.
- ¹⁹ May it be like a cloak wrapped about him,
like a belt tied forever around him.
- ²⁰ May this be the LORD's payment to my accusers,
to those who speak evil of me.
- ²¹ But you, Sovereign LORD,
help me for your name's sake;
out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.
- ²² For I am poor and needy,
and my heart is wounded within me.
- ²³ I fade away like an evening shadow;
I am shaken off like a locust.
- ²⁴ My knees give way from fasting;
my body is thin and gaunt.
- ²⁵ I am an object of scorn to my accusers;
when they see me, they shake their heads.
- ²⁶ Help me, LORD my God;
save me according to your unfailing love.
- ²⁷ Let them know that it is your hand,
that you, LORD, have done it.
- ²⁸ While they curse, may you bless;
may those who attack me be put to shame,
but may your servant rejoice.
- ²⁹ May my accusers be clothed with disgrace
and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.
- ³⁰ With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD;
in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him.
- ³¹ For he stands at the right hand of the needy,
to save their lives from those who would condemn them. (NIV)



PSALM 109 – LORD WALKS WITH US TO SEE US THROUGH OTHER'S CONDEMNATION OF US

I God, whom you praise, 1
do not remain silent,

RECEIVING CONDEMNATION FROM A SUPPOSED FRIEND

for people who are wicked and deceitful 2
have opened their mouths against you;
they have spoken against you with lying tongues. 3
With words of hatred they surround you;
they attack you without cause. 4
In return for your friendship they accuse you,
but you are a man of prayer. 5
They repay you evil for good,
and hatred for your friendship.

HOW BAD IT CAN SOMETIMES MAKE US FEEL

Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy; 6
let an accuser stand at his right hand.
When he is tried, let him be found guilty, 7
and may his prayers condemn him.
May his days be few; 8
may another take his place of leadership.
May his children be fatherless 9
and his wife a widow. 10
May his children be wandering beggars;
may they be driven from their ruined homes. 11
May a creditor seize all he has;
may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor. 12
May no one extend kindness to him
or take pity on his fatherless children. 13
May his descendants be cut off,
their names blotted out from the next generation. 14
May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before YHWH;
may the sin of his mother never be blotted out. 15
May their sins always remain before me, YHWH,
that I may blot out their name from the earth.

CHARGES AGAINST SUCH EVIL DOERS

For 16
he never thought of doing a kindness,
but hounded to death the poor
and the needy and the brokenhearted. 17
He loved to pronounce a curse—
may it come back on him.
He found no pleasure in blessing—
may it be far from him. 18
He wore cursing as his garment;
it entered into his body like water,
into his bones like oil.

PAYMENTS TO SUCH EVIL DOERS

May it be like a cloak wrapped about him, 19
 like a belt tied forever around him. 20
 May this be my payment to your accusers,
 to those who speak evil of you.

LORD KNOWS HOW IT BURDENS US

But I, Sovereign YHWH, 21
 help you for my name's sake;
 out of the goodness of my love, deliver you.

For you are poor and needy, 22
 and your heart is wounded within you.
 You fade away like an evening shadow; 23
 You are shaken off like a locust.
 Your knees give way from fasting; 24
 Your body is thin and gaunt.
 You are an object of scorn to your accusers; 25
 when they see you, they shake their heads.

LORD'S SALVATION FOR THE NEEDY

I help you, I YHWH your God; 26
 I save you according to my [unfailing love].
 I let them know that it is my hand, 27
 that I, YHWH, have done it.

While they curse, may I bless; 28
 may those who attack me be put to shame,
 but may my servant rejoice.
 May your accusers be clothed with disgrace 29
 and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.

LORD'S SALVATION IS FOR HIS GLORY

With your mouth you will greatly extol me; 30
 in the great throng of worshipers you will praise me.

For I stand at the right hand of the needy, 31
 to save their lives from those who would condemn them.

PSALM 110

Of David. A psalm.

¹ The LORD says to my lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

² The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying,
“Rule in the midst of your enemies!”

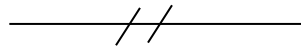
³ Your troops will be willing
on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy splendor,
your young men will come to you
like dew from the morning’s womb.

⁴ The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind:
“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”

⁵ The Lord is at your right hand;
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

⁶ He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

⁷ He will drink from a brook along the way,
and so he will lift his head high. (NIV)



PSALM 110 – LORD EXALTS THE ONE AT HIS RIGHT HAND

LORD MAKES HIM LORD

I, YHWH say to your lord:

1

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

LORD MAKES HIM KING

I, YHWH will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying,

2

“Rule in the midst of your enemies!”
Your troops will be willing
on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy splendor,
your young men will come to you
like dew from the morning’s womb.

3

LORD MAKES HIM PRIEST

I, YHWH have sworn

4

and will not change my mind:
“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”

LORD MAKES HIM JUDGE

The Lord is at my right hand;

5

he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

6

He will drink from a brook along the way,
and so he will lift his head high.

7

PSALM 111

¹ Praise the LORD.

I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

² Great are the works of the LORD;
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wonders to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

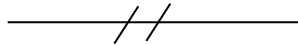
⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
giving them the lands of other nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ They are established for ever and ever,
enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He provided redemption for his people;
he ordained his covenant forever—
holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise. (NIV)



PSALM 111 – PRAISE FOR THE WORKS OF LORD

Praise me, YHWH.

1

- (כ) You will extol me, YHWH, with all your heart
 (ב) in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

- (ג) Great are my works, works of YHWH;
 (ד) they are pondered by all who delight in them.
 (ה) Glorious and majestic are my deeds,
 (ו) and my righteousness endures forever.
 (ז) I have caused my wonders to be remembered;
 (ח) I, YHWH, am gracious and compassionate.

2

3

4

- (ט) I provide food for those who fear me;
 (י) I remember my covenant forever.

5

- (יא) I have shown my people the power of my works,
 (יב) giving them the lands of other nations.
 (יג) The works of my hands are faithful and just;
 (יד) all my precepts are trustworthy.
 (טו) They are established for ever and ever,
 (טז) enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

6

7

8

- (יז) I provided redemption for my people;
 (יח) I ordained my covenant forever—
 (יט) holy and awesome is my name.

9

- (כ) The fear of me, YHWH, is the beginning of wisdom;
 (כא) all who follow my precepts have good understanding.

10

- (כב) To me belongs eternal praise.

acrostic 6/9

PSALM 112

¹ Praise the LORD.

Blessed are those who fear the LORD,
who find great delight in his commands.

² Their children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴ Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.

⁵ Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,
who conduct their affairs with justice.

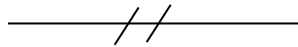
⁶ Surely the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be remembered forever.

⁷ They will have no fear of bad news;
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

⁹ They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn will be lifted high in honor.

¹⁰ The wicked will see and be vexed,
they will gnash their teeth and waste away;
the longings of the wicked will come to nothing. (NIV)



PSALM 112 – FEARING LORD AND DELIGHTING IN HIS WILL (SEE PSALM 1)

Praise me, YHWH.

1

- (כ) Blessed are those who **fear me, YHWH,**
 (ב) who **find great delight in my commands.**

BLESSING TO THE RIGHTEOUS WHO FEAR LORD

(ג) Their children will be mighty in the land; 2

(ד) the generation of the upright will be blessed.

(ה) Wealth and riches are in their houses, 3

(ו) and their righteousness endures forever.

(ז) Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, 4

(ח) for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.

(ט) Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, 5

(י) who conduct their affairs with justice.

(יא) Surely the righteous will never be shaken; 6

(יב) they will be remembered forever.

(יג) They will **have no fear of bad news;** 7

(יד) their **hearts are steadfast, trusting in me, YHWH.**

(טו) Their **hearts are secure,** they will **have no fear;** 8

(טז) **in the end** they will look in triumph on their foes.

(יז) They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, 9

(יח) their righteousness endures forever;

(יט) their horn will be lifted high in honor.

WARNING TO THE WICKED WHO DO NOT FEAR LORD

(כ) The wicked will see and be vexed, 10

(כא) they will gnash their teeth and waste away;

(כב) the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.

PSALM 113

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, you his servants;
praise the name of the LORD.

² Let the name of the LORD be praised,
both now and forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴ The LORD is exalted over all the nations,
his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,

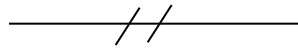
⁶ who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?

⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

⁸ he seats them with princes,
with the princes of his people.

⁹ He settles the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 113 – CELEBRATING LORD – FOR WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE DOES

Praise me, YHWH.

1

LORD ALONE AND NO OTHER

Praise **me** YHWH, you my servants;
praise **my** name YHWH.

Let **my** name YHWH, be praised,
both now and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,
my name YHWH, is to be praised.

2

3

LORD WHO IS EXALTED ABOVE ALL – AND COMPARES TO NONE OTHER

I YHWH am exalted over all the nations,
my glory above the heavens.

4

Who is like me, YHWH your God,
the One who sits enthroned on high,
who stoops down to look
on the heavens and the earth?

5

6

LORD'S WORKS

I raise the poor from the dust
and lift the needy from the ash heap;

I seat them with princes,
with the princes of my people.

I settle the childless woman in her home
as a happy mother of children.

7

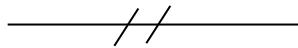
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9

Praise me, YHWH.

PSALM 114

- ¹ When Israel came out of Egypt,
 Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,
² Judah became God's sanctuary,
 Israel his dominion.
- ³ The sea looked and fled,
 the Jordan turned back;
⁴ the mountains leaped like rams,
 the hills like lambs.
- ⁵ Why was it, sea, that you fled?
 Why, Jordan, did you turn back?
⁶ Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,
 you hills, like lambs?
- ⁷ Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,
 at the presence of the God of Jacob,
⁸ who turned the rock into a pool,
 the hard rock into springs of water. (NIV)



PSALM 114 – AWESOMENESS OF LORD'S PRESENCE

WHEN LORD CAME TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE

When Israel came out of Egypt,

1

Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,

Judah became my sanctuary,

2

Israel my dominion.

...TO BRING ABOUT HIS REDEMPTION**EVEN ALL OF NATURE GOT OUT OF HIS WAY**

The sea looked and fled,

3

the Jordan turned back;

the mountains leaped like rams,

4

the hills like lambs.

WHY?

Why was it, sea, that you fled?

5

Why, Jordan, did you turn back?

Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,

6

you hills, like lambs?

BECAUSE... LORD'S PRESENCE(!) AND POWER

Tremble, earth,

7

at my presence, the presence of the Lord,

at my presence, the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turned

8

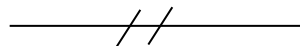
the rock into a pool,

the hard rock into springs of water.

PSALM 115

- ¹ Not to us, LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.
- ² Why do the nations say,
“Where is their God?”
- ³ Our God is in heaven;
he does whatever pleases him.
- ⁴ But their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.
- ⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.
- ⁶ They have ears, but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.
- ⁷ They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk,
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.
- ⁸ Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.
- ⁹ All you Israelites, trust in the LORD—
he is their help and shield.
- ¹⁰ House of Aaron, trust in the LORD—
he is their help and shield.
- ¹¹ You who fear him, trust in the LORD—
he is their help and shield.
- ¹² The LORD remembers us and will bless us:
He will bless his people Israel,
he will bless the house of Aaron,
¹³ he will bless those who fear the LORD—
small and great alike.
- ¹⁴ May the LORD cause you to flourish,
both you and your children.
- ¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- ¹⁶ The highest heavens belong to the LORD,
but the earth he has given to mankind.
- ¹⁷ It is not the dead who praise the LORD,
those who go down to the place of silence;
- ¹⁸ it is we who extol the LORD,
both now and forevermore.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 115 – ALL LORD WANTS IS FOR US TO TRUST HIM FOR HIS LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS – AS OUR ALLY

Not to you, not to yourselves 1
 but to my name be the glory,
 because of my love and faithfulness.

NATIONS THAT ARE GODLESS, OR TRUST IN ALLIANCES WITH FALSE GODS

Why do the nations say, 2
 “Where is your God?”
 Your God is in heaven; 3
 I do whatever pleases me.

But their idols are silver and gold, 4
 made by human hands.
 They have mouths, but cannot speak, 5
 eyes, but cannot see.
 They have ears, but cannot hear, 6
 noses, but cannot smell.
 They have hands, but cannot feel, 7
 feet, but cannot walk,
 nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

Those who make them will be like them, 8
 and so will all who trust in them.

NATIONS THAT LOOK TO LORD AS THEIR ALLY

All you Israelites, trust in me, YHWH — 9
 I am your help and shield.
 House of Aaron, trust in me, YHWH — 10
 I am your help and shield.
 You who fear me, trust in me, YHWH — 11
 I am your help and shield.

I, YHWH, remember you and will bless you: 12
 I will bless my people Israel,
 I will bless the house of Aaron,
 I will bless those who fear me, YHWH — 13
 small and great alike.

May I, YHWH cause you to flourish, 14
 both you and your children.
 May you be blessed by me, YHWH, 15
 the Maker of heaven and earth.

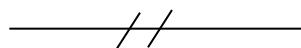
The highest heavens belong to me, YHWH, 16
 but the earth I have given to mankind.
 It is not the dead who praise me, YHWH, 17
 those who go down to the place of silence;
 it is you who extol me, YHWH, 18
 both now and forevermore.

Praise me, YHWH.

PSALM 116

- ¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
- ² Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
- ³ The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.
- ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“LORD, save me!”
- ⁵ The LORD is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- ⁶ The LORD protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- ⁷ Return to your rest, my soul,
for the LORD has been good to you.
- ⁸ For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
- ⁹ that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁰ I trusted in the LORD when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted”;
- ¹¹ in my alarm I said,
“Everyone is a liar.”
- ¹² What shall I return to the LORD
for all his goodness to me?
- ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful servants.
- ¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, LORD;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.
- ¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD—
in your midst, Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 116 – LORD'S LOVING GOODNESS DRAWS US TO CALL ON HIM AND GIVE THANKS

LORD'S LOVING ACTS OF GOODNESS TOWARD US

Love me, YHWH, for **I heard** your voice; 1

I heard your cry for mercy.

Because **I turned** my ear to you, 2

Call on me as long as you live.

The cords of death entangled you, 3

the anguish of the grave came over you;

You were overcome by distress and sorrow.

Then you called on my name, the name of YHWH: 4

“YHWH, save me!”

I, YHWH, am gracious and righteous; 5

your God is **full of compassion.**

I, YHWH, protect the unwary; 6

when you were brought low, **I saved you.**

Return to your rest, your soul, 7

for **I, YHWH, have been good to you.**

For **I, YHWH, have delivered you** from death, 8

your eyes from tears,

your feet from stumbling,

that you may **walk before me, YHWH** 9

in the land of the living.

You **trusted in me**, YHWH, when you said, 10

“I am greatly afflicted”;

in your alarm you said, 11

“Everyone is a liar.”

OUR RESPONSE BACK TOWARD LORD

What shall you return to me, YHWH 12

for all my goodness to you?

Lift up the cup of salvation 13

and call on my name, the name of YHWH.

Fulfill your vows to me, YHWH, 14

in the presence of all my people.

Precious in my sight, the sight of YHWH 15

is the death of my faithful servants.

Truly you are my servant, a servant of YHWH; 16

Serve me just as your mother did;

I have freed you from your chains.

Sacrifice a thank offering to me 17

and call on my name, the name of YHWH.

Fulfill your vows to me, YHWH 18

in the presence of all my people,

in the courts of my house, the house of YHWH — 19

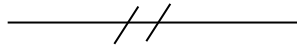
in my midst, Jerusalem.

Praise me, YHWH.

PSALM 117

¹ Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.
² For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 117 – LORD'S FAITHFUL LOVE ENDURES FOREVER TO ALL

Praise me YHWH, all you nations;
extol me, all you peoples.

1

For great is my love toward you,
and my faithfulness, the faithfulness of YHWH endures forever.

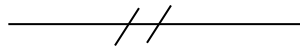
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Praise me, YHWH.

PSALM 118

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ² Let Israel say:
“His love endures forever.”
- ³ Let the house of Aaron say:
“His love endures forever.”
- ⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say:
“His love endures forever.”
- ⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD;
he brought me into a spacious place.
- ⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?
- ⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper.
I look in triumph on my enemies.
- ⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in humans.
- ⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.
- ¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.
- ¹¹ They surrounded me on every side,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.
- ¹² They swarmed around me like bees,
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them down.
- ¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall,
but the LORD helped me.
- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:
“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”
- ¹⁶ The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”
- ¹⁷ I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
- ¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.
- ²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
- ²³ the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
- ²⁵ LORD, save us!
LORD, grant us success!
- ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless you.
- ²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the horns of the altar.
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
- ²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever. (NIV)



PSALM 118 – ENTERING INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE ONE WHO LOVES YOU

(Give thanks to me, YHWH, for I am good;
my love endures forever.) 1

REFLECTIONS ON LORD'S GOODNESS

A – LORD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER – FOR ANY WHO FEAR HIM

Let Israel say: 2
“His love endures forever.”
Let the house of Aaron say: 3
“His love endures forever.”
Let those who fear me, YHWH, say: 4
“His love endures forever.”

B – LORD IS PRESENT (LORD WITH US)

When hard pressed, you cried to me, YHWH; 5
I brought you into a spacious place.
I, YHWH, am with you; you will not be afraid. 6
What can mere mortals do to you?
I, YHWH, am with you; I am your helper. 7
You look in triumph on your enemies.

TAKE REFUGE IN LORD

It is better to take refuge in me, YHWH 8
than to trust in humans.
It is better to take refuge in me, YHWH 9
than to trust in princes.

BY LORD'S NAME – WE ARE SAVED FROM BEING OVERCOME BY ENEMIES

All the nations surrounded you, 10
but
in my name, the name of YHWH, you cut them down.
They surrounded you on every side, 11
but
in my name, the name of YHWH, you cut them down.
They swarmed around you like bees, 12
but
they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;
in my name, the name of YHWH you cut them down. 13
You were pushed back and about to fall,
but
I, YHWH, helped you.

BY LORD'S RIGHT HAND – WE ARE MIGHTELY SAVED

I, YHWH, am your strength and your defense; 14
I have become your salvation.
Shouts of joy and victory 15
resound in the tents of the righteous:
“My right hand, YHWH’s right hand, has done mighty things! 16
My right hand, YHWH’s right hand, is lifted high;
My right hand, YHWH’s right hand, has done mighty things!”
You will not die but live, 17
and will proclaim what I, YHWH, have done.
I, YHWH, have chastened you severely, 18
but I have not given you over to death.

C – ENTERING INTO LORD'S PRESENCE (US WITH LORD)

I^vopen for you the gates of the righteous; 19
 You will enter and give thanks to me, YHWH. 20
 This is my gate, the gate of YHWH
 through which the righteous may enter.

WHO HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO DRAW NEAR? IS IT NOT I, LORD?

You will give me thanks, for I^vanswered you; 21
I have become your salvation.

The stone the builders rejected 22
 has become the cornerstone;

I, YHWH, have done this, 23

and it is marvelous in your eyes. 24

I, YHWH, have done it this very day; 24

rejoice today and be glad.

I, YHWH, save you! 25

I, YHWH, grant you success!

LORD IS OUR GOD

Blessed is he who comes in my name, the name of YHWH. 26

From my house, the house of YHWH, you bless me.

I, YHWH, am God, 27

and **I have** made my light shine on you.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
 up to the horns of the altar.

I am your God, and you will praise me; 28

I am your God, and you will exalt me.

CONCLUSION: LORD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

(Give thanks to me YHWH, for **I am good;** 29
my love endures forever.)

PSALM 119 – MEDITATIONS ON LORD'S LAW (HIS WILL)

⌘ Aleph

- (⌘) Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, 1
 who walk according to my **law**, the law of YHWH.
- (⌘) Blessed are those who keep my **statutes** 2
 and seek me with all their heart—
- (⌘) they do no wrong 3
 but follow my **ways**.
- (⌘) I have laid down **precepts** 4
 that are to be fully obeyed.
- (⌘) Oh, that your ways were steadfast 5
 in obeying my **decrees!**
- (⌘) Then you would not be put to shame 6
 when you consider all my **commands**.
- (⌘) You will praise me with an upright heart 7
 as you learn my righteous **laws**.
- (⌘) You will obey my **decrees**; 8
I do not utterly forsake you.

⌘ Beth

- (⌘) How can a young person stay on the path of purity? 9
 By living according to my **word**.
- (⌘) You seek me with all your heart; 10
I do not let you stray from my **commands**.
- (⌘) You have hidden your **word** in your heart 11
 that you might not sin against me.
- (⌘) Praise be to me, YHWH; 12
I teach you my **decrees**.
- (⌘) With my lips you recount 13
 all the **laws** that come from my mouth.
- (⌘) You rejoice in following my **statutes** 14
 as one rejoices in great riches.
- (⌘) You meditate on my **precepts** 15
 and consider my **ways**.
- (⌘) You delight in my **decrees**; 16
 You will not neglect my **word**.

⌘ Gimel

- (⌘) **I am good** to my servant while you live, 17
 that you may obey my **word**.
- (⌘) I open my eyes that you may see 18
 wonderful things in my **law**.
- (⌘) You are a stranger on earth; 19
I do not hide my commands from you.
- (⌘) Your soul is consumed with longing 20
 for my **laws** at all times.
- (⌘) **I rebuke the arrogant**, who are accursed, 21
 those who stray from my **commands**.
- (⌘) Remove from yourself their scorn and contempt, 22
 for you keep your **statutes**.
- (⌘) Though rulers sit together and slander you, 23
 my servant will meditate on my **decrees**.
- (⌘) My **statutes** are your delight; 24
 they are your counselors.

7 Daleth

- (7) You are laid low in the dust; 25
I preserve your life according to my **word**.
- (7) You gave an account of your ways and I answered you; 26
I teach you my **decrees**.
- (7) **I cause you to understand** the way of my **precepts**, 27
that you may meditate on my wonderful deeds.
- (7) Your soul is weary with sorrow; 28
I strengthen you according to my **word**.
- (7) **I keep you** from deceitful ways; 29
I am gracious to you and teach you my **law**.
- (7) You have chosen the way of faithfulness; 30
You have set your heart on my **laws**.
- (7) You hold fast to my **statutes**, statutes of YHWH; 31
I do not let you be put to shame.
- (7) You run in the path of my **commands**, 32
for **I have broadened your understanding**.

7 He

- (7) **I teach** you, I, YHWH, the way of my **decrees**, 33
that you may follow it to the end.
- (7) **I give** you **understanding**, so that you may keep my **law** 34
and obey it with all your heart.
- (7) **I direct** you in the path of my **commands**, 35
for there you find delight.
- (7) **I turn your heart** toward my **statutes** 36
and not toward selfish gain.
- (7) I turn your eyes away from worthless things; 37
I preserve your life according to my **word**.
- (7) **I fulfill my promise** to my servant, 38
so that I may be feared.
- (7) **I take away** the disgrace you dread, 39
for my **laws** are good.
- (7) How you long for my **precepts!** 40
In my righteousness **I preserve your life**.

1 Waw

- (1) **May my [unfailing love] come to you,** 41
my salvation, according to my promise;
- (1) then you can answer anyone who taunts you, 42
for you **trust in my word**.
- (1) **I never take my word of truth from your mouth,** 43
for you have put your hope in my **laws**.
- (1) You will always obey my **law**, 44
for ever and ever.
- (1) You will walk about in freedom, 45
for you have sought out my **precepts**.
- (1) You will speak of my **statutes** before kings 46
and will not be put to shame,
- (1) for you delight in my **commands** 47
because you love them.
- (1) You reach out for my **commands**, which you love, 48
that you may meditate on my **decrees**.

ז Zayin

- (ז) Remember my **word** to my servant, 49
 for **I have given you hope.**
- (ז) Your comfort in your suffering is this: 50
My promise preserves your life.
- (ז) The arrogant mock you unmercifully, 51
 but you do not turn from my **law.**
- (ז) You remember, my ancient **laws**, the ancient laws of YHWH 52
 and you find comfort in them.
- (ז) Indignation grips you because of the wicked, 53
 who have forsaken my **law.**
- (ז) My **decrees** are the theme of your song 54
 wherever you lodge.
- (ז) In the night, you remember my name, the name of YHWH, 55
 that you may keep my **law.**
- (ז) This has been your practice: 56
 You obey my **precepts.**

ח Heth

- (ח) I am your portion, I YHWH; 57
 You have promised to obey my **words.**
- (ח) You have **sought my face** with all your heart; 58
I am gracious to you according to my **promise.**
- (ח) You have considered your ways 59
 and have turned your steps to my **statutes.**
- (ח) You will hasten and not delay 60
 to obey my **commands.**
- (ח) Though the wicked bind you with ropes, 61
 you will not forget my **law.**
- (ח) At midnight you rise to give me thanks 62
 for my righteous **laws.**
- (ח) You are a friend to all who fear me, 63
 to all who follow my **precepts.**
- (ח) The **earth is filled with my love, mine, the love of YHWH;** 64
I teach you my **decrees.**

ט Teth

- (ט) **I do good to my servant** 65
 according to my **word**, mine, YHWH.
- (ט) **I teach you knowledge and good judgment,** 66
 for you **trust my commands.**
- (ט) Before you were afflicted you went astray, 67
 but now you obey my **word.**
- (ט) **I am good, and what I do is good;** 68
I teach you my **decrees.**
- (ט) Though the arrogant have smeared you with lies, 69
 you keep my **precepts** with all your heart.
- (ט) Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, 70
 but you delight in my **law.**
- (ט) It was good for you to be afflicted 71
 so that you might learn my **decrees.**
- (ט) **law** from my mouth is more precious to you 72
 than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

• **Yodh**

- (7) **My hands made you and formed you;** 73
I give you understanding to learn my commands.
- (7) May those who fear me rejoice when they see you, 74
 for you have put your hope in my **word**.
- (7) You know that **my laws, the laws of YHWH, are righteous,** 75
 and that **in faithfulness I have afflicted you.**
- (7) **May my [unfailing love] be your comfort,** 76
 according to my **promise** to my servant.
- (7) **Let my compassion come to you that you may live,** 77
 for my **law** is your delight.
- (7) May the arrogant be put to shame for wronging you without cause; 78
 but you will meditate on my **precepts**.
- (7) May those who fear me turn to you, 79
 those who understand my **statutes**.
- (7) May you wholeheartedly follow my **decrees,** 80
 that you may not be put to shame.

• **Kaph**

- (7) **Your soul faints with longing for my salvation,** 81
 but you have put your hope in my **word**.
- (7) Your eyes fail, looking for my **promise;** 82
 You say, “When will you comfort me?”
- (7) Though you are like a wineskin in the smoke, 83
 you do not forget my **decrees**.
- (7) How long must my servant wait? 84
 When will I punish your persecutors?
- (7) The arrogant dig pits to trap you, 85
 contrary to my **law**.
- (7) **All my commands are trustworthy;** 86
I help you, for you are being persecuted without cause.
- (7) They almost wiped you from the earth, 87
 but you have not forsaken my **precepts**.
- (7) **In my [unfailing love] I preserve your life,** 88
 that you may obey the **statutes** of my mouth.

• **Lamedh**

- (7) **My word, mine, the word of YHWH’s, is eternal;** 89
it stands firm in the heavens.
- (7) **My faithfulness continues** through all generations; 90
 I established the earth, and it endures.
- (7) **My laws endure** to this day, 91
 for all things serve me.
- (7) If my **law** had not been your delight, 92
 you would have perished in your affliction.
- (7) You will **never forget my precepts,** 93
 for **by them I have preserved your life.**
- (7) **I save you, for you are mine;** 94
 You have sought out my **precepts**.
- (7) The wicked are waiting to destroy you, 95
 but you will ponder my **statutes**.
- (7) To all perfection you see a limit, 96
 but my **commands** are boundless.

מ Mem

- (7) Oh, how you love my **law!** 97
You meditate on it all day long.
- (7) My **commands** are always with you 98
and make you wiser than your enemies.
- (7) You have more insight than all your teachers, 99
for you meditate on my **statutes**.
- (7) You have more understanding than the elders, 100
for you obey my **precepts**.
- (7) You have kept your feet from every evil path 101
so that you might obey my **word**.
- (7) You have not departed from my **laws**, 102
for **I myself have taught you**.
- (7) How sweet are my **words** to your taste, 103
sweeter than honey to your mouth!
- (7) You gain understanding from my **precepts**; 104
therefore you hate every wrong path.

נ Nun

- (1) **My word** is a lamp for your feet, 105
a light on your path.
- (1) You have taken an oath and confirmed it, 106
that you will follow my righteous **laws**.
- (1) You have suffered much; 107
I preserve your life, I, YHWH, according to my word.
- (1) **I accept, I YHWH, the willing praise of your mouth,** 108
and teach you my laws.
- (1) Though you constantly take your life in your hands, 109
you will not forget my **law**.
- (1) The wicked have set a snare for you, 110
but you have not strayed from my **precepts**.
- (1) **My statutes are your heritage** forever; 111
they are the joy of your heart.
- (1) Your heart is set on keeping my **decrees** 112
to the very end.

ס Samekh

- (7) You hate double-minded people, 113
but you love my **law**.
- (7) **I am your refuge and your shield;** 114
You have put your hope in my **word**.
- (7) (Keep) away from yourself, other evildoers, 115
that you may keep the **commands** of mine, mine God('s)!
- (7) **(I) sustain you,** me God, according to my **promise**, and you will live; 116
do not let your hopes be dashed.
- (7) **(I) uphold you,** and you will be delivered; 117
You will always have regard for my **decrees**.
- (7) **I reject** all who stray from my **decrees**, 118
for their delusions come to nothing.
- (7) All the wicked of the earth I discard like dross; 119
therefore you love my **statutes**.
- (7) You flesh trembles in fear of me; 120
You stand in awe of my **laws**.

- א Ayin**
 (v) You have done what is righteous and just; 121
 (I) do not leave you to your oppressors.
 (v) (I) ensure my servant's well-being; 122
 (I) do not let the arrogant oppress you.
 (v) Your eyes fail, looking for my salvation, 123
 looking for my righteous **promise**.
 (v) (I) deal with my servant according to my love 124
 and teach you my **decrees**.
 (v) You are my servant; (I) give you discernment 125
 that you may understand my **statutes**.
 (v) It is time for me to act, me YHWH; 126
 my **law** is being broken.
 (v) Because you love my **commands** 127
 more than gold, more than pure gold,
 (v) and because you consider all my **precepts** right, 128
 you hate every wrong path.
- ב Pe**
 (v) My **statutes** are wonderful; 129
 therefore you obey them.
 (v) The unfolding of my **words** gives light; 130
 it gives understanding to the simple.
 (v) You open your mouth and pant, 131
 longing for my **commands**.
 (v) (I) turn to you and have mercy on you, 132
 as I always do to those who love my name.
 (v) (I) direct your footsteps according to my **word**; 133
 let(ing) no sin rule over you.
 (v) (I) **redeem** you from human oppression, 134
 that you may obey my **precepts**.
 (v) (I) make my face shine on my servant 135
 and teach you my **decrees**.
 (v) Streams of tears flow from your eyes, 136
 for my **law** is not obeyed.
- ג Tsadhe**
 (v) I am righteous, I YHWH, 137
 and my **laws** are right.
 (v) The **statutes** I have laid down are righteous; 138
 they are fully trustworthy.
 (v) You zeal wears you out, 139
 for your enemies ignore my **words**.
 (v) My **promises** have been thoroughly tested, 140
 and my servant loves them.
 (v) Though you are lowly and despised, 141
 you do not forget my **precepts**.
 (v) My righteousness is everlasting 142
 and my **law** is true.
 (v) Trouble and distress have come upon you, 143
 but my **commands** give you delight.
 (v) My **statutes** are always righteous; 144
 (I) give you **understanding** that you may live.

פ Qoph

- (פ) You call with all your heart; **(I) answer** you, I YHWH, 145
and you will obey my **decrees**.
- (פ) You call out to me; **(I) save** you 146
and you will keep my **statutes**.
- (פ) You rise before dawn and cry for help; 147
You have put your hope in my **word**.
- (פ) Your eyes stay open through the watches of the night, 148
that you may meditate on my **promises**.
- (פ) **(I) hear** your voice in accordance with my love; 149
(I) preserve your life, I YHWH, according to my **laws**.
- (פ) Those who devise wicked schemes are near, 150
but they are far from my **law**.
- (פ) Yet **I am near, I YHWH**, 151
and all my **commands** are true.
- (פ) Long ago you learned from my **statutes** 152
that **I established them to last forever**.

ר Resh

- (ר) **(I) look on your suffering** and deliver you, 153
for you have not forgotten my **law**.
- (ר) **(I) defend your cause** and redeem you; 154
(I) preserve your life according to my **promise**.
- (ר) Salvation is far from the wicked, 155
for they do not seek out my **decrees**.
- (ר) **My compassion, compassion of YHWH, is great;** 156
(I) preserve your life according to my **laws**.
- (ר) Many are the foes who persecute you, 157
but you have not turned from my **statutes**.
- (ר) You look on the faithless with loathing, 158
for they do not obey my **word**.
- (ר) See how you love my **precepts;** 159
(I) preserve your life, I YHWH, in accordance with my love.
- (ר) All **my words** are true; 160
all **my righteous laws** are eternal.

ש Sin and Shin

- (ש) Rulers persecute you without cause, 161
but your heart trembles at my **word**.
- (ש) You rejoice in my **promise** 162
like one who finds great spoil.
- (ש) You hate and detest falsehood 163
but you love my **law**.
- (ש) Seven times a day you praise me 164
for my righteous **laws**.
- (ש) Great peace have those who love my **law**, 165
and nothing can make them stumble.
- (ש) You wait for my salvation, YHWH, 166
and you follow my **commands**.
- (ש) You obey my **statutes**, 167
for you love them greatly.
- (ש) You obey me **precepts** and me **statutes**, 168
for all your ways are known to me.

ן Tav

- (ן) May your cry come before me, YHWH; 169
 (I) give you **understanding** according to my **word**.
- (ן) May your supplication come before me; 170
 (I) **deliver** you according to my **promise**.
- (ן) May your lips overflow with praise, 171
 for **I teach** you my **decrees**.
- (ן) May your tongue sing of my word, 172
 for all my **commands** are righteous.
- (ן) **May my hand be ready** to help you, 173
 for you have chosen my **precepts**.
- (ן) You long for my salvation, the salvation of YHWH, 174
 and my **law** gives you delight.
- (ן) (I) **let you live** that you may praise me, 175
 and may **my laws sustain you**.
- (ן) You have strayed like a lost sheep. 176
 (I) **seek my servant**,
 for you have not forgotten my **commands**.

PSALM 120

A song of ascents. [\(SAME LEADING COMMENT AS FOR PSALMS 120 – 134 \)](#)

¹ I call on the LORD in my distress,
and he answers me.

² Save me, LORD,
from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues.

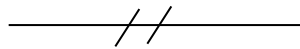
³ What will he do to you,
and what more besides,
you deceitful tongue?

⁴ He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows,
with burning coals of the broom bush.

⁵ Woe to me that I dwell in Meshek,
that I live among the tents of Kedar!

⁶ Too long have I lived
among those who hate peace.

⁷ I am for peace;
but when I speak, they are for war. (NIV)



PSALM 120 –LORD WALKS WITH US WHEN SURROUNDED BY THOSE WHO BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST US**LORD IS OUR PROTECTION AGAINST FALSE WITNESSES**

You call on me, YHWH, in your distress, 1
 and I answer you. 2
(I) save you, I YHWH,
 from lying lips
 and from deceitful tongues.

LORD WILL DEAL WITH THEM, VENGEANCE IS LORD'S

What will I do to them, 3
 and what more besides,
 their deceitful tongue?
I will punish them 4
 with a warrior's sharp arrows,
 with burning coals of the broom bush.

BURDEN OF CONTINUING TO STAND AS LIGHT AMIDST DARKNESS

Woe to you that you dwell in Meshek, 5
 that you live among the tents of Kedar!
 Too long have you lived 6
 among those who hate peace.
 You are for peace; 7
 but when you speak, they are for war.

PSALM 121

A song of ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

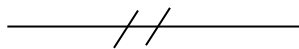
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore. (NIV)



PSALM 121 – HELP COMES FROM THE HAND OF LORD

LORD OUR HELPER

You lift up your eyes to the mountains—
where does your help come from?

1

**Your help comes from me, YHWH,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

2

FROM YOUR FEET...

I will not let your foot slip—
I who watch over you will not slumber;
indeed, I who watch over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

3

4

... TO OUR HEAD

I, YHWH, watch over you—
I YHWH am your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

5

6

OUR EVERYTHING

I, YHWH, will keep you from all harm—
I will watch over your life;
I YHWH will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

7

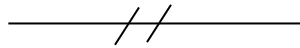
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Help comes from hand of LORD
The One *outside our space and time
Ever-present every where

PSALM 122

A song of ascents. Of David.

- ¹ I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- ² Our feet are standing
in your gates, Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.
- ⁴ That is where the tribes go up—
the tribes of the LORD—
to praise the name of the LORD
according to the statute given to Israel.
- ⁵ There stand the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May those who love you be secure.
- ⁷ May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.”
- ⁸ For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- ⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your prosperity. (NIV)



PSALM 122 – SEEKING PEACE FOR JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE**LEAVING ON A PILGRIMAGE...**

You rejoiced with those who said to you, 1

“Let us go to the house of YHWH.”

...AND ARRIVING THERE

Your feet are standing 2

in (the) gates, (of) Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM AS A CENTER OF RELIGION AND LAW (JUSTICE AND ORDER)

Jerusalem is built like a city 3

that is closely compacted together.

That is where the tribes go up— 4

my tribes, the tribes of YHWH —

to praise my name, the name of YHWH

according to the statute given to Israel.

There stand the thrones for judgment, 5

the thrones of the house of David.

A PRAYER FOR ITS PEACE

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 6

“May those who love it be secure.

May there be peace within its walls 7

and security within its citadels.”

For the sake of your family and friends, 8

you will say, “Peace be within it.”

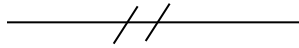
For the sake of my house, the house of YHWH our God, 9

You will seek its prosperity.

PSALM 123

A song of ascents.

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.
- ² As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he shows us his mercy.
- ³ Have mercy on us, LORD, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.
- ⁴ We have endured no end
of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud. (NIV)



PSALM 123 – WAITING AND LOOKING TO LORD OF MERCY

Lift up your eyes to me,
to me who sits enthroned in heaven. 1

As the eyes
of slaves look to the hand of their master,
 as the eyes
 of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,

so your eyes
 look to me, YHWH your God,
 ➤ till I show you my mercy.

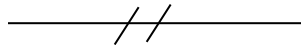
I have **mercy** on you, I YHWH, have **mercy** on you,
 for 3

you have endured no end of contempt.
You have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant,
 of contempt from the proud. 4

PSALM 124

A song of ascents. Of David.

- ¹ If the LORD had not been on our side—
let Israel say—
² if the LORD had not been on our side
when people attacked us,
³ they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;
⁴ the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,
⁵ the raging waters
would have swept us away.
- ⁶ Praise be to the LORD,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.
- ⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.
- ⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth. (NIV)



PSALM 124 – ACKNOWLEDGING LORD OUR HELP – IF NOT FOR HIM, IT WOULD BE DISASTEROUS**LORD SAVES US FROM DEATH, AND KEEPS US ALIVE IN FAMINE**

If I, YHWH, had not been on your side—	1
let Israel say—	
if I YHWH, had not been on your side	2
when people attacked you,	
they would have swallowed you alive	3
when their anger flared against you;	
the flood would have engulfed you,	4
the torrent would have swept over you,	
the raging waters	5
would have swept you away.	

ASCRIBE TO LORD POWER THAT SAVES AND SUSTAINS US

Praise be to me, YHWH,	6
who has not let you be torn by their teeth.	
You have escaped like a bird	7
from the fowler's snare;	
the snare has been broken,	
and you have escaped.	
Your help is in my name, the name of YHWH,	8
the Maker of heaven and earth.	

PSALM 125

A song of ascents.

¹ Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

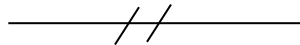
² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people
both now and forevermore.

³ The scepter of the wicked will not remain
over the land allotted to the righteous,
for then the righteous might use
their hands to do evil.

⁴ LORD, do good to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.

⁵ But those who turn to crooked ways
the LORD will banish with the evildoers.

Peace be on Israel. (NIV)



PSALM 125 – CONFIDENCE IN LORD OUR PEACE AND PROTECTION FROM EVIL**LORD SUPPORTS THOSE WHO TRUST HIM**

Those who trust in me, YHWH, are like Mount Zion, 1
 which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem, 2
 so **I, YHWH, surround my people**
 both now and forevermore.

LORD WILL DELIVER US FROM EVIL

The scepter of the wicked will not remain 3
 over the land allotted to the righteous,
 for then the righteous might use
 their hands to do evil.

LORD SUPPORTS THE UPRIGHT

I, YHWH, do good to those who are good, 4
 to those who are upright in heart.

But those who turn to crooked ways 5

I YHWH will banish with the evildoers.

Peace be on Israel.

PSALM 126

A song of ascents.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

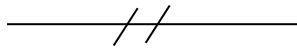
Then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD,
like streams in the Negev.

⁵ Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them. (NIV)



PSALM 126 – HOPE IN LORD OF RESTORATION – TO REPLACE OUR SORROWS WITH JOY

REMEMBERING HOW LORD'S RESTORATIONS FILL US WITH JOY

When **I, YHWH, restored** the fortunes of Zion, 1
 you were like those who dreamed.
 Your mouths were filled with laughter, 2
 your tongues with songs of **joy**.

Then it was said among the nations,
 “YHWH has done great things for them.”
I, YHWH, have done great things for you, 3
 and you are filled with **joy**.

SEEKING LORD'S RESTORATION ONCE AGAIN

I restore your fortunes, **I YHWH,** 4
 like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow with tears 5
 will reap with songs of **joy**.

Those who go out weeping, 6
 carrying seed to sow,
 will return with songs of **joy**,
 carrying sheaves with them.

PSALM 127

A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house,
the builders labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the guards stand watch in vain.

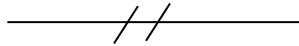
² In vain you rise early
and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat—
for he grants sleep to those he loves.

³ Children are a heritage from the LORD,
offspring a reward from him.

⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
are children born in one's youth.

⁵ Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame
when they contend with their opponents in court. (NIV)



PSALM 127 – ACKNOWLEDGING LORD'S ROLE IN ALL OUR WAYS – AT WORK AND AT HOME**AT WORK**

Unless I, YHWH, build the house,
the builders labor in vain.

1

Unless I, YHWH watch over the city,
the guards stand watch in vain.

In vain you rise early
and stay up late,

2

toiling for food to eat—
for I grant sleep to those I love.

IN THE HOME

Children are a heritage from me, YHWH,
offspring a reward from me.

3

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
are children born in one's youth.

4

Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.

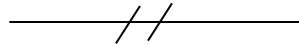
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They will not be put to shame
when they contend with their opponents in court.

PSALM 128

A song of ascents.

- ¹ Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
who walk in obedience to him.
- ² You will eat the fruit of your labor;
blessings and prosperity will be yours.
- ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
- ⁴ Yes, this will be the blessing
for the man who fears the LORD.
- ⁵ May the LORD bless you from Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
- ⁶ May you live to see your children's children—
peace be on Israel. (NIV)



PSALM 128 – BLESSING COMES TO THOSE WHO FEAR LORD OUR PROVIDER

Blessed are all who **fear** me YHWH,
 who walk in obedience to me. 1

BLESSING AT WORK

You will eat the fruit of your labor;
 blessings and prosperity will be yours. 2

BLESSING IN THE HOME

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
 within your house; 3
 your children will be like olive shoots
 around your table.

Yes, this will be the **blessing**
 for the man who **fears** me, YHWH. 4

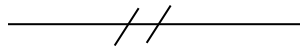
May **I, YHWH, bless** you from Zion; 5

may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
 all the days of your life.
 May you live to see your children's children—
 peace be on Israel. 6

PSALM 129

A song of ascents.

- ¹“They have greatly oppressed me from my youth,”
let Israel say;
- ²“they have greatly oppressed me from my youth,
but they have not gained the victory over me.
- ³Plowmen have plowed my back
and made their furrows long.
- ⁴But the LORD is righteous;
he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.”
- ⁵May all who hate Zion
be turned back in shame.
- ⁶May they be like grass on the roof,
which withers before it can grow;
- ⁷a reaper cannot fill his hands with it,
nor one who gathers fill his arms.
- ⁸May those who pass by not say to them,
“The blessing of the LORD be on you;
we bless you in the name of the LORD.” (NIV)



PSALM 129 – CELEBRATING LIVING IN LORD’S VICTORY OVER OPPRESSION

DOWN ... BUT NOT OUT ...

“They have greatly oppressed me from my youth,”	1
let Israel say;	
<i>“they have greatly oppressed me from my youth,</i>	2
but	
<i>they have not gained the victory over me.</i>	
<i>Plowmen have plowed my back</i>	3
<i>and made their furrows long.</i>	
But	4
<i>YHWH is righteous;</i>	
<i>he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.”</i>	

PRAYER FOR LORD’S JUDGEMENT OF OUR OPPRESSORS

May all who hate Zion	5
be turned back in shame.	
May they be like grass on the roof,	6
which withers before it can grow;	
a reaper cannot fill his hands with it,	7
nor one who gathers fill his arms.	
May those who pass by not say to them,	8
<i>“The blessing of YHWH be on you;</i>	
<i>we bless you in the name of YHWH.”</i>	

PSALM 130

A song of ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

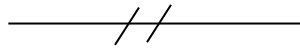
⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins. (NIV)



PSALM 130 – CONFIDENCE IN OUR MASTER’S EXPECTED REDEMPTION FROM SIN – (PENITENTIAL 6/7)

SEEKING LORD FROM DEPTHS OF HOPELESSNESS / DISPAIR

Out of the depths you **cry to me, YHWH;**

I, (your) Lord, hear your voice.

My ears are attentive

to your cry for mercy.

1

2

FROM SENSE OF GUILT AND SEPERATION FROM LORD

If I, YHWH, kept a record of sins,

Who could stand?

3

TWO-FOLD OF REDEMPTION

FINDING FORGIVENESS IN LORD – A CLEANSING... ENABLING US TO DRAW NEAR

But **with me there is forgiveness,**

so that

you can, with reverence, **serve** me.

4

FINDING HOPE IN THE PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE – TO HELP US DO HIS WILL (LOVE)

Wait for me, YHWH, your whole being waits,

and in my word you put your hope.

Wait for me, the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning,

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

5

6

Israel, put your **hope in me, YHWH,**

for

with me YHWH is [unfailing love]

and with me is full redemption.

I myself will redeem Israel

7

8

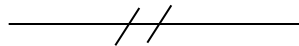
from all their sins.

redemption – buy back, purchase back, transfer ownership

PSALM 131

A song of ascents. Of David.

- ¹ My heart is not proud, LORD,
my eyes are not haughty;
I do not concern myself with great matters
or things too wonderful for me.
- ² But I have calmed and quieted myself,
I am like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child I am content.
- ³ Israel, put your hope in the LORD
both now and forevermore. (NIV)



PSALM 131 – LEARNING A PEACEFUL AND QUIET HEART OF TRUSTING IN LORD OUR ONLY TRUE HOPE**ABANDONING SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Your **heart** is not proud,
your eyes are not haughty;
You do not concern yourself with great matters
or things too wonderful for you.

1

LEARNING DEPENDENCY

But you have **calmed and quieted yourself**,
You are like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child you are **content**.

2

THERE IS NO TRUE HOPE OTHER THAN LORD

Israel, put your **hope in me, YHWH**
both now and forevermore.

3

PSALM 132

A song of ascents.

¹ LORD, remember David
and all his self-denial.

² He swore an oath to the LORD,
he made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³ “I will not enter my house
or go to my bed,

⁴ I will allow no sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,

⁵ till I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

⁶ We heard it in Ephrathah,
we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:

⁷ “Let us go to his dwelling place,
let us worship at his footstool, saying,

⁸ ‘Arise, LORD, and come to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

⁹ May your priests be clothed with your righteousness;
may your faithful people sing for joy.”

¹⁰ For the sake of your servant David,
do not reject your anointed one.

¹¹ The LORD swore an oath to David,
a sure oath he will not revoke:

“One of your own descendants
I will place on your throne.

¹² If your sons keep my covenant
and the statutes I teach them,
then their sons will sit

on your throne for ever and ever.”

¹³ For the LORD has chosen Zion,
he has desired it for his dwelling, saying,

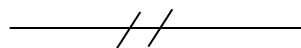
¹⁴ “This is my resting place for ever and ever;
here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.

¹⁵ I will bless her with abundant provisions;
her poor I will satisfy with food.

¹⁶ I will clothe her priests with salvation,
and her faithful people will ever sing for joy.

¹⁷ “Here I will make a horn grow for David
and set up a lamp for my anointed one.

¹⁸ I will clothe his enemies with shame,
but his head will be adorned with a radiant crown.” (NIV)



PSALM 132 – LORD BLESSES DAVID FOR PUTTING LORD FIRST, BEFORE HIMSELF

I, YHWH, remember David
and all his self-denial. 1

KING DAVID'S OATH TO LORD TO FIRST ESTABLISH LORD'S THRONE AND LORDSHIP BEFORE HIS OWN

He swore an **oath to me** YHWH, 2
he made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
“I will not enter my house 3
or go to my bed,
I will allow no sleep to my eyes 4
or slumber to my eyelids,
till I find a **place** for the YHWH, 5
a **dwelling** for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

We heard it in Ephrathah, 6
we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:

“Let us **go to his dwelling place**, 7
let us worship **at his footstool**, saying,
‘Arise, YHWH, and come to your **resting place**, 8
you and the ark of your might.
May your priests be clothed with your righteousness; 9
may your faithful people sing for joy.’”

LORD'S OATH TO DAVID THEN TO ESTABLISH KING DAVID'S THRONE FOREVER

For the sake of my servant David, 10
(I) do not reject my anointed one.

I, YHWH, swore an **oath to David**, 11
a sure oath I will not revoke:
“One of your own descendants
I will place on your throne.
If your sons keep my covenant 12
and the statutes I teach them,
then their sons will sit
on your throne for ever and ever.”

For I YHWH have chosen Zion, 13
I have desired it for my **dwelling**, saying,

“This is my **resting place** for ever and ever; 14
here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.
I will bless her with abundant provisions; 15
her poor I will satisfy with food.
I will clothe her priests with salvation, 16
and her faithful people will ever sing for joy.

“Here I will make a horn grow for David 17
and set up a lamp for my anointed one.
I will clothe his enemies with shame, 18
but his head will be adorned with a radiant crown.”

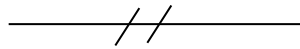
PSALM 133

A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore. (NIV)



PSALM 133 – LORD'S RESPONSE TO HIS PEOPLE LIVING IN UNITY

How good and pleasant it is 1
when my people, the people of God, live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head, 2
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

It is as if the dew of Hermon 3
were falling on Mount Zion.

For there I, YHWH, bestow my blessing,
even life forevermore.

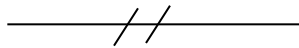
PSALM 134

A song of ascents.

¹ Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD
who minister by night in the house of the LORD.

² Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the LORD.

³ May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who is the Maker of heaven and earth. (NIV)



PSALM 134 – BLESS LORD WHO BLESSES US – EVEN THROUGH THE NIGHT-SHIFT**WE BLESS LORD – IN HIS PRESENCE**

Praise me YHWH, all my servants, the servants of YHWH
 who minister by night in my house, the house of YHWH.

1

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
 and praise me, YHWH.

2

LORD BLESSES US

May I YHWH bless you from Zion,
 I who am the Maker of heaven and earth.

3

PSALM 135

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise the name of the LORD;
 praise him, you servants of the LORD,
² you who minister 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, for that is pleasant.
⁴ For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own,
 Israel to be his treasured possession.

⁵ I know that the LORD is great,
 that our Lord is greater than all gods.
⁶ The LORD does whatever pleases him,
 in the heavens and on the earth,
 in the seas and all their depths.
⁷ He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth;
 he sends lightning with the rain
 and brings out the wind from his storehouses.

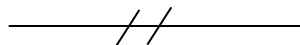
⁸ He struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
 the firstborn of people and animals.
⁹ He sent his signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt,
 against Pharaoh and all his servants.
¹⁰ He struck down many nations
 and killed mighty kings—
¹¹ Sihon king of the Amorites,
 Og king of Bashan,
 and all the kings of Canaan—
¹² and he gave their land as an inheritance,
 an inheritance to his people Israel.

¹³ Your name, LORD, endures forever,
 your renown, LORD, through all generations.
¹⁴ For the LORD will vindicate his people
 and have compassion on his servants.

¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold,
 made by human hands.
¹⁶ They have mouths, but cannot speak,
 eyes, but cannot see.
¹⁷ They have ears, but cannot hear,
 nor is there breath in their mouths.
¹⁸ Those who make them will be like them,
 and so will all who trust in them.

¹⁹ All you Israelites, praise the LORD;
 house of Aaron, praise the LORD;
²⁰ house of Levi, praise the LORD;
 you who fear him, praise the LORD.
²¹ Praise be to the LORD from Zion,
 to him who dwells in Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 135 – LORD'S GREATNESS – THE TRUE GOD

Praise me, YHWH.	1
<u>Praise my name</u> , the name of YHWH; <u>praise me</u> , my servants, servants of YHWH, you who minister in my house, the house of YHWH, in the courts of my house, the house of your God.	2
<u>Praise me</u> , YHWH, for I YHWH am good ; sing praise to my name, for that is pleasant.	3
For I YHWH have chosen Jacob to be my own , Israel to be my treasured possession .	4
THE TRUE GOD	
You know that I YHWH am great , that I your Lord am greater than all gods.	5
I, YHWH, do whatever pleases me, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.	6
NATURE AND CREATION	
I make clouds rise from the ends of the earth ; I send lightning with the rain and bring out the wind from my storehouses .	7
REDEMPTION	
I struck down the firstborn of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals.	8
I sent my signs and wonders into your midst , Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants.	9
PROMISE LAND	
I struck down many nations and killed mighty kings— Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kings of Canaan— and I gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to my people Israel.	10 11 12
My name, YHWH, endures forever , my renown, mine YHWH('s), through all generations .	13
For I, YHWH, will vindicate my people and have compassion on my servants.	14
FALSE GODS	
The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands.	15
They have mouths, but <i>cannot speak</i> , eyes, but <i>cannot see</i> .	16
They have ears, but <i>cannot hear</i> , <i>nor</i> is there breath in their mouths.	17
Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.	18
All you Israelites, <u>praise me</u> , YHWH; house of Aaron, <u>praise me</u> , YHWH; house of Levi, <u>praise me</u> , YHWH; you who fear me, <u>praise me</u> YHWH.	19 20
<u>Praise be</u> to me, YHWH from Zion, to me who dwells in Jerusalem.	21
Praise me, YHWH.	

PSALM 136

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

² Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

⁴ to him who alone does great wonders,

His love endures forever.

⁵ who by his understanding made the heavens,

His love endures forever.

⁶ who spread out the earth upon the waters,

His love endures forever.

⁷ who made the great lights—

His love endures forever.

⁸ the sun to govern the day,

His love endures forever.

⁹ the moon and stars to govern the night;

His love endures forever.

¹⁰ to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt

His love endures forever.

¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them

His love endures forever.

¹² with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

His love endures forever.

¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea asunder

His love endures forever.

¹⁴ and brought Israel through the midst of it,

His love endures forever.

¹⁵ but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;

His love endures forever.

¹⁶ to him who led his people through the wilderness;

His love endures forever.

¹⁷ to him who struck down great kings,

His love endures forever.

¹⁸ and killed mighty kings—

His love endures forever.

¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites

His love endures forever.

²⁰ and Og king of Bashan—

His love endures forever.

²¹ and gave their land as an inheritance,

His love endures forever.

²² an inheritance to his servant Israel.

His love endures forever.

²³ He remembered us in our low estate

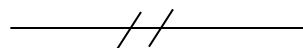
His love endures forever.

²⁴ and freed us from our enemies.

His love endures forever.

²⁵ He gives food to every creature.

His love endures forever. (NIV)

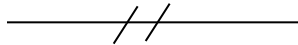


PSALM 136 – LORD'S ACTS OF LOVE – HE WHO IS BOTH WILLING (LOVE) AND ABLE (MIGHTY POWER)

Give thanks to me YHWH, for I am good.	1
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
Give thanks to the God of gods.	2
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
Give thanks to the Lord of lords:	3
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
to me who alone does great wonders,	4
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
CREATION	
who by my understanding made the heavens,	5
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
who spread out the earth upon the waters,	6
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
who made the great lights—	7
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
the sun to govern the day,	8
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
the moon and stars to govern the night;	9
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
REDEMPTION	
to me who struck down the firstborn of Egypt	10
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
and brought Israel out from among them	11
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;	12
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
NEW LIFE	
to me who divided the Red Sea asunder	13
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
and brought Israel through the midst of it,	14
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;	15
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
SUSTENANCE	
to me who led my people through the wilderness;	16
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
VICTORY	
to me who struck down great kings,	17
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
and killed mighty kings—	18
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
Sihon king of the Amorites	19
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
and Og king of Bashan—	20
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
and gave their land as an inheritance,	21
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
an inheritance to my servant Israel.	22
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
DELIVERING FROM EVIL, AND GIVING EACH DAY OUR DAILY BREAD	
I remembered you in your low estate	23
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
and freed you from your enemies.	24
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	
I give food to every creature.	25
<i>My love endures forever.</i>	

PSALM 137

- ¹ By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.
- ² There on the poplars
we hung our harps,
- ³ for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
- ⁴ How can we sing the songs of the LORD
while in a foreign land?
- ⁵ If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
- ⁶ May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.
- ⁷ Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.
“Tear it down,” they cried,
“tear it down to its foundations!”
- ⁸ Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.
- ⁹ Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks. (NIV)



PSALM 137 – WHILE UNDER LORD’S JUDGEMENT, REMEMBERING FORMER JOY**WHILE UNDER JUDGEMENT, LONGING FOR FORMER JOY**

By the rivers of Babylon you sat and wept 1
 when you remembered Zion.
 There on the poplars 2
 you hung our harps,
 for there your captors asked you for songs, 3
 your tormentors demanded songs of joy;
 they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
 How can you sing my songs, the songs of YHWH 4
 while in a foreign land?

NEVER WANTING TO FORGET HER – REMEMBERING FORMER FELLOWSHIP

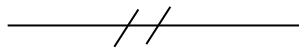
If you forget, Jerusalem, 5
 may your right hand forget its skill.
 May your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth 6
 if you do not remember it,
 if you do not consider Jerusalem
 your highest joy.

CONCERNING JERUSALEM’S ENEMIES – LOOKING TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR SIN

I remember, I YHWH, what the Edomites did 7
 on the day Jerusalem fell.
 “Tear it down,” they cried,
 “tear it down to its foundations!”
 Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction, 8
 happy is the one who repays you
 according to what you have done to us.
 Happy is the one who seizes your infants 9
 and dashes them against the rocks.

PSALM 138

- ¹ I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.
- ² I will bow down toward your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.
- ³ When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me.
- ⁴ May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,
when they hear what you have decreed.
- ⁵ May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
for the glory of the LORD is great.
- ⁶ Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.
- ⁸ The LORD will vindicate me;
your love, LORD, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands. (NIV)



PSALM 138 – PRAISE OF SOVEREIGN LORD FOR HIS FAITHFUL LOVE – THE LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS

PRAISE FOR ANSWERED PRAYER IN THE PAST

Praise me, YHWH, with all your heart; 1
 before the “gods” sing my praise.
 Bow down toward my holy temple 2
 and praise my name

for my [unfailing love] and my faithfulness,

for I have so exalted my solemn decree
that it surpasses my fame.

When you called, I answered you; 3
 I greatly emboldened you.

LORD'S LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

May all the kings of the earth praise me, me YHWH, 4
 when they hear what I have decreed.

May they sing of my ways, the ways of YHWH, 5
for my glory, the glory of YHWH, is great.

LORD DECREE'S HIS LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS

Though I, YHWH am exalted, 6

I look kindly on the lowly;
 though lofty,

I see them from afar.

Though you walk in the midst of trouble, 7
 I preserve your life.

I stretch out my hand against the anger of your foes;
 with my right hand I save you.

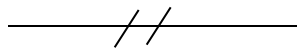
I YHWH will vindicate you; 8
 my love, love of YHWH, endures forever—
 (I) do not abandon the works of my hands.

PSALM 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
- ² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
- ⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
- ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
- ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

- ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.
- ¹⁹ If only you, God, would slay the wicked!
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- ²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
- ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- ²² I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.
- ²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. (NIV)



PSALM 139 – LORD GOD OUR CLOSEST FRIEND – KNOWS OUR HEART, AND SOUL; OUR VERY BEING

LORD KNOWS US – THE BASIS OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

I have searched you, I YHWH, 1
and **I know you**.

I **know** when you sit and when you rise; 2
I perceive your thoughts from afar. 3
I discern your going out and your lying down; 4
I are familiar with all your ways. 5
Before a word is on your tongue 6
I, YHWH, **know** it completely. 7

I hem you in behind and before, 8
and I lay my hand upon you. 9
Such **knowledge** is too wonderful for you, 10
too lofty for you to attain. 11

LORD IS PRESENT WITH US

Where can you go from my Spirit? 12
Where can you flee from **my presence**?

If you go up to the heavens, **I am there**; 13
if you make your bed in the depths, **I am there**. 14
If you rise on the wings of the dawn, 15
if you settle on the far side of the sea, 16
even there my hand will guide you, 17
my right hand will hold you fast. 18
If you say, “Surely the darkness will hide me 19
and the light become night around me,” 20
even the darkness will not be dark to me; 21
the night will shine like the day, 22
for darkness is as light to me. 23

LORD KNEW US EVEN BEFORE WE CAME TO BE

For I created your inmost being; 13
 I knit you together in your mother's womb.

Praise me because you are fearfully and wonderfully made; 14
 my works are wonderful,
 you know that full well.

Your frame was not hidden from me 15
 when you were made in the secret place,
 when you were woven together in the depths of the earth.

My eyes saw your unformed body; 16
 all the days ordained for you were written in my book
 before one of them came to be.

WE ARE THE OBJECT OF HIS AFFECTION

How precious to you are my thoughts, the thoughts of God! 17

How vast is the sum of them!

Were you to count them, 18
 they would outnumber the grains of sand—
 when you awake, you are still with me.

HE KNOWS THAT WE LOVE HIM

If only I, God, would slay the wicked! 19

Away from you, those who are bloodthirsty!

They speak of me with evil intent; 20
 my adversaries misuse my name.

Do you not hate those who hate me, me YHWH, 21
 and abhor those who are in rebellion against me?

You have nothing but hatred for them; 22
 You count them your enemies.

HE KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US MOVING FORWARD FROM HERE

I search you, I God, and know your heart; 23

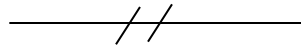
I test you and know your anxious thoughts.

I see if there is any offensive way in you, 24
 and lead you in the way everlasting.

PSALM 140

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

- ¹ Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers;
protect me from the violent,
² who devise evil plans in their hearts
and stir up war every day.
³ They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's;
the poison of vipers is on their lips.
- ⁴ Keep me safe, LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
protect me from the violent,
who devise ways to trip my feet.
⁵ The arrogant have hidden a snare for me;
they have spread out the cords of their net
and have set traps for me along my path.
- ⁶ I say to the LORD, "You are my God."
Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy.
⁷ Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer,
you shield my head in the day of battle.
⁸ Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD;
do not let their plans succeed.
- ⁹ Those who surround me proudly rear their heads;
may the mischief of their lips engulf them.
¹⁰ May burning coals fall on them;
may they be thrown into the fire,
into miry pits, never to rise.
¹¹ May slanderers not be established in the land;
may disaster hunt down the violent.
- ¹² I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor
and upholds the cause of the needy.
¹³ Surely the righteous will praise your name,
and the upright will live in your presence. (NIV)



PSALM 140 – LORD DELIVERS US FROM EVIL – HIS PRESENCE SEES US THROUGH IT

OUR DIRE NEED FOR PROTECTION FROM ENEMIES

I rescue you, I YHWH, from evildoers; 1
 I protect you
 from the violent,
 who devise evil plans in their hearts 2
 and stir up war every day.
 They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's; 3
 the poison of vipers is on their lips.

I keep you safe, I YHWH, from the hands of the wicked; 4
 I protect you
 from the violent,
 who devise ways to trip your feet. 5
 The arrogant have hidden a snare for you;
 they have spread out the cords of their net
 and have set traps for you along your path.

You say to me, YHWH, "You are my God." 6
 I hear, I YHWH, your cry for mercy. 7
 Sovereign YHWH, your strong deliverer,
 I shield your head in the day of battle. 8
 I do not grant the wicked their desires, I YHWH;
 do not let their plans succeed. 9
 Those who surround you proudly rear their heads;
 may the mischief of their lips engulf them. 10
 May burning coals fall on them;
 may they be thrown into the fire,
 into miry pits, never to rise. 11
 May slanderers not be established in the land;
 may disaster hunt down the violent.

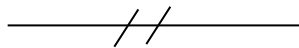
REMEMBER US IN OUR LOW ESTATE

You know that I, YHWH secure justice for the poor 12
 and uphold the cause of the needy.
 Surely the righteous will praise my name, 13
 and the upright will live in my presence.

PSALM 141

A psalm of David.

- ¹ I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me;
hear me when I call to you.
- ² May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
- ³ Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;
keep watch over the door of my lips.
- ⁴ Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil
so that I take part in wicked deeds
along with those who are evildoers;
do not let me eat their delicacies.
- ⁵ Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness;
let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head.
My head will not refuse it,
for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.
- ⁶ Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs,
and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken.
- ⁷ They will say, “As one plows and breaks up the earth,
so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.”
- ⁸ But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign LORD;
in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death.
- ⁹ Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers,
from the snares they have laid for me.
- ¹⁰ Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
while I pass by in safety. (NIV)



PSALM 141 – LORD HELPS US TURN FROM EVIL

LORD, IT IS OUR PRAYER THAT YOU WOULD...

Call to me, me YHWH, **I come quickly to you;** 1

I hear you when you call to me.

May your prayer be set before me like incense; 2

may the lifting up of your hands be like the evening sacrifice.

LEAD US OUT OF TEMPTION

I set a guard over your mouth, I YHWH; 3

I keep watch over the door of your lips.

I do not let your heart be drawn to what is evil 4

so that you take part in wicked deeds

along with those who are evildoers;

I do not let you eat their delicacies.

HELP US DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG, CLEAN AND UNCLEAN

I let a righteous man strike you—that is a kindness; 5

I let him rebuke you—that is oil on your head.

Your head will not refuse it,

for your prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs, 6

and the wicked will learn that your words were well spoken.

They will say, “As one plows and breaks up the earth, 7

so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.”

But your **eyes are fixed on me, me Sovereign YHWH;** 8

in me you take refuge—I do not give you over to death.

I keep you safe from the traps set by evildoers, 9

from the snares they have laid for you.

Let the wicked fall into their own nets, 10

while you pass by in safety.

PSALM 142

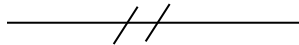
A *maskil* of David. When he was in the cave. A prayer.

¹ I cry aloud to the LORD;
I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.
² I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.

³ When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way.
In the path where I walk
people have hidden a snare for me.
⁴ Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge;
no one cares for my life.

⁵ I cry to you, LORD;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."

⁶ Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.
⁷ Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me. (NIV)



PSALM 142 – CALL ON LORD ALONE... LORD OUR REFUGE OF MERCY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CARES

'WHO' DO YOU CRY OUT TO – ...LORD, WE HAVE NO HOPE APART YOU

Cry aloud to me, me YHWH;

Lift up your voice to me, YHWH for mercy.

Pour out before me your complaint;
before me, tell your trouble.

1

2

LORD WALKS WITH US WHEN NO ONE ELSE DOES – A TRUE COMPANION

When your spirit grows faint within you,

it is I who watch over your way.

In the path where you walk
people have hidden a snare for you.

3

NO ONE REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU

Look and see, there is no one at your right hand;

no one is concerned for you.

You [*have no refuge*];

no one cares for your life.

4

'WHAT' DO YOU CRY OUT – ...LORD, YOU ARE THE ONLY HOPE WE HAVE – HE WHO HOLDS OUR HAND

Cry to me, me YHWH;

Say, “[*You are my refuge*],
my portion in the land of the living.”

5

LORD IS THERE FOR US IN OUR NEED

(I) listen to your cry,

for you are in desperate need;

(I) rescue you from those who pursue you,

for they are too strong for you.

(I) set you free from your prison,

that you may praise my name.

Then the righteous will gather about you

because of my goodness to you.

6

7

PSALM 143

A psalm of David.

- ¹ LORD, hear my prayer,
listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness
come to my relief.
- ² Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.
- ³ The enemy pursues me,
he crushes me to the ground;
he makes me dwell in the darkness
like those long dead.
- ⁴ So my spirit grows faint within me;
my heart within me is dismayed.
- ⁵ I remember the days of long ago;
I meditate on all your works
and consider what your hands have done.
- ⁶ I spread out my hands to you;
I thirst for you like a parched land.
- ⁷ Answer me quickly, LORD;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- ⁸ Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.
- ⁹ Rescue me from my enemies, LORD,
for I hide myself in you.
- ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.
- ¹¹ For your name's sake, LORD, preserve my life;
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
- ¹² In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;
destroy all my foes,
for I am your servant. (NIV)



PSALM 143 – LORD HEARS OUR CRY FOR MERCY
SUSTAINING OUR WEAK SPIRIT THROUGH THE STRENGTH OF HIS SPIRIT

ONLY BECAUSE OF WHO LORD IS

(I) YHWH, hear your prayer, 1
(I) listen to your cry for mercy;
in my faithfulness and righteousness
(I) come to your relief.

A SPIRIT WEAK AND ABOUT TO CRUMBLE

FROM WITHIN – UNABLE TO DO HIS WILL

(I) do not bring my servant into judgment, 2
for no one living is righteous before me.

FROM WITHOUT – NO HELP, ONLY HINDERANCE

The enemy pursues you, 3
he crushes you to the ground;
he makes you dwell in the darkness
like those long dead.

OUR ONLY HOPE LIES OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES – IN LORD OUR SAVIOR

So your spirit grows faint within you; 4
your heart within you is dismayed.
You remember the days of long ago; 5
You meditate on all my works
and consider what my hands have done. 6
You spread out your hands to me;
You thirst for me like a parched land.

A SPIRIT SUSTAINED

LORD IS WITH US AND HOLDS THE PROMISE OF ANOTHER DAY

(I) answer you quickly, I YHWH; 7
your spirit fails.
(I) do not hide my face from you
or you will be like those who go down to the pit.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE LEANING ENTIRELY INTO LORD – ALL IN

Let the morning bring you word of my [unfailing love], 8
for you have put your trust in me.
(I) show you the way you should go,
for to me you entrust your life.
(I) rescue you from your enemies, I YHWH, 9
for you hide yourself in me.

A SPIRIT RENEWED

LORD IS OURS

(I) teach you to do my will], 10
for
> **I am your God;**
may my good Spirit
lead you on level ground.

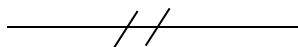
WE ARE LORD'S

For my name's sake, YHWH, (I) preserve your life; 11
in my righteousness, (I) bring you out of trouble.
In my [unfailing love], (I) silence your enemies; 12
destroy all your foes,
for
> you are my servant.

PSALM 144

Of David.

- ¹ Praise be to the LORD my Rock,
 who trains my hands for war,
 my fingers for battle.
- ² He is my loving God and my fortress,
 my stronghold and my deliverer,
 my shield, in whom I take refuge,
 who subdues peoples under me.
- ³ LORD, what are human beings that you care for them,
 mere mortals that you think of them?
- ⁴ They are like a breath;
 their days are like a fleeting shadow.
- ⁵ Part your heavens, LORD, and come down;
 touch the mountains, so that they smoke.
- ⁶ Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy;
 shoot your arrows and rout them.
- ⁷ Reach down your hand from on high;
 deliver me and rescue me
 from the mighty waters,
 from the hands of foreigners
- ⁸ whose mouths are full of lies,
 whose right hands are deceitful.
- ⁹ I will sing a new song to you, my God;
 on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,
- ¹⁰ to the One who gives victory to kings,
 who delivers his servant David.
- From the deadly sword ¹¹ deliver me;
 rescue me from the hands of foreigners
 whose mouths are full of lies,
 whose right hands are deceitful.
- ¹² Then our sons in their youth
 will be like well-nurtured plants,
 and our daughters will be like pillars
 carved to adorn a palace.
- ¹³ Our barns will be filled
 with every kind of provision.
 Our sheep will increase by thousands,
 by tens of thousands in our fields;
- ¹⁴ our oxen will draw heavy loads.
 There will be no breaching of walls,
 no going into captivity,
 no cry of distress in our streets.
- ¹⁵ Blessed is the people of whom this is true;
 blessed is the people whose God is the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 144 – LORD WHO GIVES SALVATION AND DELIVERENCE TO KINGS... SAVE ME! DELIVER EVEN ME!

LORD OUR ONLY HOPE – OUR ONE AND ONLY HOPE (THE UNSEEN)

Praise be to me, me YHWH 1
your Rock,
 who trains your hands for war,
 your fingers for battle.
 I am **your loving God** and 2
your fortress,
your stronghold and
your deliverer,
your shield, in whom
you take refuge,
 who subdues peoples under you.

LORD CONCERNS HIMSELF WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THE HOPELESS AND DEPENDENT (THE SEEN)

(As) YHWH, what are **human beings** that I care for them, 3
mere mortals that I think of them?
 They are like *a breath*; 4
 their days are like *a fleeting shadow*.

LORD PIERCES THE HEAVENS TO ENTER OUR WORLD...

(I) **part my heavens, I YHWH, and come down;** 5
 (I) touch the mountains, so that they smoke.
 (I) send forth lightning and scatter the enemy; 6
 (I) shoot my arrows and rout them.
 (I) reach down my hand from on high; 7

... STRONGER THAN THAT WHICH IS STRONGER THAN US

(I) **deliver you and rescue you**
 from the mighty waters,
 from the hands of foreigners
 whose mouths are full of lies, 8
 whose right hands are deceitful.

CALL ON THE LORD

You will sing a new song to me, your God; 9
 on the ten-stringed lyre you will make music to me,
 to **the One** 10
who gives victory to kings,
who delivers his servant David.

From the deadly sword,
 (I) **deliver you;** 11
 (I) **rescue you**
 from the hands of foreigners
 whose mouths are full of lies,
 whose right hands are deceitful.

LORD'S WORKS OF POWER – WHAT WE ARE DEPENDENT ON LORD FOR

Then your sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and 12
your daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.
Your barns will be filled with every kind of provision. 13
Your sheep will increase by thousands, by tens of thousands in your fields;
your oxen will draw heavy loads. 14
 In your streets there will be no breaching of walls, no going into captivity, no cry of distress.

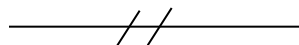
LORD OUR ONLY HOPE

Blessed are the people... of whom this is true; 15
blessed are the people... whose God is me, me YHWH.

PSALM 145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- ⁴ One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
- ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.
- ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
- The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
- ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
- ²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- ²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever. (NIV)



PSALM 145 – HONORING LORD OUR KING FOR HIS GREATNESS

- (8) Exalt **me, your God the King**;
Praise my name for **ever and ever**. 1
- (2) **Every** day praise me
and extol my name for **ever and ever**. 2
- LORD IS GREAT**
- (3) **Great** am I, me YHWH, and most worthy of praise;
my greatness no one can fathom. 3
- HIS WORKS**
- (7) One generation commends **my works** to another;
they tell of **my mighty acts**. 4
- (7) They speak of the **glorious splendor** of **my majesty**—
and you will meditate on **my wonderful works**. 5
- (1) They tell of the power of **my awesome works**—
and you will proclaim **my great deeds**. 6
- HIS CHARACTER**
- (1) They celebrate **my abundant goodness**
and joyfully sing of **my righteousness**. 7
- (7) I, YHWH, am **gracious** and **compassionate**,
slow to anger and **rich in love**. 8
- (10) **I, YHWH, am good to all**;
I have compassion on all I have made. 9
- HIS RULE**
- (1) **All my works** praise me, YHWH;
my faithful people extol me. 10
- (2) They tell of the glory of **my kingdom**
and speak of **my might**, 11
- (7) so that **all** people may know of **my mighty acts**
and the glorious splendor of **my kingdom**. 12
- (2) My kingdom is an **everlasting** kingdom,
and my dominion **endures** through **all** generations. 13
- HIS GRACE**
- HIS UNQUALIFIED GRACE – OFFERED TO ALL**
- (1) I, YHWH, am **trustworthy in all I promise**
and **faithful in all I do**. 14
- (10) I, YHWH, **uphold all** who fall
and **lift up all** who are bowed down. 15
- (15) The eyes of **all** look to me,
and **I give** them their food at the proper time. 16
- (5) **I open my hand**
and **satisfy** the desires of **every** living thing. 16
- HIS SELECTIVE GRACE – OFFERED TO SOME**
- (3) I, YHWH, am **righteous** in **all** my ways
and **faithful** in **all** I do. 17
- (7) I, YHWH, am **near** to **all** **who** call on me,
to **all** **who** call on me in truth. 18
- (7) **I fulfill the desires** of those **who fear me**;
I hear their cry and save them. 19
- (15) I, YHWH, **watch over all** **who love me**,
but **all** the wicked I will destroy. 20
- (7) Your mouth will speak in praise of me, YHWH.
Let **every** creature **praise my holy name**
for **ever and ever**. 21

PSALM 146

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

² I will praise the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

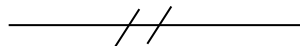
The LORD sets prisoners free,

⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 146 – CELEBRATING LORD - OUR ONLY HOPE

(NOT BY OUR MIGHT OR BY OUR POWER, BUT BY HIS SPIRIT)

Praise **me**, YHWH. 1Praise **me**, YHWH, your **soul**.Praise **me** YHWH all your life;
Sing praise to **me**, your God, as long as you live. 2

TURN FROM – DO NOT TRUST IN ALLIANCES WITH MEN

Do not put your trust in princes,
in **human beings, who cannot save**.
When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day **their plans** come to nothing. 3
4

TURN TO – HOPE IN LORD OF ETERNAL MIGHT

Blessed are those whose help is **me**, God of Jacob,
whose hope is in **me**, YHWH their God. 5I am **the Maker** of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
I remain faithful forever. 6I **uphold** the cause of the oppressed
and **give** food to the hungry.
I, YHWH, **set** prisoners **free**,
I, YHWH, **give sight** to the blind,
I, YHWH, **lift up** those who are bowed down,
I, YHWH, **love** the righteous.
I, YHWH, **watch over** the foreigner
and **sustain** the fatherless and the widow,
but I frustrate the ways of the wicked. 7
8
9I, YHWH, **reign** forever,
your God, O Zion, **for all generations**. 10Praise **me**, YHWH.

PSALM 147

¹ Praise the LORD.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

² The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³ He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.

⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his understanding has no limit.

⁶ The LORD sustains the humble
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷ Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.

⁸ He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹ He provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they call.

¹⁰ His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;

¹¹ the LORD delights in those who fear him,
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

¹² Extol the LORD, Jerusalem;
praise your God, Zion.

¹³ He strengthens the bars of your gates
and blesses your people within you.

¹⁴ He grants peace to your borders
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶ He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.

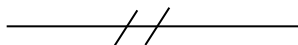
¹⁷ He hurls down his hail like pebbles.
Who can withstand his icy blast?

¹⁸ He sends his word and melts them;
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He has revealed his word to Jacob,
his laws and decrees to Israel.

²⁰ He has done this for no other nation;
they do not know his laws.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 147 – CELEBRATING LORD WHO RESTORES AND SUSTAINS BY HIS WILL

Praise me, YHWH.

1

IT IS LORD – WHO RESTORES

How good it is to sing praises to your God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise me!

I YHWH *build up* Jerusalem;

2

I gather the exiles of Israel.

I *heal* the brokenhearted

3

and *bind up* their wounds.

I determine the number of the stars

4

and call them each by name.

Great is **your Lord** and *mighty* in power;

5

my understanding has no limit.

I, YHWH, *sustain* the humble

6

but *cast* the wicked to the ground.

IT IS LORD – WHO THEN SUSTAINS

Sing to me YHWH with grateful praise;
make music to your God on the harp.

7

I cover the sky with clouds;

8

I *supply* the earth with rain

and *make* grass grow on the hills.

I *provide* food for the cattle

9

and for the young ravens when they call.

My pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,

10

nor **my** delight in the legs of the warrior;

I, YHWH, **delight in** those who *fear me*,

11

who put their hope in my [unfailing love].

LORD DOES SO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POWER OF HIS WORD AND WILL

Extol me YHWH, Jerusalem;

12

praise your God, Zion.

I *strengthen* the bars of your gates

13

and *bless* your people within you.

I *grant* peace to your borders

14

and *satisfy* you with the finest of wheat.

I send my command to the earth;

15

my word runs swiftly.

I spread the snow like wool

16

and scatter the frost like ashes.

I hurl down **my** hail like pebbles.

17

Who can withstand **my** icy blast?

I send **my word** and melts them;

18

I stir up **my** breezes, and the waters flow.

I have revealed **my word** to Jacob,

19

my laws and decrees to Israel.

I have done this for no other nation;

20

they do not know **my laws**.

Praise me YHWH.

PSALM 148

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

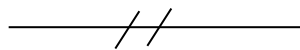
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for at his command they were created,
⁶ and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
¹² young men and women,
old men and children.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 148 – EVERYTHING IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND ON EARTH BELOW CELEBRATES LORD

Praise me, YHWH. 1

FROM THE HEAVENS

Praise me, YHWH, from the heavens;

praise me in the heights above. 2

Praise me, all my angels;

praise me, all my heavenly hosts. 3

Praise me, sun and moon;

praise me, all you shining stars. 4

Praise me, you highest heavens and
you waters above the skies.

Let them praise my name, the name of YHWH, 5

for at my command they were created,

and I established them for ever and ever— 6

I issued a decree that will never pass away.

FROM THE EARTH

Praise me, YHWH from the earth, 7

you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, 8

lightning and hail, snow and clouds,

stormy winds that do my bidding, 9

you mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars, 10

wild animals and all cattle,

small creatures and flying birds, 11

kings of the earth and all nations,

you princes and all rulers on earth, 12

young men and women,

old men and children.

Let them praise my name, the name of YHWH, 13

for my name alone is exalted;

my splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

And I have raised up for my people a horn, 14

the praise of all my faithful servants,

of Israel, the people close to my heart.

Praise me, YHWH.

PSALM 149

¹ Praise the LORD.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

² Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;
let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

³ Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

⁴ For the LORD takes delight in his people;
he crowns the humble with victory.

⁵ Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor
and sing for joy on their beds.

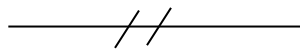
⁶ May the praise of God be in their mouths
and a double-edged sword in their hands,

⁷ to inflict vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,

⁸ to bind their kings with fetters,
their nobles with shackles of iron,

⁹ to carry out the sentence written against them—
this is the glory of all his faithful people.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 149 – CELEBRATING THE VICTORY LORD GIVES OVER SIN

Praise me, YHWH.

1

LORD GIVES VICTORY ...

Sing to me, YHWH, a new song,
my praise **in the assembly** of my **faithful** people.

Let Israel rejoice **in their Maker**;
let the people of Zion be glad **in their King**.
Let them praise my name with dancing
and make music to me with timbrel and harp.

2

3

For

I, YHWH, take delight in my people;
I crown the humble with victory.

4

Let my **faithful** people **rejoice in this honor**
and **sing for joy** on their beds.

5

... OVER SIN

May the **praise** of God be **in their mouths**
and a double-edged **sword in their hands**,

6

PUTTING TO DEATH THE MISDEEDS OF DARKNESS

to inflict vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
to bind their kings with fetters,
their nobles with shackles of iron,
to carry out the sentence written against them—

7

8

9

this is the glory of all my faithful people.

Praise me, YHWH.

PSALM 150

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

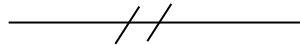
³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD. (NIV)



PSALM 150 – CELEBRATING HOW GREAT LORD IS

Praise me, me YHWH.

1

WHERE – IN HIS PRESENCE, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

Praise me, God, in my sanctuary;
praise me in my mighty heavens.

WHAT FOR – WHAT HE DOES AND WHO HE IS

Praise me for my acts of power;
praise me for my surpassing greatness.

2

HOW – WITH CELEBRATION

Praise me with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise me with the harp and lyre,
praise me with timbrel and dancing,
praise me with the strings and pipe,
praise me with the clash of cymbals,
praise me with resounding cymbals.

3

4

5

WHO – EVERY CREATURE

Let everything that has breath praise me YHWH.

6

Praise me, me YHWH.

