



Poetic Meditations
on the **Psalms**

by

Bud Morris

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budmorris.net

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Delavan, Illinois

Preface:

I have never been as enchanted with the Psalms as many other Christians are. My wife suggested that if I would write a poem on each of the Psalms, I would probably end up enjoying them more. The project began on 10/12/2015 and was ready for editing by 2/28/2016, and I gained a lot more appreciation for the Psalms.

It is virtually impossible to translate anything perfectly from one language into another. Even if word-for-word accuracy were possible, which it isn't, the meaning of words can be so dependent on context and cultural situations that no translation can escape the personal biases of the translators.

Translating the Psalms into modern rhyme-and-rhythm poetry compounds the problem of accuracy exponentially. The translator is limited to words that are accented on the right syllables to maintain the cadence of the poem, and some of those words must also rhyme with each other. Sometimes the best I could do was simply to capture the gist of what the Psalm was saying.

An problem is that the number of lines in a stanza can vary considerably within a single Psalm, but rhyme-and-rhythm poetry demands that all the stanzas have the same number of lines. This means that I had to leave out some of the content of the longer stanzas and add extra-Biblical content to the shorter ones. I did my best to insure that anything I added was consistent with the Psalm and the general teachings of the inspired Word of God.

I have generally tried to stay fairly close to the New King James wording when possible, but sometimes I could not resist putting a Psalm in a more modern context. I have taken the liberty of changing the first person (*I*) to the third person (*We*) in some cases to make the poem more inclusive of the reader. When all is said and done, these poems are best thought of as poetic meditations rather than translations of the Psalms.

Bud Morris
2/29/2016

The Original Poetry of the Psalms

All the Psalms were written as poetry in the language of the ancient Israelis. Hebraic poetry amounted to a pleasant coupling of similar or opposite thoughts, called parallelism. The following examples of the three main types of parallelism, adapted from T. Witton Davies (www.bible-researcher.com/hebrew-poetry.html) illustrates the concept well:

Synonymous Parallelism repeats similar thoughts in different words, as in Psalms 36:5:

“Yahweh,

Your lovingkindness (reaches) to the heavens

Your faithfulness (reaches) to the clouds.”

Antithetic Parallelism records a thought in the first line, and the obverse side of it in the second, as in Proverbs 10:1:

“A wise son gladdens his father,

But a foolish son grieves his mother”

Synthetic Parallelism enlarges on each thought with a secondary line before the next thought, as in Psalms 19:8-10:

The precepts of Yahweh are right, rejoicing the heart:

The commandments of Yahweh are pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring forever:

The judgments of Yahweh are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

Parallelism explains why there is so much repetition in the Psalms.

Psalms 1

Verses 1 & 2

God confers His grace and favor
on the folks who walk apart
From the councils of the wicked
with a pure and contrite heart.
Their delight is in the precepts
that His Word declares are right,
And they meditate upon them
day by day and night by night.

Verse 3

They are planted by the river
where the living waters flow,
And they do not tend to wither
when the winds of trouble blow.
For the Holy Spirit helps them
to produce the fruit they should
And to prosper in their efforts
to persist in doing good

Verses 4-6

The ungodly are not like them,
they're like chaff before the wind;
There's no way to justify them
so they'll perish in the end.
But God knows how to deliver
those who put their trust in Him
'Cause their sins have been forgiven
so there's nothing to condemn.

10/12/2015

Psalms 2

Verses 1-3

Why must the nations fight the Lord and plot against His Son,
when He alone can break the sword that torments everyone?
When will they understand that sin will have to be restrained
before things can be right again so peace can be obtained?

Verses 4-6

The God who made the universe laughs at the very thought,
that sinful men would not coerce the weak and lesser taught;
And so He'll put His Son in charge of men of every birth,
to judge the evil done at large in any place on earth.

Verses 7-9

God gave His word to give His Son, who has been crucified,
the nations that still join as one to see Him vilified;
And though they killed the Son of God the first time He was sent,
they'll feel the vengeance of His rod if they do not repent.

Verses 10-12

Be wise, O kings, and bow the knee to God's exalted King,
for those who trust in Him are free to live and love and sing;
But those who try to block His path will perish in the flame,
so kiss the Son before His wrath is kindled in your name.

Psalms 3

Verses 1 & 2

Lord, See how the opposition to the righteous have increased;
how Your precepts are rejected and the faithful are policed.
They don't think that You can save us from the outbursts of their wrath,
but we know that You can keep us in the straight and narrow path.

Verses 3 & 4

Lord, we glory in Your presence, we believe You're always there
to defend us in the conflict through the medium of prayer.
When we call You always answer, when we ask You always give,
if our prayers have been consistent with the way we ought to live.

Verses 5 & 6

We can lie down in the darkness knowing evil is restrained,
and we'll waken in the morning seeing we have been sustained.
Though the multitudes may hate us for the Gospel that we preach,
if we do not fear their fury they cannot control our speech.

Verses 7 & 8

So arise, O Lord, and save us from the ones who hate your name,
for we know our persecutors will be silenced in their shame.
Lord, we long for the salvation that can come from You alone,
and we value every blessing that You send us from Your throne.

Psalms 4

Verse 1

Hear me, O God of my righteousness,
when I call upon Your name;
You've relieved the stress of my sinfulness
and have cleansed me from all blame.

Verse 2

How long, O men, will you scorn the man
who's glory is in the Lord,
While you worship all of the worthless things
that your credit can afford?

Verse 3

Be made aware that the Lord above
claims the godly as His own;
And He hears their prayers of distress and pain
as He looks down from His throne.

Verse 4

Don't let your hate of His people show
lest He vent His wrath on you;
Meditate on why you are so upset
by the righteous things they do.

Verse 5

Why not repent of your evil ways
and trust in the Savior's grace?
Let your righteousness be your sacrifice
to God in the holy place.

Verse 6

Many doubt that life with the Lord is good,
so they hang on to their sin;
But its thrill is gone when the sin is done
So they have no joy within.

Verse 7

The Lord gives joy to the contrite heart
that surrenders all to Him;
And the happiness of the saints of God
comes from joy that won't grow dim.

Verse 8

They rest each night in the confidence
that the Lord is in control;
And the devil can't take away the peace
that the Lord puts in the soul.

10/16/2015

Psalms 5

Verses 1-3

Lord, listen to our musings, consider what we think;
Our sovereign God we beg You, please do not let us sink.
Each day when we awaken we fix our eyes on You,
And hope that we can please You in everything we do.

Verses 4-6

You cannot look with pleasure on wickedness and sin;
There is no evil in You, and evil will not win.
You hate defiant sinners who scoff at Your command,
And in the coming judgment their alibis won't stand.

Verses 7 & 8

We come into Your presence within the holy place
To revel in Your mercy before the throne of grace;
We ask You for Your guidance for each and every day.
We need Your help to follow the straight and narrow way.

Verses 9 & 10

The wicked and rebellious who simply won't relent
Have multiple transgressions because they won't repent
Their councilors are under the devil's subtle spell,
And God will find them guilty and cast them into hell.

Verses 11 & 12

But we who love and trust You rejoice in who You are:
Our shield and our defender, the Bright and Morning Star.
We glorify our Savior, and shout about His fame,
And God will grant us favor because we love His name.

10/17/2015

Psalms 6

Verses 1-3

O Lord do not rebuke me while your displeasure burns,
Or chasten me in anger before your grace returns.
Have mercy on my weakness and heal my troubled soul.
I long for your forgiveness and yield to your control

Verses 4 & 5

Restore me to the pleasure of fellowship with You
So I can feel Your presence in all I say and do;
For if my life is taken I'll have no song to raise,
And from the grave I cannot return to sing Your praise.

Verses 6 & 7

I'm weary of my groaning, my bed is drenched with tears.
The grief of my repentance will haunt my soul for years.
When will you see my anguish, when will your anger cease?
When will your mercy find me and give my spirit peace?

Verses 8-10

Get lost, you evil tempters who strive to make me sin.
By grace the Lord has heard me and brought me back again.
I'm begging Him to keep me from sinning anymore;
Because I know it irks Him when sin gets through the door.

10/18/2015

Psalms 7

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord I put my trust in You, deliver me from men,
who persecute the innocent, accusing them of sin.
They tear me like a lion would, they rip my soul apart;
there's no one else to rescue me and they will not depart.

Verses 3-6

If I have done the evil things that my accusers say,
then let them catch and punish me somewhere along the way;
But if you find me innocent, and I am not the one,
then they're the ones who ought to pay for what they claim I've done.

Verses 6-8

Arise, O Lord, in righteous wrath to judge my enemies,
and yet for all your peoples' sake withhold your judgement, please.
You'll judge the peoples of the earth at the appointed time,
forgiving those who trust in You, repenting of their crime.

Verses 9-13

Let all the wicked cease from sin, and justify the just;
But test the hearts and minds of each, and judge them if You must.
And when it's time You'll bend Your bow and sharpen up Your sword,
and cast the wicked into hell to get their just reward.

Verse 14-16

The wicked bear the fruit of sin in everything they do;
they brew up trouble everywhere and evil things ensue.
They try to trap the innocent with violence and deceit,
but they'll be caught in their own traps because of their conceit.

Verse 17

I'll praise the Lord whose faithfulness will always do what's right.
I'll trust Him to deliver me according to His might.
I'm thankful that He'll put a stop to everything that's wrong,
so all creation will be free to sing redemption's song.

Psalms 8

Verses 1 & 2

Lord, Your excellence is sculptured on the earth,
and the glory of the heavens touts Your worth.
While our children understand that there's a God,
skeptics think of faith as a façade;
But You'll vindicate the faith that You inspire,
and avenge Your holy Word with flaming fire.

Verses 3-9

When I meditate upon the evidence,
all creation bears Your fingerprints.
You created mortal man of flesh and bone,
but endowed him with a glory all His own.
Though we're rather insignificant and small,
You have crowned the Son of Man as Lord of all.

10/20/2015

Psalms 9

Verses 1 & 2

Lord, we praise you from the bottom of our hearts,
for the marvels that your love for us imparts.
We'll be happy and rejoice in who You are,
and our songs of praise will echo near and far.

Verses 3-8

If the enemies who lurk behind our backs,
could only see You following their tracks;
It would fill their wicked hearts with mortal fear,
for they'd know the time of their demise was near,

Verses 9 & 10

You've become the persecuted soul's defense,
and their refuge when their troubles are intense.
Those who trust You know what You are all about,
and You don't forsake the ones who seek You out.

Verses 11-14

You avenge the blood of all of those who fall,
and will not ignore the humble when they call.
You'll redeem them from the very gates of death,
and they'll praise you with each solitary breath.

Verses 15-18

But the snare the thug deploys will catch the thug,
and the wicked can't escape the pits they've dug.
They're the expeditors of the Devils spell,
and the Lord will send their evil souls to hell.

Verses 19 & 20

So Arise, O Lord, when evil men assail,
and refuse to let the pride of men prevail.
Let the fear of God displace the world's despair,
and dispense compelling justice everywhere.

Psalms 10

Verses 1 & 2

I ask, O Lord, why You allow oppression;
Why don't You stop the wicked in their tracks?
They persecute without Your opposition.
They prosper in their murderous attacks.

Verses 3-7

The wicked live their lives in wanton pleasure,
Their greedy souls are void of godly fears;
Their arrogance denies the Lord's existence,
Their mouths spew cursing, scornfulness, and sneers.

Verses 8-11

They fix their eyes upon the weak and helpless,
They do not think their wicked ways are known;
They don't believe they'll ever reap the harvest,
Of all the seeds of sorrow they have sown.

Verses 12 & 13

Arise, O Lord, lift up your arm in judgment,
They say you never settle your accounts;
Make them repay the victims of their violence,
Your law requires they double the amounts.

Verses 14 & 15

You've surely seen the morbid grief and trouble,
They've brought upon the humble and the poor;
You are the helper of the victims' children,
Rise up, O Lord, and equalize the score.

Verses 16-18

The Lord our King will not hold back forever,
We've seen whole nations perish at His hands;
He will avenge the fatherless and widows,
He'll punish all who laugh at His commands.

Psalms 11

Verses 1 & 2

I trust in God my Savior!
How can you even say,
"You'd better flee the wicked
while you can get away."
They draw their bows in secret,
their arrow's on the string,
While they are calculating
What our decease will bring?

Verses 3-5

I won't desert the upright
or run away with you;
If the foundations crumble
what can the righteous do?
The Lord is in His temple,
He rules from heaven above;
And when He tests the upright,
He does it in His love.

Verses 5-7

But God abhors the wicked,
He hates the violent man;
He'll punish them forever
according to His plan.
Though fire and burning brimstone
are just around the bend ,
He cares about the upright,
and saves them in the end.

10/26/2015

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Psalms 12

Verses 1 & 2

Help us, Lord, the godly are discouraged;
Faithful men are disappearing fast;
Evil men are flattering their neighbors,
Hoping to betray them at the last.

Verses 3 & 4

May the Lord expose their double-crossing;
With their mouths they think they'll prevail;
They deny that God is really sovereign;
They believe His promises will fail.

Verse 5

"That's enough!" The Lord exclaims in anger;
I'll arise and stop them in their tracks;
I'll defend the humble, poor and needy,
From the scourge of these inane attacks.

Verses 6 & 7

Lord, Your words are like the purest silver;
They'll endure forever and a day;
You'll preserve them from this generation,
Who would like to see them pass away.

Verses 5 & 8

Evil men convene to stir up trouble,
When their sin is glorified by all;
But the Lord will guarantee the safety
Of His righteous people when they call.

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Psalms 13

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord, I feel forgotten.
When will You answer me?
It seems that I have suffered
for all eternity.

Verses 3 & 4

I'm feeling so discouraged
I fear that I will die;
My rivals are exultant
If I so much as sigh.

Verses 5 & 6

But trusting in Your mercy
my spirit can rejoice;
I sing of Your salvation
While longing for Your voice.

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Psalms 14

Verse 1

The foolish say there is no God,
so there can be no sin;
They're free to do what You forbid,
and they're corrupt within.

Verse 2

The Lord can see the hearts of men,
He searches far and wide;
But there is none that comprehend,
they all have turned aside.

Verse 3

There's not a single man out there,
who even could do good;
We're all too selfish to conform,
and live the way we should.

Verses 4 & 5

The workers of iniquity,
will never understand;
But they can see the righteous are
ensconced within Your hand.

Verses 6 & 7

They mock Your humble servants' faith,
because they count on You;
But You'll come back to earth some day,
and show them who is who.

Verse 7

O hasten to return, O Lord,
We long to hear Your voice;
And when we see You glorified,
Our spirits will rejoice.

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Psalms 15

Verses 1&2

Lord, who can abide in Your presence,
or dwell where You choose to reside?
Only the righteous and upright
are suited to walk at Your side.

Verses 2 & 3

They don't return evil for evil;
they utter the truth from the heart;
They never do wrong to their neighbor;
or try to tear friendships apart.

Verses 4 & 5

They loathe all the vile and oppressive;
they honor the fear of the Lord;
They stand by the terms of their contracts,
and will not extort for reward.

Verse 5

They cannot be bribed to harm others.
and none can accuse them of shame;
Their honesty cannot be questioned;
they stand above query or blame.

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Psalms 16

Verses 1 & 2

Save me, O Lord, I trust You every moment,
my soul assures me I belong to You;
I have no goodness of my own to offer,
I am not saved by anything I do.

Verses 3 & 4

The sanctified on earth are those who trust You,
they are the ones in whom You find delight;
No other god brings anybody pleasure,
their worshippers are noxious in my sight.

Verses 5 & 6

O Lord, You are the portion I inherit.
the cup of joy that ministers to me;
You've brought me many pleasant contemplations;
Our fellowship will last eternally.

Verses 7 & 8

I bless You, Lord, for council full of wisdom,
I lie awake and listen to Your voice;
I keep You first in all my meditations,
I can't be moved since You have been my choice.

Verses 9 & 10

My heart is glad, my soul is full of glory,
my hope extends beyond the murky grave;
Your Holy One could never see corruption,
His resurrection proves that You can save.

Verse 11

I'll walk the path of life that You will show me,
the lane that leads to heaven's open door;
I'll have the joy of knowing You're beside me,
at Your right hand are pleasures evermore.

10/28/2015

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Psalm 17

Verses 1-3

Please listen to my prayer, O Lord, and vindicate my trust;
Uphold my soul in righteousness because my cause is just.
You've visited me in the night and scrutinized my soul;
You've found that I am innocent in all that I control.

Verses 3-5

I do not let my mouth transgress concerning other men;
I do not bait the militant or mock a man's chagrin.
I count on you to strengthen me, so hear me when I call;
Don't let me wander from your paths or I might slip and fall.

Verses 6-8

Show me Your lovingkindness, Lord, the marvels of Your grace;
You save all those who trust in You because they seek Your face.
Make me the apple of Your eye and I'll not ask for things;
Just keep me safely tucked within the shadow of Your wings.

Verses 9-13

The arrogant oppress the meek, their hearts are smug with pride:
They mock the upright for their faith so they will turn aside.
They lurk like lions crouching low to leap upon their prey;
Confront them, Lord, in their conceit, because of what they say.

Verses 14 & 15

The wicked want their portion now, earth's pleasures for a while;
The stuff their hearts are treasuring just makes the godly smile.
I'll see Your face in righteousness when I've been glorified;
I'll waken in Your likeness, Lord, and shall be satisfied.

10/30/2015

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Psalms 18

Verses 1-3 (Gethsemane)

I love You Lord, you are My strength, My fortress, and My rock;
My enemies have slandered Me with their malicious talk.
I trust You to deliver Me, from this disgrace and shame,
And when this cross is over with I'll magnify Your name.

Verses 4-6 (The cross)

The pangs of death surrounded Me, I felt the floods of sin;
The waters came into My soul and troubled Me within.
The gates of death confronted Me, I called upon the Lord;
He heard My voice before I spoke, My cry was not ignored.

Verses 7-12 (The Earthquake and the Darkness)

He came down on the wings of wind when all was said and done;
His canopy was over Me, its shadow hid the sun.
His anger made the mountains quake, they trembled at His wrath;
and flames of fire spewed from his mouth in Calvary's aftermath.

Verses 13-15 (The Defeat of the Satan)

The thunder of His righteous voice displayed the power of God,
His arrows struck the devil's fiends and scattered them abroad;
At His rebuke the footings of the underworld collapsed,
The powers of darkness were exposed, their empires had relapsed.

Verses 16-19 (The Resurrection)

He sent down from His throne above and drew Me from the flood;
He saved me from My enemy and plucked Me from the mud.
He brought Me to a wider place with better things in sight,
The Lord Himself delivered Me since I was His delight.

Verses 20-24 (Innocence declared)

The Lord rewarded Me because no guilt was on My hands,
For I'd fulfilled His righteousness by keeping His commands;
He recompensed My holiness so that the world could see,
My innocence had been proclaimed in how He rescued Me.

Verses 25-27 (The Salvation of Upright)

The merciful find mercy and the blameless find Him fair,
The pure find Him transparent and He'll always be right there;
The devious can't fool Him for He snares them in their pride,
The humble are His people and He is their faithful guide.

Verses 28-30 (The Tribulation)

The Lord sustains His servants in His adversary's camp,
The powers of darkness quiver when they're lit up by his lamp;
He shields all those who trust Him in the battles that they fight,
He helps them and defends them as they strive to do what's right.

Verses 31-36 (The Judgment of the world)

The Lord is God forever and He arms Me with His strength,
My arms can bend a bow of bronze and hold it at arm's length;
He sets Me in the highest place and shows Me how to fight,
But gentleness is greatness when His people are in sight.

Verses 37-42 Subduing the world

I have pursued My enemies till most of them were dead,
You have subjected them to Me and set Me at their head;
I beat them fine as desert dust that drifts before the wind,
and trampled them beneath My feet because of how they sinned.

Verses 43-49 David's seed on the throne

The God of all the universe who engineered My birth,
Has vindicated Me for all I suffered on the earth;
The Lord has glorified the Man who men had humbled so,
The Son of David's on the throne as promised long ago.

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Psalms 19

(To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David)

Verses 1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God;
The skies tout the works of his hands.
Day after day their speech pours abroad;
And nightly their message expands.
There is no speech or language of men
Where the sound of their voice is not heard;
No place in the world their cry hasn't been;
And the ends of the earth hear their word.

Verses 4-6

The Lord pitched a tent in the skies for the sun,
Which exits aglow like a groom,
Delighting to travel the course it must run
With the confidence experts assume.
Morning by morning it's sure to arise;
Its path never fails to repeat;
It sets in the opposite end of the skies;
And nothing can hide from its heat.

Verses 7 & 8

The law of the Lord is perfect indeed,
Reviving the soul that obeys.
The trustworthy statutes He has decreed
Make simple folk wise in their ways.
The precepts He teaches always are right,
Rejoicing the hearts of His own;
All His commandments radiate light,
Guiding the eye from His throne.

Verses 9-11

The fear of the Lord is guilelessly pure,
Outlasting the passage of time;
His ordinances will surely endure,
In righteousness truly sublime;
More precious than gold, abundant and good,
And sweeter than honey from hives;
Warning his servants to do as they should;
Rewarding the faithful ones' lives.

Verses 12-14

Who can discern his personal sin?
(Forgive those that I cannot see).
Keep me from willingly letting them in,
And don't let them rule over me.
Then I'll be free from wrong on my part,
Redeemer and Rock of my might;
May all my words and thoughts of my heart
Be pleasing, O Lord, in Your sight.

Psalms 20

Verses 1-3

May the Lord be quick to answer when He hears your troubled call;
May the name of God defend you and uphold you lest you fall;
May He send you help from heaven, may He strengthen you today,
And remember all your praises as you thank Him down the way,

Verses 4-6

May He grant you your petitions in accordance with His will,
And fulfill your deepest longings as you climb life's upward hill;
We rejoice in your salvation as we praise His holy name;
And we know He wants to save you and preserve you from all blame.

Verses 7-9

Some folks trust in tanks and mortars but we're trusting in the Lord,
They've already been defeated but our strength has been restored,
'Cause we're trusting in His promise to defend us when we call,
And we know that He is able because He is Lord of all.

10/31/2015

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Psalm 21

Verses 1 & 2

The king shall rejoice in Your strength,
You've given him all his desires;
Salvation with gladness and joy,
And all his position requires.

Verses 3 & 4

You've blessed him with everything good,
And put a gold crown on his head;
He asked you to lengthen his life,
You made it forever instead.

Verses 5-7

You've given him glory and praise,
And honor and majesty too;
You've made him exceedingly glad,
Because he has trusted in You.

Verses 8-10

Your enemies can't hide from You,
You'll find those who hate Your decrees;
Your anger will burn like a stove,
Consuming them all by degrees.

Verses 11-13

They plot what they cannot perform,
You'll turn them around in their tracks;
Your strength has exalted Your name,
In spite of their vicious attacks.

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Psalms 22

Verses 1 & 2

My God, My God, I ask why You've forsaken Me?
This cross is where My love for You has taken Me;
Do You not hear My moans?
I cried to You when daylight was surrounding Me;
And even as this darkness is confounding Me;
But You don't hear My groans.

Verses 3-5

You are enthroned in every heart that praises You;
When they appeal to You it always raises You;
Their helplessness constrains.
But when I call, You do not even answer Me;
You hear My voice but do not take a stance for Me;
Your holiness restrains.

Verses 6-8

I'm like a worm, despised by those who hated Me;
With grimaces and childish glee they baited Me;
They shook their spiteful heads.
They mocked My faith and arrogantly flaunted Me;
When You didn't come, religious leaders taunted Me;
Their haughtiness still spreads.

Verses 9-13

When I was born You granted human life to Me;
But human beings just afforded strife to Me;
You've been My God since birth.
My enemies find pleasure in distressing Me;
They rack their brains for methods of oppressing Me;
They cast Me from the earth.

Verses 14 & 15

My body seems like it's been liquefied to Me;
The nails have spread the joints apart inside of Me;
My heart's like melting wax.
My strength is wilted deep into the heart of Me;
My tongue's so dry it doesn't feel like part of Me;
You've stopped Me in My tracks.

Verses 16-18

The armies of the heathen have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked hounded Me;
They pierced My hands and feet.
They took My clothing like they weren't aware of Me;
My bones stick out, the people look and stare at Me;
I suffer from the heat.

Verses 19-21

But You, O Lord, please do not stay away from Me;
You are My strength, so come without delay for Me;
Deliver Me from death.
Please do not let the devil get the best of Me;
Nor let these beastly people harm the rest of Me;
And quash My fragile breath.

Verses 21-24

You have observed the way the world afflicted Me;
Despite the fact that they had not convicted Me;
And saw it was absurd.
At last, O Lord, Your Spirit has drawn near to Me;
I praise Your name for it is very dear to Me;
And when I called You heard.

Verses 25-29

I'll sing Your praise with everyone who bows to You;
And they shall see that I will pay My vows to You;
They shall be satisfied.
The nations shall remember and submit to You;
And You will bless the peoples that commit to You;
Because they have complied.

Verses 30 & 31

Messiah reigns, served by a great posterity;
They will recount His greatness with sincerity;
As generations roll.
They will declare how righteousness was satisfied;
To future folks whose longings will be gratified;
When He is in control.

Psalms 23

Verses 1-3

The Lord is my Shepherd so what can I lack?
I rest in green pastures secure from attack;
He leads me along where the waters are still,
Restoring my soul as I drink to the fill;
I follow His steps down the path that we take,
And try to behave for the Good Shepherd's sake.

Verse 4

But sometimes I can't keep from holding my breath,
Deep down in the gorge of the shadow of death;
But though it is dark throughout most of its length,
His rod and His staff are my comfort and strength;
And since He is with me I've nothing to fear,
For what can go wrong while my Shepherd is near?

Verses 5 & 6

He nourishes me where my enemies stay,
And pampers my soul while He keeps them at bay;
The oil of gladness has been my reward,
My cup overflows with the joy of the Lord;
His goodness and mercy encourage my heart,
To enter His dwelling and never depart.

11/8/2015

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Psalm 24

Verses 1 & 2

The ocean floors dropped at the Maker's command;
The waters drained in and exposed the dry land.
It belongs to the Lord with its treasures so vast,
And so do its people whatever their past.

Verses 3 & 4

So who may ascend to the mount of the Lord,
And enter His presence to claim their reward?
The upright and honest who don't turn aside,
To worship their idol or pump up their pride.

Verses 5 & 6

The God of Salvation dispenses His grace,
To each individual who's seeking His face.
They are the people the Lord loves to bless,
With righteousness, honor, and earthly success.

Verses 7 & 8

So open your heart so the King can come in,
The Lord strong and mighty who purged you from sin,
Has fought all your battles and won all your wars,
So open the locks of eternity's doors.

Verses 9 & 10

The sovereign King who created the earth,
And coded your genomes and brought you to birth;
The great King of Glory who made you awaits,
The welcome you owe Him inside of the gates.

11/9/2015

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Psalms 25

Verses 1-3

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; O God I trust in You;
Do not let me be ashamed of anything I do.
Don't let my enemies succeed in tarnishing Your fame,
Or let the faithful feel defeat from those who hate Your name.

Verses 4 & 5

Show me Your perfect ways, O Lord; teach me how I should go.
Lead me to walk the way You'd walk if You were here below.
Teach me the truth, and patience too, to keep me in the way.
You are my Savior and my God; I'll wait on You all day.

Verses 6 & 7

Remember You have always been a God of love and grace.
Grant lovingkindness to my soul as I behold Your face.
Do not remember all the sins that I've repented of;
But in Your mercy think of me as one of those You love.

Verses 8-11

The Lord is good to sinful men, He guides them on the path;
He teaches justice to the meek, and save them from His wrath;
He shows His mercy to each soul that He can educate;
So pardon my iniquity, O Lord, for it is great.

Verses 12-15

Who is the man that fears the Lord, but he who can be taught
To choose the way of righteousness and walk the way he ought?
He'll prosper in the secret ways of those who fear the Lord;
His covenant will be their joy, His presence their reward.

Verses 16-19

So turn Yourself to me, O Lord, have mercy on my soul;
I am distressed about my sins, but You are in control;
The enemies that plague my life tempt me to turn aside;
Consider how they trouble me and save me from their pride.

Verses 20-22

Please do not let me shame myself by yielding to their schemes;
Deliver me and keep me safe from their unholy dreams;
May true integrity preside when evil thoughts assail;
Redeem Your people from their sins, and let Your grace prevail.

Psalms 26

Verse 1

Vindicate my life, O Lord
for my integrity;
I shall not slip because I know
You're watching over me.

Verses 2 & 3

Scrutinize my heart and mind
and You will find them true;
Your lovingkindness keeps my soul
in fellowship with You.

Verses 4 & 5

I hate idolatry and pride,
hypocrisy as well;
I don't assemble with the kind
whose actions lead to hell.

Verses 6 & 7

I wash my hands in innocence
and worship You as God;
So I can thank You with my voice
and spread Your truth abroad

Verses 8-10

Lord, I have loved to be with You,
Your glory thrills my heart;
Don't judge me with the sinful men
with whom I've had no part.

Verses 11 & 12

But since I walk in righteousness
be merciful to me;
I stand among Your people, Lord,
and bless Your majesty.

11/28/2015

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Psalms 27

Verse 1

The Lord is my light and salvation
So who in the world should I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my being;
I'm safe since I know He is near.

Verse 2

When evil men gathered against me,
Intending to kill and devour;
My foes and my enemies stumbled;
They weren't any match for Your power.

Verses 3

Though armies may camp all around me,
Their numbers don't make me afraid;
Though nations may rise up against me,
My confidence can't be dismayed.

Verse 4

The one thing my soul really longs for
Is simply to dwell with the Lord;
To learn more about all the beauties
Of Him whom my soul has adored.

Verse 5

He'll hide me inside His pavilion
When trouble is coming my way;
I'll rest in His secret compartments
Until He exalts me some day.

Verse 6

So when He sees fit to exalt me
And sets me above all my foes,
I'll joyfully worship my Savior
And praise Him however it goes.

Verses 7 & 8

Hear me, O Lord, when I call You,
Have mercy and answer my voice;
When You told Your servant to seek You
It prompted my heart to rejoice.

Verse 9

So please don't disguise Yourself from me
If I've been unfaithful to You;
Do not turn away in Your anger,
But bless me in all that I do.

Verses 9 & 10

Be with me, O God of Salvation,
Don't ever stop being my friend;
My parents could maybe forsake me,
But You'll care for me to the end.

Verses 11 & 12

Please teach me Your way, O my Savior,
And lead me in safety and peace;
Do not let my enemies find me,
Their violence and lies never cease.

Verses 12 & 13

I would have lost heart at their malice
If I did not trust in Your word,
That I would rejoice in Your goodness
No matter what else has occurred.

Verse 14

So wait on the Lord all you people,
Encourage yourselves in His grace;
He'll strengthen your hearts for the journey
That leads to the heavenly place.

11/20/2015

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Psalms 28

Verses 1 & 2

I'll call out to You, my Lord and my Rock;
Please do not be silent to me.
If You do not hear I'll probably die
Like those who ignore Your decree;
So listen to what I'm asking of You
From where You have promised to be.

Verses 3-5

Don't take me away with those who will die
With guile and deceit in their hearts.
Judge them for the sins they've done with their hands
That came from their innermost parts.
They do not acknowledge what You have done,
And reap what their insolence starts.

Verses 6 & 7

I worship the Lord because He has heard
The words of my penitent call.
I trust Him to be my strength and my shield;
I know He will not let me fall.
I greatly rejoice in what He has done,
And sing of His praises to all.

Verse 8 & 9

O Lord, be the strength of those who repent,
The refuge of those who believe.
Save those who trust You and bless them with things
That only Your people receive.
Shepherd your flock and give them the care
That only Your heart could conceive.

11/23/2015

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Psalms 29

Verses 1 & 2

O give to the Lord all you angels,
Give glory and strength to His name.
Give Him the praise that is due Him,
Worship His beauty and fame.

Verses 3 & 4

The voice of the Lord's on the waters,
He thunders it down from the cloud;
His glory and power shake the heavens,
The sound of His thunder is loud.

Verses 5-7

The voice of the Lord bends the cedars,
They skip like young bulls in the wind;
He breaks them like twigs on the bushes,
As flashes of lightning descend.

Verses 8 & 9

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert,
It tosses and reels at His might;
Yet gentles the deer while they're birthing;
And men stand in awe at the sight.

Verses 10 & 11

The Lord brought the Flood on the world
To cleanse it from folly and sin;
But uses His power for His people,
And gives them His peace deep within.

11/29/2015

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Psalms 30

Verses 1-3

I'll extol the Lord forever for He has exalted me;
He has not allowed the wicked to obtain the victory.
When I asked the Lord to heal me He displayed His power to save,
And He kept my soul from dying and my body from the grave.

Verses 4 & 5

Sing His praises all His people in remembrance of His name;
He may chasten for the present but He loves you just the same;
Though you suffer through the darkness, morning ushers in the light,
And you'll see that He was with you every moment of the night.

Verses 6 & 7

In prosperity I fancied that I never could be moved,
And I sat there like a mountain that could hardly be improved;
But You hid your presence from me till my pride was stripped away,
And my troubled soul repented of its arrogant display.

Verses 8-10

When I made my supplication to the Lord He heard my voice;
If my life were taken from me I could never make the choice
To arise and praise His goodness or declare His truth abroad,
So the Lord became my helper and my Savior and my God.

Verses 11 & 12

Now my mourning's turned to dancing, my humility to joy;
You have clothed me with a gladness that the world can't destroy,
So my soul will sing Your praises throughout all eternity,
And I'll never cease to thank You for the grace You've given me.

11/30/2015

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Psalms 31

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord I put My trust in You, so do not let Me down;
Deliver Me in righteousness and make this cross My crown.
Bow down and hear My urgent prayer and come to My relief;
And be My refuge and defense throughout this time of grief.

Verses 3-5

Your faithfulness is evident in every step I take,
I know You'll vindicate Me for Your reputation's sake,
So I commit My spirit to the keeping of Your hand,
And You'll redeem Me from the grave just as the Godhead planned.

Verses 6-8

I hate idolatry because My trust is in the Lord,
I revel in the mercy that He spreads across the board;
He understands My feelings when oppression comes My way,
And does not let the wicked ever have the final say.

Verses 9 & 10

As for My present misery, My eyes are full of tears,
My soul and body bow beneath the guilt of all the years;
My life was spent in sighing for their gross iniquities,
And now My bones are wasting from their cruel atrocities.

Verses 11-13

My enemies reproach My soul, My neighbors hate Me too,
And those who said they were My friends are not remaining true;
I'm like a broken water pot, I'm out of sight and mind,
I'm slandered by the very ones I came to seek and find.

Verses 14-16

And yet I trust in You O Lord; I claim You as My God.
My times are in Your gracious hand so save Me from their fraud;
Deliver Me from evil hands that glory in My pain,
And turn Your face toward Me again and let Your mercy reign.

Verses 17 & 18

They jeered Me when I called You as I suffered all alone,
So let their lips be silenced when they stand before the throne;
They spoke contemptuously against the Righteous in their pride,
Nor did they seek repentance after I was crucified.

Verses 19 & 20

How great the goodness You've reserved for those who fear Your name,
And aren't afraid to seal their faith by martyrdom and shame;
You'll hide them in that secret place that only You can see,
And keep them safe from all the schemes that men devised for Me.

Verses 21 & 22

So bless the Lord for He has shown the marvels of His love,
In every place on earth below and in the heavens above;
For in My haste I said that I was cut off from the earth,
But You have raised Me from the dead and given Me new birth.

Verses 23 & 24

O love the Lord with all your hearts all you who trust in Him,
He's never left a faithful man away out on a limb;
He gives them all the strength they need to walk the way they should,
And hope and courage to arise and stand the way He stood.

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*I have taken the liberty of presenting Psalms 31 (above) as
Messianic.*

Psalms 32

Verses 1 & 2

Forgiveness of sins is the blessing of God,
He puts them all out of His sight;
He does not impute them to penitent souls
Who ask Him to make their hearts right.

Verses 3 & 4

While I remained silent I groaned all day long,
My bones felt the weight of my sin;
Your heavy hand gripped me by day and by night,
I felt all dried up from within.

Verse 5

I came and acknowledged my sin to my God,
I got the whole thing off my chest;
I said "I'll confess everything to the Lord,"
And You forgave all I confessed.

Verses 6 & 7

Your mercy emboldens the godly to pray,
And clear their accounts with the Lord;
To stave off the wrath of Your hate against sin,
And get all their blessings restored.

Verses 8-9

When sin's still an issue folks have to be forced
With halters and bridles and hooks,
But when it's forgiven the Lord's free to guide
Their lives with intuitive looks.

Verses 10 & 11

The wicked bring judgment upon their own souls,
But mercy surrounds all the just,
Whose sins are forgiven because they repent,
And honor the Lord with their trust.

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Psalms 33

Verses 1-3

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
Your praises are beautiful things;
So worship His name with the music
Of orchestras featuring strings.

Verses 4 & 5

The word of the Lord's always upright;
His works are transparent and true;
He loves to administer justice;
His goodness is obvious too.

Verses 6 & 7

He spoke and the heavens existed;
His breath caused the planets to be;
He gathers the waters together
And stores them all up in the sea.

Verses 8 & 9

Let all of the earth fear His presence;
Let everyone worship with awe;
He spoke and creation was finished
With heaven's colossal Hurrah!

Verses 10-12

The Lord's in control of the nations;
He makes their best schemes go astray.
His councils bring permanent blessings
To those who have chosen His way.

Verses 13-15

The Lord watches men from His dwelling;
He sees what they're up to, and why;
He knows all their thoughts and their motives;
And fashions their hearts from the sky.

Verses 16 & 17

A king is not saved by his armies,
And strong men can't trust in their strengths;
Fast horses don't guarantee safety,
No matter what anyone thinks.

Verses 18 & 19

The Lord will look out for the faithful
Who hope in the mercy He'll give;
He helps them through difficult moments,
And those who will trust Him shall live.

Verses 20-22

Our souls are dependent upon Him;
He helps and defends all His own;
Lord, sprinkle Your mercy upon us,
And fill us with joy from Your throne.

12/15/2015

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Psalms 34

Verses 1-3

I will bless the Lord forever;
He is worthy of acclaim.
I will boast that He's my Savior;
And will not retreat in shame,
Let the humble magnify Him;
As they praise His holy name.

Verses 4-7

When I sought the Lord He heard me,
He delivered me from fear;
And the faces of His people
Glow with confidence and cheer;
For His angels camp around them,
And assure them He is near.

Verses 8-10

Taste and see the satisfaction
Of the folks who trust in God;
All His servants who revere Him
Seem to be completely awed;
As He blesses them with goodness
While they spread the truth abroad.

Verses 11-14

Listen to me little children,
This is what I have to give;
Keep your conversation holy
As God's representative;
And do good instead of evil
If you really want to live.

Verses 15-18

God looks down upon the righteous,
And He hears them when they call;
But He turns against the wicked,
And contrives for them to fall;
For He loves the broken hearted,
And He saves them one-and-all.

Verses 19-22

Though the righteous feel affliction,
God will always be their friend;
He won't let the wicked break them,
Even though they all have sinned;
He's redeemed His faithful servants,
And they cannot be condemned.

Psalms 35

Verses 1-3

Plead for me, Lord, with those who strive against me;
Take up Your arms and help me when I cry;
Be my defense, and hinder those who hunt me;
Assure my soul that You won't let me die.

Verse 4-6

Let those who seek my life be so dishonored,
They'll blow away like chaff before the wind;
And let the angel of the Lord pursue them,
And bring them to a dark and slippery end;

Verses 7-8

They've dug a pit with hidden nets to catch me;
They want to take my life without a cause;
Let Your destruction come upon them suddenly,
And let their traps be full of lethal flaws.

Verses 9-10

Then I'll rejoice and rest in Your salvation;
My bones shall say, "There's no one like You, Lord;"
You saved the poor and needy from oppression,
By bullies who harass him for reward.

Verses 11-14

When they were sick, I mourned because they suffered;
I often prayed that You would make them whole;
But they rose up as witnesses against me;
And tried to force "Confessions" from my soul.

Verses 15-16

In my distress my enemies took pleasure,
Behind my back they planned to do me in;
They never ceased to spread their propaganda,
They ground their teeth and mocked me yet again.

Verses 17-18

How long will You allow these beasts to stalk me?
Deliver me out of the jaws of death;
Then I will thank You in the great assembly,
And praise Your name as long as I have breath.

Verses 19-21

My enemies have no just cause against me,
Don't let them gloat by letting me go down;
They use deceit to turn the world against me,
They wink and say, "Aha," behind their frown.

Verses 22-25

Lord, You have seen the malice they have shown me,
So vindicate my conduct from Your throne;
And do not let them have the satisfaction,
Of saying they have conquered me alone.

Verse 26

Make them ashamed, and bring them to confusion,
When they rejoice in all the harm they've done;
Let them be clothed with shame and with dishonor,
Who glory in the evil they've begun.

Verses 27-28

But let all those who glory with Your servant,
And magnify the Lord in all they say,
Be filled with joy and pleasure in the upright,
Whose tongue will praise Your name throughout the day.

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Psalms 36

Verses 1-4

God placed discernment deep down in my heart
concerning why wicked folks sin;
They don't believe there's a God who will judge
their actions and thoughts from within.
They flatter themselves by thinking they're good
not knowing how sinful they are;
But hate and deceit reside in their hearts
as part of their souls repertoire.
They've ceased to be wise, for none can do good
apart from the Spirit of God;
Since they don't abhor the sin in their hearts
their goodness becomes a façade.

Verses 5-6

If only they knew Your mercy, O Lord,
that comes from heavens above!
Your faithfulness reaches down to the clouds
surrounding the earth with Your love.
Your righteousness stands like mountains of stone
requiring that sinners must pay;
Your judgments devised a way that Your love
could take all our debits away.
The depth of Your wisdom boggles the minds
of those You have chosen to save;
Each soul that believes that its debt has been paid
gets victory over the grave.

Verses 7-9

Your grace and Your love are precious, O God,
to those who believe in Your name;
They rest underneath the shade of Your wings
secure from all traces of blame.
They're satisfied with the fullness You share
with those who abide where You dwell;
And drink of the streams of pleasure that flow
from heaven's unlimited well.
The fountain of life will light up their eyes,
for there in its mist there will be
That rainbow that shows the glory of God
for all of His people to see.

Verses 10-12

Continue to show Your mercy O Lord
to people acquainted with You;
And righteousness to the upright in heart
who serve You in all that they do.
Do not let the proud exult over me,
and don't let them lead me astray;
Don't let their attitudes weaken my faith,
or let me be driven away.
For those who are evil stumble and fall
because they don't follow Your path;
And when they go down they cannot arise
to flee from the stroke of Your wrath.

Psalms 37

Verses 1 & 2

Don't fret when the wicked men flourish;
Don't envy their honor and stuff;
The Lord will destroy them in season;
He'll judge them when He's had enough.

Verses 3 & 4

Just trust in the Lord for your blessings;
Do good and He'll never depart;
If you find delight in His presence;
He'll give you the joys of your heart.

Verses 5 & 6

Commit all your ways to Jehovah;
Trust Him and He'll bring them to pass;
He'll honor your goodness in public;
Your justice to those who harass.

Verses 7 & 8

So rest in the Lord and be patient;
Don't chafe when the wicked excel;
Both anger and frustration harm you;
Trust God to do everything well.

Verses 9-11

The sinful cannot last forever,
No matter how much they are worth;
The patient will find peace and comfort;
The meek shall inherit the earth.

Verses 12-18

The wicked oppresses the upright;
The Lord will remember his sins;
He laughs as He sees the day coming,
When justice and judgment begins.

Verses 19 & 20

The little that righteousness garners,
Is better than lots gained by stealth;
The fraudulent's strength will be broken,
But God gives the godly true wealth.

Verses 18-20

The Lord plans the lives of the upright;
He meets all their needs every day;
The wicked will wilt like the meadows,
In drought they will wither away.

Verses 21 & 22

The wicked will cheat when He borrows;
The righteous shows mercy and gives;
The cheater will die with his riches;
The man the Lord blesses shall live.

Verses 23 & 24

The steps of the upright are ordered,
By God who delights in his stand;
He fails but he is not defeated;
The Lord pulls him up with His hand.

Verses 25 & 26

I've not seen the righteous forsaken,
Although I have lived many years;
God blesses his generous spirit,
And conquers his family's fears.

Verses 27-29

Forsake every evil for goodness,
And dwell with the Lord all your life;
He never forsakes those who serve Him;
He guards them from trouble and strife.

Verses 30-33

The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom;
The law of the Lord's in his heart;
The hate of the wicked can't harm him ;
The Lord intervenes from the start.

Verses 34-36

Just wait on the Lord as you serve Him;
He'll see that your future is bright;
The wicked grasp power and position,
And soon pass away from your sight.

Verses 37 & 38

If you watch the blameless and upright,
You'll see that the Lord grants them peace,
But as for unrighteous transgressors,
Their saga of glory shall cease.

Verses 39 & 40

Salvation belongs to the righteous;
The Lord is their source of success;
He'll save them when everything's hopeless,
Because they believe He will bless.

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Psalms 38

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord, do not rebuke me while You're raging,
Nor chasten me while all Your anger burns;
Your arrows pierce me till my soul is aging;
You pressure me each time Your wrath returns.

Verses 3-5

My body melts away beneath Your anger;
My sin is more than anyone can bear;
My foolishness drags me beneath the water;
My putrid flesh is festered everywhere.

Verses 6-8

My head is bowed in genuine repentance;
My grieving body isn't very strong;
I groan beneath the burden of Your sentence;
My soul is sadly mourning all day long.

Verses 9 & 10

Lord, my desires depend on Your discretion;
The reason for my sighing is well known;
My soul pants after You for intercession;
My eyes grow dim with tears each time I groan.

Verses 11 & 12

My loved ones stand aloof from such an illness;
My relatives and friends all stay away;
My enemies take pleasure in their stillness,
And plan for my demise from day to day.

Verses 13-16

I do not plan to counter their uprising;
I rest my case with You and You alone;
You are the only hope I'm recognizing;
You are the only helper that I own.

Verses 17-20

To put it bluntly, without You I'm falling,
But I've declared my sinfulness to You;
Those who would like to see me fail are calling,
But I will watch and see what You will do.

Verses 21 & 22

Do not forsake me now that I've repented;
Stand by my side and rescue me from harm;
It's not my sin these people have resented;
It's my allegiance to Your mighty arm.

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Psalms 39

Verses 1-5

I said that I'd guard my lips and my mouth
Lest I sin again with my tongue,
But I had to speak because my soul burned
For people that I lived among.
Lord teach us to know our measure of life,
And show us how fragile we are;
We're only a tick in the telling of time,
A vapor that scatters afar.

Verse 6

We walk like a shadow disrupting the light
That shines from a heavenly source;
We busy ourselves with trinkets and stuff
That drives all our thinking off course.
We gather up treasures and while away time
Without any rational goal,
And tarnish the earth with sin and despair
Not caring that God's in control.

Verses 7-11

Lord, why are waiting, our hope is in You!
Deliver our souls from our guilt.
Don't let us feel the reproach of the wise
Because of the castles we've built.
One blow of your hand would snuff out our lives
And scatter our treasures away,
So teach us to see the meaning of life
And save us from death as we pray.

Verses 12 & 13

Listen, O Lord, to the prayer of our hearts,
And see all our penitent tears;
Don't scrutinize us too closely O Lord,
You'll only arouse other fears.
We'll serve You as strangers with You as our God
No matter what others may do,
And find our forgiveness right here on the earth
By faith and reliance on You.

Psalms 40

Verses 1-3

I asked the Lord to intervene, He listened to My voice;
He took Me from an awful pit and made My soul rejoice.
He pulled Me from the miry clay and set Me on a rock,
Where I could walk the path that He prescribed for Me to walk.
He put a song within My heart so I could praise His name,
And many souls will trust in Him from what I will proclaim.

Verses 4 & 5

The man who trusts in You, O Lord, will be forever blessed,
Because he does not turn aside from what Your word's expressed.
The things You've made are wonderful, we see them everywhere;
But what You've done for sinful men is far beyond compare.
Your thoughts toward us are marvelous, and more than we can list;
We are so slow to comprehend that many would be missed.

Verses 6-8

A sacrifice or offering was not what You desired,
They only pointed to the cross where all those things expired.
You led Me to the doorpost of the temple up above,
And pierced My ear to certify the promise of My love.
I came to earth to do Your will as written in the book,
'Cause pleasing You was My delight in spite of what it took.

Verses 9 & 10

I have proclaimed the gospel of the righteousness of God,
I haven't withheld anything while spreading it abroad.
I opened up My heart to show what righteousness entailed,
But in Your faithfulness, O God, salvation has prevailed.
Your lovingkindness found a way Your truth could be preserved,
By sending Me to die the death that sinfulness deserved.

Verses 11 & 12

The cross became the altar where I bore the sins of man,
I pled for mercy from You from the moment it began .
Unfathomable evils would surround My holy soul,
As You put all those sins on Me and let Your judgment roll.
I suffered from the guilt of sins that other men had done,
As You withheld Your presence though I was Your only Son.

Verses 13 -15

“Deliver Me,” I pled O Lord, “Make haste to help Me through.”

Remember that I’ve always done what You Yourself would do.
Make those who mock My agony ashamed of what they’ve said,

They have no cause to hate Me, let alone to wish Me dead.
Let them be driven backward and confounded with their shame,
Because they added sorrow to the Man who had no blame.

Verses 16 & 17

Let all who seek You now, O Lord, have joy and peace within;

Let those who seek salvation in Your love rejoice again;
For those who seek it find it and Your Spirit comes inside,
And by the Spirit they can say, “The Lord be magnified.”
Although I’m poor and needy yet the Lord remembers Me,
Since He’s the great Deliverer because of Calvary.

12/30/2015

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The Imprecatory Psalms

We Christians live in the era of God’s grace. We have a hard time understanding why the writers of the Psalms vindictively call for the judgment of their enemies, when our Savior called for the forgiveness of those who were crucifying Him. The Law justly demanded an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but the New Testament graciously exhorts us to forgive our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

The Imprecatory Psalms accurately express the just emotions of the godly who lived under the Law. I suspect that they prophetically represent the desperate emotions of the upright who will live during the tribulation period, which will replace the era of grace. During that seven-year period of judgment, the world’s hatred of God will express itself in the unbridled persecution of His people. God will indeed judge the unrepentant who persecute His saints.

Psalms 41

Verses 1-3

The Lord will bless those who consider the poor;
He'll help them when troubles assail.
When illness or enemies knock at the door,
The generous man will prevail.

Verses 4-6

I said to the Lord, "Please have mercy on me;
And heal me although I have sinned."
My enemies twisted my words purposely
In ways that were hard to defend."

Verses 7-9

They whispered and schemed while conspiring to spread
Their rumors that claimed I should die;
And one of my friends who had eaten my bread
Took part in their culpable lie.

Verses 10-12

I pled with the Lord that He'd raise me again,
And give me complete victory;
And I'd surely know He was satisfied when
Their threats could not tyrannize me;

Verse 13

Give praise to the Lord from eternity past
To futures that always will be;
Who came to the aid of the poor man who called,
And raised Him in integrity.

12/31/2015

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Psalms 42

Verses 1-3

As fleeing deer pant for the waters,
My soul thirsts for You, O my God;
I'm longing to see You in person,
And join with the worshiping squad.

Verse 4

I used to go up to the temple
To feast as a pilgrim on earth,
With those whose delight was to praise You
With music and singing and mirth.

Verse 5

But now I'm depressed and dejected,
My soul is uneasy within;
And yet when my thoughts are collected,
I know I will praise You again.

Verses 6 & 7

I feel like the whitewater torrents
That crash down hills to the sea;
Deep calls to the deep at their roaring,
Your billows have gone over me.

Verse 8

I pray for Your comfort in daytime;
I pray for Your peace all night long;
I pray for my load to be lightened;
I pray that You'll give me a song.

Verses 9 & 10

I ask why I feel so dejected;
Why mourning oppresses my soul;
Why everyone seems to reproach me;
And question if God's in control.

Verse 11

And You, Lord, have answered my questions.
I haven't been hoping in You.
I'll praise You if I can remember
To trust You in all that You do.

Psalms 43

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord our strength, we need Your vindication;
Deliver us from this ungodly nation;
Unrighteous men curtail Your Word's expression;
We mourn because they advocate oppression.

Verses 3 & 4

Revive Your truth; Let its illumination;
Lead us to You, and show us Your salvation;
May we repent of every vile transgression,
And worship You with joy through our confession.

Verse 5

We've been reproached, we need Your affirmation,
That You are there, in every situation;
You are our hope, the God of our profession;
You are our help, why should we fear repression?

1/1/2016

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Psalms 43 is probably prophetic of the struggles of the godly Jews, who will be persecuted by the "Man-of-sin" during the tribulation.

Psalms 44

Verses 1-3

We've heard, O God, from our fathers,
How You blessed Your people of old;
You drove the nations out for us,
And planted us safe in Your fold.
We did not take it by conquest,
It was not our armies that won;
It was Your favor and blessing,
That finished the work You'd begun.

Verses 4-8

You are the king of Your people,
We know that the battle is Yours;
Through You Your people will conquer,
And by You our nation endures.
It's not our weapons that save us,
When enemies rise to attack;
We trust in You to defend us,
We praise You for holding them back.

Verses 9-12

But now You've turned away from us,
You do not go out with our troops;
We have retreated in conflict,
We've been defeated like dupes.
We are like sheep to be slaughtered,
We're scattered all over the earth;
You've sold Your people for nothing,
And don't even honor our birth.

Verses 13-16

We've been reproached by our neighbors,
And scorned by the nations around;
We are a byword to others,
Derided wherever we're found.
Shame devastates all Your servants,
Wherever we go we're reviled;
Those who defeated us shame us,
And treat us as though we're defiled.

Verses 17-19

All this has fallen upon us,
But we will remember Your grace;
We know Your covenant's with us,
In every condition and place.
Our souls have been faithful and true,
Our steps won't depart from Your ways;
Your discipline's breaking our hearts
And death stalks us all of our days.

Verses 20-22

If we had forgotten Your words,
Or turned to a false God instead;
We know that You surely would see,
And punish us just as You said.
You know every secret we hold,
You know we're committed to You;
And Yet for your sake we would die,
No matter whatever You do.

Verses 23-26

Why do You hide Your face from us?
Come back to Your people again
Wake up to all of our troubles,
No matter how wrong we have been.
We lick the feet of the wicked,
They make us bow to the ground;
Rise up and come down to help us,
And make all Your mercies abound.

1/1/2016

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Psalms 45

THE KING

Verses 1-5

I'm thinking about a great subject,
I'm writing concerning the King;
You're fairer than any man ever,
Your grace is a wonderful thing.
God's blessed You forever and ever,
So fasten Your sword on your thigh;
Your glory and majesty never,
Will cease to be honored on high.
Ride confidently into battle,
With truth and humility clad;
Your right hand will make Your foes fear you,
Your arrows will be make their souls sad.

Verses 6-9

Your throne will not ever be vanquished,
Your scepter will always be right;
Your love of what's upright will flourish,
You'll hate all that's wrong in God's sight.
Your God will anoint You with gladness,
Exceeding the joy of Your friends;
Your garments be fragrantly scented,
With odors that nothing transcends.
And out of the Ivory palace,
The sound of rejoicing is heard;
The princesses who want to serve You,
Will always attend to Your word.

THE QUEEN

Verses 10-14

The queen will be honored beside You,
In garments embroidered with gold;
She'll gladly forsake her own people,
To marry a sovereign so bold.
She'll ravish the king with her beauty,
She'll worship the king as her Lord;
She'll cause many people to seek Him,
He'll always be loved and adored.
The glory of God dwells within her,
Showcased in her royal attire;
The women who always surround her,
Attend to her every desire.

Verses 15-17

With gladness and festive rejoicing,
The banquet will surely begin;
They'll enter the palace of glory,
To praise Him who welcomes them in.
Instead of the fathers the children,
Will worship the Lord on the earth;
He'll make them the lords and the princes,
Because of their station by birth.
And God will make sure they remember,
Their blessings are found in His Son;
They'll praise Him forever and ever,
Because of the things He has done.

1/2/2016

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Psalms 46

Verses 1-3

The Lord is our strength and our refuge,
Our help when we need Him the most;
If earth were to vanish we'd trust Him,
As mountains deserted their post,
Or earthquakes stirred up the volcanoes ,
And tidal waves threatened the coasts.

Verses 4-6

A river will bless the great city
Where God is committed to dwell;
And though the whole world's against it,
He'll make everything turn out well;
The sword of His mouth will defend it,
And sentence the wicked to hell.

Verses 7-9

The God of the earth will be with it;
His people will see what He's done;
He'll desolate those who offend them;
And then when the battle is won,
He'll wipe out their tools of destruction,
To finish the work He's begun.

Verses 10 & 11

Be still all you people that trust Me;
Take knowledge that I am the Lord;
I'll be recognized by the nations;
Exalted where I was abhorred;
My people will see that I'm with them;
Their refuge, their strength, and reward.

1/3/2016

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Psalms 47

Verses 1-4

O clap to the Lord all you people;
Praise God with a triumphant voice;
The Lord is the essence of Awesome;
The world-wide ruler of choice.
His rod will subdue all the nations;
They'll bow at His chosen ones' feet;
He'll choose our inheritance for us;
And see that our honor's replete.

Verses 5-7

God went to the palace in triumph;
He gave a victorious shout;
Sing praises to celebrate with Him;
Proclaim what His victory's about.
Rejoice that our King is the champion
Who conquered the tyrants of earth;
Sing praises because of the knowledge,
Of what such a victory's worth.

Verses 8 & 9

The Lord in control of the world
That challenged His right to the throne;
His princes have gathered together
To pledge their allegiance in stone.
The Patriarchs' protégée praise Him;
They know that His safeguards are right;
He's highly exalted and worshiped
In all of His creation's sight.

12/3/2016

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Psalms 48

Verses 1-3

Great is the Lord who ought to be praised
In the city He chose long ago.
His holy mountain towers over its site
Rejoicing the people below.
Mt. Zion presides on the sides to the north
Of the city that houses the King.
God dwells in the palaces guarding its gates,
And gives them a reason to sing.

Verses 4-8

The kings of the earth assembled for war,
They came to the city of God.
Fear like a sailor feels in a storm,
Scattered their armies abroad.
“It’s just as we heard, the city’s secure,”
They said as they scurried away,
“The Lord is its strength, we dare not attack,
We’d better go elsewhere and stay.”

Verses 9-11

We’re thinking, O Lord, about all Your love,
From inside Your temple these days;
Your reputation says that Your name,
Is worthy of everyone’s praise.
Your mighty hand is righteous and pure,
In all that You’ve chosen to do.
The people of Zion are glad and rejoice,
Because all Your judgments are true.

Verses 12-14

Walk through the city and look all around,
Consider its bulwarks and towers;
Notice its palaces, gardens, and parks
Marvel for hours and hours.
Keep them in mind so that you can recall,
The splendor that God will reveal,
To each generation that trusts in the Lord,
And follows the precepts with zeal.

Psalms 49

Verses 1-4

Listen you people who live on the earth,
My harp has a proverb to sing;
No matter your wealth or station by birth,
Consider the wisdom I bring.

Verses 5-9

Why should I fear when evil prevails,
For riches can't satisfy me;
They can't redeem a life when it fails,
Or set people in the grave free.

Verses 10-12

The wisest men die the same as the fools,
Their treasures all vanish away;
Their wealth and respect are not special tools,
To save them from judgment some day.

Verses 13-15

We're all like a sheep that dies and decays,
The worms turn our flesh into dust;
But God will redeem each soul that obeys,
And raise him again with the just.

Verses 16-20

So don't be afraid because you are poor,
For riches don't help in the least;
Knowing the Lord is the key to the door,
Without Him we'll perish like beasts.

1/4/2016

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Psalms 50

Verses 1-3

The mighty God has spoken and notified the earth;
From east to west of Zion, His beauty shows His worth.
He'll come and not be silent, His light outshines the sun;
A fire proceeds before Him, the mighty storm's begun.

Verses 4-6

He'll call on heaven's angels to witness from above,
And earth will also witness the pathos of His love.
"Bring all My saints together, who claim to worship Me,
To listen to My judgment of how things ought to be."

Verses 7-11

I am your God, My people; you think you're blessing Me
With all those sacrifices you offer constantly.
I do not need Your livestock; let's lay it on the line;
The cattle on the hillsides, and every beast is mine.

Verses 12-15

If I were feeling hungry, I would not ask of you;
I do not eat such trappings like human beings do.
Give Me your thanks and praises, and keep the vows you make;
And when you are in trouble, I'll help you for My sake.

Verses 16-21

But let Me warn the wicked; you have no rightful claim,
To speak as though you know Me while You despise My name.
You will not be instructed; you set My words aside;
You back all kinds of evil, and glory in your pride.

Verses 22 & 23

Consider this, you people, who don't acknowledge God,
Before I come and judge you for propagating fraud;
Whoever offers praises glorifies My name,
And I will save the upright and keep their souls from blame.

1/5/2015

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Psalms 51

Verses 1 & 2

Have mercy on my soul, O Lord, according to Your love;
And blot out my transgressions in mercy from above;
Cleanse me from this iniquity that I've repented of.

Verses 3 & 4

I will acknowledge everything, I won't forget my sin;
You are the One I sinned against, You know how bad I've been;
You're justified in judging me, I'm hurting deep within.

Verses 5 & 6

Because of Adam's sinfulness, I tend to disobey;
But I cannot excuse myself, it doesn't work that way;
You must insist on holiness whatever men may say.

Verses 7 & 8

Please purge my soul with hyssop and I'll be white as snow;
Use ashes from the heifer You gave us long ago;
And fill my soul with gladness as the cleansing waters flow.

Verses 9-11

Take all of my transgressions and remove them from Your sight;
Create a clean heart in me so I'll want to do what's right;
Allow Your Holy Spirit to be with me day and night.

Verses 12 & 13

Restore salvation's joyfulness so I can walk with You;
Uphold me by Your Spirit in the things I say and do;
Let others hear my story so they'll be converted too.

Verses 14 & 15

Lord, I've committed bloodshed, please deliver me from guilt;
O God of my salvation do not let my spirit wilt;
Let me proclaim Your mercy in the house that You have built.

Verses 16 & 17

If You desired an offering You know that's how I'd start;
The sacrifice You long for is a pure and contrite heart;
You surely know my spirit has been broken all apart.

Verses 18 & 19

May You discover pleasure in the people You've redeemed;
And sanctify them till their sacrifices are esteemed;
And show them that Your favor is far better than they dreamed.

Psalms 52

Verses 1-5

Why do you boast, O Mighty Man,
of the evil things that you do?
God's goodness still will be right there,
when the Lord's had enough of you.

Your tongue is sharp devising death,
and destruction the way you speak.
You love what's wrong more than what's right,
you are just a deceitful sneak.

You cut folks down, you lying tongue,
and the Lord hears the things you say.
He will destroy you from the earth,
when He takes all your pride away.

Verses 6-9

The righteous ones will watch you fall,
and they'll see that the Lord is strong.
They'll laugh at you and point you out,
as the fool you were all along.

You trusted in deceit and wealth,
and went out in defeat and shame.
But the righteous stand like olive trees,
in the house that reveres God's name.

His mercy flows to faithful men,
who have seen that the Lord is good.
They'll praise Him with the other saints,
who will worship the way they should.

1/6/2016

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Psalms 53

Verses 1

The fools say in their hearts,
“There is no God at all.”
They’re totally corrupt
as part of Adams fall .

Verses 2 & 3

The Lord looks down to see
if any understand;
They’ve all rejected Him,
and no one seeks His hand.

Verse 4

These sinners do not know
the character of God;
They chew His people up,
and claim He is a fraud.

Verse 5

They always seem afraid
when nothing’s there to fear;
The Lord delivers them,
but they don’t know He’s near.

Verse 6

Oh that the Lord Himself
would teach them to repent;
And bring His people home,
and heal their discontent.

1/7/2016

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Psalms 54

Verses 1 & 2

Save me O God by Your name,
vindicate me by Your strength;
Listen to me when I pray,
come to my rescue at length.

Verse 3

Strangers rise up against me,
bullies are seeking my life;
Men who despise all Your ways,
constantly stir up more strife.

Verses 4 & 5

God is My helper and friend,
He sustains those on my side;
He'll judge my enemies' sins,
cutting them off in their pride.

Verses 6 & 7

I pledge my allegiance to Him,
giving Him praise and acclaim;
For He's delivered my soul;
so I will worship His name.

1/8/2016

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Psalms 55

Verses 1-3

Please listen to my prayer, O God, don't hide from my request,
And pay attention to my plea, hear all that I've expressed;
Grave disappointments make me sigh, the wicked rant and rave,
They bring their troubles on my head, please do not let me cave.

Verses 4-7

My misery lies on my heart, death's terrors grip my soul,
While fearfulness and trembling, seem to be in control;
My soul could wish it was a bird, so I could fly away,
And mountain crags would welcome me, where I would like to stay.

Verses 8-11

I would escape the hateful wind, the tempest and the storm,
The violence in the city streets, that no one can reform;
Each day and night the wicked lurk, upon the city walls,
Destruction and iniquity accompany their brawls.

Verse 12-14

I could endure an enemy's, reproach behind my back,
I would expect such things from them, and watch for their attack;
But friends are quite another thing, it shakes one to the core,
And since we were especially close, it only hurts the more.

Verses 15-19

May death curtail their wickedness, and drag them down to hell,
The demons of deceit and sin, are rampant where they dwell.
I'll call upon the Lord my God, I'll pray continually,
I know He'll hear my troubled voice, and come to rescue me.

Verses 18-20

He has redeemed my soul in peace, though many had assailed,
He heard me and afflicted them, the Ancient One prevailed.
My enemy does not fear God, and so he'll stay the same,
He's turned against his closest friends, and double crossed Your name.

Verses 21-23

His words were smooth, his tongue was slick, but war was on his mind;
He broke his covenant of peace, the godly were maligned;
So cast your burden on the Lord, and do not fret or chafe,
He will destroy Your enemies, but He will keep you safe.

Psalms 56

Verses 1 & 2

Be merciful to me, O God,
Men hunt me like they're beasts;
They fight against me all day long,
Their numbers have increased.

Verses 3 & 4

When I'm afraid I trust in You,
Your Word relieves my fears;
Why should I fear what flesh can do?
You've kept me through the years.

Verses 5-7

They hate my guts, they twist my words,
They lie in wait for me;
When will Your anger cut them down
For their iniquity?

Verse 8

You've written down my wanderings,
And saved my tears as well;
And though they'll glitter in my crown,
They'll send my foes to hell.

Verses 9-11

When I cry out to You, O Lord,
My enemies back off;
There's nothing they can do to me,
But turn away and scoff.

Verses 12 & 13

I'm bound by every vow I've made,
I plan to keep them too;
You have delivered me from death,
And I will walk with You.

1/11/2016

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Psalms 57

Verse 1

Be merciful to me, O God,
My soul believes in You;
Beneath the shadow of Your wings
I'll hide myself in You.

Verses 2 & 3

I'll call out to the Lord most high
Who does all things for me
He'll send His mercy and His truth
To shame my enemy

Verse 4

I dwell among the wild beasts,
Although they're men by birth;
Their teeth and claws are sharp and cruel,
But You control the earth.

Verse 6

They spread their nets along my path,
Their pits were hidden well;
And though I had to watch my steps,
They are the ones who fell.

Verses 7 & 8

My heart is steadfast in the Lord,
I have a song to raise;
My harp and lute wake up the dawn,
I glory in Your praise.

Verses 9 & 10

I'll praise Your name to everyone,
I'll sing it to the crowds;
Your mercy reaches heaven's heights,
Your truth dispels the clouds.

Verse 11

Your glory towers above the earth,
Eliciting our "Wows;"
The universe exalts Your name,
And all creation bows.

Psalms 58

Verses 1 & 2

Does silence recommend a man who is afraid to speak,
When righteousness requires the truth for those who really seek?
No, those who don't disclose the facts that shelter those who sin,
Are part and parcel of the guilt they're hiding deep within.

Verses 3-5

The wicked are estranged from God the moment they are born;
Their venom is as poisonous as Satan's subtle scorn;
They're like a cobra that ignores the charmer's soothing voice;
They bite the hand that feeds them just to prove they have a choice.

Verses 6-8

Break out the fangs that threaten us before they strike, O Lord;
These lion cubs develop teeth as sharp as any sword;
Destroy the sinner's arrows long before their bow is bent;
And let them wither like a snail whose moisture has been spent.

Verses 9-11

The Lord will take the wicked in the whirlwind of His wrath;
The righteous will rejoice to see them scattered down its path;
The world will understand that God's the judge of all the earth,
Who punishes the wicked and rewards each life of worth.

Psalms 59

Verses 1-4

Save me from my enemies, defend me from their wrath,
They're workers of iniquity who've wandered from the path;
Keep me from the treachery devised to take my life,
Show them that I'm innocent of stirring up this strife.

Verse 5

Lord and God of Israel wake up and give me aid,
Punish all the nations who take part in their crusade;
Scatter the transgressors who are ready to attack,
Show them you are able to arise and turn them back.

Verses 6 & 7

Stop them from returning like a hungry dog that growls,
Slinking through the city dripping malice from its jowls;
Plundering Your people as they belch out scorn and hate,
Scheming with the scoundrels in the shadows of the gate.

Verses 8-10

Laugh at all the armies of the nations who have come,
Hold them in derision till the victory is won;
God of Mercy, let us see Your people glorified,
Our oppressors humbled in their arrogance and pride.

Verses 11-13a

Scatter them among us so we'll see them in their shame,
Teach us to remember there is power in Your name;
Let them all be taken for the vicious words they say,
Utterly consume them till they perish in the way.

Verses 13b-15

Conquer all our enemies to prove that You are there,
Show them that Jehovah rules His people everywhere.
Nothing good can satisfy their appetite for sin,
If they're not abolished they'll return to do us in.

Verses 16 & 17

I'll sing about Your mercy in the morning's early light,
You're the refuge of my spirit any time of day or night;
You're my strength and my defense when life is looking bleak,
I will not cease to praise You while I have breath to speak.

Psalms 60

Verses 1

O God, in your anger You've broken us down;
You've cast us away in Your wrath;
We're suffering under the weight of Your frown;
Restore us again to Your path.

Verses 2 & 3

You've made the earth quake till it breaks into parts;
The sound of its trembling rings;
The wine of confusion has muddled our hearts;
You've taught us some difficult things.

Verses 4 & 5

You've given a banner to those who repent;
It's boldly emblazoned with truth;
So hear me and answer the prayer I present;
Make us as the love of Your youth.

Verses 6-8

Our God in His holiness gave us the land,
That made all our fathers rejoice;
The heathen were judged by His righteous command;
He made us His people of choice ;

Verses 6 & 7

Both Shechem and Succoth were His to divide;
Manasseh and Gilead too;
Ephraim's the helmet He kindly supplied;
And Edom fell under His shoe.

Verses 7 & 8

Judah's His lawyer and Moab's the sink,
Where He washed the blood from His hands;
The Philistines grounds were all tickled pink,
To be part of Israel's lands.

Verses 9 & 10

Who will bring us to the bulwarks of strength,
In Edom's well-fortified place?
Is it not You, O Lord, who had cast us off,
Who's bringing us back to His grace?

Verse 11 & 12

Sustain us O Lord for our troubles are great,
And no one can save us but You;
Through God we will break through the enemy's gate,
And come out victorious too.

1/13/2016

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Psalms 61

Verses 1-4

Listen to me, attend to my prayer,
O God, from the ends of the earth.
I'm overwhelmed to know that You care,
You've been my shelter from birth.
Show me the rock that's higher than I,
The tower that's a refuge to me,
Let me abide where You're standing by,
Guard me from each enemy.

Verses 5-8

Lord You have heard the vows that I've made,
My heritage issues from You.
You will preserve the righteous who've stayed,
Faithful in all that they do.
Mercy and truth are just what I need,
To lengthen the life of the King.
I'll praise Your name and You will proceed,
To hallow the vows that I bring.

1/13/2016

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Psalms 62

Verses 1 & 2

The Lord is my rock and salvation;
I'll quietly wait for His aid;
He's my defense and foundation;
I cannot be moved or dismayed.

Verses 3 & 4

My enemies want to depose me;
They bless me while cursing my soul;
They'll fall when they rise to oppose me;
They'll die 'cause the Lord's in control.

Verses 5-7

The Lord is my great expectation;
His strength cannot be overthrown;
His glory is my inspiration;
My comfort is in Him alone.

Verse 8

So trust in the Lord and adore Him;
He is the refuge we claim;
And pour out your praises before Him;
Worship His wonderful name.

Verse 9

Though men are conceitedly clannish;
They're never as great as they claim;
They're really like vapors that vanish;
When weighed on a scale they're the same.

Verse 10

Don't trust in deceits or oppressions;
Or hope you can steal and get by;
If you are increased in possessions;
Do not let them lead You awry.

Verses 11 & 12

There's one thing the Lord takes for granted;
We've heard it again and again;
We'll harvest whatever we've planted;
But mercy can cancel out sin.

Psalms 63

Verses 1 & 2

O God You are my God, I'll seek you every day;
My soul thirsts after You, my body wastes away.
There is no water in this dry and thirsty land;
Your glory beckons me to trust Your mighty hand.

Verses 3-5

Your lovingkindness seems far better than my life;
My lips will praise Your name in spite of earthly strife.
I'll bless You while I live, and praise Your holy name;
What satisfies my soul is glimpses of Your fame.

Verses 6-8

I will remember You throughout the darkest night;
Because You've been my help when troubles were in sight.
I'm resting in Your care, rejoicing in Your love;
Secure within the arms of Him who dwells above.

Verses 9-11

The men who seek my life will surely go to hell;
They'll perish in the lie of Satan's evil spell.
But I'll rejoice in God, and glory in His power;
And bless His holiness through every waking hour.

1/14/2016

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Psalms 64

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord, my mind is speaking, preserve my life from fear;
My enemies are seeking, they're getting pretty near.
Protect me from their scheming, they plot iniquity;
These rebels' hearts are teeming with ways to silence me.

Verses 3 & 4

They whet their tongues to sharpen the arrows of their words;
And those who do not harken are shot like sitting birds.
They lurk in secret places with arrows on their string;
There's hatred on their faces, they don't fear anything.

Verses 5 & 6

These people's casual chatter composes evil schemes;
They dream up evil matters, and share each other's dreams.
They're confident they're able to plan the perfect crime;
They do not know they're using a faulty paradigm.

Verses 7 & 8

Their vision is too narrow to know the Lord takes parts;
He'll suddenly shoot His arrow into their stubborn hearts.
He'll cause each one to stumble, their tongues will drag the ground;
They'll learn to be more humble, or die where they are found.

Verses 9 & 10

God wants each person near Him, but righteousness must reign;
We'll either learn to fear Him, or live our lives in vain.
The upright learn to trust Him, because He makes them glad;
We'll glory in His presence, or be extremely sad.

1/15/2016

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Psalms 65

Verses 1-3

O Lord, praise awaits You in Zion,
The vows that You made will be done;
You'll waken our hearts to repentance,
Your battle with us will be won.
Iniquities banished Your people,
But You will atone for our sin;
We'll finally find we're accepted,
Back in Your presence again.

Verse 4 & 5a

The man that You chose will be bless-ed,
He'll have perfect access to You;
He'll dwell in the courts of Your temple,
And share in the good that You do.
O Author of Israel's Salvation,
Our prayers will be answered at last;
The awesomeness of Your uprightness
Will cover the sins of our past,

Verses 5b-8

The world relies on Your goodness,
From here to the shores of the seas;
Your strength has established the mountains,
You're able to do as You please.
You quiet the waves of the oceans,
And calm the rebellions of men;
While mornings and evenings continue,
All people will fear You within.

Verses 9 & 10

You water the earth and enrich it,
The rivers are full to the brim;
Unless You provide what is needed,
The harvest will surely be grim.
You water the ridges in season,
You settle the furrows with rain;
You soften the earth with Your showers,
You nourish the growth of the grain.

Verses 11-13

You crown every year with Your goodness,
Your paths drip abundance and health,
They fall on the wilderness meadows,
The hillsides rejoice in Your wealth.
The flocks and the herds clothe the pastures,
The valleys are covered with crops;
The whole earth resounds with Your praises;
You've filled all our bins to their tops.

1/16/2016

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Psalms 66

Verses 1-4

Make Your joyful noises to the God of all the earth;
Orchestrate the honor of His name;
Make His praises glorious and say to Him alone;
What You are is worthy of acclaim.
Omnipresent strength will make Your enemies submit;
All the earth will bow and worship You;
Everyone will sing Your praise because of who You are;
Awesomeness shows up in all You do.

Verses 5-7

Come and see the things that God has done for men before;
He made the Red Sea dry enough to cross;
People crossed the Jordan on the path He opened up,
To prove to them that Joshua was boss.
We can't stop rejoicing in the things the Lord has done;
He rules creation's substance by His power;
He observes the nations as they turn away from Him;
He'll punish their rebellion in an hour.

Verses 8-12

Bless the Lord you people, make the sound of praise be heard;
Our breath is subject to His sovereign will;
He does not let the wicked knock His people off their feet,
But uses them to put us through the mill.
He melts our souls like silver in the crucible of life;
Afflictions test our mettle every day ;
He promises the fires will only purify our souls;
The waters wash our vanities away.

Verses 13-15

I'll come into Your presence with the worship of my soul;
I'll keep the sacred promises I've made;
Although I may have made them while I was consumed with fear;
I'm bound to keep them though I was afraid.
Though I might sacrifice the flesh of rams and bulls and goats,
And the altar spread aromas all abroad;
A contrite heart must hallow everything I want to give,
Or I couldn't offer anything to God.

Verses 16-20

Come and let me tell you of the goodness of the Lord;
I will declare what He has done for me;
When I called Him with my voice and praised Him with my tongue;
He cleansed my soul from all iniquity.
I know He's heard my voice and has attended to my prayer;
He's helped me more than I will ever know;
I'll bless Him for the mercy He's freely given me,
And praise the Lord wherever I may go.

Psalms 67

Verses 1 & 2

Be merciful to us and bless us O God;
Illuminate us with Your smile;
Be sure that Your precepts are known to all men;
And save both the good and the vile.

Verses 3 & 4

Let everyone praise You with singing and joy;
The nations will join in the song;
Your judgments will always be righteous and fair;
Your government always be strong.

Verses 5-7

The peoples will praise You because You are good;
The earth will be granted new birth;
The blessings of God will flow out from Your throne;
And You'll be revered on the earth.

1/16/2016

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Psalms 68

Verses 1-3

Let God arise and scatter His foes;
Drive them away like the smoke.
Let them all melt like wax in the fire;
May all His enemies choke!
Let all the wicked die in their sins;
May they descend into hell.
Let all the righteous stand before God;
Treat them exceedingly well.

Verses 4-6

Sing to the Lord who rides on the clouds;
Worship Your God and rejoice.
Widows and orphans know Him by name;
They recognize Him by voice.
He helps the poor and prospers the slave,
He gives the lonely a home;
But the rebellious will not be blessed,
Though their sweat waters the loam.

Verses 7-10

God went before the people He sent,
Off to the long-promised land;
Heaven supplied the manna that fell,
Down from the cup of His hand.
Sinai shook at the presence of God,
Fear gripped the people around;
He brought them through by Moses's rod,
Blessing the Patriarchs' ground.

Verses 11-14

The Lord gave the word, people obeyed,
Armies and kings fled away;
The victors possessed the booty they won,
And took off their battle array.
The blessings of God were theirs to enjoy,
He clothed them with silver and gold;
He took it from the kingdoms that scoffed,
And gave it to Israel to hold

Verses 15-18

The mountain of God is envied by all,
He chose to dwell in its peak;
His people are there, He will not depart,
His love is what makes it unique.
He vanquished the earth, ascended on high,
Captivity bowed at His feet;
The kings of the earth surrendered to Him,
And gave Him the gifts of defeat.

Verses 19-23

We bless the Lord, our Savior and God,
Who does us good every day;
He saves us from death by ungodly hands,
Who do not yield to His sway;
He brings His foes from land and from sea,
To answer for what they have done;
He sent us out to put them to death,
His vengeance will touch every one.

Verses 24-27

The world has seen Your procession, O God,
Into the holiest place;
With singers ahead and musicians behind,
Praising Your glory and grace.
Maidens with timbrels danced in the crowd,
Princes were part of Your train;
All of our tribes rejoiced as You passed,
Israel has welcomed Your reign.

Verses 28-31

God has commanded You to be king,
Strengthen Your kingdom, O Lord;
Let the world know Your temple is here,
Kings will relinquish the sword.
They will present You treasures and gifts,
Nations will cling to Your word;
Scatter the people that won't submit,
Show them they're being absurd.

Verses 32-36

Sing to the Lord you kingdoms of earth,
Praise Him from hour to hour;
He traveled in the heavens of old,
At His voice demons still cower.
Pledge your allegiance to the Lord God.
His glory reaches the clouds;
He is more awesome than anything else,
But lends His strength His crowds.

Psalms 69

Verses 1-3

Save Me, O God, for the waters,
Are entering into My soul;
I'm sinking in bottomless quicksand,
No one could stand in this hole;
I'm floundering in the deep waters,
The floods drag Me down with their flow;
I feel absolutely exhausted,
Come quickly, I'm sinking below.

Verses 4 & 5

My enemies hate Me for nothing,
They're more than the hairs of My head;
They're powerful and want to destroy Me,
They've no cause for wishing Me dead;
I've not taken anything from them,
But I must restore what they've lost;
You've laid all their sinfulness on Me,
And I have to pay the full cost.

Verses 6-9

Don't let those who count on You suffer,
Do not let their faith be in vain;
For You I have borne their reproaches,
Their shame is the cause of My pain;
They didn't count Me part of the family,
They scorned all My zeal for Your place;
Their spite for Your name fell upon Me,
They spit their disdain in My face.

Verses 10-12

I chastened My spirit with fasting,
Their laughter increased My chagrin;
I humbled Myself with repentance,
They scorned My concern for their sin;
They touted My name as a cuss word,
Their leaders derided My ways;
And I was the song of the drunkards,
When they should have given Me praise.

Verses 13-15

I offer My prayer to Jehovah,
In the acceptable time;
Because of the truth of Your mercy,
Hear Me in spite of their crime;
Don't let Me sink in the mire,
Save Me from hatred and sin;
Don't let the floodwaters drown Me,
Don't let the pit close Me in.

Verses 16-18

Hear Me, O Lord, in your kindness,
Turn to Me so You can see;
Don't turn Your face from Your servant,
Send down Your mercy to Me;
I'm in big trouble, so hurry,
Redeem My soul from this plight;
Justify Me from their charges,
Don't desert Me in this fight.

Verses 19-21

You know My shame and dishonor,
You know My enemies too;
Reproaches are causing Me sorrow,
I'm heavy-hearted and blue;
I looked for friendship and pity,
Comforters could not be found;
They gave Me gall when I thirsted,
When there was water around.

Verses 22-28

Let their prosperity snare them,
Let blindness darken their eyes;
Let their loins shake in their terror,
Send down Your wrath from the skies;
Let their posterity wander,
Add up their sins one-by-one;
Blot their names out of Your records,
For how they've treated Your Son.

Verses 29-33

Let Your salvation exalt Me,
You've pled My case all along;
I'll magnify You forever,
I'll praise Your name with a song;
Praise pleases You more than oxen,
The contrite will see and be glad;
They'll live because they have sought You,
You help the poor and the sad.

Verses 34-36

Let all creation extol You,
He makes the living abound;
He'll save the city He's chosen,
And all the cities around;
He gave His people a country,
Their children have it right now;
All those who love You dwell in it,
And the whole world will bow.

12/18/2016

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The Messianic Psalms

The Psalms express the actual emotions and experiences of their inspired writers, but the poetic hyperbole in some of them obviously refers to those of the prophesied Messiah. Psalms 22 and 69 are both quoted as referring to the crucifixion several times in the New Testament. I am amazed at how little is said of the physical and spiritual sufferings of Christ in the New Testament, but the Psalms and some of the Prophets had already described them with tear-jerking accuracy long before the time of Christ.

Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 78, 79, 102, 110, and 118 are also quoted as referring to the Christ in the New Testament Scriptures. If the Holy Spirit points out some of these Messianic Psalms in the New Testament, the reader seems reasonably justified in seeing the Messiah in some of the other Psalms as well.

Psalms 70

Verses 1-3

Make haste, O God, to deliver my soul,
Hurry to help me, O Lord;
Let them be shamed and confounded again,
Who seek my life with the sword.
Turn them away in confusion and shame,
While they're devising my harm;
Defeat their claims and arrogant words,
Save me by Your mighty arm.

Verses 4 & 5

Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad;
All those who love You will say,
"Let God be magnified throughout the earth,
For His salvation today."
I'm poor and needy so I need Your help,
Come to me quickly, O God;
Do not delay to rescue my soul,
Deliver me with Your rod.

2/18/2016

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Psalms 71

Verses 1-3

In You, O Lord, I put my trust, do not let me be shamed;
Deliver me in righteousness, let me escape un-blamed;
Be my retreat where I can be secure in Your domain;
Direct that I'm protected there as long as I remain.

Verses 4-6

Deliver me out of the hand of cruel and wicked men;
You've been my hope throughout my youth, I'm trusting You again;
I have upheld Your righteousness, You've been my God from birth;
You took me from my mother's womb, and I will praise Your worth,

Verses 7-11

I have become a wonder to all peoples far and wide;
They know that I've survived because the Lord is on my side;
So don't forsake me as they see that I am growing old;
Let them observe Your faithfulness and You will be extolled.

Verse 12 & 13

O God, don't get too far from me, stay close to help me out;
Confound the ones who seek my life, and fill them full of doubt;
The adversaries of my life will suffer great alarm;
They'll be immersed in infamy because they wish me harm.

Verses 14-16

But I will hope continually, and praise You more and more;
My tongue will tell Your righteousness for evening the score;
I cannot sound the limits of the saving grace You show;
But in Your strength I'll tell the world the little that I know.

Verses 17 & 18

O God, You've taught me from my youth that I can trust in You;
And to this day I have declared the wondrous things You do;
And now that I am old and grey I also want to tell,
The younger generations that You treat Your people well.

Verses 19-21

Your righteousness, O God, stands tall, You've done amazing things;
There is no other God like You in spite of sufferings.
You've shown me many troubles but You've always let me see,
That You've had every reason for the way You've dealt with me.

Verses 22-24

So with the lute I'll praise You for Your faithfulness, O Lord;
And with the harp I will compose a many-colored chord;
My mouth and lips and tongue shall tell how much you are esteemed;
Your righteousness has saved my soul and I have been redeemed.

1/11/2016

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Psalms 72

Verses 1 & 2

O God give the King all Your judgments;
And righteousness to Your own Son;
He'll judge all Your people uprightly,
And make sure that justice is done.

Verses 3 & 4

His judges bring peace to the people,
His elders bring uprightness too;
He'll rule the whole kingdom with justice,
And do what You want Him to do.

Verse 5-7

The people will fear Him forever;
He'll be as refreshing as rain;
The upright will prosper and flourish;
The righteous experience gain.

Verses 8-10

His kingdom will stretch from the River
To the uttermost parts of the earth;
Each ruler will bow down before Him,
And offer Him presents of worth.

Verses 12-14

He'll take up the cause of the needy,
And answer the poor when he pleads;
He'll save them from unjust oppression,
Avenging each wound as it bleeds.

Verse 15

The nations will give Him their tribute;
He'll not have to ask for a thing;
They'll praise Him each day for His goodness;
And pray for the life of the King.

Verses 16 & 17

The mountains will burst with abundance;
The cities will flourish like weeds;
The people will bless Him forever;
And He will attend to their needs.

Verses 18-20

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
Who always does wonderful things.
Let the earth bask in His glory,
While the whole universe sings.

1/18/2016

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Psalms 73

Verses 1 & 2

Although God is good to His people,
Who walk in uprightness of heart;
My thoughts almost caused me to stumble,
By thinking the wicked were smart.

Verses 3 & 4

I let myself envy the boastful,
Who seemed to get by with their sin;
They lived and they died without troubles,
And prospered like no other men.

Verses 5-9

Their pride is a necklace of glory,
Their violence is like a fine robe;
They wallow in wanton abundance,
Their arrogance circles the globe.

Verses 10 & 11

Their riches draw people around them,
They all want a sip from the cup;
They boast that the Lord doesn't see them,
Until they have swallowed it up.

Verses 12-17

I saw them enjoying their riches,
And felt I had served You in vain;
Until I came into Your presence,
And saw the results of such gain.

Verses 18 & 19

Surely the wicked are walking,
Where one slip could cost them their lives;
You'll hurl them down to destruction,
When their time for judgment arrives.

Verse 20

They hide all their fears of the future,
But terror presides in their dreams;
The Lord will awaken and judge them,
They're not half as bold as it seems.

Verses 21 & 22

Why I was grieved is what bugs me,
Why I was vexed blows my mind;
I was so ignorant and foolish,
I acted as though I were blind.

Verses 23 & 24

Nevertheless You stayed with me,
You held me up by the hand;
Guided my soul with Your counsel,
and will receive me as planned.

Verses 25-27

Who else will I have in heaven,
There's no one else like You on earth;
Those who reject You will perish,
But You've sustained me from birth.

Verse 28

Lord, it is good to be near You,
I've put my trust in Your word;
I love to speak of Your glory,
And let Your praises be heard.

1/18/2016

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Psalms 74

O God:

Verses 1 & 2

Why have You cast Your people away?
It seems that You've put them on hold.
Why does Your anger smolder against
Your people, the sheep of Your fold.
Remember the people You bought long ago,
the legacy that You redeemed,
And Zion, where You have chosen to dwell,
which once was so highly esteemed.

Verses 3 & 4

Come and observe the desolate state
that the Holy of Holies is in.
Your enemies ruined the sanctified things,
because of our grievous sin.
They gloat in the midst of Your temple of old,
where they have no right to be,
While flying the flags of idolatrous gods,
to broadcast their god's victory.

Verses 5- 8

They have chopped up the best of the beams,
and broken the woodwork to bits;
They even set fire to the holiest place,
where all of Your furniture sits.
They've desecrated the place of Your name,
they're leveling it to the ground;
They've burned the places where we have met,
everywhere they could be found.

Verses 9 & 10

The prophets are gone, we don't see the signs,
that prove You are speaking to us;
There's no one left to tell us how long
You're going to keep treating us thus.
O Lord, how long will You let them reproach
the people who call on Your name?
When will You stop their blasphemous ways
that cause all Your people such shame ?

Verses 11 & 14

When will you take the hand of Your strength
and smack all Your enemies down?
You've been our King from many years back
who saved us from many a frown;
You split the sea to make us a path,
but didn't let our enemies cross;
You broke the power of Pharaoh himself,
and handed his armies a loss.

Verses 15-17

You brought us water out of the rock,
and dried up the Jordan to boot.
You own the day, You own the night,
You are the one absolute.
You set the borders of the whole earth,
where the sea touches the land;
You made the seasons govern the globe
by Your almighty command.

Verses 18 & 19

Remember the crass our enemies show,
is putting Your glory to shame;
These foolish people's impudent speech,
is blaspheming Your holy name.
Do not deliver those who You love,
to death by these insolent beasts;
Please don't forget forever, O Lord,
to rescue the humble, at least.

Verses 20 & 21

Do not neglect the promise You made
to Israel a long time ago;
The vaults of the earth are full of cruel haunts
where people should not have go.
Do not allow Your penitent saints
to suffer such shameful defeat;
But let the poor and needy bow down,
and offer their praise at Your feet.

Verses 22 & 23

Arise then, O Lord, and plead Your own cause,
there's nothing Your people can do;
Remember the way these foolhardy men
persist in disparaging You.
Do not forget the hate in their speech,
that shows the extent of their sin;
The tumult of those opposed to Your rule,
will spread until You rein it in,

1/21/2016

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Psalms 75

Verses 1-3

O God we are thankful that You have come near
To judge when the season is right;
The earth and its people will all disappear,
Until things are right in Your sight.

Verses 4 & 5

You said to the boastful, "Beware of your pride,"
To the wicked, "Just pull your horns in."
"Don't stick Your nose too high in the air,
Or stiffen your necks yet again."

Verses 6 & 7

Honor is not from the east or the west,
It comes from the Lord up above;
He drags a man down or raises him up;
He's ruthless when push comes to shove.

Verse 8

He mingles the vintage that He has prepared ;
He takes the cup down from it pegs;
The righteous will sip its sparkling wine,
The wicked are left with the dregs

Verses 9 & 10

I love to declare the greatness of God,
He'll always be worshiped and praised.
The pride of the wicked will be taken down,
But the head of the upright be raised.

1/18/2016

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Psalms 76

Verses 1-3

God is known in Judah, and Israel touts His name;
Jerusalem has His temple, and Zion basks in fame;
There He broke the arrows of the heathens' bows-
The instruments of battle belonging to His foes.

Verses 4-6

He's stronger the mighty, so they became the prey;
He cast a stupor on them and took their stuff away;
Their slumber was so heavy they could not raise their hands;
At His rebuke their horses obeyed the Lord's commands.

Verses 7-9

Let all the nations fear You and, bow down at Your feet,
And if they make You angry, their doom will be complete;
Your judgments fall from heaven and all the earth stands still,
You punish all oppressors who will not do Your will.

Verses 10-12

The wrath of man will praise Him, He'll discipline the rest;
Those who make vows before Him, had better do their best.
Let all around Him give Him the treasures of their souls;
He'll stifle the rebellious who still oppose His goals .

1/22/2016

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Psalms 77

Verses 1-3

I called out to God and He heard me;
 In my troubles I looked to the Lord;
I reached out to Him without ceasing;
 But it seemed I was being ignored.
I sought Him through daylight and darkness;
 I refused any other relief;
I chided the Lord in my anguish,
 I complained in my spiritual grief.

Verses 4-6

The Lord holds my eyelids wide open;
 I am too disappointed to speak;
I think of His grace to His people,
 In the old days when times were so bleak.
I remember those songs in the darkness,
 When they saw that His presence was there.
I wonder why things are so different
 When we come with fasting and prayer,

Verses 7-9

Will the Lord judge His people forever?
 Will He never forgive us our sin?
Is His patience completely exhausted?
 Will He never accept us again?
Has His covenant with us been voided?
 Will His promises go unfulfilled?
Does He recollect how to be gracious?
 Will His anger refuse to be stilled?

Verses 10-15

So I thought, "I must live with this anguish,
 But I'll dwell on how things were before;
I'll remember the things He accomplished,
 'Cause I know He can do them once more."
He's a God who has done many wonders;
 He has proven how mighty He is;
He's always redeemed all His people;
 The praise and the glory are His."

Verses 16-20

The floodwaters saw Him and trembled;
The clouds spilled their rain in the sky;
Lightning bolts slashed down like arrows,
And thunder re-echoed on high.
The earth saw His glory and shuddered;
The sea covered at its display.
He rescued His people from Egypt,
And nothing can stand in His way.

1/23/2016

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Psalms 78

Verses 1-4

Listen to the law of God and lend a willing ear,
I'll tell you things He uttered long ago;
Things our fathers learned about to get along with Him,
Things we've heard before and ought to know.
We'll explain them to our kids when they're old enough,
Tell our generations of His might;
Teach them to proclaim His praises every day and hour,
So they'll be accepted in his sight.

Verses 5-8

He chose us to be a testimony to His name,
So they would be faithful to His ways;
They'll be sure to tell them to their offspring after them,
To perpetuate His precepts and His praise.
They will fix their hope on Him and follow His commands,
They will not forget what He has done;
The will not be like their fathers who despised the Lord,
And rebelled against the High and Mighty One.

Verses 9-16

Ephraim forgot the things that God had done for them,
They didn't fight the battles of the Lord;
Remember How He saved us when the Red Sea opened up,
So we could walk across it in a horde.
He led us through the desert by the cloud and by the fire,
We did not need a guide to show the way;
When we needed water He produced it from the rocks,
He gave us all we needed day by day.

Verses 17-31

The people soon forgot what they'd seen Jehovah do,
They tired of eating manna all the time;
They doubted His ability to give them other food,
They claimed that they were dying in their prime.
The Lord became so furious because they didn't believe,
Although they'd seen His blessings all along;
He gave them so much quail to eat that many of them died,
His wrath fell on the mighty and the strong.

Verses 32-39

In spite of this they sinned again because of lack of faith,
Futility consumed their souls within;
When they thought of dying they began to seek the Lord,
They remembered what He'd done for them again.
Their hearts were never steadfast so they never really cared,
They flattered God with lying and deceit;
He knew their flesh was weak so He forgave them of their sin,
His compassion was conclusive and complete.

Verses 40-51

They fought Him in the wilderness and grieved Him more and more,
They didn't remember all of Egypt's plagues;
When the rivers turned to blood and frogs died in the streets,
And the flies were biting at their arms and legs.
Pharaoh's crops and cattle died but he wouldn't let them go,
Till His unprotected child had died;
But the angel of the Lord spared all the families that believed
When they used the remedy that God supplied.

Verses 52-58

God shepherded His people through the desert like a flock,
He brought them to the borders of the Land;
He drove the nations out and let His people have their stuff,
They parceled out their fields by His command.
God's people still provoked Him with idolatry and sin,
They did not keep the precepts of His law;
They became unfaithful like their fathers had before,
They acted like they did not think He saw.

Verses 59-66

God became so angry with their double crossing deeds,
He left them and forsook their place of praise;
He let them be defeated by the people of the Land,
Who ridiculed their children for their ways.
The Lord awoke and saved them from the trouble they were in,
He shouted like a man aroused from wine;
He beat back all their enemies and put them to reproach,
And grafted back the branches in the vine.

Verses 67-72

God chose the tribe of Judah, and Mount Zion for His home,
His sanctuary stretched into its heights;
He hallowed it forever as the place where He would dwell,
It will always be the holiest of sites.
He took David from the sheepfolds to take care of all His sheep,
He made him herdsman of His sons by birth;
He shepherded God's people with integrity of heart,
So God promised that his Son would rule the earth.

Psalms 79

Verses 1-4

The Gentiles, O God, have come into Your land;
They've polluted Your temple with sin;
They've torn down Jerusalem and left it in heaps;
We're very disheartened within.
Our blood is like water that runs in the streets;
Our bodies are scavengers' food;
There's too few survivors to bury our dead;
We're scorned and disparaged and booed.

Verses 5-7

How long will it be till You answer our prayers?
Will You never get over Your rage?
Will Your jealousy burn until we're consumed?
When will You stop their rampage?
Pour out Your wrath on the nations around,
Who do not acknowledge Your name;
They have devoured all Your people of old,
And set all their dwellings aflame.

Verses 8-10

Be pleased to forgive us our national sins;
Come with Your mercy and grace;
Provide us atonement for all that we've done;
Save both Your people and place.
Why should our enemies question Your strength?
Show them they're not very bright.
Avenge all the blood of Your servants they shed,
And let it be done in our sight.

Verses 11-13

Hear all the groans of their captives, O Lord,
Preserve those appointed to die.
Heap seven times our reproach on their heads,
Show them who rules from on high.
Then we Your people, the sheep of Your fold .
Will never stop giving You thanks;
And each generation that follows our own,
Will hear You extolled from our ranks .

Psalms 80

Verses 1-3

Listen, O Shepherd of Israel,
 who leads Joseph's clan like a flock,
Shine from between the two cherubs,
 and show us that You are our rock.
Benjamin, Ephraim, Manasseh,
 open your eyes to the light!
Come, Lord, restore us and save us,
 stir up the strength of Your might.

Verses 4-7

How long, Lord of Hosts, will Your anger
 reject all the prayers that we think?
You've fed us the bread of affliction,
 and given us tears for our drink.
You've made us a strife to our neighbors,
 our enemies laugh as they rave;
Come, Lord, restore and protect us,
 and show us You're able to save.

Verses 8-13

You brought us —a vine out of Egypt—
 and planted us in Your own land;
You drove out the nations that lived there
 and gave it to us by Your hand;
You made us take root in the soil,
 we spread all the way to the sea,
So why have You broken our hedges
 and let in our worst enemy.

Verses 14-19

Look down from the heavens and see us,
 and visit Your vineyard again;
The vine that You watered and nourished,
 is wilted because of our sin.
Raise up the One who can help us,
 and send us the great Son of Man;
Come, Lord, revive us and save us,
 and show the whole world that You can.

Psalms 81

Verses 1 & 2

Sing aloud to God our Savior,
Shout your joys aloud and sharp;
Set the rhythm with a timbrel,
Pluck the music on your harp.

Verses 3-5

Blow the trumpet in its season,
For the feasts prescribed by God;
This is what the Lord established,
While we dwelt on Egypt's sod.

Verses 6- & 7

I removed your burden from you;
Freed you from the whips of men;
When you called I came and saved you,
But I warned you even then.

Verses 8-10

"Hear, O Israel, listen to Me,
You shall not have other gods;
I'm the One who came and helped you,
All the other ones are frauds."

Verses 11- & 12

But My people would not listen,
They refused to worship Me;
So I've left them in their darkness,
Till they know they could not see.

Verses 13-16

How I wish they'd come back to Me,
So My blessings would be theirs;
I would feast them on the finest,
And respond to all their prayers.

1/25/2016

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Psalms 82

Verses 1 & 2

God stands in the midst of the mighty,
He comes to their leaders to say:
“How long will you judge without justice,
And favor the wicked for pay?”

Verses 3 & 4

“Be fair to the poor and the orphans;
Do right by the helpless indeed;
Deliver the weak and the needy,
From those who exploit them for greed.”

Verse 5

“The wicked do not understand Me;
They have no idea what I’ll say;
They stumble around in the darkness;
You’re all as unstable as they.”

Verses 6 & 7

“I made you like gods to the people,
But they are My children as well;
You’ll die as a man just like they do;
Your greatest can fall into hell.”

Verse 8

Rise up, O Lord, for all peoples;
Bring righteousness back to the earth;
Arise and establish the kingdom,
That God promised us at Your birth.

1/18/2016

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Psalms 83

Verses 1-4

Do not keep silent, O God; please do not rest in Your peace;
Do not be quiet because Your enemies will not cease.
They stir up trouble and strife, mongering hatred and fear;
They want our nation to die, they don't want us to be here.

Verses 5-12

All of the nations around rally to wipe Israel out;
The coalition they've formed gives them incredible clout.
They rise against You, O Lord, help us in spite of our sin;
You sheltered us long ago, deliver Your people again.

Verses 13-18

Make them afraid of Your storm, be like a fire in the woods;
Blow them away in the wind, damage their crops and their goods;
Come as You did in the past, put all their notions to shame;
Put all their arrogance down, teach them to honor Your name.

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Psalms 84

Verses 1-4

How lovely Your temple, O Lord God of Hosts,
My soul longs to be in its courts;
My heart and my flesh are yearning for You,
I love what the Scripture exhorts.
Even the birds find a place for themselves,
To care for their young in their nests;
There by Your altar my King and my God
Is where I would choose for my rest .

Verses 5-89

Blessed is the person whose strength is in God,
Who walks as a pilgrim on earth;
He makes the wadis like springs by the path,
It rains on him even in dearth.
He travels along with unlimited strength,
A heavenly creature by choice;
Lord God of Jacob, draw near as I pray,
And make Your anointed rejoice.

Verses 10-12

A day in Your courts beats a thousand outside,
I'd rather serve humbly in there,
Than dwell in the tents of the wicked or rich,
No matter how fancy or fair.
The Lord God's a sun and a shield to His own,
Who radiates glory and grace;
He'll not withhold anything that is good,
From those who abide in that place.

1/25/2016

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Psalms 85

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah

Verses 1-3

O Lord, Your land has been favored;
Your people are free once again;
Their iniquities have been forgiven;
You've covered up all of their sin;
You've taken away all Your anger;
The rage of Your wrath is reigned in.

Verses 4-7

Restore us, O God of Salvation,
And grant us a permanent peace;
Revive each redeemed generation;
Insure that their blessings increase;
Bequeath us Your mercy forever;
Do not let Your faithfulness cease .

Verses 8 & 9

We'll hear what the Lord wants to tell us;
He'll quiet each fear that assails;
But those who return back to folly,
Will learn what His judgment entails;
He'll always be near those who fear Him,
As long as His mercy prevails.

Verses 10-13

Your mercy and truth are united,
And peace and uprightness embrace;
Your righteousness shines down from heaven.
We're blessed with Your goodness and grace;
Our land will produce in abundance,
And truth will reflect from each face.

1/25/2016

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Psalms 86

A Prayer of David

Verses 1-4

Hear me, O Lord, for I am poor and needy;
Preserve my life, I'm sanctified by You;
Save me O Lord, because I trust your mercy;
Sustain my soul, in everything I do.

Verses 5-7

O Lord, You're good, and ready to forgive us;
Your mercy falls on those who trust Your love;
Please hear my prayer, and grant my supplication;
I call on You for answers from above.

Verses 8-10

Among the gods there is no other like You;
Nor can they do a miracle at all;
The nations shall pay homage to Your kingdom;
They'll pledge allegiance to You when You call.

Verses 11-13

Teach me Your way, and I will walk beside You;
Unite my heart to fear Your holy name;
I'll praise You, Lord, forever and forever;
Your mercy saved my soul from endless shame.

Verses 14 & 15

O God, the proud have risen up against me;
A mob of violent men have sought my life;
But You, O Lord, are full of true compassion;
You truth delivers me from all their strife.

Verses 16 & 17

O come to me and shed Your mercy on me;
Give me the strength to follow in the way;
I am the son of one of Your maidservants;
Show me that You are helping me each day.

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Psalms 87

A Psalm of the Sons of Korah

Verses 1-3

The Lord loves the gates of Zion,
His foundations rest in its hills.
It's the holiest spot in the nation;
It's the place that His glory fills.

Verses 4-6

Folks from a lot of birthplaces,
Boast of the heroes they share;
But Zion's the place where the Lord says,
"This one was registered there."

Verse 7

Songwriters sing of its glory,
Musicians play tribute as well;
Springs of delight issue from it,
It is the Lord's citadel.

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Psalms 88

(A Psalm of the Sons of Korah)

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord, You're the God of salvation,
I've called upon You night and day;
Let My prayer come up before You,
Listen to what I will say.

Verses 3 & 4

My soul is afflicted with trouble;
My life's on the verge of the grave;
The jaws of the pit are wide open;
I'm dying the death of a slave.

Verse 5

I feel that I'm drifting in limbo,
As buried but still much alive;
As though You've forgotten My being;
As though You will never arrive.

Verses 6 & 7

You've laid Me to rest in the darkness,
Deep down in the deepest of pits;
Your wrath still lies heavily on Me,
Your waves pound My spirit to bits.

Verses 8 & 9

You've kept My acquaintances from Me,
You've made Me abhorrent to all;
I feel like I'm shut up in prison,
I'm wasting away as I call.

Verses 10-12

Can dead men rise up and extol You?
Or tell of Your kindness and love ?
Or speak from the realms of destruction,
Of wonders sent down from above?

Verses 13- & 14

All morning My prayers come before You,
Why do You cast off My soul?
Why do You hide Your face from Me?
When will You stoop to console?

Verses 15-18

I'm ready to die from affliction,
I suffer Your terrors and wrath;
You've taken My loved ones far from Me,
And sent My friends down the dark path.

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Psalms 89

(A Contemplation of Ethan the Ezrahite)

Verses 1-4

I'll sing of the mercies God shows us forever,
and make all His faithfulness known;
His mercy is with us forever and never
will leave him who sits on His throne.
He promised the kingdom to David His servant,
and swore that He'd never repent;
His offspring would prosper as long as they're fervent,
and reign with a godly intent.

Verses 5-14

The heavens will praise all the wonders God shows us,
within the assembly of saints;
There's no one like Him who loves and knows us,
and guides us with righteous constraints.
When waves tower above and billows surround us,
the raging sea quells at His voice;
He made both the earth and heavens around us,
And makes His creation rejoice.

Verses 15-18

The people who value the sound of His praises,
Are blessed in the presence of God;
They join in the music each joyful heart raises,
While spreading His glory abroad.
In Your righteousness they're highly exalted,
You are their glory and power;
And in Your strength they can never be faulted,
You keep them from hour to hour.

Verses 19-23

You spoke in a vision to him who was holy,
To David, the man of Your choice.
You gave him the kingdom because He was lowly;
You uttered the sound of Your voice.
"My hand will be with you, I'll surely defend you,
I'll strengthen you with My own arm;
No one can outwit you wherever I send you,
Your enemies can't do you harm."

Verses 24-29

My covenant with Him amounts to salvation,
His kingdom and throne are secure.
With My approbation He'll govern the nation,
His seed on His throne will endure."
I'll cause Him to prosper, it won't be a bother,
For He will be precious to Me;
I'll call Him My firstborn, He'll call Me his father,
And he will rule over the sea.

Verse 30-37

If his sons forsake Me and scorn My commands,
I'll punish their sins with My rod;
But My lovingkindness most surely demands,
That I keep my promise as God.
I will remain faithful despite their transgressions,
My mercy will surely prevail;
I'll chasten them till they regret their regressions,
My covenant never will fail.

Verses 38-45

But Lord You've abhorred them, and scorned Your anointed,
By casting their crowns to the ground;
You've broken the strongholds of those You've appointed,
Their kingdom can't even be found.
Their soldiers are humbled, their goods have been plundered,
You haven't exalted Your name;
And David's seed suffers because they have blundered,
You've covered Your people with shame.

Verses 46-52

How long will You leave us? Will You hide forever?
Remember how short our days are;
Futility threatens all human endeavor
Send us Your help from afar.
Where is Your kindness to David's descendants?
Your enemies laugh them to scorn.
We bear the reproach of their proud independence,
And bless You for what You have sworn.

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Psalms 90

Verses 1 & 2

Lord , You have been our dwelling place
In every generation;
From everlasting You were God
Before the earth's creation.

Verses 3 & 4

You cause a man to pass away,
He's dust within a second;
A thousand years are but a day
The way Your time is reckoned.

Verses 5 & 6

They're swept away as by a flood,
They float on down the river;
At sunrise they are in full bud,
By night their blossoms wither.

Verses 7-9

Your anger has consumed our souls,
Our sins come up before You;
Our secret sins are on Your scrolls,
Forgive us we implore You.

Verse 10

Though we survive to eighty years,
They're full of sweat and sorrow;
Your anger fills our lives with fears,
That we may die tomorrow.

Verses 11 & 12

Who knows Your anger at our ways,
We fear You absolutely.
Teach us to number all our days,
And use our time astutely.

Verses 13 & 14

How long, O Lord, till You return?
Please listen to our wailings,
And satisfy us as we learn
Your mercy on our failings.

Verses 15-17

Make us to see that all You do,
Contributes to Your glory;
And anything we do for You,
Contributes to Your story.

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Psalms 91

Verses 1 & 2

The Lord is my refuge and fortress,
My God in whose name I will trust;
Whoever abides in His hideouts,
Will rest in the shade of the Just.

Verses 2 & 4

He'll save them from set-ups and troubles,
From mortal diseases as well;
He'll cover them with His protection,
And comfort them under His spell.

Verses 5 & 6

They won't be afraid in the darkness,
Or whatever comes in the day,
Or the pestilences of the nighttime,
Or the dangers that lurk in the way,

Verses 7 & 8

Though many may fall right beside them,
They'll come through the battle unscathed;
They'll see the reward of the wicked,
But those who He loves will be saved.

Verses 9 & 10

Because we have made God our refuge,
And dwell in His presence on high,
No plagues can come into our dwelling;
No evil can cause us to die.

Verses 11-13

His angels are sent to protect You,
They'll carry You over the stones;
You'll stomp on the lions and cobras,
Without ever breaking Your bones.

Verse 14

Because You have set Your love on Me,
I'll save You from every distress;
I'll set You on high for My name's sake,
And bless You with every success.

Verses 15 & 16

He'll call upon Me and I'll answer,
I'll be there when trouble assails;
I'll give Him long life and great honor,
And prove that My mercy prevails.

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Psalms 92

Verses 1-4

It's good to give thanks to the Lord,
And sing out our praise to Your name;
To tell of Your kindness by day,
At night You are always the same.
The melody starts with the harps,
The harmony comes from more strings;
For You have brought joy to our hearts,
We triumph in all of Your things.

Verses 5-7

O Lord, what You do's always great,
The thoughts of Your heart are profound;
A foolish man can't comprehend,
The joy of this wonderful sound.
The wicked spring up like the grass,
When iniquitous people increase;
But they'll be destroyed at the time,
When You replace anger with peace.

Verses 8-11

But You will prevail evermore,
You'll scatter Your foes all abroad;
Your enemies perish in shame,
Because You're omnipotent God.
You've given me strength like a bull,
You've appointed my station in life;
I've seen all my enemies fail,
I've heard them succumb in the strife.

Verses 12-18

The righteous shall flourish like palms,
They'll be like magnificent trees;
They'll grow in the courts of the Lord,
Their stately forms wave in the breeze.
They'll never stop bearing their fruit,
They'll never get scraggy and old;
They'll show that the Lord remains true,
His righteousness can't go untold.

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Psalms 93

Verse 1

The Lord God reigns over the earth,
His majesty fits like a robe;
He's tightened His strength round His girth,
His rule stabilizes the globe.

Verses 2-4

He's God from eternity past,
His throne was established of old;
The floods of resistance were vast,
The will of the Lord could not fold.

Verse 5

Whatever He says is as sure,
As if it were already done;
In holiness it will endure,
The battle is already won.

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Psalms 94

Verses 1-3

Vengeance belongs unto You, O Lord,
Rise up and bring justice to earth;
Punish the wicked with their reward,
How long will they scorn You with mirth?

Verses 4-7

Insolent boasters of sin persist,
They're breaking Your people apart;
They murder the weaker who can't resist,
They don't understand Your good heart.

Verses 8-11

Wake up and listen you senseless fools,
If God made our ears, He can hear;
He teaches the nations His holy rules;
The day of His judgment is near.

Verses 12-15

The man who's instructed by God is blessed,
The wicked do not want to learn,
Each contrite soul will enjoy God's rest,
When the Lord deigns to return.

Verses 16-19

Who will defend us from evil men?
Without the Lord's help we would die;
He comforts the anxious for what has been,
His grace is in boundless supply.

Verses 20-23

Shall thrones of iniquity ruin Your reign,
And frustrate the cause of the just?
The Lord condemn anything so inane,
He's worthy of everyone's trust.

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Psalms 95

Verses 1 & 2

O come, let us sing the Lord's praises,
He's greater than all other gods;
We'll enter His house with thanksgiving,
We'll greet Him with cheers and applause.

Verses 3 & 4

The depths of the earth are His thumbprints.
The hilltops were made by His hand;
He spoke and the sea floors descended,
His fingers heaped up the dry land.

Verses 5-7

O come, let us bow down before Him,
We'll kneel to our Maker and sing.
For we are the sheep of His pasture,
The flock of our Savior and King.

Verse 8

Today If you hear His voice, listen!
Don't be like your fathers of old,
Who hardened their hearts in the desert,
And put all God's blessings on hold.

Verses 9 & 10

They took the Lord's goodness for granted,
After they'd seen what He'd done;
He made them remain in the desert,
Until they all died one-by-one.

Verses 10 & 11

For forty long years He went with them,
And met all their needs and requests;
But since they'd refused to obey Him,
He wouldn't let them enter His rest.

Psalms 96

Verses 1-3

Oh, sing a new song to the Lord;
Bless His name, all of the earth;
Tell out the gospel each day;
Speak of His glorious worth.

Verses 4-6

The Lord God deserves to be praised,
And feared above all other gods;
He makes the whole universe work;
The evidence beats all the odds.

Verses 7-9

Give the Lord glory and strength;
Give Him what's due to His name;
The beauty of holiness yearns,
To give Him our highest acclaim.

Verse 10

The nations all need to be told,
"The Lord of the universe reigns."
He'll rule it with justice and truth,
And stabilize all its domains.

Verses 11-13

Let heaven and earth be content;
The land and the oceans rejoice;
He's coming to judge the whole earth,
And righteousness tempers His voice.

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Psalms 97

Verses 1 & 2

The Lord reigns over the earth
Let the land and the islands rejoice
He's shrouded by darkness and clouds
There's justice and truth in His voice

Verses 3 & 4

The fire of His righteousness burns
All of His foes are consumed
His lightning illuminates sin
The wicked can see that they're doomed

Verses 5 & 6

The mountains are melted like wax
They flee from the Lord of the earth
His righteousness brightens the skies
They tell out His glory and worth

Verse 7

Let those who serve idols be shamed
Their worthlessness has been revealed
All other gods bow to the LORD
His attributes can't be concealed

Verses 8 & 9

The daughters of Judah are glad
Because of Your judgments, O Lord
The LORD towers above all the earth
All substitute gods are abhorred

Verse 10

Hate evil if you love the Lord
He saves all the souls of His saints
He won't let the wicked prevail
He shields them with holy constraints

Verses 11 & 12

His light has been sown in our souls
And joy in the upright in heart
Rejoice and be sure to give thanks
For all that His mercies impart

Psalms 98

(A Psalm)

Verse 1

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song,
For He has done marvelous things;
The victory His holy arm won,
Has made Him the king of all kings.

Verses 2 & 3

His righteousness has been revealed,
He's saved us because of His name;
His faithfulness to us is known;
He promised us glory and fame.

Verses 4-6

Shout joyfully, all of the earth,
Break out with a psalm of His praise;
Let trumpets and timbrels and harps,
Rejoice in the music they raise.

Verses 7 & 8

Let stormy seas roar with delight;
Let praises erupt from all lands;
Let laughter escape from the hills,
And rivers applaud with their hands.

Verse 9

The Lord is returning to earth,
He'll wipe away sin's ugly blight;
He'll judge with uprightness and truth,
And set all injustices right.

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Psalms 99

(A Psalm)

Verses 1-3

Let the people tremble for the Lord God reigns;
Let them fear Him from the temple where He dwells.
The Lord is great in Zion, over all domains;
Let them praise Him as His majesty compels.

Verses 4 & 5

His delight in justice is the rod He wields;
He's established law and order in the lands.
Praise Him for the equity His judgments yields.
For His holiness is seen in His commands.

Verses 6 & 7

Moses and his brother were among His priests;
Men like Samuel called upon His holy name.
He answered them in person as His Word increased;
They proclaimed His testimonies without shame.

Verses 8 & 9

Though You were forgiving when they slipped and fell,
You would have to judge their arrogance and pride;
Your righteousness extends to all the greats as well,
And Your holiness is always justified.

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Psalms 100

(A Psalm of Thanksgiving)

Verses 1-3

Make joyful noises to the Lord;
 Serve Him with His gladness in your soul;
Come to His presence with a song;
 Know that your God is in control.

Verses 3

He made us from the ancient dust;
 We are the people of His fold;
He shepherds us with tender care,
 And none can pluck us from His hold.

Verse 4

Come through His gates with thankful hearts,
 Into His courts with psalms of praise;
Express your thanks on prayerful knees,
 And bless Him for His faithful ways.

Verse 5

The Lord is great, the Lord is good,
 His grace and mercy cannot cease;
His truth will last forevermore,
 And bring us everlasting peace.

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Psalms 101

(A Psalm of David)

Verses 1 & 2

I'll sing of Your mercy and justice,
I'll offer my praise to the Lord;
I'll cover myself with Your wisdom,
And You will become my reward.

Verses 2-4

I'll struggle to walk in perfection,
I'll not let my eyes go astray;
I'll hate all the works of the wicked;
I'll drive evil thoughts far away.

Verses 4 & 5

I will not have sinful intentions,
Nor slander my neighbor or friend;
I will not endure haughty people;
I'll walk with the Lord till the end.

Verse 6

My soul will admire all the faithful,
I'll welcome them into my home;
We'll walk in perfection together,
So none of the upright will roam.

Verses 7 & 8

Deceitfulness will not be welcomed,
And liars will not be allowed;
I'm bound to destroy the rebellious,
And humble the haughty and proud.

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Psalms 102

A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed
and pours out his complaint before the LORD.)

Verses 1 & 2

Please hear the call of Your Son, O Lord,
And listen to Me when I pray
Don't hide Your face from My troubled soul
Answer My pleading today

Verses 3 & 4

My days disappear like smoke in the sky
My bones are consumed by the heat
My heart withers up like grass in the drought
I cannot remember to eat

Verses 5-7

Because of the groans of My anguished soul
My skeleton shows through my skin
I lie awake like an owl in the night
Or a sparrow alone on the bin

Verses 8 & 9

My enemies mock Me all the day long
They swear that I'm guilty of death
I've eaten the ashes of shame and despair
I strangle on tears with each breath

Verses 10 & 11

Because of Your indignation and wrath
You've cast Me away from Your sight
My days are like shadows that have no end
I shrivel away in the night

Verses 12 & 13

But You will endure forever, O Lord
Our children will speak of Your fame
The time for Your mercy on us has come
And Zion will honor Your name

Verses 14 & 15

Your servants rejoice in Zion's old stones
Her dust is their sanctified land
The nations will reverence Your name, O Lord
When they see Your nail scarred hand

Verses 16 & 17

The Lord will rebuild His city again
He'll appear with the glory of God
He'll answer the prayers of the destitute
When He stands on Jerusalem's sod

Verses 18 & 19

This has been penned for peoples to come
So they'll give praise to the Lord
When He comes down from heaven above
Wielding His two-edged sword

Verse 20

He'll hear the sound of the prisoners groan
Who suffer reproaches and shame
He'll release those who would far rather die
Than think of denying His name

Verses 21 & 22

He'll save the people who turn to Him
To prove that His promise is true
The nations that see it will yield to Him
And serve Him in all that they do

Verses 23 & 24

He took my strength and shortened My days
I cried, "Do not take Me away."
He heard My voice and raised Me back up
And promised I'd never decay

Verses 25 & 26

"You laid the earth's foundation of old,
You made the heavens secure;
They will grow old and need to be changed,
They'll perish but You will endure."

Verses 27 & 28

"They'll pass away but You are the same
Your years will not come to an end
Your servants' offspring will never see death
As time and eternity blend."

Psalms 103

(A Psalm of David)

Verses 1-5

Bless the Lord with all that's in you,
Don't forget the things He does;
He forgives your sins and failures,
Heals your pains and illnesses.
He redeems your soul from dying,
Crowns you with the best of care;
Satisfies your mouth with goodness,
Gives you youthful strength to spare.

Verses 6-10

Know that God is always righteous,
He is fair to the oppressed;
He revealed His ways to Moses,
And His acts to all the rest.
He is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger when we cry;
He deals gently with our failures,
Though we all deserve to die.

Verses 11-14

The compassions that He shows us,
Stretch from heaven down to earth;
He removes transgressions from us,
Farther than the world's girth.
And His pity's like a father's.
With the children of his home;
He does not forget we're made of,
Dust and water from the loam.

Verses 15-18

As for man, his days are numbered,
Like the flowers of the field;
When the desert winds destroy them,
And there isn't any yield.
But God's mercy lasts forever,
On the men who fear His name;
And their children's children serve Him,
Without guiltiness or blame.

Verses 19-22

He has placed His throne in heaven,
Where He rules from outer space;
And the holy angels bless Him,
As they serve in every place.
They accomplish what He pleases,
Bless the Lord, He's in control;
Everything's in His dominion,
Bless Your Savior O my soul.

2/11/2016

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Psalms 104

Verses 1-4 (The Heavens)

I'll bless the Lord for His greatness,
His honor and majesty glow;
He dresses with light for a garment,
The heavens are stretched out below.
His chambers look down from the vapors,
He rides on a cloud in the sky;
He walks on the wings of the breezes,
And sends angels down from on high.

Verses 5-9 (The Earth)

He laid down the world's foundations,
They cannot be broken apart;
He wrapped the new earth in the waters,
They covered it all from the start.
He spoke and they flowed off the mountains,
And carved out the valleys below;
They flowed to seas He established,
And stayed where He told them to go.

Verses 10-13 (The Springs)

He makes all the springs in the valleys,
They flow out of holes in the ground;
The animals drink their refreshment.
And trees grow wherever they're found.
The birds make their nests in their branches,
They sing with rejoicing and cheer;
He waters the hills from His chambers,
The earth is content when He's near.

Verses 14-18 (The Meadows and Forests)

He makes the grass grow for the cattle,
He makes the crops flourish for men;
He causes their fields to be fruitful,
And yield bread and wine yet again.
He planted the cedars and fir trees,
Where all kinds of birds can abide;
The wild goats graze on the hilltops,
The clefts are where rock badgers hide.

Verses 19-23 (Darkness and Light)

The moon helps keep track of the seasons,
The sun knows to pass out of sight,
So there will be darkness to hide in,
While predators prowl through the night.
But when the sun rises they gather,
And lie down to rest in their dens,
So men can return to their labor,
And gather their crops in their bins.

Verses 24-26 (God's Wisdom in Creation)

O Lord, all Your works tie together!
Your wisdom is shown in each one;
The earth lets us see Your inventions,
We boast in the great things You've done.
The seas teem with marvelous wonders,
The sailors have stories to tell;
The tales of Leviathan thrill us,
From out where the great billows swell.

Verses 27-30 (Creation's Dependence on God)

Yet all are dependent upon You,
For sustenance when it is due;
They gather Your goodness in season,
It helps them to see the year through.
If You hide Your face they're in trouble,
Their dust will return to the earth;
And yet you devised procreation,
To save them by constant rebirth .

Verses 31-36 (Worship and Praise to the Lord)

May the glory of God last forever,
And may He rejoice in His works;
We'll praise Him as long as we're able,
Our praises are some of His perks.
May all of our thoughts satisfy Him,
May sweet songs of worship ascend;
May sinners be wiped out before Him,
And may He be blessed without end.

2/12/2016

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Psalms 105

Verses 1-6

Give thanks to the Lord, and call on His name,
 Make His deeds known to all men;
Sing psalms to Him and speak of His works,
 Tell of His glories again.
Let those who seek the Lord God rejoice,
 Remember the wonders He's done;
For Abraham's seed and Jacob's "Begots,"
 His blessings are scarcely begun.

Verses 7-12

The Lord is our God, He never forgets,
 His judgments affect the whole earth;
His covenant with the patriarchs stands,
 And no one can measure its worth.
He gave us the land the Canaanites held,
 Because their transgressions were great;
But since their iniquities were not yet full,
 He sent us to Egypt to wait.

Verses 13-17

Our fathers roamed about in the Land,
 But God rebuked kings for their sake;
He didn't let them harm the people He chose,
 He warned them it'd be a mistake.
Before He arranged a famine so great
 His people had nothing to eat,
He sent one of them to go on ahead,
 And put Him in Pharaoh's best seat.

Verses 18-22

Joseph was hurt with fetters and irons,
 Until what He said came to be;
The word of the Lord was found in his mouth,
 The king of the land set him free.
He made him the head of his royal estate,
 The master of all that he had;
He ruled over princes to kept them in line,
 And punished the ones who were bad.

Verses 23-25

Israel came down to Egypt for food,
Joseph sustained their lives there;
Jacob remained in the country of Ham,
Because the Lord wanted him there.
The people of God increased more and more,
He made them prolific and strong;
A new king arose who hated their God,
And claimed they were slaves all along.

Verses 26-29

God sent His servant, Moses by name,
And Aaron, His chosen high priest;
They performed miracles in Pharaoh's sight,
To get all His people released.
God gave them darkness so thick it was felt,
He turned all their waters to blood,
The fish in their rivers died from the stress,
They went bottom up in the crud.

Verses 27-36

He sent frogs that stank wherever they died,
Flies and lice drove them insane;
He sent hail and lightning all over the land,
They'd planted their vineyards in vain.
He spoke and the locusts destroyed all their crops,
They ate all the fruit of the ground,
The angel destroyed all the firstborn of men,
Wherever the blood was not found.

Verses 37-41

The Israelites left with silver and gold,
They sent them away at the dawn;
The fear of them fell wherever they went,
The people were glad they were gone.
God sent them the cloud and pillar of fire,
To lead all the sheep of His flock;
He fed them with manna and met all their needs,
And water flowed out of the rock.

Verses 42-45

The Lord had remembered His promise of old,
To Abraham's children and seed;
He brought out His people and filled them with joy,
And gladness because they were freed.
He gave them the land the Gentiles had claimed,
He gave them their farms and their crops,
So they would observe His statutes and laws,
And praise Him without any stops.

2/13/2016

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Psalms 106

Verses 1-5

Give praises and thanks to the Lord who is good,
His mercies do not have an end;
Who can enumerate all of His works?
His praises can't help but ascend.
The righteous are blessed for their justice and truth,
Remember Your people, O Lord;
And show us the favor Your chosen ones need,
We want You to be our reward.

Verses 6-11

We're just like our fathers who constantly sinned,
They didn't understand God at all;
They did not remember what they'd seen Him do,
In Egypt so Pharaoh would fall
He dried up the Red Sea so they could escape
He led them across on dry land
He drowned Pharaoh's armies when they came across
And washed them all up on the sand

Verses 12-15

They sang the Lord's praises and worshipped His name
But soon forgot what He had done
They lusted for Egypt's material things
Forgetting the freedom they'd won
They angered the Lord with their insolent words
And tested His patience with tears
He granted them what they requested of Him
And filled them with yearnings and fears

Verses 16-18

When they envied Moses the servant of God
Through whom He had showed them His will
And spoke against Aaron the saint of the Lord
Who wished them no worldly ill
God opened a crack in the crust of the earth
That swallowed the challengers whole
And kindled a fire in their followers' camp
So Moses would stay in control

Verses 19-23

They made them a calf while Moses was gone
And worshipped an idol of gold
They fashioned the glory of God like an ox
And shamed their Redeemer of old
God said He'd destroy them right there where they stood
But Moses stood firm in the breach
A man interceded with God for their souls
And mollified Him by his speech

Verses 24-27

They came to the land of the patriarchs' dreams
Their faith might as well have been dead
They griped and complained inside of their tents
But would not proceed as God said
The Lord raised His hand in an oath that was firm
And said they could not enter in
They died in the desert outside of the land
Because of their arrogant sin

Verses 28-31

They joined in the feasts of the heathens they met,
Who sacrificed beasts to the dead;
They angered the Lord with idolatrous sins,
He sent them a plague that would spread.
But Phinehas faithfully stood for the Lord,
And God stopped the plague for his stand;
His faith was accounted as righteousness there,
And made his house priests of His land.

Verses 32 & 33

The people insulted the Spirit of God,
And even got Moses to sin;
They angered his soul at the Waters of Strife,
So he struck at the rock once again.
The Lord was upset with the way he behaved,
When he was to speak to the rock;
He told him he could not go in to the land,
Because of his insolent talk.

Verses 34-39

They mingled with those God had told them to kill,
And ended up serving their gods;
They murdered their innocent daughters and sons,
For gods that were nothing but frauds.
The land was polluted with innocent blood,
Offered with demonic yells;
They were defiled by the things they had done,
Under their Satanic spells.

Verses 40-6

God let their enemies conquer their land,
They were despised and oppressed;
Yet He delivered them when they turned back
From all the gods they possessed;
But they repeated the cycle again,
Yet He regarded their cries;
He made their enemies pity their plight,
When He detected their sighs.

Verses 47 & 48

Save us once more from the nations, O Lord,
Gather Your people to You;
Then we'll give praise and thanks in Your name,
Rejoicing in all that You do .
May the Lord God of Israel be blessed,
When time is forgotten again;
May He be praised in eternity's realms,
And may every soul say, "Amen!"

2/15/2016

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Psalms 107

Verses 1-3

Give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
His mercy does not have an end;
Let the redeemed tell the others,
So they will all comprehend.
He bought them from far-away countries,
And gathered them out of the lands;
He brought them from every direction,
And carried them home in His hands.

Verses 4-9

They wandered in desolate places,
They fainted from hunger and thirst;
They turned to the Lord in their trouble,
He saved them when things were the worst.
Give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
The wonderful things He has done;
He satisfies those who are longing,
And nurtures the soul of each one.

Verses 10-16

Those who were bound in affliction
Because they rebelled at God's word
Cried out to the Lord in their trouble
He saved them as soon as He heard
Give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
The wonderful things He has done;
He's broken the gates of their prisons,
Their freedom's already begun.

Verses 17-22

Though fools are afflicted for sinning
And sit in the shadow of death
They cry to the Lord in their trouble
Although it may be their last breath
Give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
The wonderful things He has done;
He saves them to offer thanksgiving,
To God the Father's own Son.

Verses 23-32

Those who sail ships on the ocean
Fear for their lives in the storms
They pray to the Lord in their trouble
They see how His mercy performs
Give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
The wonderful things He has done;
He calms the waves and the billows,
When they aren't able to run.

Verses 33-38

God turned our land into deserts,
Because of our hideous sin;
But when we are truly repentant,
He'll surely restore it again.
He'll help us establish a city,
He'll bless all the crops in our fields;
Our sheep and our cattle will flourish,
And we will give thanks for our yields.

Verses 39-43

When people are humbled by princes
Who cause them affliction and pain,
God pours out contempt on those rulers,
And makes all they do be in vain.
He blesses the poor and afflicted,
And makes all the righteous rejoice,
Because they observe who He favors,
And follow the sound of His voice.

2/16/2016

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Psalms 108

Verses 1-4

O God, my heart is steadfast, I'll sing and give You praise;
My glory will awaken Your praises all my days.
Awake, my harp, with music, and waken up the dawn,
With praises for God's mercy, until my breath is gone.

Verses 5 & 6

May God be so exalted, the heavens will seem small;
And may His glory teach us, that He is Lord of all;
And may we be delivered, from everything that's wrong;
Hear us and be our Savior, when trouble comes along.

Verses 7-9

We're pleased that God has spoken; in holiness He said,
The nations that surround us shall own Him as their head;
The heritage of Israel, will rally to His name;
He'll conquer those who hate us, and put their troops to shame.

Verses 10-13

How can we conquer Edom, and crush its city walls,
Unless the Lord who left us, returns to hear our calls?
Lord, save us in our troubles, for human help is vain;
Through You we will be valiant, and conquer its domain.

10/18/2015

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Psalms 109

(To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David)

Verses 1-5

Do not keep silent, O God of My praise;
The mouths of the wicked can't wait,
To speak against Me with lies on their tongues,
And castigate Me in their hate.
They've fought against Me without any cause,
I pray for Your help from above;
They have rewarded Me evil for good,
And offered Me hate for My love.

Verses 6-13

Let the iniquitous person be judged,
And let a good witness be found;
Find the man guilty when he is tried,
And don't let his prayers leave the ground.
Shorten his days, and remove his prestige,
And tear him from widow and child;
Don't leave his family alive for revenge,
And scatter his wealth to the wild.

Verses 14-20

Do not forget what his parents have done,
Keep their sins fresh in Your mind;
He persecuted the poor needy Man--
Double crossed Him from behind.
He clothed himself with curses for gain,
Now let his protégé see;
This is what happens to ungodly men,
Who pronounce evil on Me.

Verses 21-25

O Lord, deal with Me for Your name's sake,
Show Me Your mercy is good;
I have been hurt deep down in My heart,
They'd shake Me off if they could.
My knees are weak from hunger and thirst,
My flesh is feeble from stress;
I have become a man of reproach,
They mock each word I express.

Verses 26-31

Save Me, O Lord, Let Your mercy be seen,
So they will know what You've done;
Bless them in spite of their cursing and lies,
Fill them with shame one-by-one.
My heart is full of Your praises, O Lord,
Let all the multitudes hear,
That You stand up for the righteous in need,
So they will treat You with fear.

2/17/2016
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Psalms 110

(A Psalm of David)

Verses 1 & 2

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit down at My right hand."
I'll make Your enemies Your footstool as We planned."
From Zion He will send the scepter of Your strength,
And with a rod of iron You'll rule the world at length.

Verses 3 & 4

The people of Your land will be Your volunteers,
And in the morning's light Your holiness appears;
The Lord will not rescind the oath that He released,
You'll rule the world like Melchizedek the priest.

Verses 5-7

The Lord's at Your right hand to carry out His wrath,
He'll execute the kings that try to block Your path;
He'll judge the nations for the way they chose to go,
And let the righteous drink where living waters flow.

2/17/2016
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Psalms 111

Verses 1 & 2

When I am among the Lord's people,
My heart overflows with His praise;
To study His works gives us pleasure;
His greatness is seen in His ways.

Verses 3 & 4

His work shows His honor and glory,
His righteousness never will end;
Creation is great to remember,
His mercy can't even be penned.

Verses 5 & 6

He nourishes those who revere Him,
They witness the power of His hand;
He teaches His people to trust Him,
By making His covenants stand.

Verses 7 & 8

He does things in truth and in justice,
And all of His precepts are sure;
They're done in transparent uprightness,
They never will cease to endure.

Verses 9 & 10

The Lord's name is "Holy" and "Awesome,"
To fear Him is where wisdom starts;
And those who obey His commandments,
Will praise Him with all of their hearts.

2/18/2016

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Psalms 112

Praise the Lord!

Verses 1 & 2

Blessed is the man who reveres Him,
And delights in the words of His Book;
His offspring will be the respected
God grants him a holy outlook

Verses 3 & 4

Riches and wealth are his portion,
His righteousness glows from his face;
The Lord is his light in the darkness,
He's full of compassion and grace.

Verses 5 & 6

A good man will lend to his neighbors,
He's wise in his business affairs;
He's not very easily shaken,
The Lord will remember his prayers.

Verses 7 & 8

He doesn't fear sudden disasters,
He steadfastly trusts in the Lord;
His heart has been firmly established,
And no one can take his reward.

Verses 9

He's generous with his possessions,
He helps out the needy and poor;
His goodness continues forever,
His honor will last evermore.

Verse 10

The wicked will grieve when they see him,
Exalted above their estate;
Their evil desires will all perish;
They'll gnash with their teeth in their hate.

2/18/2016

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Psalms 113

Verses 1-3

Praise, O Servants of the Lord,
give Him great acclaim;
From this time and evermore,
bless His holy name;
From the dawn until the dark,
magnify His fame.

Verses 4-6

God is over everything,
glorious and high;
No one can compare with Him,
dwelling in the sky;
Yet He looks down on the earth.
with a caring eye.

Verses 7-9

He exalts the poor and meek,
from their humble place;
Elevates them with the great,
lets them see His face;
Gives the childless woman joy;
praise Him for His grace!

2/19/2016

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Psalms 114

Verses 1 & 2

When God brought His people from Egypt,
Out of a strange foreign land;
He chose to make Judah His dwelling,
And Israel was at His right hand.

Verses 3 & 4

The sea fled away when they crossed it,
The Jordan backed up in its bed;
Mount Sinai skipped like a he-goat,
The smaller hills trembled instead.

Verses 5 & 6

So why would the sea and the river,
Dry up so God's people could cross?
And why would the mountains and hilltops.
Acknowledge the Lord as their boss?

Verses 7 & 8

Then tremble, O earth, at His presence,
The Lord God of Israel reigns;
He made the rock gush like a fountain,
You're one of His many domains.

2/19/2016

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Psalms 115

Verses 1 & 2

It is not for men, but the Lord,
To receive glory and laud;
Because of His mercy and truth,
He is the one we applaud;
Why should the Gentiles call out,
“Where is the one you call God?”

Verses 3-8

God reigns from heaven above,
And does what He chooses to do;
Men made their idols themselves,
They conjured them up from the blue;
They’re made of inanimate stuff,
Nothing about them is true.

Verses 9-11

Let Israel trust in the Lord,
He is their help and their shield;
And let all the priests trust in Him,
Because of the clout that they wield;
You who revere Him stand firm,
Don’t let your faith in Him yield.

Verses 12-15

The Lord has been mindful of us,
He blesses the people He chose;
He’ll bless those who trust in his name,
For they are the people He knows;
May you be blessed of the Lord,
Through whom the grace of God flows

Verses 16-18

The heavens belong to the Lord.
But the earth He has given to men;
The dead cannot offer Him praise,
Unless they are raised up again;
We’ll bless Him with all of our hearts,
And praise Him for what He has been.

Psalms 116

Verses 1 & 2

I love the Lord because He has heard
The voice of my desperate prayer;
Since He has turned His ear to my cry,
I know that He'll always be there.

Verses 3 & 4

The pains of death surrounded my soul
With troubles and sorrows galore;
I called upon the name of the Lord,
"Deliver my soul, I implore."

Verses 5-7

God has been good and gracious to me,
He helped me when I was down;
He saved my life and taught me to rest--
This bountiful God of renown.

Verses 8-9

He kept my soul from death and defeat,
My eyes from self-pity and tears;
He keeps my feet from falling away;
I'll walk with Him all my years.

Verses 10 & 11

I trusted Him, and therefore I spoke,
"I am afflicted through fraud."
In my despair I added in haste,
"All men are liars, O God."

Verses 12 & 13

What can a man like me give the Lord
For all He has given to me?
I'll drink the cup of salvation with thanks,
Everywhere I have to be.

Verses 14 & 15

I'll pay my vows in public to God,
So all will know I do right;
The death of His saints is dear to Him.
They're justified in His sight.

Verses 15-17

My mother was Your maidservant, Lord,
You've loosed the bonds of my sin;
She taught my soul to offer You thanks,
And praises again and again.

Verses 18 & 19

I'll pay my vows with those who fear You,
Where the Lord dwells with His saints;
Zion will hear the sound of my voice,
Praising beyond all restraints.

2/19/2016

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Psalms 117

Verses 1 & 2

Worship the Lord all you nations,
Praise Him all people on earth;
His mercy exceeds expectations,
His truth is of permanent worth.

1/25/2016

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Psalms 118

Verses 1-4

Give thanks to the Lord who is good,
His mercy will not pass away;
The people of God will proclaim,
The grace that He shows us each day.
The priests of the Lord bless His name,
Because of His mercy and grace;
The worshipers of the Lord know,
His goodness is felt every place.

Verses 5-9

I called on the Lord in distress,
He heard me and came to my aid;
As long as the Lord's on my side,
There's no one who makes me afraid.
The Lord helps all those who help me,
So help me however you can;
You're better off trusting the Lord,
Than putting your trust in a man.

Verses 10-14

The nations surround me like bees,
But I will destroy them again;
I'll quench them like fire in the thorns,
I know in the Lord's name I'll win.
They pushed me in hopes I would fall,
He helped me to stay on my feet;
The Lord is my strength and my song,
His salvation's always complete.

Verses 15-18

The voice of salvation rings on,
The righteous rejoice in their tents;
His right hand is valiant and strong,
He presses and never relents.
He's shown me I won't pass away,
I'll live to declare what He's done;
His chastisement may be severe,
But death cannot brag that it won.

Verses 19-24

He'll open His gates to the just,
We will go through them with praise;
He's Our salvation and hope,
We'll look to Him all our days.
The stone which the builders turned down,
Was really the chief cornerstone;
Today is the day He has made,
Rejoice for He sits on the throne.

Verses 25-29

Lord, save us and prosper us now,
And bless Him who came in Your name;
The sacrifice that we present,
Has already born all our shame.
We'll praise Him because He is God,
He lights up our path every day;
We thank Him because He is good,
His mercy will never decay.

2/20/2016

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PREFACE TO THE 119TH PSALM:

Psalms 119 has twenty-two sections, one for each letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Each section is titled by the successive letter in that alphabet, so the sections are in Hebrew alphabetical order. Each section contains eight verses, each consisting of a couplet of lines which begins with the same letter as the title of that section. Most of the verses in Psalms 119 refer to the Word of God in one way or another.

Bud Morris

10/29/2015

Psalms 119-1

(a/ALEPH)

An Introduction to Psalms 119

Verses 1-4

The Undefined are favored for walking in God's way;
They keep His word before them, and listen and obey.
They're blest because they seek Him with all their heart and soul;
They value His instructions and yield to His control.
They do no purposed evil, they keep themselves from sin;
Their lives are truly driven by holiness within.
They love the Lord's commandments, His precepts are their guide;
They're diligent to keep them, and all His words beside.

Verses 5-8

O may the Lord direct us to act the way we should,
To follow all His statutes and always do what's good.
'Cause if we were more faithful, when opening the Word,
We would not be embarrassed by anything we heard.
Lord, help us learn Your judgments so we can do our part
In offering our praises in uprightness of heart.
We want to keep Your statutes so we'll be pleasing You,
So please do not forsake us for what we fail to do.

10/17/2015

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Psalms 119-2

(b/BETH)

Verses 9-16

How can a young man cleanse his ways,
 unless it's by Your word.
With my whole heart I've sought the Lord,
 because my soul has heard.
I've hid it deep within my heart,
 to keep my soul from sin;
And as I bless Your holy name,
 You're teaching me again.

Verses 17-20

I've spread the precepts of Your word
 wherever I have been;
I have rejoiced in what it says.
 more than the thoughts of men.
I meditate on what it means,
 and contemplate Your ways;
So I'll recall it with delight,
 throughout my earthly days.

10/18/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-3

(g/GIMEL)

Verses 17-20

Deal richly with Your servant, Lord,
so I'll obey and live.
Open my eyes so I will see
the treasures You can give.
I am a pilgrim on the earth,
I need to understand;
My longings will be satisfied
in doing Your command.

Verses 21-24

So Lord, rebuke the arrogant.
whose hearts have gone astray.
Please do not let their scorn and hate
cause me to turn away.
The erudite may criticize
the faith I have in You,
But I rejoice in serving You
in everything I do.

10/18/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-4

(d/DALETH)

The Christian walk as a Marathon

Verses 25-28

My soul's exhausted in this race,
give me a second wind.
I've let You know how weak I feel,
so coach me to the end.
I'll concentrate on what You mean,
about how I should run,
But I don't have what it will take;
without Your strength I'm done.

Verses 29-32

Remove each weight that hinders me,
so I can run with ease.
I've chosen to go by the rules;
remind me of them, please.
Help me to press on toward the mark,
so I will finish well;
And as I run the race Your way
You'll help me to excel.

10/18/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-5

(h/HE)

Verses 23-26

Lord, teach me the path of Your statutes,
and I'll follow on to the end.
Fill me with true understanding,
and I'll do as You recommend.
I'll follow Your holy commandments,
rejoicing with earnest delight;
If You'll fix my heart on Your teachings,
and keep other stuff from my sight.

Verses 27-30

Lord help me to grasp that the world
has nothing of value to see.
Establish Your word as my vision
so nothing else matters to me.
And keep me from shameful behavior
that You can't endorse in my life.
I long to be true to Your precepts;
Encourage my soul in its strife.

10/18/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-6

(w/WAW)

Verses 41-44

Be merciful to me, Lord,
and vindicate my trust,
So I can show the skeptics,
that You are truly just.
Give them a confirmation,
of how You care for me,
And show them those who serve You,
will live eternally.

Verses 45-48

Then I'll enjoy the freedom,
that those who seek You know;
And spread the gospel message,
wherever I may go.
I cherish the commandments,
You sent down from above;
And meditate upon them,
while I display Your love.

10/20/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-7

(z/ZAYIN)

Verses 49-52

Remember Your word to Your servant,
the word which has given me hope;
My comfort in every affliction,
a life of magnificent scope.
The proud look at me with derision,
because I attend to Your law;
I treasure Your judgments and statutes,
which comfort my soul with their awe.

Verses 53-56

The wicked have made me indignant,
at how they've forsaken Your word;
They've silenced the voice of the chorus,
that sings where Your precepts are heard.
There's joy where Your name is remembered,
contentment where You are obeyed;
And no one can stop the rejoicing,
In hearts where such music is played.

10/23/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-8

(j/HETH)

Verses 57-60

O Lord, You are my portion.
I'm bound by what You say;
I fervently entreat You.
for help along the way.
I've thought about my conduct,
and turned my life around;
I hastened to obey You,
because of what I found.

Verses 61-64

The cords of evil bound me,
but could not hold me back;
When life seems dark I thank You,
for getting me on track.
I walk with those who fear You,
Your precepts guide our thoughts;
You fill our lives with mercy,
in spite of Satan's plots.

10/24/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-9

(f/TETH)

Verses 65-68

O Lord, You have treated me better,
than what You said You'd do;
Teach me good judgment and doctrine,
because I trust in You.
Before You challenged my footsteps,
I strayed from Your demands;
You showed me goodness and mercy,
and taught me Your commands.

Verses 69-72

The haughty accused me of evil,
but my heart still obeys;
Their hearts are slicker than tallow,
but mine enjoys Your ways.
I'm glad my soul was afflicted,
so I'd do as I'm told;
I love the statutes You've taught me,
more than the wealth of gold.

10/24/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-10

(y/YOD)

Verses 73-76

O Lord Your hands have fashioned me,
Show me what I should do;
My life encourages the just,
because I hope in You.
You've chastened me in faithfulness,
to help me do Your will;
Now comfort me, O Lord I pray
and let my heart be still.

Verses 77-80

Lord, in Your mercy rescue me,
Your law's been my delight;
Let my accusers be exposed,
because my heart is right.
Show those who would examine me,
that I should not be blamed;
And keep me faithful to Your word,
so I will not be shamed.

10/25/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-11

(k/KAPH)

Verses 81-84

My soul longs for salvation,
nor is my hope absurd;
My eyes are dim from searching,
for comfort in Your word.
I shrink like wineskins hanging,
above the smoking fires;
How long must I be hounded,
by wicked men's desires.

Verses 85-88

The proud conspired to trap me,
in spite of Your decrees,
But in Your grace You've helped me,
escape their vagaries.
Although they almost got me,
I trusted You to save;
And in Your lovingkindness,
You saved me from the grave.

10/25/2015

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Psalms 119-12

(I/Lamed)

Verses 89-92

Your word has been settled in heaven,
for ever and ever O Lord;
Your faithfulness cannot be shaken,
Your edicts cannot be ignored;
Your order sustains all creation,
Your servants look on with delight;
They'd perish if You weren't consistent,
but they see no reason for fright.

Verses 93-96

The faithful remember Your precepts,
for by them You've given them life;
They trust in Your grace for salvation,
in all opposition and strife.
The wicked would like to destroy them,
because of the truth that they preach;
But they have observed Your perfection,
and no one can silence their speech.

10/25/2015

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Psalms 119-13

(m/MEM)

Verses 97-100

O how I love Your word,
it's in my thoughts all day;
Its wisdom guides my feet,
along the narrow way.
It makes me understand,
more than the erudite;
The ancients made mistakes,
but You are always right.

Verses 100-103

I have restrained my feet,
from straying off the trail;
For You have taught my soul,
what evil can entail.
Your words are sweeter far,
than honey's pleasant taste;
They fill me with a joy,
that falsehood can't erase.

10/25/2015

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Psalms 119-14

(n/NUN)

Verses 105-108

Your word is a light to my feet,
 To show me the path I must tread.
I promise to stay on the path
 and listen to what You have said,
I'm often dismayed in my soul
 at how uncommitted I've been;
Accept my thanksgiving and praise,
 and teach me Your precepts again.

Verses 109-112

I walk in the shadow of death,
 but I won't forget Your commands;
The wicked would like me to fall,
 but I am secure in Your hands.
The gems that I find in Your word
 are such a rejoicing to me;
I'll live by their wisdom and truth
 Wherever I happen to be.

10/26/2015

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Psalms 119-15

(s/SAMEK)

Verses 113-116

I hate the double minded,
because I love Your word;
You are my soul's defender,
my hope can't be deferred.
Depart from me you wicked,
and let me serve the Lord.
Uphold me, O my Savior,
lest my hope be deplored.

Verses 117-120

Lord keep me single-hearted;
uphold me by Your hands,
So I'll obey Your statutes,
and follow Your commands.
Though You'll reject the wicked,
who do not fear Your name,
My fear is that I'll fail You,
and cause You needless shame.

10/27/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-16

(u/AYIN)

Verses 121-124

O my Lord, I've done uprightly,
do not leave me to defeat;
Stand behind me in my battle
with the proud in their conceit.
I've been seeking Your salvation
in Your word through earnest prayer;
Recompense me in Your mercy
from oppression that's unfair.

Verses 125-128

I have been Your faithful servant;
help me comprehend Your mind;
It is time for You to help me
'cause Your law has been maligned;
But I love Your statutes dearly,
they're as right as they are old,
And Your precepts are more precious
than the very best of gold.

10/27/2015

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Psalms 119-17

(p/PE)

Verses 129-132

O Lord Your words are wonderful,
they bring me such delight:
They penetrate the simple mind,
and fill it with Your light.
My thirsty spirit yearns to drink,
the waters of Your word;
So bless this longing heart of mine,
and let Your voice be heard.

Verses 133-136

Direct my footsteps in a path,
that triumphs over sin;
Redeem me from oppressive men,
that are not pure within.
Please let Your face shine down on me,
along the lonely way;
And give me pity for each one,
Whose soul has gone astray.

10/28/2015

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 119-18

(x/TSADDE)

Verses 137-140

O Lord You're always righteous;
Your judgment's always just;
Your testimonies faithful;
A God that I can trust.
My zeal for them consumes me,
Though many folks deny
Your words are pure and simple
For people such as I.

Verses 141-144

I may be small and hated
But I uphold Your way;
It will abide forever
No matter what folks say.
Though anguish overtakes me,
Your law is my delight;
It's life and understanding
To those who use it right.

10/28/2015

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Psalms 119-19

(q/QOPH)

Verses 145-148

Please hear my heartfelt prayer, O Lord,
and show me what to do;
And save me when You hear my call,
because I follow You.
I rise before the morning breaks,
and come to You for aid;
And all night long I meditate,
upon the laws You've made.

Verses 149-152

In lovingkindness hear my voice,
revive my anxious soul;
For those who follow wickedness,
draw near to take control.
But You are close beside me, Lord,
Your promises endure;
Your testimonies do not change,
so I will be secure.

10/28/2015

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Psalms 119-20

(r/RESH)

Verses 153-156

Consider my grievance and save me,
I don't forget Your word;
Review my case and redeem me,
restore me when You've heard.
Salvation is not for the wicked,
who do not seek Your face;
But Your tender mercies are great, Lord,
revive me by Your grace.

Verses 157-160

My persecutors are many,
but Your word is my stay;
Their treacherous ways disgust me,
they do not walk Your way.
Observe how I love all Your precepts,
and shower Your love on me;
For all of Your words are truthful,
and last eternally.

10/29/2015

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Psalms 119-21

(v/SHIN)

Verses 161-164

Princes persecute me without reason,
but I revere Your word;
I rejoice in all the treasures found there,
and will not be deterred.
I abhor the falsehood of these people,
but I admire Your laws;
I praise Your testimonies every moment,
because they have no flaws.

Verses 165-168

Those who love Your law have satisfaction,
their strength will never fail;
Your salvation is the hope that keeps them,
and helps them to prevail;
My soul keeps Your commandments fully,
it's what I love to do;
I keep Your testimonies and Your precepts,
because I walk with You.

10/28/2015

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Psalms 119-22

(w/TAU)

A Fitting Conclusion to Psalms 119

Verses 169-172

O Lord I'm calling on You, do not ignore my cry;
Give me the understanding, to serve You 'til I die.
Please let my supplication, come to You and be heard;
Deliver me as promised, according to Your word.
My lips will always praise You, You've taught me all I know;
By studying Your statutes, I've learned the way to go.
My tongue repeats Your precepts, they're righteous as can be;
And You've become my helper, because You care for me.

Verses 173-176

You stretch Your hand to help me, it's comforting and strong;
It points me to the precepts, that never lead me wrong.
I long for Your salvation, Your law is my delight;
I meditate upon it, all day and through the night.
While I'm among the living, I'll sing and shout Your praise;
The wisdom of Your judgments, will guide me all my days.
And Lord, though You're my shepherd, I sometimes go astray;
So if I turn up missing, please come for me I pray.

10/28/2015

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The Psalms of Ascents

Psalms 120 to 134 are each entitled, “A Psalm of Ascents.” Sometimes the names of the authors are included in the titles of these fifteen psalms. There are many theories on why they are called Psalms of Ascents.

Initially, successive portions of the Psalms of Ascents may have been sung at slightly higher tones, lending an ascending quality to the music. This fits in well with some of the concepts of how these Psalms might have been used as Israeli history progressed.

In the glory days of Solomon’s Temple, successive Psalms of Ascents may have been sung as the Levites ascended or stood on the fifteen wide stairs that ascended from the outer courtyard to the inner courtyard of the temple. Later on, it is suggested that the captives who were allowed to return to Israel from Babylon sang progressive Psalms of Ascents as they came nearer and nearer to Jerusalem.

Psalms 120

Verses 1 & 2

In my distress I called to the Lord,
He heard the voice of my prayer.
Deliver my soul from dishonest tongues,
And lying lips that don’t care.

Verses 3 & 4

What shall be done to you, O false tongue?
What do you think you deserve?
Sharp arrows from a strong warrior’s bow?
Hot coals poured over a nerve?

Verses 5-7

Woe unto me, I dwell in Meshech,
I’ve lived in Kedar too long.
I speak for peace but they speak for war,
And they’re incredibly strong.

2/19/2016

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Psalms 121

Verses 1 & 2

When I see the splendor of God in the hills,
I understand what it is worth,
To know that the Lord is my helper and friend,
Who created heaven and earth.

Verses 3 & 4

The Lord won't consent to your foot being moved,
He'll be with you all of the way,
For He who keeps Israel will not fall asleep,
He'll guard you all night and all day.

Verses 5 & 6

The Lord is your keeper, protector, and friend,
A shade standing at your right hand;
The sun shall not harm you no matter how bright.
The moon will obey His command.

Verses 7 & 8

The Lord will preserve you from everything bad,
He's rescued your spirit before;
He'll be right beside you wherever you are,
From now on and for evermore.

2/21/2016

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Psalms 122

(A Song of Accents. Of David)

Verses 1 & 2

I'm glad that somebody suggested,
"Let's go to the house of the Lord;"
We're standing inside of Jerusalem,
The city that God has restored.

Verses 3 -5

The walls of the city are finished,
The tribes of the Lord have a home;
The temple is ready for worship,
And David's house sits on the throne.

Verses 6 & 7

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
May those who love her be blessed
May they have peace in their cities
May all their rulers have rest

Verses 8 & 9

Now for the sake of my people
I will say, "Peace be to you;"
And since the Lord's in His temple,
He will bless all that you do.

2/21/2016

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Psalms 123

(A Psalm of Ascents)

Verses 1 & 2

I lift up my eyes unto You, O my God,
Who dwells in the heavens above;
I'm just like a servant who looks to the hand,
Of a master who treats him with love.
The eyes of the maid seek her mistress for help,
So let our eyes look to the Lord;
Until He has mercy and grants our request,
Because it's His servant's reward.

Verses 3 & 4

Have mercy, O Lord, Oh have mercy on us,
We're filled with reproaches and scorn;
Our souls feel the contempt of those who are proud,
We're feeling depressed and forlorn.
O Lord, we're exceedingly humbled by those,
Who have all they want in this life;
So help us remember the life that they live,
Is hounded by hatred and strife.

2/21/2016

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Psalms 124

(A song of ascents. Of David)

Verses 1-5

If we had not had the Lord on our side,
 when men tried to wipe us all out;
They would have swallowed our people alive,
 without any question of doubt.
 The waters of wrath would have swallowed us up,
 the streams would have smothered our souls;
They would have filled our country with death,
 the floods would have taken their tolls.

Verses 6-8

The Lord should be blessed that we did not fall,
 as prey to the teeth of their wrath;
Our souls have escaped like birds from the snares,
 they hid in the line of our path.
 The Lord broke the snares, and we got away,
 the Lord who made heaven and earth;
He came to our aid when we had no strength,
 and gave our whole nation new birth.

2/21/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 125

(A Song of Ascents)

Verses 1 & 2

The people who trust in the Lord,
are like Zion which cannot be moved;
As Jerusalem is circled by hills,
the Lord surrounds all His approved.

Verse 3

The scepter of sin shall not rest,
on the land of the righteous and just;
Lest the upright partake of its sin,
and die in the guilt of their lusts,

Verse 4 & 5

Do good to the righteous, O Lord,
and those who are upright of heart;
Let peace be on Israel's land,
and bless those who've taken her part.

2/21/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 126

(A Song of Ascents)

Verses 1-3

When the Lord brought the captives of Zion back,
It was kind of like having a dream;
We were laughing and singing along the way,
As we traveled back home in a stream.
All the nations around us were forced to say,
That the Lord has done wonders for us;
We are glad to report that they got it right,
They are almost too great to discuss.

Verses 4-6

We implore You to bring back the rest, O Lord,
Like the streams flowing South toward our land;
Those who sow with the tears of a contrite heart,
Will reap joy through the strength of Your hand.
Those who constantly go out with tearful eyes,
As they carry the seeds to the fields,
Shall undoubtedly come back with joyful hearts,
As they bring in the sheaves of their yield.

2/22/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 127

(A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon)

Verses 1 & 2

Unless the Lord builds you a dwelling,
 You're probably just going to botch it
Unless the Lord's guarding your city,
 You'll labor in vain when you watch it.
It's useless to get up too early,
 Or sit up too late in the night,
To pity yourself in your sorrow,
 When God can make everything right.

Verses 3-5

The Lord gives a couple their children,
 The fruit of the womb's their reward;
Each child of their youth's like an arrow,
 That comes from the hand of the Lord.
The man who has many is happy,
 He'll not be ashamed when he's old;
His enemies cannot defeat him,
 He'll sit in the gates of the bold.

2/22/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 128

(A Song of Ascents)

Verses 1 & 2

The man who fears the Lord is blessed,
Because he loves His ways;
He'll eat the labor of his hands,
With joy throughout his days.

Verse 3a+

His wife will be a fruitful vine,
That's planted in the loam;
The central figure of his joy,
The heart that makes the home.

Verses 3b & 4

His children will be olive plants,
That grow around his board;
Such are the blessings of the man,
Who always fears the Lord.

Verses 5 & 6

The Lord bless you from Zion' gates,
And do Jerusalem good;
And may your children's children see,
Peace in their neighborhood.

2/22/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 129

(A Song of Ascents)

Verses 1-4

Let Israel say, "Many a time,
They've tormented me from my youth;"
And yet they have never prevailed,
Although they've been very uncouth.
The heathen have ploughed on my back,
Their furrows were lengthy and deep;
The righteous Lord came to my aid,
And piled all their plows in a heap.

Verses 5-8

Let all those who hate Zion's hill,
Be turned back and covered with shame;
Make them like grass on a roof,
That withered as soon as it came.
Don't let the passersby say
"The blessings of God be on you;"
Don't use the name of the Lord,
For anything such people do.

2/22/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 130

(A Song of Ascents)

Verses 1 & 2

I cried to You out of the depths,
Listen to me as I pray;
Lord, let Your ears tune in to me,
Please hear what I have to say.

Verses 3 & 4

Lord if You list iniquities,
Who could stand up before You?
But You forgive those who repent,
Of all the sins that they do.

Verses 5 & 6

I wait for You with all my soul,
Sometimes I hardly can cope;
I am like those who long for dawn,
Your word has given me hope.

Verses 7 & 8

O Israel, hope in the Lord,
With Him there's mercy and grace;
He will redeem those who believe,
And bring them back to His place.

2/22/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 131

(A Song of Ascents. Of David)

Verse 1

Preserve me from the arrogance
of judging what God said;
Some things are too profound to be
mulled over in my head.

Verse 2

Lord wean me from the selfishness
of thinking You should be
Beholden or accountable
to mortal men like me.

Verse 3

Grant me the calm serenity
of resting, Lord, in You,
And trusting my eternity
To what You've said You'd do.

7/13/2014

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 132

(A Song of Ascents)

Verses 1-5

O Lord, remember David and all that He went through,
And how he swore before You of what He planned to do.
“I will not sleep in comfort until I’ve done my best,
To find the right location for You to dwell at rest.”

Verses 6-10

We saw it in Ephrathah, we found it in the woods,
A place where we could worship and bring You treasured goods.
Arise, O Lord, and settle above Your ark of strength,
And let Your priests be covered with righteousness at length.

Verses 11-12

The Lord has sworn to David, it’s written as in stone,
“Your offspring will be seated upon your royal throne.
If they’ll keep My commandments as you have done before,
They’ll be My people’s rulers both now and evermore.”

Verses 13-15

The Lord has chosen Zion to be His dwelling place,
He’ll rest in it forever with His abundant grace.
He’ll bless His holy people the way He’s always said,
And satisfy the needy with sustenance and bread.

Verses 16-18

My priests will wear salvation, My saints will shout with joy,
And David’s house be strengthened so no one can destroy.
The lamp of My Anointed shall light His holy way
His righteous crown will flourish with glory in that day

2/22/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 133

(A Song of Ascents. Of David)

Verse 1

Behold how good and how pleasant,
it is for God's people to dwell,
In unity all together,
so all that they do comes out well.

Verse 2

It's like the anointing oil,
that was poured out on Aaron's head,
It ran down His beard in rivers,
perfuming His clothing instead.

Verse 3

It's fine as the dewdrops of Hermon,
descending on Zions great peaks,
Where the Lord gave us His blessing,
life to each sinner who seeks.

2/22/2016

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Psalms 134

(A Song of Ascents)

Verses 1-3

Look up and bless Your Savior,
you servants of the Lord,
Who stand all night to serve Him,
where He is most adored.
Lift up your hands and bless Him,
creation's in accord;
And may the God of Zion,
bless you with His reward.

2/32/2016

www.BudMorris.net

Psalms 135

Verses 1-4

Give praises to the Lord,
 you servants of the temple,
Who worship in His courts;
 His goodness makes it simple.
Sing praises to His name,
 for it will give you pleasure;
The Lord chose Jacob's clan,
 and Israel is His treasure.

Verses 5-7

I know the Lord is great,
 there is no god beside Him,
He does just what He wants,
 and no one else can chide Him.
He owns both heaven and earth,
 the rain falls where He pleases,
He makes the lightning flash,
 and He controls the breezes.

Verses 8-12

When Egypt saw His signs,
 they scorned the Lord's instruction,
And so they lost their sons,
 through angels of destruction.
God brought His people out,
 defeating many nations,
He took their land from them,
 for our accommodations.

Verses 13-17

Our God has always been,
 and He'll exist forever;
The idols men devise,
 are neither strong nor clever.
They cannot speak or hear,
 they have no living functions,
They cannot give or take,
 or dictate their compunctions.

Verses 18-21

Those who bless such gods,
 just bless a piece of lumber;
They wander in the dark,
 like they are steeped in slumber.
Let Israel bless the Lord,
 and those who fear Him praise Him,
For He can see and hear.
 and what we say can raise Him.

2/32/2016

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Psalms 136

Verses 1-4

Give thanks to the Lord, for He's gracious and good--
To the God of all gods in the way that you should,
Give thanks to the Lord of lords while it's today,
To Him who does wonders along the rough way,
For His mercy endures forever.

Verses 5-9

Thank Him whose wisdom created the sky,
Who gathered the seas from the land that is dry,
Give thanks to the God who made both the great lights--
The sun for the days and the moon for the nights,
For His mercy endures forever.

Verses 10-12

He struck the Egyptians whose god was a sham,
But rescued our sons by the blood of the lamb,
He delivered His people from living as slaves,
All by Himself with His strong arm that saves,
For His mercy endures forever.

Verses 13-15

Thank Him for cutting the Red Sea in two
And letting the people of Israel pass through,
He overthrew Pharaoh as slick as could be,
And drowned all his armies beneath the Red Sea,
For His mercy endures forever.

Verse 16-22

Thank Him for leading His people along,
Through such a wilderness in such a throng,
He helped them conquer some very great kings,
Giving His people their lands and their things,
For His mercy endures forever.

Verses 23-26

Our God remembered our lowly estate,
And rescued our souls from our enemy's gate,
Thank Him for giving creation its food,
Thank heaven for such a kind attitude,
For His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 137

Verses 1-3

We sat by the rivers of Babylon's dreams,
and wept in remembrance of faraway streams.
We hung up our harps on the willows nearby,
and tears filled our eyes as we started to cry.
Those who had plundered us wanted some mirth,
and asked for a song from the land of our birth.

Verses 4-6

How can we answer this heartless demand?
and how can we sing the Lords songs in this land?
If I forget you, O city of God,
let my right hand feel the weight of His rod.
If I don't yearn for the Land to the south,
let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth.

Verses 7-9

Remember, O Lord, what the Edomites said,
while razing Jerusalem and robbing the dead.
The daughter of Babylon will be destroyed,
and those who repay her will be overjoyed.
Happy is he who kills infants and all,
by dashing their heads on the stones of the wall.

2/23/2016

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Psalms 138

(Of David)

Verses 1-3

I will praise You, O Lord, with all of my heart,
Before other gods I will sing;
I will worship and praise toward Your holy hill,
I'll make Your love and truth ring.
You've exalted Your word above your good name,
Everything's in Your control;
In the day that I called You answered me,
Your strength made me bold in my soul.

Verses 4-6

All the kings of the earth will praise You,
When they hear the words of Your voice;
They'll sing of the ways of the Lord who is God,
Your glory will make them rejoice.
Though the Lord's higher than anything else,
He hears the voice of the meek;
He keeps the arrogant far from His heart,
But hears the oppressed when they speak.

Verses 7-9

When I'm in trouble You'll help me, O Lord,
You'll reach out to me with Your hand;
Your arm will save me from all of my foes,
You'll always be in command.
You will complete whatever You start,
In all Your dealings with me;
Your mercy, O Lord, will always endure,
Make me the man I should be.

2/24/2016

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Psalms 139

(For the chief Musician. A Psalm of David)

Verses 1-4

Lord, You have searched Me and known me,
You know if I'm sitting or not;
You understand what I'm thinking,
And you analyze every thought.
You see where my thoughts are all going
You know where they've been all along
There isn't a word that I've spoken
That you did not call "Right" or "Wrong."

Verses 5-8

You've built up a fence all around me,
I cannot escape from Your hand;
Such knowledge is too hard for people,
I simply cannot understand.
Where can I hide from Your presence?
Your Spirit can be everywhere;
If I were in hell or in heaven,
I know You would still be right there.

Verses 9-12

If I took the wings of the sunrise,
And flew where the deep oceans flow,
Your hand would still be there to catch me,
Your right hand would not let me go.
If I tried to hide in the darkness,
You'd see everything that I'd do;
The night would be light all around me,
They both are the same thing to you.

Verses 13-16

You formed all the organs inside me,
You covered my frame in the womb;
I'll praise You for how You have made me,
You wrought all my parts on Your loom.
My substance was always before You,
You wrote down the plan in Your book;
My history was all predetermined,
You gave me whatever it took.

Verses 17-20

Your thoughts of my being are precious,
They're more than the sands of the sea;
When I awake I'm still with You,
Praising Your goodness to me.
Oh, that You'd slay all the wicked
And take away bloodthirsty men
They mention your good name with hatred
And slander you now and again

Verses 21-24

O Lord, how I hate those who hate You,
And those who speak ill of Your name;
I loathe those who rise up against You,
Attempting to put You to shame.
Search me and know me my Savior,
Try me and see if I'm true;
See if there's wickedness in me,
Lead me in all that I do.

2/24/2016

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Psalms 140

(To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David)

Verses 1-3

Preserve my soul from evil men,
And violent men, O Lord;
Their hearts are full of evil plans,
They 're all of one accord;
Their tongues are like a poison snake's,
Their teeth are like a sword.

Verses 4 & 5

Preserve me from their wicked hands,
They have no godly care;
They've tried to trip me in my steps,
Andr catch me in a snare.
They've hidden nets along my path,
When I was unaware.

Verses 6-8

Lord, I acknowledge You as God,
Please hear my earnest plea;
You have the strength to save my soul,
And you've protected me:
Don't let their evil schemes prevail
With such iniquity.

Verses 9-11

Let those who have surrounded me,
Dishonor their own name;
Let burning coals fall on their heads,
And fill their souls with shame;
And let them fall into the pit
Of never-ending flame.

Verses 12 & 13

I know the Lord will always help
The cause of the oppressed;
He mandates justice for the poor,
And comforts the distressed;
The righteous will give thanks to Him,
The upright will be blessed.

Psalms 141

(A Psalm of David)

Verses 1 & 2

O Lord, I'm calling You, make haste to come to me,
Give ear unto my voice while I express my plea;
Please let my prayer ascend like incense from my hands--
An evening sacrifice just like law demands.

Verses 3 & 4

O Lord, please set a guard upon my mouth and lips,
Don't let my soul be swayed by evil partnerships;
Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,
And don't let me partake in what the wicked bring.

Verse 5

If righteous men rebuke my soul for what I've done,
I'll listen to their words as though I were their son;
I'll not rebuff the love that poured the oil in,
But thank them that they cared to rescue me from sin.

Verses 5b-7

I'll prayerfully rebuke the evil men I know,
Their leaders will be thrown down to the ground below;
Their bones will be plowed up and scattered from their graves,
And everyone will hear that's how their king behaves.

Verses 8

My eyes are fixed on God because He is my Lord,
When I depend on Him I will not be ignored;
The wicked set out traps and catch themselves instead,
But I've escaped their snares in spite of what they said.

2/25/2016

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Psalms 142

(A Contemplation of David.
A Prayer when He Was in the Cave)

Verses 1 & 2

I call to the Lord with my voice,
I make supplications aloud;
I nag Him about my complaint,
My troubles are like a dark cloud.

Verse 3

When I was about overwhelmed,
You knew the path that I walked;
When they set a snare for my soul,
You heard the way that they talked.

Verse 4

Please look on my right hand and note,
That no one acknowledges me;
There's not any place I can hide,
No one cares a bit where I'll be.

Verse 5

I cried out to You, O my God,
I called You my refuge of choice;
You are my portion in life,
Attend to the sound of my voice.

Verse 6

I'm brought exceedingly low,
I am extremely depressed;
My foes are much stronger than I,
Save me from being oppressed.

Verse 7

Save me from prison, O Lord,
I'll praise the victory You've won;
The righteous will rally to me,
When they observe what You've done.

2/25/2016

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Psalms 143

(A Psalm of David)

Verses 1 & 2

Hear my prayer, O Lord I'm pleading,
Hear my supplications too;
In Your faithfulness please answer,
Show me what Your power can do;
But don't judge Your humble servant,
No one's good enough for You.

Verses 3 & 4

Lord my enemy mistreats me,
He has crushed me to the ground;
He has made me dwell in darkness,
Like the dead who can't be found;
And my spirit's so discouraged,
That I can't seem to rebound.

Verses 5 & 6

I remember days of pleasure,
When You meant so much to me;
When I thought about creation,
Musing on eternity;
So I spread my hands out to you,
Thirsting for what used to be.

Verses 7 & 8

Lord, I feel my spirit failing,
Do not hide your face for long;
When I fear that I am dying,
I remember You are strong;
Let me hear Your lovingkindness,
Give my longing soul a song.

Verses 9 & 10

Save me from the foes that hound me,
I take shelter in Your grace;
Teach my soul to rest upon You,
Even in this awful place;
Lead me by Your Holy Spirit,
Help me run a faithful race.

Verses 11 & 12

Lord, revive me for Your name's sake,
Heal the troubles of my soul;
Take my enemies far from me,
Fix my eyes upon the goal;
I have always been Your servant,
Let Your Spirit take control.

2/25/2016

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Psalms 144

(A Psalm of David)

Verses 1 & 2

Blessed be the Lord my rock, who trains my hands for war;
My fingers for the battle, and my Spirit for the chore.
He is my lovingkindness and my fortress and my tower;
My shield and my defender; I take refuge in His power.

Verses 3 & 4

What is man that You should take an interest in his plight?
And what about the son of man in whom You take delight?
For men are like a breath of wind that cannot be defined;
His days are like a shadow that soon passes out of mind.

Verses 5-8

Bow down the heavens, O my God, and make the mountains smoke;
Let lightening streak like arrows so mankind will know you spoke.
Stretch out your hand and rescue me from foreign men who lie;
Whose right hand can't be trusted when they claim they're standing by.

Verses 9-11

I'll sing a new song to the Lord on harps of many strings;
I'll praise Him for salvation for His people and their kings.
He will deliver David from their treachery and swords,
And save him from their armies for the battle is the Lord's.

Verses 11 & 12

Lord, rescue us from foreigners who want to take our land;
And let our sons grow tall and strong exactly as we planned.
And may our daughters grow to be like pillars in the walls,
As beautiful as sculptured ones along the palace halls.

Verses 13-15

We pray our barns will be so full they'll burst the doors and locks;
And that our pastures will abound with many herds and flocks;
We ask that we will know a peace we've never known before;
And that we'll gladly serve the Lord outside the temple door.

2/25/2016

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Psalms 145

Verses 1-3

I will extol You as my God and bless You every day;
I'll praise Your name from this time on and never turn away;
The Lord is great, the Lord is good, He's worthy of our praise;
His greatness is unsearchable and sets our souls ablaze.

Verses 4 & 5

Each generation learns of You from those who came before,
And they declare Your mighty acts that no one should ignore;
I'll meditate upon the things that show Your majesty,
And on the splendor of the things that You've revealed to me.

Verses 6 & 7

Men will discuss the awesomeness of everything You've done,
And I'll declare the greatness of the victories You've won;
They'll utter all their memories of what they've seen You do,
And sing about Your righteousness and all Your goodness too.

Verses 8 & 9

The Lord is gracious to our souls, compassionate to all,
Slow to anger, full of grace, with mercy when we fall;
He's good to everyone despite the way they treat His grace,
And tender mercies crown His works in every single place.

Verses 10-13

All your works shall praise You, Lord, and all Your saints shall bless,
They'll tout Your glory and Your power which all men shall confess;
Your kingdom lasts forever and will cover all the earth,
Your dominion will endure as long as women shall give birth.

Verses 14-17

The Lord upholds all those who fall, and straightens up the bowed,
He'll feed the hungry with their crops just like the prophets vowed;
He'll satisfy each living thing with all it can desire,
He'll bless the world with righteousness and burn the chaff with fire.

Verses 18-21

The Lord is near to everyone who calls upon His name,
And He'll fulfill the least desire of those who have no blame;
But He'll destroy the wicked ones who never will repent,
And all the rest will praise the Name that no one will resent.

Psalms 146

Verses 1-4

Praise the Lord with all you're your being,
Praise the Lord in every spot;
Sing His praises with your voices,
Praise the Lord with all you've got.
Do not put trust in the people,
They are just a step from death;
Do not put your trust in princes,
They can't give your body breath.

Verses 5-7

Those who trust the God of Jacob
For their help will all be glad;
He created earth and heaven,
Other gods will make you sad.
He established truth forever,
He gives justice to the poor;
He can satisfy the hungry,
And He does a whole lot more.

Verses 8-10

He can give the sightless vision,
He can heal the crooked back;
He gives blessings to the righteous,
Helps the stranger get on track.
He helps widows and their children,
Turns the wicked upside down;
And He's going to reign forever,
Praise the Lord who wears the crown!

2/26/2016

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Psalms 147

Verse 1

Praise the Lord because it's pleasant,
It is beautiful and good;
He builds up His peoples' city,
Praise Him as His servants should.

Verse 2 & 3

God has gathered up His outcasts,
Brought their wounded home in carts,
He has bound their wounds with ointment,
He has healed their broken hearts.

Verses 4-6

He made all the stars and named them,
There is nothing He can't do;
Though He elevates the humble,
He cuts down the wicked too.

Verses 7-9

Sing His praises with thanksgiving,
Who brings rain upon the land;
Makes the grass grow on the mountains,
Feeds the beasts by His command.

Verses 10 & 11

He does not delight in horse power,
Nor in able-bodied men;
He takes pleasure in the reverent,
Who've returned to Him again.

Verses 12-14

Praise the Lord, O Zion's city,
He has made your gates secure;
He keeps peace within your borders,
So your children will endure.

Verses 15-18

He controls the wind and weather,
Sprinkles frost and scatters snow;
Breathes the gentle breath that melts them,
Makes the crystal waters flow.

Verses 19 & 20

He declares His word to Jacob,
And His precepts to His sons;
But the nations do not have them,
Praise the Lord that we're the ones!

2/28/2016

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Psalms 148

Verses 1-4

Oh praise the Lord from heaven, and far beyond the heights,
Exalt Him all you angels, praise Him you starry lights;
Extol Him all creation, and praise Him sun and moon;
Praise Him inside His dwelling, each morning, night, and noon.

Verses 5 & 6

Let all creation's voices proclaim their Maker's name,
He spoke them into being, and named them when they came;
Their franchise is forever, by His divine decree,
It never can be broken throughout eternity.

Verses 7-12

Surround the Lord with praises, you creatures of the deep,
You features of the weather, and things that fly or creep;
Kings of this world's peoples, and judges of the earth,
Both men and maids and children, extol your Savior's worth.

Verses 13 & 14

Let everything that's mentioned exalt the Lord again,
His glory overshadows the accolades of men,
And yet He has exalted the praise of all His saints,
So let His people praise Him aloud without restraints.

2/28/2016

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Psalms 149

Verses 1-4

We're bursting with praise for our Savior;
We've gathered together to sing;
Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;
Let Zion rejoice in her King.
Let's praise Him with singing and dancing,
Rejoicing with timbrels and lyres;
He blesses the meek with salvation,
And satisfies all their desires.

Verses 5-9

Let Israel rejoice in her glory,
The Lord has restored them their land;
Their mouths have been filled with His praises,
A sharp two-edged sword's in their hand.
They'll execute all that is written,
On those to whom they have been sent,
Because their Messiah will lead them,
To judge those who will not repent.

2/28/2016

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Psalms 150

Verse 1

"Praise the Lord," we are admonished, praise Him where His people meet;
May our souls be filled with wonder while we worship at His feet.
Let our praises reach each corner of the mighty universe
As the glory of creation fills our souls with song and verse.

Verse 2

Let us praise Him for the blessings He dispenses from above;
For each act of tender mercy that proclaims our Savior's love.
May the majesty and splendor of the glory of the Lord
Overwhelm us with His greatness that has scarcely been explored.

Verse 3

Praise Him with the sound of music, praise Him with the trumpet's blare;
Longing for its blast to call us up to meet Him in the air.
Praise Him with the harps of heaven where He sits upon the throne;
Glory, honor, praise, and blessing all belong to Him alone.

Verse 4

Praise the Lord with swaying rhythm, celebrating with delight;
Worshipping our Lord and Savior day by day and through the night.
Praise the Lord with formal music, tout His glories loud and strong;
Strings and woodwinds orchestrating praises to the Lord in song.

Verse 5

Praise the Savior while you're jamming, improvise a special chord;
Try your best to catch the essence of the glory of the Lord.
Praise the Lord with clashing cymbals, interrupting now and then,
With a well-placed "Hallelujah," or an audible "Amen!"

Verse 6

Praise the Lord who breathed His being into Adam from the start;
Praise Him that He breathes the Spirit Into every contrite heart.
Praise Him without reservations, give the Lord His rightful place;
Revel in each revelation of the riches of His grace.