

The Chiastic Bible

Psalms
and Proverbs

Luis Alberto Castro

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INTRODUCTION [↵]

The chief reason this Bible was written is the chief reason you should be reading it, and it is found in the name itself, the *Chiastic Bible*.

Definition of *chiasm*. A *chiasm* (also called a *chiasmus*) is a literary device in which a sequence of words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or sections are presented and then repeated in reverse order. The result is a “mirror” effect as the ideas are “reflected” back in a passage. Each idea is connected to its “reflection” by a repeated word, often in a related form. The term *chiasm* comes from the Greek letter chi, which looks like our letter X.

The structure of a *chiasm* is usually expressed through a series of letters, each letter representing a new idea. For example, the structure ABBA refers to two ideas (A and B) repeated in reverse order (B and A). Often, a *chiasm* includes another idea in the middle of the repetition: ABXBA. In this structure, the two ideas (A and B) are repeated in reverse order, but a third idea is inserted before the repetition (X). By virtue of its position, the insertion is emphasized. Typically, the “reflected” letters, of a *labelled chiasm* are marked with apostrophes (such as B’ and A’). For example,

{1 John 3:9}

A. No one **born of God**

 | B. commits **sin**;

 | X. for **God’s seed** abides in him,

 | B’. and he cannot **sin**

A’. because he is **born of God**.

Chiastic layers. Another characteristic of chiasms is that there can be chiasms within chiasms, like the peeling of an onion. You will find many examples of this in the body of the text in this Bible.

Chiastic benefits. Chiastic structures are helpful in the following ways:

1. **Mnemonic device.** The reversal of sounds in a chiasm creates euphony and rhythm which can be memorable. Thus, it serves as an aid to memorization and in teaching and sermon presentation.

2. **Clarity.** The comparison and contrast resulting from mirroring the elements of a passage helps give unity and clarity to the meaning of a passage.
3. **Context.** A chiasm is *cohesive and resonant*. When all the parts are *connected*, then they are all of a whole and, therefore, the context is better understood.
4. **Truthfulness.** A chiasm serves to communicate and reinforce truth. One study has shown that esthetically pleasing expressions, particularly those in a chiastic structure, evoke stronger feelings of truthfulness.^a

Authenticity

The *Chiastic Bible* is not an original translation from the Greek but is **derived** from a set of English translations based on the Byzantine **Majority Text** family of Greek manuscripts. They include the following:

- **World English Bible (WEB).** An English translation created by volunteers with oversight by Michael Paul Johnson and deemed complete in 2020. This version is based on the Byzantine Majority Text.
- **Byzantine Text Version.** An English version translated and compiled by Robert Adam Boyd, ISBN 979-8-84726-292-7. This translation is based on *The New Testament in the Original Greek: Byzantine Textform 2018* by Robinson and Pierpont.
- **^bTextus Receptus Bibles.** An online resource listing the text of most of the Textus Receptus Bibles in parallel, including the KJV.

As noted, this Bible is heavily reliant on English translations based on the Byzantine Majority Text (MT) over and above the Nestle-Aland/UBS text (NU), also known as the Critical Text (CT). The reason behind this decision came down to an understanding of the superiority of the Majority Text. The readily available online article, *The Case for Byzantine Priority*, by Maurice A. Robinson and William G. Pierpont, was helpful in this regard. The other major factor is the understanding that the two primary manuscripts in the Critical Text family, *Codex Vaticanus* and *Codex Sinaiticus*, are not as authentic as most believe them to be.

^a “*Beauty and truth, truth and beauty: Chiastic structure increases the subjective accuracy of statements,*” Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology, Vol 76(2), June, 2022, 144-155

^b See: <https://textusreceptusbibles.com/Interlinear>

Commentators

For my commentary in the footnotes, I relied heavy on the following reference:

The Hebrew Bible, Volume 3, The Writings (Ketuvim), by Robert Alter, 2019.

Psalms in Life. Website: mattstaffordpsalms.com.

Acrostics. An acrostic is a literary form in which each verse is started with one of the successive 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. There are nine acrostics in the Psalms (i.e. 9, 10, 25, 34, 111, 112, 119, and 145). There are three possible reasons for its use: as an aid to memorization, as a representation of the full breadth and depth of the topic, and as an aesthetically attractive form of liturgy. No effort was made in this translation to replicate this pattern.

Alliteration. An alliteration is a literary device that involves repeating the same letter or sound at the beginning of neighboring words. For example, “She sells seashells by the seashore.” Particularly in the Psalms, the intent is to emphasize key terms and phrases.

Chiastic codes. At the top of each psalm, you will find a code, and example of which looks like, “[PS:B1A.b3]”. This represents: Psalms (“PS”), Book1 (“B1”), Collection A, Group b, Item 3. Refer back to the introduction of each Book (1-5) to understand the labelling used for each psalm.

Psalms in Life (Introduction). See:

<https://www.mattstaffordpsalms.com/book-1-41#/introduction-to-the-psalms-1/>

<https://www.mattstaffordpsalms.com/the-arrangement-of-the-psalms-in-book-2>

<https://davidschrock.com/2017/09/15/resources-for-reading-the-psalms-canonically/>

Soundtrack of Psalms video:

<https://obc.org/media-library?sapurl=LytkMzNiL2xiL21zLytqY3F0YmtkP2JyYW5kaW5nPX RydWUmZW1iZWQ9dHJ1ZSZyZWNIbnRSb3V0ZT1hcHAud2ViLWFwcC5saWJyYXJ5Lmxc3QmcmVjZW50Um9ldGVTbHVnPSUyQjNjeWI5anE=>

The Books

The Book of Psalms encompasses the redemptive history from David (in Books 1 and 2) to the exile of David and Israel (in Book 3) to the establishment of Yehovah's kingdom (in Book 4) to the coming kingdom of a New David (in Book 5).

Taken from: <https://davidschrock.com/2020/08/05/the-penultimate-step-toward-jesus-reading-psalms-90-106-canonically/>

It is recognized by many that the Psalter moves from David, son of Jesse (Books 1–2), to David's sons (Book 3), to a greater David who would fulfill the promise of 2 Samuel 7 (Books 4–5). As an introduction to the whole Psalter, Psalm 2 puts on alert to see this Son, and the rest of the Psalms should be read with an eye for the son of David who would rule in Zion.

Historically, Book 1–2 tell the history of David, son of Jesse. In fact, Psalm 72:20 makes it clear that the historical David will no longer be in view in Books 3–5, when it reads, “The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.” What is important here is the reference to Jesse. There will be other Davidic psalms after Psalm 72—Psalm 72 itself is probably a Davidic prayer for Solomon—but after Psalm 72 all Psalms of David should be read in a different historical context.

This historical (dis)placement makes the rest of psalms of David typological in nature. That is, these psalms of David will be used to speak of the office of the king more than the man David himself. In fact, I would argue that the placement of these Davidic psalms is highly relevant for understanding books 3, 4, 5.

For example, in Book 3 we find an historical account of the fall of David's throne. As I argued in a sermon on these psalms, I believe that Psalms 73–89 follow the history of David's throne as told in the book of 2 Chronicles (see picture). In this Book, only one Psalm is Davidic, and importantly it is found in conjunction with Hezekiah restoration of Jerusalem in 2 Chronicles 29–32.

Moving to Book 4, what is most important is the way Book 3 ends. Like Psalm 72:20, which tells of the end of David's life, Psalm 89:39 reads, “You have renounced the covenant with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust.” This verse highlights the ending of David's throne, an event that took place when God exiled David's royal house in Babylon.

Thus, Book 4 begins with no son of David on the throne in Jerusalem. Israel is in exile and like their days in Egypt, the offspring of Abraham need to be rescued again. So begins Book 4, with a Psalm of Moses, as it tells how God would rescue his people from bondage.

The Man Moses. While Moses has been mentioned previously in the

Psalms (see Ps. 77:20), Book 4 is where we find him most. Not only is Psalm 90 attributed to him, but his name shows up in Psalm 99:6; 103:7; 105:26; 106:16, 23, 32. Additionally, as noted by David Mitchell (*The Message of the Psalter*), many interpreters have assigned Psalms 91–99 to Moses. Because none of these psalms have a name in the superscription, it is plausible they could or should be identified with Moses.

The importance of Moses in Book 4 is twofold. First, as with David, whose life formed a type or pattern for later kings in Israel, so Moses became the type identified with God's exodus. In Book 4, we find Yehovah coming to rescue his people and to establish his throne in Zion. This follows the historical lines of the exodus (see Exodus 15), but it also follows the historical events of Israel's return from Babylon. In fact, if we read the Psalms with Isaiah—and many commentators identify the language of Psalms 93–99 with Isaiah—then we have reason to identify Book 4 with the return from exile, i.e., a new exodus, where God brought Israel back to the land.

Second, the focus on Moses also sets up a new Joshua in Book 5. Interestingly, Joshua as an historical figure is “missing” in Psalms 105–06. Although Moses, Aaron, and Phinehas are all mentioned in this historical recounting of Israel's exit from Egypt, Joshua—their peer—is not. But like his absence in Hebrews 11, Joshua is not just overlooked. Rather, as the one who brought Israel into the land (and shared the name of our Lord), Joshua is the figure greater than Moses who would finish what Moses started.

In Israel's history, there was a “Joshua” who came during the Second Temple (see Zechariah 3, 6). His life foreshadowed the coming of a greater Joshua and his royal and priestly identification matches up with the royal and priestly designation of the Savior found in Psalm 110. While the name Joshua is not found in Book 5, the Davidic king of Psalms 110 and 118, which Jesus identifies with himself, is clearly the word-saturated man of Psalm 1. Significantly, the Psalm 1 man is a description that perfectly fits Joshua (see Joshua 1).

Put all this together and we find that Book 4 of the Psalter, which trades on the ministry of Moses, is not the final step in the story of salvation. It is the penultimate step. We knew this already, because Book 4 is not the final book in the Psalms. However, what we may not have is a clear understanding of the relationship between these books. Psalms 93–100 can sound like the coming of our Lord or the return of Christ. And there is a genuine connection. But based on its position between David's fall (in Psalm 89) and the arrival of the greater David (in Book 5), I am

arguing that when the LORD comes to reign in Psalms 93–99, he is coming to his people Israel in the days where the exiles return to the physical temple in Jerusalem.

This matches the three Major Prophets, as well as the book of Daniel, all of whom speak of Israel’s physical return to the land before the revival by the Spirit that will come with Christ. Indeed, as many rightly perceive, Israel remained in “exile” when Christ was born. This too matches what the prophets and the psalms give us: that God would return his people to Israel and from that place in the land, he would come to them in person.

Books 4 and 5 tell this two-part story, and this is why I believe the enthronement of the LORD in Psalms 93–100 relates to the Second Temple and why Book 4 should be read as preparatory for Christ. The return from exile follows the shape of the exodus, and is a type of the coming of the LORD, but it is not the final iteration. The final coming is described in Book 5.

<https://davidschrock.com/sermon-audio/the-psalms/>

A Parade and a Pacemaker: How to Get Into the Psalms

Wisdom, Kingship, and Salvation: Looking at the Psalter through Psalms 1 and 2

Seeing Christ in the Psalms (Psalms 1–150)

The Soundtrack of the Psalms (Book 1: Psalms 1–41)

The Soundtrack of the Psalms (Book 2: Psalms 42–72)

From Exaltation to Exile: The Tragic Fall of David’s House (Book 3: Psalms 73–89)

From Dust to Trust: Rebuilding Shattered Dreams (Book 4: Psalms 90–106)

From Ingathering to Infinite Praise: The Road to Hallelujah (Book 5: Psalms 107–150)

Key words in Psalms

Maskil. This word is transliterated. Its precise meaning is unknown.

BOOK 1 (Psalms 1-41) [[↶](#)] [[↓](#)]

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Introduction to Book 1 (*Psalms 1-41*)

Form Analysis

Psalm

A. Conflict psalms: God's anointed and his enemies (14 psalms)

{1-2}. . . a. Wisdom and Folly (man and kings)

{3-7}. b. Five Laments

{8}. | . . . x. **Hymn of Praise**

{9-13}. b'. Five Laments

{14}. a'. Wisdom and Folly

B. Kingdom psalms: God's word to man (10 psalms)

{15}. a. Entrance liturgy

{16}. | b. Song of trust

{17}. | | c. Prayer for help

{18}. | | | d. Royal psalm

{19}. | | | x. **Creation / Torah**

{20-21}. | | | d'. Royal psalms

{22}. | | c'. Prayer for help

{23}. | | b'. Song of trust

{24}. a'. Entrance liturgy

B'. Temple psalms: Yehovah enthroned over creation (10 psalms)

{25}. a. Acrostic ("show me your ways")

{26}. | b. Claim of innocence

{27}. | | c. Trust in Yehovah for deliverance

{28}. | | | d. Cry for help (Yehovah's silence)

{29}. | | | x. **Hymn (Yehovah's voice)**

{30}. | | | d'. Thanksgiving (Yehovah answers)

{31}. | | | c'. Trust in Yehovah for deliverance

{32}. | | b'. Forgiveness from Yehovah

{33}. a'1. Song of praise (22 verses, acrostic-like)

{34}. a'2. Acrostic – song of praise

A'. Spiritual warfare (7 psalms)

{35}	...	a.	Betrayal and prayer for vindication
{36}	...	b.	Praise and trust
{37}	...	c.	Wisdom and trust
{38}	...	x.	Pain (22 verses, acrostic-like)
{39}	...	c'.	Lament and trust
{40}	...	b'.	Thanksgiving and trust
{41}	...	a'.	Betrayal and prayer for vindication

Closing doxology:

{41:13}

Notes on Book 1 (psalms 1-41)

Four chiasms. As can be seen from the above outline, psalms 1-41 neatly form a collection of four chiasms.

Central psalms. The central psalm in each of the first three collections (A, B, and B')—i.e. psalms 8, 19, and 29—have a similar creation theme and the ordering of mankind under Yehovah's authority and covenant relationship with him. The final collection (A') is one of the seven penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143) in the Book of Psalms. Although not an acrostic, its 22 verses gives it a sense of completeness.

See:

<https://viaemmaus.files.wordpress.com/2017/07/book-1-infographic.jpg>

Psalm 1. Blessed is the man who meditates on the Torah.

Psalm 2. Blessed are the nations (i.e. “kings of the earth”) who serve Yehovah and give sincere homage to his Anointed. His “Anointed” meant Israel's king, but also prophetically pointed to the coming Messiah.

Psalms 3-7. Five laments.

Psalm 8. Central psalm of this collection. Its focus is the glory of Yehovah and the dignity of mankind ordered under Yehovah's reign.

Psalms 9-13. Five laments. Psalms 9 and 10 are acrostics and have a common theme of seeking justice from Yehovah.

Psalm 14. Contrasts the wicked with Yehovah's people.

Notes on Psalms 15-24 (10 psalms)

Psalm 15 and 24. These are call and response liturgy psalms in corporate worship. That is, the question (or questions) is raised by the choir leader (or leaders) and answered by the choir, or the choir asks the question and the response is given by the congregation.

Psalm 18. A lengthy psalm of thanksgiving by David for God's deliverance in battle and God's favor on him as king.

Psalm 19. This central psalm is similar to the central psalm 8 of the first collection. Psalm 19 speaks of Yehovah's glory in creation and man's responsibility and great reward in keeping the Torah.

Psalms 20-21. Psalm 20 is a prayer for the king to be victorious and Psalm 21 is a response from the king praising God for the victories granted.

Psalm 22. In this psalm, David's prayer for help was prophetic of Jesus' words and events in his crucifixion and resurrection (see Matthew 27:35, 39, 41, 43, 46; 28:10; Hebrews 2:10-12).

Psalm 23. The most famous of the psalms. Presents a message of trust in God as a caring Shepherd. Jesus took on this symbolism as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). Psalm 23 is traditionally sung by observant Jews during the third meal on the Sabbath. It is also sung during the Kiddush and at funeral services.

Notes on Psalms 25-34 (10 psalms)

Psalm 29. This central psalm is similar to the central psalms of the prior two collections—i.e. psalms 8 and 19—which have a creation theme and the ordering of mankind under Yehovah's authority and covenant relationship with him.

Psalms 26 and 32. These two psalms have antithetical parallelism.

Psalms 27 and 31. These two psalms have synonymous parallelism.

Psalms 28 and 30. These two psalms have synthetic parallelism.

Notes on Psalms 35-41 (7 psalms)

These seven psalms have a collective theme of lament due to betrayal and vows of trust in Yehovah. The laments are filled with moments of praise, wisdom, thanksgiving and ultimately trust in Yehovah.

Psalm 35 and 41. These two psalms are referenced in the New Testament in connection with Jesus (Psalm 35:19; John 15:25) and Judas (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18).

Psalm 38. This psalm is one of the seven penitential psalms (6, 32, **38**, 51, 102, 130, and 143). Although not an acrostic, its 22 verses gives it a sense of completeness. Only a solitary note of trust is found in v.15.

[PS:B1.A.a1]

Psalm 1 ^[ע]

¹ ^aBlessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the **wicked**, nor stands in **the way of sinners**, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

² but his delight is in the ^blaw of Yehovah, and on his **law** he ^cmeditates day and night.

³ He is ^dlike a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its **fruit** in its season, and its **leaf** does not wither. Whatever he does, he prospers.

⁴ **The wicked** are not so, but are **like the chaff** which the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked ^ewill not stand in the **judgment**, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For Yehovah knows **the way of the righteous**, but the **way of the wicked** will perish.

^a 1:1 Blessed [H835, 'ašrê; happy, blessed]:—the plural form of *asherah* is *asherim*, and may be a pun on *ashurim* (H838) which means “steps” and hence reinforces the walking on “the way” metaphor in this psalm.

^b 1:2 law [H8451, *torah*]:—lit. the “guide” or “teaching”. The meaning is therefore “teaching”, “doctrine”, or “instruction”. The Torah is known as the Pentateuch or the five books of Moses by Christians. It is known as the Written Torah in Jewish tradition.

^c 1:2 meditates [H1897, *hāḡâ*]:—lit. to “murmur” and by implication, to ponder. That is, to make a low muttering sound, which is typically what one does in meditation, if it is not done in silence.

^d 1:3 like a tree:—A tree flourishes when near a water source. This is particularly true in the land of Israel. An apt metaphor for enduring success—i.e. rooted, evergreen and fruitful. This is contrasted with the chaff which the wind drives away.

^e 1:5 will not stand:—given that the wicked are like chaff driven by the wind, they do not stand on anything. In the court of judgment, they have no foundation.

[PS:B1.A.a2]

Psalm 2 [\[←\]](#)

[*Prophet's vision*]

¹ Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ² **The kings of the earth** rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yehovah, and against his ^aanointed, saying, [*quot. Acts 4:25-26*] ³ “Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.”

[*Prophecy*]

⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs. The Lord has them in derision.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his displeasure:

[*God speaks*] ⁶ “Yet I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”

| [*Son speaks*] ⁷ I will tell of the decree: Yehovah said to me,
| “You are my ^bson. Today I have begotten you. [*quot. Acts*
| 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5]

[*God speaks*] ⁸ Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession.

[*Prophecy*]

⁹ You will break them with a ^crod of iron. You will dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” [*quot. Rev.2:26-27; 12:5; 19:15*]

[*Prophet's advice*]

¹⁰ Now therefore be wise, **you kings**. Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve Yehovah with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Give sincere homage to the son, lest he be angry, and you perish on the way, for his wrath will soon be kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

^a 2:2 anointed [H4899, *māšīah*]:—a person or place ritually consecrated by putting holy oil on them. Performed on priests, kings, and even prophets (e.g. 1 Kings 19:16). In this psalm, Yehovah's anointed is the king of Israel, who the kings of the earth rise up against. In Jewish eschatology, it refers to the coming king who will rule in the Messianic Age.

^b 2:7 son:—the concept of the king being God's son and having been *begotten* or “birthed” of God was commonplace in the ancient Near East. Quoted in the NT in support of Jesus being the promised Messiah (Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5).

^c 2:9 rod [H7626, *shevet*]:—i.e. the king's scepter, symbol of authority, which in this context becomes a battle club to smash his enemies in pieces. The term “rod of iron” is quoted in Revelation 19:15 with reference to Jesus returning as the King of kings.

[PS:B1.A.b2]

Psalm 4 [\[←\]](#)

For the Choir Director: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

[Prayer]

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness. Give me relief from my distress. Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

[Enemies]

² O sons of men, how long will my glory be turned into dishonor? Will you love vanity and seek after falsehood? *Selah.*

[Exhortation]

³ But know that Yehovah has set apart for himself him who is godly: Yehovah will hear when I call to him. ⁴ ^aStand in awe, and do not sin. Search your own heart while on your bed, and be still. [*quot.* Eph. 4:26] *Selah.* ⁵ Offer sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in Yehovah.

[Enemies]

⁶ Many say, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine on us, O Yehovah.

[Prayer]

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and their new wine are increased. ⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Yehovah, make me dwell in safety.

^a **4:4** stand in awe [H7264, *rāḡāz*]:—variously translated as tremble, disquiet, troubled, or quake. This verse moves from a state of awe or disquiet or troubled agitation to stillness at the end.

[PS:B1.A.b3]

Psalm 5 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Choir Director: on the ^aNehiloth. A Psalm of David.

[*Loud cry toward Yehovah*]

¹ Give ear to my words, O Yehovah. Consider my groaning. ² Give heed to **the sound of my cry**, my King and my God; for I pray to you. ³ O Yehovah, in the morning you hear my **voice**. In the morning I lay my requests before you, and watch and wait.

⁴ For you are not a God who has pleasure in **wickedness**. **Evil** cannot dwell with you. ⁵ The **arrogant** will **not stand** in your sight. You hate all **workers of iniquity**.

⁶ You will destroy those **who speak lies**. Yehovah abhors the **bloodthirsty** and **deceitful** man.

[*David regards Yehovah's righteous ways*]

⁷ **But as for me**, in the abundance of your covenant-love I will come into your house. I will bow toward your holy temple in reverence of you. ⁸ O Yehovah, **lead me** in your righteousness because of my enemies. Make your way straight before me.

⁹ For there is **no faithfulness in their mouth**. Their **heart is destruction**. Their **throat is an open tomb**. They **flatter with their tongue**. [*quot. Rom. 3:13*]

¹⁰ Hold them guilty, O God. **Let them fall** by their own counsels. Thrust them out because of their many transgressions, for they have **rebelled against you**.

[*Shouts of joy before Yehovah*]

¹¹ But let all those who take refuge in you rejoice. Let them always **shout for joy**, because you defend them. And those who love your name will exult in you. ¹² For you will bless the righteous. O Yehovah, you will surround him with favor as with a shield.

^a **5:1** Nehiloth [H5155, *nʿhîlâ*]:—a transliteration of a musical instrument of unknown identity. This is the only occurrence of this word in the Hebrew Bible. Some believe it to be a flute or a pipe, as being “perforated,” from *hatal*, to bore.

[PS:B1.A.b4]

Psalm 6 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Choir Director: with stringed instruments, upon the eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm of David.

[*David fears Yehovah's rebuke*]

¹ **O Yehovah**, do not rebuke me in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

[*David's prayer for mercy*]

² Have mercy on me, **O Yehovah**, for I am weak. **O Yehovah**, heal me, for my bones are troubled. ³ My soul is also **in great anguish**. But you, **O Yehovah**—how long? [*quot. John 12:27*]

⁴ **Return, O Yehovah. Deliver my soul**, and save me for the sake of your covenant-love.

[*David in great distress and grief*]

⁵ For in death there is no memory of you. In Sheol, who will give you thanks? ⁶ I am weary with my groaning. Every night I soak my bed *with tears*. I drench my couch with my weeping. ⁷ My eye wastes away because of grief. It is worn out because of all my adversaries.

⁸ **Depart from me**, all you workers of iniquity, [*quot. Matt. 7:23; Luke 13:27*]

[*David's prayer accepted*]

for **Yehovah** has heard the voice of my weeping. ⁹ **Yehovah** has heard my supplication. **Yehovah** accepts my prayer.

[*Yehovah's rebuke on David's enemies*]

¹⁰ May all my enemies be ashamed and **dismayed**. They will turn back, they will be disgraced suddenly.

[PS:B1.A.b5]

Psalm 7 [\[↵\]](#)

A Shiggaion of David, which he **sang to Yehovah**, concerning the words of Cush, the Benjamite.

¹ **O Yehovah**, my God, in you I take refuge.

[*David declares his innocence*]

Save me from all those who **pursue me**, and **deliver me**, ² lest they tear my soul like a lion, ripping it in pieces, with no one to deliver.

³ O Yehovah, my God, if I have done this, if there is iniquity in my hands, ⁴ if I have rewarded evil to him who was at peace with me, or rescued my enemy in vain,

⁵ let the enemy **pursue my soul**, and **overtake it**; yes, let him tread my life down to the earth, and lay my glory in the dust. *Selah*.

⁶ Arise, O Yehovah, in **your anger**. Lift yourself up against the fury of my adversaries.

Awake for me. You have commanded **judgment**. ⁷ Let the congregation of the peoples surround you. Rule over them on high. ⁸ **Yehovah administers judgment** to the peoples.

Judge me, Yehovah, according to my **righteousness**, and to my integrity that is in me.

⁹ Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the **righteous**; their minds and hearts are searched by the **righteous** God. ¹⁰ My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.

¹¹ God is a righteous **judge**, yes, a God who is **angered by injustice** every day.

[*Cush's guilt*]

¹² **If a man does not turn back**, *God* will sharpen his sword; he has bent and strung his bow. ¹³ He has also prepared for himself the instruments of death. **He makes** ready his flaming arrows.

¹⁴ Behold, *the wicked man* is pregnant with iniquity. Yes, he has conceived mischief, and given birth to falsehood.

¹⁵ He has dug a hole, and has fallen into the pit **which he made**. ¹⁶ The trouble he causes **will turn back** on his own head. On the crown of his head, his violence will descend.

¹⁷ I will give thanks to **Yehovah** according to his righteousness, and will **sing praise** to the name of **Yehovah** Most High.

[PS:B1.A.x]

Psalm 8 [\[←\]](#)

For the Choir Director: on an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.

¹ O Yehovah, our ^aLord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Whose splendor is told above the heavens! ² Out of the mouth of babes and infants you have laid a strong foundation, because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. [*quot.* Matt. 21:16]

³ When I consider the heavens, **the work of your fingers**, the moon and the stars, which you have established;

| ⁴ what is man, that you are mindful of him, and the son of
| man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower
| than *the* ^bangels, and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶ You gave him dominion over **the works of your hands**. [*quot.* Heb. 2:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:22]

You put all things under his feet: ⁷ All sheep and cattle, yes, and the animals of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹ O Yehovah, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

^a **8:1** Lord [H113, 'āḏōnēnū]...majestic [H117, 'adîr]:—an *alliteration* on these two similar sounding words (i.e. 'āḏōnēnū and 'adîr).

^b **8:5** angels:—lit. *Elohim* (i.e. “God” in Hebrew). The NT book of Hebrews quotes this verse as “angels” and not God, which may be the way it was understood. If not, that is, if the term “God” is intended, the most natural interpretation is that with respect to man’s dominion or “rule” over the earth, man’s place is but little inferior to God himself.

[PS:B1.A.b'1]

Psalm 9 [↵]

For the Choir Director. ^aAlmuth-labben. A Psalm of David.

¹ I will give thanks to Yehovah with my whole heart. I will tell of all your marvelous works. ² I will be glad and rejoice in you. I will sing praise to **your name**, O Most High.

³ When my enemies turn back, they **stumble** and perish in your presence. ⁴ For you have **maintained my just cause**. You sit on the throne **judging** righteously. ⁵ You have rebuked the nations. You have destroyed the wicked. You have blotted out their name **forever and ever**.

⁶ The enemy is overtaken by endless ruin. The very memory of the cities which you have overthrown has perished.

⁷ But Yehovah reigns **forever**. He has prepared his throne for **judgment**. ⁸ He will **judge** the world in righteousness. He will **administer judgment to the peoples in uprightness**. ⁹ Yehovah will also be a **high tower** for the oppressed; a **high tower** in times of trouble.

¹⁰ Those who know **your name** will put their trust in you, for you, O Yehovah, have not forsaken those who seek you. ¹¹ Sing praises to Yehovah, who dwells in Zion, and declare among the people what he has done.

¹² For he who avenges blood remembers them. He **does not forget** the cry of the afflicted.

¹³ Have mercy on me, O Yehovah. See my affliction by those who hate me, and lift me up from the **gates of death**, ¹⁴ that I may recount all your praises. I will rejoice in your salvation in the **gates of the daughter of Zion**.

¹⁵ The nations have sunk down in the **pit that they made**. In the net which they hid, their own foot is taken. ¹⁶ Yehovah has made himself known. He has executed judgment. The wicked is **snares by the work of his own hands**. ^b*Higgaion. Selah.*

^a **9:1** Almuth-labben:—A transliterated phrase. Its meaning is unknown. The second word seems to say “to the son,” but it may be a reversal of letters, *n-b-l*, a kind of lyre.

^b **9:16** Higgaion:—A transliterated word. Possibly a musical notation for *affettuoso* (“with affection”); by implication a solemn sound for meditation.

¹⁷ The wicked will ^adepart to **Sheol**, even all the nations that forget God.

¹⁸ For the needy **will not always be forgotten**, nor the hope of the poor perish forever. ¹⁹ Arise, O Yehovah! Do not let man prevail. Let the nations be judged in your sight. ²⁰ Put them in fear, O Yehovah. Let the nations know that they are but men. *Selah*.

^a **9:17** depart to Sheol:—this stands in contrast to the fate of the speaker, who has been lifted up from the gates of death (v.13).

[PS:B1.A.b'2]

Psalm 10 [4]

[*The oppressed cry out to Yehovah*]

¹ Why do you stand far off, **O Yehovah**? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ² In arrogance, the wicked hunt down the weak. They are caught in the schemes that they devise.

[*The wicked has no room for God*]

³ For the **wicked** boasts of his heart's cravings. He blesses the greedy and condemns Yehovah. ⁴ The **wicked**, in the pride of his face, **has no room in his thoughts for God**. ⁵ His ways are prosperous at all times. He is arrogant, and your laws are far from his sight. As for all his adversaries, he sneers at them.

[*The heart of the wicked*]

⁶ **He says in his heart**, "I will not be shaken. For generations I will have no trouble."

[*The wicked described*]

⁷ His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression. Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity. [*quot. Rom. 3:14*]

⁸ He lies in wait near the villages. From ambushes, he murders the innocent. His eyes are secretly set against the helpless. ⁹ He lurks in secret as a lion in his ambush. He lies in wait to catch the helpless. He catches the helpless when he draws him in his net. ¹⁰ The helpless are crushed. They collapse. They fall under his strength.

[*The heart of the wicked*]

¹¹ **He says in his heart**, "God has forgotten. He hides his face. He will never see it."

[*God has no room for the wicked*]

¹² Arise, O Yehovah! O God, lift up your hand! Do not forget the helpless. ¹³ Why does the **wicked** person condemn God, and say in his heart, "God will not call me into account?" ¹⁴ But you have seen it, you have beheld trouble and vexation, to take it into your hand. You help the victim and the fatherless. ¹⁵ **Break the arm of the wicked** and evildoer. Seek out his wickedness **until you find none**.

[*Yehovah delivers the oppressed*]

¹⁶ **Yehovah** is King forever and ever! The nations will perish out of his land. ¹⁷ **O Yehovah**, you have heard the desire of the humble. You will strengthen their heart. Your ear listens, ¹⁸ to judge the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may terrify them no more.

[PS:B1.A.b'3]

Psalm 11 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Choir Director. Of David.

¹ In **Yehovah**, I take refuge. How can you say to me, “Flee like a bird to your mountain”?

² For, behold, the **wicked** bend the bow. They have fitted their arrow to the string, to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.

³ If the foundations are destroyed, what can the **righteous** do? ⁴ Yehovah is in his holy temple. Yehovah is on his throne in heaven. His eyes behold. His eyelids examine the children of men. ⁵ Yehovah tests the **righteous**,

but he utterly hates the **wicked** and him who loves violence. ⁶ On the **wicked** he will rain blazing coals; fire, sulfur, and scorching wind will be the portion of their cup.

⁷ For **Yehovah** is righteous. He loves righteousness. The upright will see his face.

[PS:B1.A.b'4]

Psalm 12 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Choir Director: upon an eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm of David.

[*The faithful fail*]

¹ Help, O Yehovah; for the godly man ceases to be, and no **faithful** remain among the **children of men**.

² Everyone lies to his neighbor. They **speak** with flattering **lips**, and with a double heart. ³ May Yehovah cut off all flattering **lips**, and the **tongue** that boasts, ⁴ who have said, “With our **tongue** we will prevail. Our **lips** are our own. Who is lord over us?”

[*Yehovah will arise and provide safety*]

⁵ “Because of the oppression of the weak and because of the groaning of the needy, I will now arise,” says Yehovah; “I will set him in safety from those who malign him.”

⁶ The **words** of Yehovah are pure **words**, as silver refined in a clay furnace, purified seven times.

[*The faithful are preserved*]

⁷ You, O Yehovah, will **keep them**. You will **preserve them** from this generation forever. ⁸ The wicked walk on every side, when vileness is exalted among the **sons of men**.

[PS:B1.A.b'5]

Psalm 13 [\[ע\]](#)

For the Choir Director. A Psalm of David.

¹ How long, **O Yehovah**? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts, having sorrow in **my heart** all the day?

How long will **my enemy** triumph over me?

³ Consider and answer me, **O Yehovah, my God**. Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep *the sleep of death*;

⁴ lest **my enemy** say, “I have prevailed against him;” lest my adversaries rejoice when I fall.

⁵ But I trust in your covenant-love. **My heart** rejoices in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to **Yehovah**, because he has been good to me.

[PS:B1.A.a']

Psalm 14 [\[ע\]](#)

For the Choir Director. Of David.

¹ The ^afool says in his heart, “There is **no God**.”

They are corrupt. They have done abominable deeds. There is **no one who does good**.

² Yehovah looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who act wisely, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside. [*quot. Rom. 3:10-12*]

They have all together become corrupt. There is **no one who does good**, no, not one.

⁴ Have all the workers of iniquity **no knowledge**, who eat up **my people** as they eat bread, and **do not call on Yehovah**?

^a **14:1** fool [H5036, *nābāl*]:—the term *nabal* means wicked and vile. It also means to fall away, to fail, to faint, to despise, to dishonor, to lightly esteem, or to abandon. He blasphemes God (Ps. 74:18); insults and sneers at him all day long (Ps. 74:22); he falsely claims to be inspired (Ezek. 13:3); his speech is unbecoming (Job 2:10; Prov. 17:7).

⁵ There they are in great dread, for God is with the generation of the righteous. ⁶ You [*workers of iniquity*] frustrate the counsel of the oppressed, but Yehovah is his refuge.

⁷ Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When Yehovah restores the fortunes of **his people**, then Jacob will rejoice, and Israel will be glad.

[PS:B1.B.a]

Psalm 15 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ O Yehovah, who will ^asojourn in your tabernacle? Who will dwell on your holy hill?

[*Walks uprightly*]

- ² He who walks blamelessly
- and does what is right,
- and speaks truth in his heart;

[*Refuses to do or speak evil against others*]

- ³ he who does not slander with his tongue,
- nor does evil to his friend,
- nor casts slurs against his fellow man;

[*Despises evil men, but honors the godly*]

- ⁴ in whose eyes a vile man is despised,
- but who honors those who fear Yehovah;

[*Keeps his word*]

- he who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and doesn't change;

[*Refuses to misuse money*]

- ⁵ he who does not lend out his money for usury,
- nor take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things will never be shaken.

^a **15:1** sojourn [H1481, *gûr*]:—appropriately paired with *tabernacle* in, “sojourn in your tabernacle (or tent),” the characteristic form of nomadic habitation. It is followed (progression-wise) by “dwell on your holy hill” where to “dwell” [H7931, *šākan*; to abide, settle down] is to abide in the solid structure of the Temple which sits on Yehovah’s holy hill.

[PS:B1.B.b]

Psalm 16 [4]

A Poem of David.

¹ Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in you. ² **I** said to Yehovah, “You are my Lord. I have no good apart from you.” ³ As for **the holy ones** on the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows. Their libations of **blood** I will not offer, **nor take their names on my lips.**

⁵ Yehovah is my portion and my cup. **My future is secure.** ⁶ The *boundary* lines have fallen to me in pleasant places. Yes, I have a good inheritance.

⁷ **I will bless Yehovah, who has given me counsel.** Yes, my heart instructs me in the night seasons.

⁸ I have set Yehovah always before me. Because he is at my right hand, **I will not be moved.**

⁹ Therefore my **heart** is glad, and **my soul rejoices.** My body will also dwell in safety.

¹⁰ For you will not forsake my life to Sheol, neither will you let your **holy one** see the grave. ¹¹ You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy. At your right hand are pleasures forever more. [*quot.* Acts 2:25-28; 13:35]

[PS:B1.B.c]

Psalm 17 [\[↵\]](#)

A Prayer of David.

¹ Hear, O Yehovah, a **just** cause. Attend to my cry; hearken to my ^atruthful, honest prayer. ² May my judgment come from your presence. **May your eyes see** what is right.

³ You have probed my heart. You have come upon me by night. You have tried me, and found nothing. I have resolved that my mouth will not transgress.

⁴ As for the deeds of men, by the word of your lips, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent. ⁵ **My steps** have held fast to your paths. **My feet** have not slipped.

⁶ I have called on you, for you will answer me, O God. Turn your ear to me. Hear **my word**.

⁷ Make your covenant-love abound, you who save those who take refuge from their enemies by your right hand. ⁸ Keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me under the shadow of your wings, ⁹ from the wicked who oppress me, my deadly enemies, who surround me.

¹⁰ They close up their callous hearts. With their mouth **they speak proudly**.

¹¹ They encompass me in **my steps**. They cast their eyes over the land. ¹² He is like a lion longing for prey, as a young lion lurking in secret places.

¹³ Arise, O Yehovah, confront him. Cast him down. Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, ¹⁴ from men by your hand, O Yehovah, from men of the world, whose portion is this *fleeting* life.

But you fill the belly of your ^bcherished ones. Your sons have plenty, and they store up wealth for their children. ¹⁵ As for me, I will **see** your face in **righteousness**. When I awake, I will be satisfied when **I see** your form.

^a 17:1 truthful, honest:—lit. “my prayer without lips of deceit.”

^b 17:14 cherished ones:—lit. “hidden ones” which refers back to v.8, “Hide me under the shadow of your wings.”

[PS:B1.B.d]

Psalm 18 ^[d]

[A. *Introduction*]

For the Choir Director. Of **David** the servant of Yehovah, who spoke to Yehovah the words of this song in the day that Yehovah **delivered** him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

[B. *Yehovah is my rock*]

¹ I love you, O Yehovah, my strength. ² Yehovah is **my rock**, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower. [*quot.* Heb. 2:13] ³ I call on Yehovah, who is worthy to be praised; and **I am saved from my enemies**.

[C. *David cries out to God*]

⁴ The cords of death surrounded me. The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. ⁵ The cords of Sheol were around me. The snares of death came on me. ⁶ In my distress I called on Yehovah, and **cried to my God**. He heard my voice out of his temple. My cry to him reached his ears.

[D. *Yehovah's deliverance*]

⁷ Then the earth shook and trembled. The foundations also of the mountains quaked and were shaken, because he was angry. ⁸ Smoke went out of his nostrils. Consuming fire came out of his mouth. Coals were kindled by it. ⁹ He bowed the heavens also, and came down. Thick darkness was under his feet. ¹⁰ He rode on a cherub, and flew. Yes, he soared on the wings of the wind. ¹¹ He made darkness his hiding place, his pavilion around him, darkness of waters, and thick clouds of the skies. ¹² At the brightness before him his thick clouds passed, hailstones and coals of fire. ¹³ Yehovah also thundered in the sky. The Most High uttered his voice: hailstones and coals of fire. ¹⁴ He sent out his arrows, and scattered them. He routed them with great lightning bolts. ¹⁵ Then the channels of waters appeared. The foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke, O Yehovah, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils. ¹⁶ He sent from on high. He took me. He drew me out of many waters. ¹⁷ He delivered me from my strong **enemy**, from **those who hated me**; for they were too mighty for me. ¹⁸ They came on me in the day of my calamity, but Yehovah was my support. ¹⁹ He brought me out also into a large place. He delivered me, because he delighted in me.

[E. *David's uprightness*]

²⁰ **Yehovah has rewarded me according to my righteousness. According to the cleanness of my hands**, he has recompensed me. ²¹ For I have **kept the ways of Yehovah**, and have not wickedly departed from my God. ²² For all his ordinances were before me. I did not put away his statutes from me. ²³ I was also **blameless with him**. I kept myself from my iniquity. ²⁴ Therefore **Yehovah has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands** before his eyes.

[X. *The ways of Yehovah*]

²⁵ With the merciful you will show yourself merciful. With the blameless man, you will show yourself blameless. ²⁶ With the pure, you will show yourself pure. With the crooked you will show yourself shrewd. ²⁷ For you will save the afflicted people, but the arrogant eyes you will bring down. ²⁸ For you will light my lamp, O Yehovah. My God will light up my darkness. ²⁹ For by you, I advance through a troop. By my God, I leap over a wall.

[E'. *Yehovah is upright*]

³⁰ As for God, **his way is perfect**. Yehovah's word is tried. He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him. ³¹ For who is God, but Yehovah? Who is a rock, besides our God,

[D'. *Yehovah's deliverance*]

³² the God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect? ³³ He makes my feet like deer's feet, and sets me on my high places. ³⁴ He teaches my hands to war, so that my arms bend a bow of bronze. ³⁵ You have also given me the shield of your salvation. Your right hand sustains me. Your gentleness has made me great. ³⁶ You have enlarged my steps under me, My feet have not slipped. ³⁷ I will pursue my **enemies**, and overtake them. I will not turn away until they are consumed. ³⁸ I will strike them through, so that they will not be able to rise. They will fall under my feet. ³⁹ For you have armed me with strength to the battle. You have subdued under me those who rose up against me. ⁴⁰ You have also made my **enemies** turn their backs to me, that I might cut off **those who hate me**.

[C'. *Triumph over enemies whose cry is unanswered*]

⁴¹ **They cried**, but there was no one to save; even to Yehovah, **but he did not answer them**. ⁴² Then I beat them small as the dust before

the wind. I cast them out as the mire of the streets. ⁴³ You have delivered me from the strivings of the people. You have made me the head of the nations. A people whom I have not known will serve me. ⁴⁴ As soon as they hear of me they will obey me. The foreigners will submit themselves to me. ⁴⁵ The foreigners will fade away, and will come trembling out of their strongholds.

[B'. *Yehovah is my rock*]

⁴⁶ Yehovah lives! Blessed be **my rock**. Exalted be the God of my salvation, ⁴⁷ even the God who executes vengeance for me, and subdues peoples under me. ⁴⁸ **He rescues me from my enemies**. Yes, you lift me up above those who rise up against me. You deliver me from the violent man. ⁴⁹ Therefore I will give thanks to you, O Yehovah, among the nations, and will sing praises to your name. [*quot. Rom. 15:9*]

[A'. *Conclusion*]

⁵⁰ He gives great **deliverance** to his king, and shows covenant-love to his anointed, to **David** and to his seed, forever.

[PS:B1.B.x]

Psalm 19 [¶]

For the Choir Director. A Psalm of David.

[God glory revealed in the heavens]

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ² Day after day they pour forth **speech**, and night after night they declare knowledge. ³ There is no **speech** nor are there words, where their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their **voice** goes out through all the earth, and their **words** to the end of the world.

[The penetrating power of the sun]

In them he has set a tent for the sun, [*quot. Rom. 10:18*] ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

[The perfect words of God]

⁷ The law of Yehovah is perfect, restoring the soul. The covenant of Yehovah is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of Yehovah are right, rejoicing the heart. The commandment of Yehovah is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of Yehovah is clean, enduring forever. The ordinances of Yehovah are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, yes, than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned. In keeping them there is great reward.

[The discerning power of God]

¹² Who then can discern his [*own*] errors? Forgive me from hidden faults. ¹³ Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins. Let them not have dominion over me. Then I will be upright and innocent of great transgression.

[David speaks of God's glory]

¹⁴ Let the **words of my mouth** and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Yehovah, my rock, and my redeemer.

[PS:B1.B.d'1]

Psalm 20 [\[⚡\]](#)

For the Choir Director. A Psalm of David. [^a*A Royal Psalm.*]

¹ May Yehovah **answer you in the day of trouble**. May the name of the God of Jacob ^b**exalt** you.

² May he send you **help** from the ^csanctuary, and grant you support from Zion. ³ May he **remember** all your grain offerings, and accept your burnt sacrifices. *Selah*.

⁴ May he grant you your heart's desire, and **fulfill all your counsel**. ⁵ We will rejoice in your **salvation**. In the name of our God, we will set up our banners. May Yehovah **fulfill all your petitions**.

⁶ Now **I know** that Yehovah **saves** his anointed. **He will answer him** from his holy heaven, with the **saving** strength of his right hand. ⁷ Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we trust in the name of Yehovah our God.

⁸ They are bowed down and fallen, but we **rise up**, and **stand upright**. ⁹ Save, O Yehovah! May the King **answer us in the day we call!**

^a *A Royal Psalm*:—the “you” in this psalm is in the masculine singular. It is addressed to a single male individual. From v.9 we can discern that this individual is the King.

^b **20:1 exalt** [H7682, *śāgāb*; exalt, defend]:—a cognate of “fortress” — lofty, inaccessible, safe, strong.

^c **20:2 sanctuary...Zion**:—in King David's day, the sanctuary was moved to Jerusalem and placed on Mount Moriah. Zion refers to Mount Zion, also in Jerusalem, where David built his royal palace.

[PS:B1.B.a]

Psalm 21 [ע]

For the Choir Director. A Psalm of David. [*A Royal Psalm.*]

¹ O Yehovah, in **your strength** the king rejoices. How greatly he rejoices in your salvation!

² You have given him his heart's desire, and have **not withheld the request of his lips**. *Selah.* ³ For you **meet him with the blessings of goodness**. You set a crown of fine gold on his head.

⁴ He asked **life** of you and you gave it to him, even length of days ^awithout end.

⁵ His **glory** is great in your salvation. You lay honor and majesty on him.

⁶ For you make him most blessed forever. You make him **glad** with joy in your presence.

⁷ For the king trusts in Yehovah. Through the covenant-love of the Most High, he will not be moved.

⁸ Your hand will find out all of your enemies. Your right hand will find out those who **hate** you.

⁹ You will make them as a **fiery furnace** in the time of your anger. Yehovah will swallow them up in his wrath. The **fire** will devour them.

¹⁰ You will **destroy their descendants** from the earth, **their posterity** from among the children of men.

¹¹ For they intended evil against you. They plotted evil against you **which cannot succeed**. ¹² For **you will make them turn their back**, when you aim drawn bows at their face.

¹³ Be exalted, O Yehovah, in **your strength**. We will sing and praise **your might**.

^a **21:4** without end:—lit. “*forever and ever.*” This is hyperbole—not immortality, but a long life when faced with a premature death by the enemy.

[PS:B1.B.c']

Psalm 22 [↵]

For the Choir Director: set to “The Doe of the Morning.” A Psalm of David.

[Despite being forsaken, David trusts as his fathers trusted]

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning? *[quot. Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34]* ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; by night, and I find no rest. ³ But you are holy, **you who inhabit the praises of Israel.** ⁴ Our fathers trusted in you. They trusted, and you delivered them. ⁵ They cried out to you, and were delivered. They trusted in you, and were not disappointed.

[Despised by men, yet known of God from birth]

⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; a **reproach of men, and despised by the people.**

⁷ All those who see me mock me. They insult me with their lips. They shake their heads, saying, *[quot. Matt. 27:39; Mark 15:29; Luke 23:35]* ⁸ “He trusts in Yehovah. Let him deliver him. Let him rescue him, since he delights in him.” *[quot. Matt. 27:43]*

⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb, making me secure at my mother’s breasts. ¹⁰ I was given over to you from my mother’s womb. You have been my God since my mother bore me.

¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near. For there is **no one to help.**

[Encompassed by trouble]

¹² Great bulls have surrounded me. Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. ¹³ They open their mouths wide against me, lions tearing prey and roaring.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water. All my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax. It is melted within me. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ For *[wild]* dogs have surrounded me. A company of evildoers have enclosed me. They have ^apierced my hands and feet. ¹⁷ I count all my bones. They look and stare at me. ¹⁸ They

^a 22:16 Per Dead Sea Scrolls. Masoretic Text reads, “Like a lion, my hands and feet” which makes no sense. The emendation generally accepted by most translators is to change the original *ka’ari* (“like a lion”) to *karkhu* (“pierced”).

divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing. [quot. Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:24]

¹⁹ But you, O Yehovah, be not far off. My strength, hasten to help me! ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog. ²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion; from the horns of the wild oxen.

[*Yehovah does not despise the afflicted*]

²² I will proclaim your name to my brothers. I will praise you in the assembly. [quot. Heb. 2:12] ²³ You who fear Yehovah, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify him! Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel! ²⁴ For he has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, Neither has he hidden his face from him; but when he cried out to him, he heard.

[*All nations will bow down before him*]

²⁵ I will give praise in the great assembly. I will pay my vows before those who fear him. ²⁶ The humble will eat and be satisfied. They will praise Yehovah who seek after him. May you be of good cheer forever. ²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to Yehovah. All the families of the nations **will bow down** before him. ²⁸ For the kingdom belongs to Yehovah. He rules the nations. ²⁹ ^aAll who sleep in the earth will bow down; before him will bow down all who go down to the dust, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. ³⁰ Posterity will **serve him**. They will be told of the Lord for generations to come. ³¹ They will come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet to be born, that he has done it.

^a **22:29** All who sleep:—This is a commonly proposed emendation of the original *‘akhlu wehistaḥawu* (“They ate and bowed down”) to *‘akh lo hishtaḥawu* (“All who sleep will bow down”) which better fits the context. This is figurative language, of course, suggesting universal, all-inclusive worship. That is, even the death, “who know not anything” (Eccl. 9:5), “bow down” to Yehovah’s rule.

[PS:B1.B.b']

Psalm 23 [\[↶\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ Yehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside ^astill waters.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through ^bthe valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,

for you are with me. Your ^crod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You ^danoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and covenant-love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of Yehovah forever.

^a 23:2 still waters:—sheep will not drink from turbulent waters.

^b 23:4 the valley of the shadow of death:—the Hebrew is more compact. The entire phrase is summed up in two words, *begey tsalmawet* (i.e. “the valley of death’s shadow”).

^c 23:4 Your rod and your staff:—the rod was used to ward off enemies, and the staff was used to guide and even rescue the sheep.

^d 23:5 anoint [H1878, *dishen*]:—not sacramental anointing, but rubbing olive oil on the head “to make luxuriant”. In caring for sheep, this helped to soothe the scalp from insect bites and other irritants.

[PS:B1.B.a']

Psalm 24 [\[↶\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ The earth is Yehovah's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and those who dwell therein. [*quot.* 1 Cor. 10:26-28] ² For he founded it on the seas, and established it on deep waters.

³ Who may **ascend** the ^amount of Yehovah, and who may **stand** in his holy place?

[*The righteous receive blessing and vindication*]

⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He shall receive a blessing from Yehovah, vindication from the God of his salvation.

⁶ This is the generation of those who **seek** him, who **seek** your face—even Jacob. *Selah.*

⁷ **Lift up your heads, you ^bgates!** Be lifted up, **you everlasting doors, and the ^cKing of glory will come in.** ⁸ **Who is the King of glory?** Yehovah strong and mighty, Yehovah mighty in battle.

⁹ **Lift up your heads, you gates;** yes, lift them up, **you everlasting doors, and the King of glory will come in.** ¹⁰ **Who is this King of glory?** Yehovah of Armies is the King of glory! *Selah.*

^a **24:3** mount of Yehovah...his holy place:—the mount is Mt. Zion and the holy place is the Temple. A reference to both the royal and religious power that Yehovah possesses.

^b **24:7** gates:—of the Temple. Or, of the gates of Jerusalem on the first stanza (vv.7-8); then, on the second stanza, the gates of the Temple (v.9-10).

^c **24:7** King of glory:—sung either to commemorate the return of the Ark of the Covenant to the Temple on at least two occasions (i.e. 2 Sam. 6:12-17 and 2 Chron. 5:7), or the return of the king of Israel from the battlefield as Yehovah's representative, in which the glory was given to Yehovah. Jesus, "the Lord of glory" (1 Cor. 2:8), fulfilled this in type in his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then the Temple as told in Matthew 21.

[PS:B1.B'.a]

Psalm 25 [\[↵\]](#)

Of David. [*An acrostic psalm*]

¹ To you, O Yehovah, I lift up my **soul**. ² O my God, in you I trust. Let me not be put to **shame**. Let not my enemies triumph over me. ³ Yes, let no one who **waits** for you be put to shame. Let them be **ashamed** who are ^avainly treacherous.

⁴ Show me your **ways**, O Yehovah. Teach me your **paths**. ⁵ Lead me in your **truth**, and teach me, For you are the God of my salvation, for you I wait all day long.

⁶ **Remember**, O Yehovah, your compassion and your covenant-love, for they are from of old. ⁷ Do not **remember** the sins of my youth or my transgressions. **Remember** me according to your covenant-love, for your goodness' sake, O Yehovah.

⁸ Good and upright is Yehovah, therefore he instructs sinners in the **way**. ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. ¹⁰ All the **paths** of Yehovah are covenant-love and **truth** to those who keep his covenant and testimonies. ¹¹ For your name's sake, O Yehovah, pardon my sin, for it is great. ¹² Who is the man who fears Yehovah? He will instruct him in the **way** that he should choose. ¹³ His soul will dwell at ease. His descendants will inherit the land. ¹⁴ The friendship of Yehovah is with those who fear him. He makes known to them his covenant.

¹⁵ My eyes are ever on Yehovah, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. ¹⁶ Turn to me, and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷ The **troubles of my heart** grow larger. Oh bring me out of **my distresses**. ¹⁸ Consider **my affliction** and my trouble, and forgive all **my sins**. ¹⁹ Consider **my enemies**, for they are many. They hate me with cruel hatred. ²⁰ Oh keep my **soul**, and deliver me. Let me not be **ashamed**, for I take refuge in you. ²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. ²² Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

^a 25:3 vainly:—lit. “empty-handed”—i.e. without cause, or reason, or success. Could also be translated, “who are *rashly* treacherous”.

[PS:B1.B'.b]

Psalm 26 [\[<\]](#)

Of David.

¹ Judge me, O Yehovah, for **I have walked in my integrity**. I have trusted also in Yehovah without wavering. ² Examine me, O Yehovah, and prove me. Try my heart and my mind. ³ For your covenant-love is before my eyes. **I have walked in your truth.**

⁴ I do not sit with **worthless men**, neither do I go with **hypocrites**. ⁵ I hate the assembly of **evildoers**, and will not sit with the **wicked**.

⁶ Let me wash my hands in innocence, and go about **your altar**, O Yehovah,

⁷ that I may make the voice of thanksgiving to be heard and
 recount all your wondrous deeds.

⁸ O Yehovah, I love the refuge of **your house**, the place where your glory abides.

⁹ Do not sweep my soul away with **sinnners**, nor my life with **bloodthirsty men**; ¹⁰ in whose hands is **wickedness**, and their right hand is full of **bribes**.

¹¹ But as for me, **I will walk in my integrity**. Redeem me, and be merciful to me. ¹² My foot stands on level ground. In the *choral* assembly I will bless Yehovah.

[PS:B1.B'.c]

Psalm 27 [\[↵\]](#)

Of David.

¹ Yehovah is my light and my salvation. Whom should I fear? Yehovah is the strength of my life. Of whom should I be afraid? ² When evildoers advance against me to devour my flesh—**my adversaries** and foes—they will stumble and fall. ³ Though an army encamp against me, **my heart** will not fear. Though war **rise up against me**, yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of Yehovah, that will I **seek** after: that I may dwell in the house of Yehovah all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of Yehovah, and to inquire in his temple. ⁵ For **he will hide me** in his shelter in the day of trouble. **He will conceal me** under the cover of his tent. He will set me high upon a rock. ⁶ And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies round about me. And I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy. I will sing and make melody to Yehovah.

⁷ Hear, O Yehovah, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me, and answer me.

⁸ “Come,” my heart said, “**seek his face!**” Your face, O Yehovah, do I seek. ⁹ **Do not hide your face** from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger. You who have been my help. **Do not cast me off**, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. ¹⁰ Even if my father and my mother forsake me, Yehovah will take me up.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Yehovah, and lead me on a level path because of **my enemies**. ¹² Do not give me over to the will of **my adversaries**, for false witnesses **have risen against me**, and they breathe out violence. ¹³ I believe I will see the goodness of Yehovah in the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait for Yehovah. Be strong, and let **your heart** take courage. Yes, wait for Yehovah.

[PS:B1.B'.d]

Psalm 28 [\[←\]](#)

Of David.

¹ To you, O Yehovah, I call. My rock, do not be ^a**deaf** to me. Lest, if you be mute to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. ² Hear the voice of **my supplications**, when I cry to you, when I ^b**lift up** my hands toward your ^c**Most Holy Place**.

³ Do not draw me off with the wicked, with workers of iniquity, who speak peace with their neighbors, but evil is in their hearts.

⁴ Repay them according to what they have done, according to the wickedness of their deeds. According to the work of their hands, give them back what they deserve.

⁵ For they do not regard the works of Yehovah, and his handiwork they would destroy and not rebuild.

⁶ Blessed be Yehovah, for he has **heard** the voice of **my supplications**.

⁷ **Yehovah is my strength and my shield**. My heart trusts in him.

I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will thank him.

⁸ **Yehovah is the strength of his people**. He is a refuge of salvation to his **anointed**.

⁹ Save your people, and bless your inheritance. Be their shepherd also, and **lift them up** forever.

^a **28:1** deaf [H2790, *teherash*]...mute [H2814, *tehesheh*]:—this is a pun on these two similar sounding Hebrew words. Meaning: if God is *deaf* to my call, he would also be *mute* to me in not answering, and I would be like one who has died and gone to the grave.

^b **28:2** life up my hands:—a gesture of prayer as attested by Near Eastern texts and drawings.

^c **28:2** Most Holy Place:—lit. “*holy oracle*”. This is understood to mean the “*holy of holies*” or the “*Most Holy Place*,” the innermost room of the tabernacle where the Ark of Covenant rested. The term “*oracle*” gives the sense of: to speak, declare, command, promise.

[PS:B1.B'.x]

Psalm 29 [↵]

A Psalm of David.

¹ Ascribe to Yehovah, you heavenly beings, ascribe to Yehovah glory and **strength**. ² Ascribe to Yehovah the glory due to his name. Worship Yehovah in the ^asplendor of holiness.

³ **The voice of Yehovah** is ^bover the **waters**. The **God of glory** thunders, even Yehovah over many **waters**. ⁴ **The voice of Yehovah** is powerful.

The voice of Yehovah is full of **majesty**.

⁵ **The voice of Yehovah** ^cbreaks the cedars. Yes, Yehovah breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes them also to dance like a calf; **Lebanon** and ^d**Sirion** like a young, wild ox.

⁷ **The voice of Yehovah** strikes with flashes of lightning.

⁸ **The voice of Yehovah** shakes the wilderness. **Yehovah** shakes the ^ewilderness of **Kadesh**. ⁹ **The voice of Yehovah** shakes the ^flarge trees, and strips the forests bare.

In his temple everything says, “**Glorify!**”

¹⁰ Yehovah sat enthroned at the ^g**Flood**.

Yes, Yehovah sits as King forever. ¹¹ Yehovah gives **strength** to his people. Yehovah blesses his people with peace.

^a 29:2 splendor of holiness:—i.e. holy adornment (attire or appearance) in connection with public worship (1 Chron. 16:29; 2 Chron. 20:21; Psalm 96:9). Besides the holy garments worn by the priests, this included offerings and the singing of psalms.

^b 29:3 over the waters:—in the sense of “is heard on” or “goes across” the waters. A probable reference to the waters in Creation. “God’s *ruach* [i.e. *his breath*] moved over the surface of the waters” (Gen. 1:2; also vv. 6–7).

^c 29:5 breaks the cedars:—the towering forest of cedars north of Israel in Lebanon. Yehovah’s voice is so powerful that it even breaks these strongest of trees and causes them and the mountains to “dance” (v.6) or jump up and down as would occur in an earthquake.

^d 29:6 Sirion:—Mt. Hermon as named by the Phoenicians (Deut. 3:9)

^e 29:8 wilderness of Kadesh:—presumably in the eastern half of Sinai, south of Israel. Thus, Yehovah’s powerful voice sweeps beyond the borders of Israel to the north (Lebanon) and the south (Kadesh).

^f 29:9 large trees:—emendation of ‘*ayyalot* (“deer”) to ‘*elot* (“large trees”).

^g 29:10 Flood:—i.e. the Flood (of Noah) in Genesis 6–9 which tells of God’s supreme dominion over the forces of nature.

[PS:B1.B'.d']

Psalm 30 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm; a dedication song for the house. Of David.

¹ **I will extol you**, O Yehovah, for you ^adrew me up [*from the pit*], and have not made my foes to rejoice over me.

² O Yehovah my God, **I cried to you** for help, and you healed me. ³ O Yehovah, you brought me up from **Sheol**. You gave me **life** from those gone down to the **pit**.

⁴ **Sing praise** to Yehovah, you his holy ones. **Give thanks** to his holy name. ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment. His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning. ⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I will never be moved.” ⁷ O Yehovah, when you showed me favor, you made me ^bstrong like a mountain; but when you hid your face, I was ^ccrushed.

⁸ **I cried to you**, O Yehovah. I made supplication to the Lord: ⁹ “What profit is there in **my destruction**, if I go down to **the pit**? Will the **dust** praise you? Will it declare your truth? ¹⁰ Hear, O Yehovah, and have mercy on me. O Yehovah, be my helper.”

¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing. You have removed my sackcloth, and ^dclothed me with gladness, ¹² to the end that my heart may **sing praise to you**, and not be silent. O Yehovah my God, **I will give thanks** to you forever!

^a **30:1** drew me up [H1802, *dālā*; to draw up]:—to draw water from a well. The imagery is that of one in a pit (of death) being taken out.

^b **30:7** strong like a mountain:—lit. “*you made stand my mountain-of-strength*”. This could refer to Mt. Zion, the place where David ruled as king. However, scholars are not clear as to its actual meaning. This translation chose to apply it metaphorically.

^c **30:7** crushed [H926, *bāhal*; troubled, alarmed, terrified]

^d **30:11** clothed [H247, *‘āzar*; girded, bind about, clothed]:—clothing pulled tight or bound around the individual. This is in contrast to the loose-fitting sackcloth worn when in mourning.

[PS:B1.B'.c']

Psalm 31 [\[e\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

[*Let me not be disappointed*]

¹ **In you, O Yehovah, I take refuge. Let me never be disappointed. Deliver me** in your righteousness. ² Bow down **your ear** to me. **Deliver me** speedily. Be to me a **strong rock**, a house of **defense** to save me. ³ For you are my **rock** and my **fortress**, therefore for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ⁴ Pluck me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, for you are my **stronghold**.

[*I trust in Yehovah*]

⁵ Into your hand I commend my spirit. You redeem me, O Yehovah, **God of truth**. [*quot. Luke 23:46*] ⁶ I hate those who regard worthless idols, **but I trust in Yehovah**.

[*My adversities (H6869, šārâ)*]

⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in your covenant-love, for **you have seen** my affliction. You have **known my soul** in **adversities**. ⁸ You have not shut me up into the hand of the **enemy**. You have set my feet in a **wide-open place**. ⁹ Have mercy on me, O Yehovah, for I am in **distress**.

[*I waste away*]

My eye, my soul, and my body **waste away** with grief. ¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow, my years with sighing. My strength fails because of ^amy affliction. My bones are **wasted away**.

[*My adversaries (H6887, šārar)*]

¹¹ Because of all **my adversaries** I have become utterly contemptible to my neighbors, a horror to my **acquaintances**. Those who **saw me** on **the street** fled from me. ¹² I am forgotten from their hearts like a dead man. I am like broken pottery.

[*I trust in Yehovah*]

¹³ For I have heard the **slander of many**, terror on every side, while they conspire together against me, they plot to take away my life. ¹⁴ **But I trust in you, O Yehovah**.

^a 31:10 my affliction:—the Masoretic text reads *ba'awoni* ("my iniquity") but the LXX and Peshitta read *be'oniyi* ("my affliction"). Nowhere else in this psalm is there a confession of wrongdoing, but only of trouble and affliction.

[*Let me not be disappointed*]

I said, “**You are my God.**”¹⁵ **My times are in your hand. Deliver me** from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.¹⁶ Make your face to shine on your servant. Save me in your **covenant-love**.¹⁷ **Let me not be disappointed**, O Yehovah, for I have called on you. Let the wicked be **disappointed**. Let them be silent in Sheol.¹⁸ Let the **lying lips** be mute, **which speak** against the righteous insolently, with pride and contempt.

[*Yehovah as refuge and who hears*]

¹⁹ Oh how great is your goodness, which you have laid up for those who fear you, which you have worked for **those who take refuge in you**, before the sons of men!

²⁰ **In the shelter of your presence** you will hide them from the plotting of man. You will keep them secretly **in a dwelling** away from the strife of tongues.

²¹ Praise be to Yehovah, for he has shown me **his marvelous covenant-love** when I was beset as a ^acity under siege.

²² As for me, I said in my haste, “I am cut off from before your eyes.” Nevertheless **you heard the voice of my supplications** when I cried to you.

²³ **Oh love Yehovah**, all you his saints!

Yehovah keeps ^bsteadfastness and fully recompenses him who behaves arrogantly.

²⁴ **Be strong**, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in Yehovah.

^a 31:21 city under siege:—lit. “*in a besieged city*”. This translation interprets this phrase metaphorically, given the earlier reference to Yehovah being his “fortress” and “stronghold”.

^b 31:23 steadfastness:—this term, ‘*emunim*’, is an abstract noun and refers to Yehovah’s faithfulness, not the people’s.

[PS:B1.B'.b']

Psalm 32 [\[↶\]](#)

Of David. A Maskil.

¹ ^aBlessed is *he whose* ^b**transgression is forgiven**, whose **sin** is covered.

² Blessed is the man to whom Yehovah imputes no **iniquity**, in whose spirit there is no deceit. [*quot. Rom. 4:7-8*]

³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away from my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me. My strength drained away as in the heat of summer. *Selah.*

⁵ I acknowledged my **sin** to you. I did not hide my **iniquity**. I said, I will confess my **transgressions** to Yehovah, and you **forgave** the ^cguilt of my sin. *Selah.*

⁶ Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to you in a time of trouble. Surely when the great waters overflow, they will not reach him.

⁷ You are my hiding place. You preserve me from trouble. You **surround me** with joyful **shouts** of deliverance. *Selah.*

⁸ I will **instruct you and teach you** in the way you should go. I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Do not be like a horse, or a mule, which have **no understanding**, who are controlled by bit and bridle, or else they will not come near you.

¹⁰ Many sorrows come to the wicked, but covenant-love **surrounds the one** who trusts in Yehovah. ¹¹ Be glad in Yehovah, and rejoice, O righteous ones! **Shout** for joy, all you upright in heart!

^a 32:1 Blessed:—lit. “Blessed is transgression forgiven, sin covered.”

^b 32:1 transgression:—three synonyms for sin are used in vv.1-2: transgression (to go beyond the law, to trespass), sin (to miss the mark), and iniquity (to sin with intent); and three forms of forgiveness: forgiven (or “carry away”), covered (to cover over with a garment), and imputes no iniquity (to regard as innocent of the charge). The last one in commerce means to cancel a debt, i.e. “lays no guilt to his account”.

^c 32:5 guilt [H5771, *’āḏn*]:—can mean “iniquity” or “guilt” or “punishment of iniquity” depending on the context. In this case, it is not the iniquity itself that is forgiven, but the *guilt of and punishment for* iniquity that is meant.

[PS:B1.B'.a'1]

Psalm 33 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ **Rejoice** in Yehovah, O you righteous! Praise is becoming to the upright.

² Give thanks to Yehovah with the lyre. Sing praises to him with the harp of ten strings. ³ Sing to him a new song. Play skillfully *on the strings* with loud shouts!

[*Yehovah “works” through his spoken word*]

⁴ For the word of Yehovah is right and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice. The earth is full of the **covenant-love of Yehovah**. ⁶ **By the word of Yehovah** the heavens were made, and by the **breath of his mouth** all their *celestial* host. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap. He lays up the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear Yehovah. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. ⁹ For **he spoke**, and it was done. **He commanded**, and it stood firm.

[*Yehovah’s counsel stands forever*]

¹⁰ Yehovah brings **the counsel** of the nations to nothing; **the devising** of the people of no effect. ¹¹ **The counsel** of Yehovah stands fast forever, **the thoughts** of his heart to all generations.

[*Man vainly “works” through might and power*]

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is Yehovah, the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance. ¹³ **Yehovah looks down** from heaven. **He sees** all the sons of men. ¹⁴ From the place of his habitation he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth. ¹⁵ He fashioned the hearts of all of them, and considers all their works. ¹⁶ The king is not saved by a large army. A warrior is not delivered by great strength. ¹⁷ A horse is a vain thing for safety, and cannot deliver despite its great power. ¹⁸ Behold, **Yehovah’s eye** is on those who fear him, on those who hope in **his covenant-love**, ¹⁹ to deliver their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

²⁰ Our soul [*urgently*] waits for Yehovah. He is our help and shield. ²¹ For our hearts **rejoice** in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. ²² Let your covenant-love be on us, O Yehovah, as we wait for you.

[PS:B1.B'a'2]

Psalm 34 [\[↩\]](#)

Of David; when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. [*An acrostic psalm.*]

¹ I will bless Yehovah at all times. His praise will continually be in my mouth. ² My soul makes its boast in Yehovah. Let the humble hear and be glad. ³ Oh magnify Yehovah with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought Yehovah, and he answered me, and **delivered me** from all my fears. ⁵ They looked to him and were radiant. Their faces will never be ashamed.

⁶ This poor man **cried**, and **Yehovah heard him**, and **saved him out of all his troubles**. ⁷ The angel of Yehovah encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸ Oh taste and see that Yehovah is **good**. Happy is the man who takes refuge in him. [*quot.* 1 Pet. 2:3] ⁹ Oh fear Yehovah, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. ¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek Yehovah lack no **good** thing.

¹¹ Come, you children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of Yehovah.

¹² Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see **good**? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do **good**. Seek peace, and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of Yehovah are toward the righteous. And his ears are open to their cry. ¹⁶ The face of Yehovah is against evildoers, to cut off their memory from the earth. [*quot.* 1 Pet. 3:10-12] ¹⁷ The righteous cry, and **Yehovah hears**, and **delivers them out of all their troubles**. ¹⁸ Yehovah is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but Yehovah **delivers him** out of them all. ²⁰ He keeps all his bones. Not one of them is broken. [*quot.* John 19:36]

²¹ Evil will slay the wicked. Those who hate the righteous will be condemned. ²² Yehovah redeems the soul of his servants. None of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

[PS:B1.A'.a]

Psalm 35 [\[↵\]](#)

Of David.

¹ Contend, O Yehovah, with those who contend with me. Fight against those who fight against me. ² Take hold of shield and buckler, and **rise to my defense**. ³ Brandish the spear and block those who pursue me. Say to my soul, “I am your salvation.” ⁴ Let those who seek my life be disappointed and brought to **dishonor**. Let those who plot my ruin be turned back and **confounded**. ⁵ Let them be as chaff before the wind, with the angel of Yehovah driving them on. ⁶ Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of Yehovah pursuing them.

[*Enemies without cause*]

⁷ For **without cause** they hid their net for me. **Without cause** they dug a pit for my soul. ⁸ Let destruction come on him unawares. Let the net, which he hid, catch him. Let him fall into it, to his destruction.

[*Deliverance from the strong*]

⁹ **My soul** will rejoice in Yehovah. It **will rejoice in his salvation**. ¹⁰ All my bones will say, “Yehovah, who is like you, who delivers the poor from him who is **too strong for him**; and the poor and the needy from him who robs him?”

[*Unaware that betrayal would come*]

¹¹ Unrighteous witnesses rise up. They ask me of things I **do not know about**. ¹² They **reward me evil for good**, to the bereaving of my soul.

[*His care for his supposed friends*]

¹³ But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth. I afflicted my soul with fasting, and my ^aprayer for them was genuine. ¹⁴ I behaved myself as though it had been **my friend or my brother**. I bowed down mourning, as one who mourns his mother.

[*Unaware that betrayal would come*]

¹⁵ But in my adversity, they rejoiced, and **gathered themselves together**. The attackers **gathered themselves together** against me, and **I did not know it**. They *verbally*

^a 35:13 prayer:—lit. “my prayer returned to my own bosom” which is unclear. The context suggests that he was praying with sincerity for those whom he thought were his friends.

tore at me, and did not cease. ¹⁶ Like the profane mockers in feasts, they gnashed their teeth against me.

[*Deliverance from the lions*]

¹⁷ Lord, how long will you look on? **Rescue my soul from their destruction**, my precious life **from the lions**. ¹⁸ I will give you thanks in the great assembly. I will praise you among many people.

[*Enemies without cause*]

¹⁹ Let not my **unprovoked** enemies rejoice over me; neither let those who hate me **without a cause** ^aleer at me *in triumph*. [*quot. John 15:25*]

²⁰ For they do not speak peace, but they devise deceitful words against those who are quiet in the land. ²¹ Yes, they opened their mouth wide against me. They said, “Aha! Aha! Our eye has seen it!”

[*His plea for Yehovah to defend him*]

²² You have seen it, O Yehovah. Do not keep silent. O Lord, do not be far from me. ²³ Wake up and **rise to my defense**, my God and my Lord. **Contend for me!** ²⁴ Vindicate me, O Yehovah my God, according to your righteousness.

[*His plea for his enemies to be confounded*]

Do not let them gloat over me. ²⁵ Do not let them say in their heart, “Aha! Just what we wanted!” Do not let them say, “We have ^bswallowed him up!” ²⁶ Let them be disappointed and **confounded** together who rejoice at my calamity. Let them be clothed with **shame and dishonor** who magnify themselves against me.

[*His desire for his friends to rejoice*]

²⁷ *But* let those who desire my vindication shout for joy and be glad. Yes, let them say continually, “Great is Yehovah, who delights in the well-being of his servant!” ²⁸ My tongue will speak of your righteousness and your praise all day long.

^a 35:19 leer:—lit. “*wink at me*”—i.e. to look at contemptuously. Could be translated, “smirk with delight” or “smile with satisfaction”.

^b 35:25 swallowed him up:—in the sense of, “We chewed him up and spit him out”. That is, the desire of his enemies was to devour and destroy him.

[PS:B1.A'.b]

Psalm 36 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. Of David, the servant of Yehovah.

¹ Transgression speaks to the **wicked** deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his **eyes**. [*quot.* Rom. 3:18] ² For he flatters himself in his own **eyes**, that **his iniquity** cannot be found out and hated. ³ The words of his **mouth** are trouble and deceit. He does nothing that is wise and good. ⁴ He plots iniquity on his bed. He sets himself on a path that is not good. He does not abhor evil.

⁵ Your **covenant-love**, O Yehovah, is in the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. ⁶ **Your righteousness** is like the mighty mountains, your judgments like the **great deep**. O Yehovah, you preserve man and beast.

⁷ How precious is your covenant-love, O God! The children of men take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your **river** of ^adelights. ⁹ For with you is the **fountain** of life. In your light we see light. ¹⁰ Oh continue your **covenant-love** to those who know you, **your righteousness** to the upright in heart.

¹¹ Do not let the **foot** of the arrogant tread on me or the **hand** of the **wicked** drive me away. ¹² There the **evildoers** have fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise.

^a **36:9** delights [H5730, *'ēden*]:—may allude to the river that came out from the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:10).

[PS:B1.A'.c]

Psalm 37 ^[e]

Of David.

[A. *Wait for Yehovah*]

¹ **Do not fret** because of **evildoers**; do not be envious of wrongdoers. ² For they will soon be **cut down** like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

³ **Trust in Yehovah**, and do good. Dwell in the land, and feed on faithfulness.

⁴ Take **delight in Yehovah**, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to Yehovah. **Trust in him**, and he will act. ⁶ He will bring forth your cause like the light, and your justice like the noonday sun.

⁷ Rest in Yehovah, and wait patiently for him. **Do not fret** because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out evil schemes. ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. **Do not fret**; it only leads to evil. ⁹ For **evildoers** will be **cut off**, but those who **wait for Yehovah** will inherit the land.

[B. *Yehovah upholds the righteous*]

¹⁰ For yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more. Though you look for him, he is not there. ¹¹ But the meek **will inherit the land**, and will delight themselves in abundant peace. [*quot. Matt. 5:5*]

¹² **The wicked** plots against the just, and gnashes his teeth at him. ¹³ The Lord laughs at him, because he knows his day is coming.

¹⁴ **The wicked** draw out the sword, and bent their bows, to cast down the poor and needy, to kill those whose way is **upright**.

¹⁵ Their sword will enter their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

¹⁶ The little that the **righteous** has is better than the abundance of many **wicked**. ¹⁷ For the arms of the **wicked** will be broken, but **Yehovah upholds the righteous**.

¹⁸ Yehovah knows the days of **the upright**; their inheritance will be forever. ¹⁹ They will not be disappointed in times of trouble. In the days of famine they will be satisfied.

^a 37:1 fret [H2734, *hārâ*]:—to be hot (in vexation), furious, angry with, kindled, incensed, displeased.

²⁰ But **the wicked** will perish. The enemies of Yehovah, like ^athe glory of the pastures, will vanish—like smoke they will be consumed. ²¹ **The wicked** borrows and does not repay, but the righteous is gracious and gives.

²² For those he blesses **will inherit the land** and those he curses will be cut off.

[B'. *Yehovah upholds the righteous*]

²³ A man's **steps** are established by Yehovah, and in his way he delights.

²⁴ Though he stumble, he will not fall, for Yehovah holds him up by **his hand**.

²⁵ I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the **righteous forsaken**, nor his **children** begging for bread. ²⁶ All day long he is generous and lends, and his **children** are blessed.

²⁷ Depart from evil, and do good, and abide *in the land* forever.

²⁸ For Yehovah loves justice, and will not **forsake** his saints. They are preserved forever, but the **children** of the wicked will be cut off.

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

³⁰ The mouth of the **righteous** utters wisdom; his tongue speaks justice.

³¹ The law of his God is in his heart; his **steps** do not falter. ³² The wicked spy on the righteous, and seek to kill him. ³³ Yehovah will not abandon him to **their power**, nor let him be condemned when he is judged.

[A'. *Wait for Yehovah*]

³⁴ **Wait for Yehovah**, and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land.

When **the wicked** are **cut off**, you will see it.

³⁵ I saw a wicked man in great power, spreading himself like a green tree in its native soil. ³⁶ But **he passed away**, and behold, he is gone. I looked for him, but he could not be found.

³⁷ Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the man of peace has a future.

³⁸ As for transgressors, they **will be destroyed** altogether.

The future of **the wicked** will be **cut off**.

³⁹ But the salvation of the righteous is from **Yehovah**. He is their refuge in the time of trouble. ⁴⁰ **Yehovah** helps them and delivers them. He will deliver them from the wicked and will save them, because they take refuge in him.

^a 37:20 the glory...:—the Hebrew is notable for its alliteration—*kiqar karim kalu be'ashan kalu*—lit. “*the glory [of the] meadows consumed, into smoke, consumed*”.

[PS:B1.A'.x]

Psalm 38 [\[↶\]](#)

A Psalm of David. To bring to remembrance.

¹ **O Yehovah**, do not rebuke me in your wrath, or chasten me in your ^aanger.

² For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me. ³ There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation, neither is there any health in my bones because of **my sin**. ⁴ For **my iniquities** have gone over my head; like a heavy burden too heavy to bear. ⁵ My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness. ⁶ I am bowed down and prostrate. I go mourning all day long. ⁷ For my insides are filled with burning. There is no soundness in my flesh. ⁸ I am feeble and broken. I groan because of the anguish of my heart.

⁹ **Lord**, all my desire is known to you. My groaning is not hidden from you. ¹⁰ My heart throbs. My strength fails me. As for the light of my eyes, it has also left me.

¹¹ My loved ones and friends stand back from my affliction. My relatives stand far away. ¹² Those who seek my life lay snares. Those who seek my hurt speak of ruin, and devise treachery all day long. ¹³ But I, like a deaf man, do not hear. I am like a mute man who does not open his mouth. ¹⁴ Truly, I am like one who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no defense.

¹⁵ For I hope in you, O Yehovah. You will answer, O **Lord** my God. ¹⁶ For I said, "Do not let them rejoice over me, who exalt themselves when my foot slips."

¹⁷ For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever before me. ¹⁸ I confess **my iniquity**; I am sorry for **my sin**. ¹⁹ My enemies without cause are many. My unprovoked foes abound. ²⁰ They replay me evil for good, and attack me for pursuing good.

²¹ Do not forsake me, **O Yehovah**. O my God, do not be far from me. ²² Hurry to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

^a **38:1** anger [H2534, *hēmā*]:—from heat [H3179, *yāham*]; *fig.* rage, hot displeasure, furious, burning anger.

[PS:B1.A'.c']

Psalm 39 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. For Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

[*I was silent*]

¹ I said, “I will guard my ways that I may not sin with **my tongue**. I will keep my mouth in a muzzle as long as the wicked are in my presence.” ² **I was mute and silent** before my enemies. I held my peace, even from speaking good; and my sorrow intensified. ³ My heart grew hot within me. While I meditated, the fire burned. I spoke with **my tongue**:

[*Life is but a breath; teach me*]

⁴ Yehovah, **let me know** my end, and the measure of my days; that I **may know** the brevity of my life. ⁵ Behold, as a **handbreadth** in length you have made my days. My lifetime is as nothing before you. **Surely every man stands as a mere breath.** *Selah.*

[*The futility of life*]

⁶ Surely every man walks around like a shadow. Surely he busies himself for ^anothing. He heaps up [*riches*] and does not know who will gather.

[*Life is but a breath; deliver me*]

⁷ And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. ⁸ **Deliver me** from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the wicked fool. ⁹ I was silent. I did not open my mouth, because this came from you. ¹⁰ Remove your stroke from me. I am overcome by the blow of your **hand**. ¹¹ When you correct a man for his iniquity, you consume what is dear to him like a moth. **Surely every man is but a breath.** *Selah.*

[*Do not be silent*]

¹² Hear my prayer, O Yehovah, and give ear to my cry. **Do not be silent** at my tears. For I am a stranger with you, a foreigner, as all my fathers were. ¹³ Look away from me, that I may know ^bgladness, before I depart and be no more.

^a 39:6 nothing [H1892, *hebel*]:—emptiness or vanity; figuratively, something transitory and unsatisfactory.

^b 39:13 gladness [H1082, *avligah*]:—comfort, strength, gleam, smile, desist (from grief).

[PS:B1.A'.b']

Psalm 40 [\[e\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

[A prayer for help answered]

¹ **I waited patiently** for Yehovah. **He turned to me**, and heard my cry.

[New song of deliverance]

² He **brought me up** out of a ^ahorrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure. ³ He put a **new song** in **my mouth**, a hymn of **praise** to our God.

[Trust in Yehovah; not the worship of idols]

Many will see and fear, and will **trust in Yehovah**. ⁴ Blessed is the man who makes Yehovah his **trust**, and does not turn to the proud, and to those who worship idols.

[Yehovah's wondrous works and thoughts]

⁵ Many, O Yehovah, my God, are your wondrous works and plans **toward us**; none can compare with you. If I were to declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

[Trust in God; true obedience to God's will]

⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire. You have opened my ears: for burnt offering and sin offering you have not asked of me. ⁷ Then I said, "Here I am [*as a living sacrifice*]. In the scroll of the book it is written of me. ⁸ **I delight to do your will**, O my God; **your law is within my heart**." [quot. Heb. 10:5-7]

[Glad news of salvation]

⁹ I have proclaimed the **glad news** of righteousness in the great congregation. Behold, I have not restrained **my lips**, O Yehovah, you yourself know. ¹⁰ I have not concealed your righteousness within my heart. **I have declared** your faithfulness and **salvation**. I have not concealed your covenant-love and your truth from the great congregation. ¹¹ Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Yehovah. Let your covenant-love and your truth continually preserve me. ¹² For evils without number have encompassed me. My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I cannot **look up**. They are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

^a **40:2** horrible pit:—lit. "the pit of noise"—i.e. the roaring sound of confluent waters of the abyss. Of tumult, uproar, crash of battle (Amos 2:2; Hosea 10:14; Psalm 74:23).

[*Hurry to help me*]

¹³ Be pleased, O Yehovah, to **deliver** me. O Yehovah, **hurry to help** me.

¹⁴ Let them be ashamed and confounded together who **seek** my life to destroy it.

Let them be turned backward and brought to **dishonor** who desire my harm. ¹⁵ Let them be **shamed** into silence who say to me, “Aha! Aha!”

¹⁶ Let all who **seek** you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say continually, “Yehovah be magnified!”

¹⁷ But I am poor and needy. May the Lord think of me. You are my **help** and my **deliverer**. Do not delay, O my God.

Commentary

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/second-sunday-after-epiphany/commentary-on-psalm-401-11>

{40:3} “new song.” God hears and sets the feet of the psalmist on a secure rock and puts a “new song” in the psalmist’s mouth. The phrase “new song” (*sheer hadash*) occurs six times in the Psalter (33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; and 149:1), but the best insight into its meaning comes perhaps in Isaiah 42:10 (the only place where “new song” appears outside the Psalter). Isaiah 42 is a song of celebration of the “servant,” discussed four times in the book (42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:4-11; and 52:13-53:12). In the context of Isaiah 42, the “new song” marks a new beginning, a radical change from what has come before. Psalms 96 and 98, classified as Enthronement Psalms, psalms which celebrate the kingship of God over all the earth, contain the same sentiment. Recognizing God as king establishes a new world order—no human king can surpass the power and majesty of Yehovah king. The singer of Psalm 40 celebrates a new beginning after being rescued from the “pit” and the “bog.”

{40:6-8} “a body.” Quoted in Hebrews 10:5-7 and applied to Jesus. There, the author quotes the LXX, which translates the second line of verse 6, “a body You have prepared for Me.” This was apparently an interpretive paraphrase, where they used a part (the ear) and expanded it to the whole body (F. F. Bruce, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews* [Eerdmans], p. 232). The Hebrew text (of Ps. 40:6) is literally, “My ears You have dug.” It has wrongly been interpreted to refer to the master’s piercing the servant’s ear with an awl (a different Hebrew word;

Exod. 21:6; Deut. 15:17). But the idea here is that God opened the ear of His servant so that he would be obedient to His Word, which was in David's heart. Applied to Jesus, that obedience was unto the cross (see Isa. 50:5-7).

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/14/10/1227>

{40:13-17} Psalm 70 is almost entirely composed of these verses. Either Psalm 70 was tagged to the end of this psalm, or Psalm 70 was extracted from this psalm.

[PS:B1.A'.a']

Psalm 41 ^[a]

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

¹ **Blessed** is he who considers the poor. Yehovah will deliver him in the day of trouble. ² Yehovah will preserve him, and keep him alive. He will be **blessed** in the land, and you will not give him over to the will of his enemies. ³ Yehovah will sustain him on his sickbed; in his illness, you will restore his health.

⁴ *As for me*, I said, “**O Yehovah, be gracious to me!** Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.” ⁵ My enemies speak evil against me: “When will he die and be forgotten?”

⁶ When **he** comes to see me, **he** speaks empty words. **He** stores up evil in his heart. When **he** goes out, **he** tells it abroad.

⁷ All who hate me whisper together against me; against me they devise plans to harm me. ⁸ “An ^aevil disease”, they say, “has afflicted him. Now that he lies down, he will not rise up again.”

⁹ Even **my closest friend**, in whom I trusted, who ate bread with me, has lifted up his heel against me. [*quot.* John 13:18]

¹⁰ But you, **O Yehovah, be gracious to me**, and raise me up, that I may repay them.

¹¹ By this I know that you delight in me, because my enemy does not ^bshout in triumph over me. ¹² As for me, you uphold me in my integrity, and set me before you forever.

¹³ **Blessed** be Yehovah, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and amen. [*quot.* Luke 1:68]

^a **41:8** evil [H1100, *b-ʿlīya ʿal*]:—Belial, wicked, ungodly, evil. An allusion to the story of Job.

^b **41:11** shout in triumph:—in Hebrew, the verb *yariʿa* means “to shout joyously”. This term is associated with the sound of trumpets and ram’s horns.

BOOK 2 (Psalms 42-72) [[↶](#)] [[↑](#)] [[↓](#)]

Introduction	64	Psalm 57	82
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Introduction to Book 2 (42-72)

The psalms of Book 2 are noted as being *Elohistic*, that is, the use of *Elohim* predominates over the use of Yehovah in reference to God. Book 2 also has many similarities to Book 3 (Psalms 73-89) – the Psalms of the Sons of Korah figuring prominently at the beginning of Book 2 with the Psalms of Asaph dominating Book 3. Both of them may have been a collection assembled for use during the exile in Babylon. This does not preclude the possibility that they were composed and collected much earlier, as I believe they likely were. It just means that they were finally collected and arranged during the exile.

Form Analysis of Psalms 42-51 (10 psalms)

Psalm

Seven psalms from Korah's sons:

{42-43} Individual lament

{44} Communal lament

{45} Royal wedding

{46} Communal trust (“God is with us”)

{47} . . . Songs of Zion: God is the king

{48} . . . Songs of Zion: God dwells with us in Zion

{49} . . . Songs of Zion: The rich will dwell in the grave

Notes on Psalms 42-51

Psalm 1. Blessed is the man who meditates on the Torah.

Form Analysis of Psalms 52-60 (9 psalms)

Psalm

Psalm of Asaph: A rebuke from Zion

{50} . . . Rebuke from Zion: Yehovah speaks

Three kinds of sinners (of David):

{51} Covenant breakers

{52} Wicked enemy

{53} The Fool (Nabal).

Seven enemies of David:

- {54} The Ziphites
- {55} A friend (Ahithopel?)
- {56} The Philistines
- {57} X: Saul
- {58} Unjust judges
- {59} Saul's henchmen
- {60} Edomites

Seven Davidic psalms:

Cries for salvation:

- {61} ?
- {62} ?
- {63} ?

God saves:

- {64} X: God intervenes (v.7)

Salvation for the nations:

- {65} ?
- {66} Let the nations praise
- {67} Let the nations praise

The Throne of David passes to Solomon:

- {68} Review of God's faithfulness: God saves; nations praise
- {69} ?
- {70-71} David ages and dies
- {72} Psalm of Solomon: A coronation prayer

Psalm 52 (Olive tree). Enemy: Doeg the Edomite. "I am like a green olive tree in the house of God"

Psalm 53 (Fool). Enemy: The Fool (Nabal). "O that salvation would come out of Zion."

Psalm 54 (Recoil). Enemy: Ziphites. "He has delivered me from every trouble"

Psalm 55 (Dove). Enemy: A friend (Ahithopel?). "But I will trust in you"

Psalms 56 (Tears). Enemy: Philistines. "You have delivered my soul from death"

Psalms 57 (Dawn). Enemy: Saul (while in a cave). "Be exalted O God, above the heavens!"

Psalms 58 (Snakes). Enemy: Unjust judges. "Surely there is a God who judges the earth"

Psalms 59 (Dogs). Enemy: Saul. "You, O God, are my fortress"

Psalms 60 (Edom). Enemy: Edomites. "With God we shall do valiantly"

Form Analysis of Psalms 61-72 (12 psalms)

Simple outline:

Psalms 61-64. David's prayers of trust.

Psalms 65-68. Corporate hymns of praise.

Psalms 69-71. Lament turned to testimony and trust.

Psalms 72. A coronation prayer.

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Psalm 42 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Maskil of the sons of Korah.

[Yearns to appear before God]

¹ As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants after you, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When will I come and **appear before God?**

[Continually mocked by the people]

³ My tears have been my food **day and night**, while all day long they say to me, “**Where is your God?**” ⁴ These things I remember and pour out my heart: how I used to go with the throng, and lead them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, a multitude keeping a holy day.

[Self-admonition to hope in God]

⁵ **Why are you cast down, O my soul? Why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God! For I will still praise him, my savior and my God.** *[quot. Matt. 26:38; Mark 14:34]*

[Remembers God]

⁶ O my God, my soul is **cast down** within me. Therefore **I remember** you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon, from the hill Mizar. ⁷ ^aDeep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls. All your breakers and your waves have swept over me.

[Yehovah’s constant covenant-love]

⁸ **By day** Yehovah commands his covenant-love, and by **night** his song is with me: a prayer to the God who gives me life.

[Forgotten by God]

⁹ I will say to God, my rock, “**Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go on suffering the oppression of the enemy?**” ¹⁰ Their taunts pierce me like a deadly wound; all day long they say to me, “**Where is your God?**”

[Self-admonition to hope in God]

¹¹ **Why are you cast down, O my soul? Why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God! For I will still praise him, my savior and my God.**

^a **42:7** Deep calls to deep:—similar to Jonah 2:3, “*For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the currents engulfed me. All your breakers and waves swept over me.*” Or, metaphorically, the psalmist’s *deep* need, calls out to God’s *deep* fullness.

Psalm 43 [\[←\]](#)

[*Vindicate me*]

¹ Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation. Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. ² For you are the God of my strength. **Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go on suffering the oppression of the enemy?**

[*Lead me to your dwelling place*]

³ Oh, send forth your light and your truth. Let them lead me. Let them bring me to your holy mountain, and to your dwelling place. ⁴ Then I will go to God's altar, to God, my exceeding joy. I will praise you on the harp, O God, my God.

[*Self-admonition to hope in God*]

⁵ **Why are you cast down, O my soul? Why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God! For I will still praise him, my savior and my God.**

Psalm 44 [\[←\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. Of the sons of Korah. A Maskil.

[*God's past deliverances*]

¹ O God, we have heard with our ears; our fathers have told us the work you did in their days, in the days of old. ² You drove out the nations with your hand, then you planted them. You afflicted the peoples, then you spread them abroad. ³ For by their own sword they did not possess the land, neither did their own arm ^amake them victorious; but your right hand, your arm, and the light of your presence, because you favored them.

[*The present community's trust in God*]

⁴ You are my King, O God. Command victories for Jacob! ⁵ Through you, we will push down our adversaries. Through your name, we will tread down those who rise up against us. ⁶ For I will not trust in my bow, neither will my sword save me. ⁷ But you have saved us from our adversaries, and have shamed those who hate us. ⁸ In God we have made our boast all day long. We will give thanks to your name forever. *Selah.*

[*God acts against His people*]

⁹ But now you have rejected us, and brought us to dishonor, and

^a **44:3** make them victorious:—the Hebrew word is *hōšî'â* (h3467, salvation, rescue, victory). A familiar cognate is the noun *yeshu'ah*. The word can mean either salvation or victory. In this case, their own hand did not grant them victory, for it came from God.

do not go out with our armies. ¹⁰ You cause us to turn back from the adversary. Those who hate us take plunder for themselves. ¹¹ You have made us like sheep to be eaten, and have scattered us among the nations. ¹² You sell your people for nothing, and have gained nothing from their sale. ¹³ You make us a reproach to our neighbors, a scoffing and a derision to those who are around us. ¹⁴ You make us a byword among the nations, a shaking of the head among the peoples. ¹⁵ All day long my dishonor is before me, and shame covers my face, ¹⁶ at the taunt of one who reproaches and verbally abuses, because of the enemy and the avenger.

[*God's people suffer for their faith*]

¹⁷ All this has come on us, yet we have not forgotten you. We have not been false to your covenant. ¹⁸ Our heart has not turned back, neither have our steps strayed from your path, ¹⁹ though you have crushed us in the place of ^ajackals, and covered us with the shadow of death. ²⁰ If we have forgotten the name of our God, or spread out our hands to a strange god, ²¹ would not God find this out? For he knows the secrets of the heart. ²² Yes, for your sake we are killed all the day long. We are regarded as sheep for the slaughter. [*quot. Rom. 8:36*]

[*Plea for God to help now*]

²³ Wake up! Why do you sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do not reject us forever. ²⁴ Why do you hide your face, and forget our affliction and our oppression? ²⁵ For our ^bsoul is bowed down to the dust. Our body clings to the earth. ²⁶ Rise up to help us. Redeem us for the sake of your covenant-love.

^a **44:19** jackals:—the Masoretic text reads *tannim* (“jackals”). Some Hebrew manuscripts have *tannin* (“dragon”) which is used by a few English translations, however, find it more intelligible to speak of *jackals* than of *dragons*.

^b **44:25** soul [H5315, *nefesh*]:—the context strongly suggests that *nefesh* is here used in an anatomical sense, the neck or throat; given that the next phrase literally says, “our belly clings to the ground”. Thus, lit. “For our neck is bowed to the dust, our belly clings to the ground.” This is figurative language of a defeated nation. That is why the psalmist calls for God to “Rise up” to help them.

Psalm 45 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. According to “Lilies”. Of the sons of Korah. A Maskil. A wedding song.

[*The king*] ¹ My heart overflows with a noble theme. I recite my verses for the king. My tongue is like the pen of a skillful writer.

² You are the most handsome of the sons of men. Grace has anointed your lips, therefore God has blessed you forever. ³ Strap your sword on your thigh, mighty one, in your splendor and majesty. ⁴ In your majesty ride prosperously on behalf of truth, meekness, and righteousness. Let your right hand display awesome deeds. ⁵ Your arrows are sharp. The nations fall under you, with arrows in the heart of the king’s enemies.

[*God’s anointing*] ⁶ Your throne, **O God**, endures forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness. ⁷ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore **God, your God**, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions. [*quot. Heb. 1:8-9*]

⁸ All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia; from the ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad. ⁹ Kings’ daughters are among your honored women. At your right hand the ^aqueen stands in gold of Ophir.

[*The bride*] ¹⁰ Listen, **O daughter**, consider, and turn your ear. Forget your own people, and your **father’s** house.

¹¹ So the king will desire your beauty, **honor him, for he is your lord**. ¹² The daughter of Tyre comes with a gift; even the rich among the people will seek your favor.

¹³ The princess enters the palace all glorious. Her clothing is interwoven with gold.

¹⁴ She is led to the king in embroidered work; **maidens of honor** will follow her. ¹⁵ With gladness and rejoicing the procession is led along as they enter the palace of the king.

¹⁶ Your **sons** will take the place of your **fathers**. You will make them princes in all the earth. ¹⁷ I will cause your name to be remembered for all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.

^a **45:9** queen [H7694, *shegal*]:—rare Hebrew word, believed to refer to the king’s bride, soon to be queen. Also translated as “consort” in Neh. 2:6, or trusted associate, which could refer to the king’s mother. The Aramaic cognate (H7695) is used of royal wives in Dan. 5:2-3, 23.

Psalm 46 [\[↩\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A song of the sons of Korah. On the Alamoth.

¹ God is **our refuge** and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

² Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth gives way, and the mountains collapse into the heart of the sea; ³ though its waters **roar** and **roil**, and the mountains tremble at the swelling sea. *Selah.*

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling place of the Most High.

⁵ God is within her; she will not be moved. God will help her at dawn.

⁶ The nations **raged**. The kingdoms were moved. He lifted his voice and the earth melted.

⁷ Yehovah of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is **our refuge**. *Selah.*

⁸ Come, see Yehovah's works, what desolations he has made **in the earth**.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear. He burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted **in the earth**."

¹¹ Yehovah of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is **our refuge**. *Selah.*

Psalm 47 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

¹ Clap your hands, all you people; **shout** out to God with the voice of triumph! ² For Yehovah is most high and awesome, a great **king over all the earth**. ³ **He subdues nations under us**, and peoples under our feet.

⁴ He chooses our inheritance for us, the glory of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*.

⁵ God has gone up with a **shout**, Yehovah with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶ Sing praises to God! Sing praises! Sing praises to our king! Sing praises!

⁷ For God is the **king of all the earth**. Sing praises with understanding. ⁸ **God reigns over the nations**. God sits on his holy throne. ⁹ The princes of the peoples are gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham. For the ^adefenders of the earth belong to God. He is greatly exalted!

^a **47:9** defenders [H4043]:—shield or defense, *fig.* protector, defender. That is, the defenders (or warriors) of God's inheritance belong to God and are victorious through God.

Psalm 48 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

¹ Great is Yehovah, and greatly to be praised, in **the city of our God**, in his holy mountain. [*quot. Matt. 5:35*] ² Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount **Zion**—the summit of Zaphon—the city of the great King. ³ God, in **her palaces**, has made himself known as a refuge.

⁴ For, behold, the kings assembled; they advanced together. ⁵ They saw it and were astounded, then astonishment turned to panic and they fled away. ⁶ **Trembling took hold of them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail.** ⁷ With the east wind, you smashed the warships of Tarshish.

⁸ As we have heard, so we have seen, in the city of Yehovah of Armies, in the city of our God. God will establish it forever. *Selah.*

⁹ We have thought of your covenant-love, O God, in the midst of your temple. ¹⁰ As is your name, O God, so is your praise to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is full of righteousness. ¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad. Let the daughters of Judah rejoice **because of your judgments.**

¹² Walk about **Zion**, and go around her. Number its towers. ¹³ Notice her bulwarks. Consider **her palaces**, that you may tell it to the next generation. ¹⁴ For this is God, **our God** forever and ever. He will guide us ^aforever.

^a **48:14** forever:—translates a Masoretic Text phrase of uncertain meaning: ‘*al-mut*. The consonants can point to ‘*olamot* (“forever”) or ‘*al-mawet*, which may mean “over death”. However, with “over death,” the preposition and the vocalization of the noun is anomalous.

Psalm 49 [\[←\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

¹ Hear this, all you peoples. Listen, all you inhabitants of the world, ² **both low and high, rich and poor together**. ³ My mouth will speak wisdom. My heart will utter understanding. ⁴ I will incline my ear to a proverb. I will express my riddle on the harp.

⁵ Why should I fear in the days of evil, when iniquity at my heels surrounds me? ⁶ Those who trust in their **wealth**, and boast in their abundant **riches**—

⁷ yet they surely will **redeem** no man, nor give God his ransom.

⁸ To **redeem** their lives is costly, no payment is ever enough, ⁹ that he should live on forever, and not see the **Pit**.

¹⁰ For he sees wise men die; the fool and the senseless also perish, and leave to others their wealth. ¹¹ Their grave is their home forever, their dwelling place to all generations, even as their land is called by their name. ¹² Man will not abide in splendor. He is like the beasts that perish. ¹³ This is the destiny of the fool, and of those who approve their words. *Selah*.

¹⁴ Like sheep to Sheol they head. **Death is their shepherd**. The upright will rule over them when the day of *vindication* dawns. Their form will **decay in Sheol**, far from their lofty mansions.

¹⁵ But God will **redeem** my life, from the hand of Sheol he will take me. *Selah*.

¹⁶ Do not be afraid when a man gets **rich**, when the **glory** of his house increases; ¹⁷ for when he dies, nothing goes with him. His **glory** will not follow him. ¹⁸ Though while he lived he congratulated himself—and men will praise you when you do well for yourself— ¹⁹ he will go to the generation of his ancestors, who will never see the **light**.

²⁰ **Man does not hold on to wealth and honor**. He is like the beasts that perish.

Psalm 50 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ The Mighty One, **God**, Yehovah, speaks, and **calls the earth** from sunrise to sunset. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, **God** shines forth.

³ Our God comes, and does not keep silent. Fire devours before him, and a storm whirls around him.

⁴ **He calls** to the heavens above and to the **earth**, to judge his people: ⁵ “Gather my faithful to me, those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.” ⁶ And let the heavens declare his righteousness, for **God** himself is judge. *Selah*.

⁷ “Hear, O my people, and I will speak. O Israel, I will testify against you. I am **God**, your **God**.”

⁸ I do not rebuke you for **your sacrifices**, **your burnt offerings** are continually before me. ⁹ I have no need for a **bull** from your stall, nor male **goats** from your pens.

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know every bird of the mountains. Every creature of the field are mine.

¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. ¹³ Will I eat the meat of **bulls**, or drink the blood of **goats**?

¹⁴ Offer to **God** the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Pay your vows to the Most High. ¹⁵ Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

¹⁶ But to **the wicked** God says, “What right do you have to declare my statutes, that you have taken my covenant on your lips,

¹⁷ since you hate instruction, and throw my words behind you?

¹⁸ When you see a thief, you run with him, and participate with adulterers. ¹⁹ “You let loose your mouth to evil, and harness your tongue for deceit. ²⁰ You sit and speak against your brother, slandering your own mother’s son.

²¹ These things you have done and I kept silent. You imagined that I was just like you. But I will rebuke you, and make a case before your eyes.

²² “Now consider this, **you who forget God**, lest I tear you to pieces, with no one to save you. ²³ Whoever offers the sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifies me, and prepares his way that I may show him God’s salvation.”

Psalm 51 [\[↗\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

[David desires pardon and cleansing]

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your covenant-love. According to your great compassion, **blot out** my transgressions. ² **Wash me** thoroughly from my iniquity. **Cleanse me** from my sin.

[Confession (broken boundaries); God is just]

³ For I know my **transgressions**. My **sin** is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, **have I sinned**, and **done what is evil** in your sight, so that you are proved right when **you speak**, and blameless when **you judge**. *[quot. Rom. 3:4]*

[Fallen state recognized; hidden truth]

⁵ Behold, **I was born in iniquity**. In sin my mother **conceived** me. ⁶ Behold, you desire **truth in the innermost being**; what is **hidden in my heart**, reveal to me.

[Cleanse me, then joy]

⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and **I will be clean**. Wash me, and **I will be whiter than snow**. ⁸ Let me hear **joy** and gladness, that the bones which you have broken may **rejoice**.

[Hide; remove]

⁹ Hide **your face** from my sins, and blot out all **my iniquities**.

¹⁰ Create **in me a clean heart**, O God, and **renew a right spirit within me**.

[Hide not; remove not]

¹¹ Cast me not away from **your presence**, and take not **your holy spirit** from me.

[Joy, then sinners cleansed]

¹² Restore to me the **joy** of your salvation, and sustain me with a **willing spirit**. ¹³ Then I will **teach transgressors** your ways, and **sinners will be converted** to you.

[Deliverance sought; spoken truth]

¹⁴ Deliver me from the **guilt of bloodshed**, O God, the God of my salvation, and **my tongue will sing aloud** of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, **open my lips**, and **my mouth will declare** your praise.

[*True sacrifices to God; walls (boundaries) rebuilt*]

¹⁶ For you **do not delight** in sacrifice, or else I would give it. **You have no pleasure** in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ In your **good** pleasure, cause Zion to prosper. Build the **walls** of Jerusalem.

[*Proper worship (righteous sacrifices) restored; people purified*]

¹⁹ Then you will delight in **righteous sacrifices**, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then they will offer bulls on **your altar**.

[Enemy: Doeg the Edomite]

Psalm 52 [e]

For the Chief Musician. A Maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, “David has come to Ahimelech’s house.”

¹ Why do you boast of evil, mighty man, *while* **God’s covenant-love** is *over me* all day long.

² Your **tongue** devises destruction, like a sharp razor, working **deceitfully**.

³ **You love** evil more than good, lying more than speaking the truth. *Selah*. ⁴ **You love** all words that destroy,

O deceitful tongue.

⁵ This is why **God** will **destroy** you forever. He will grab you and drag you out of your tent, and uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah*.

⁶ The **righteous** will see and be in awe, and laugh in contempt, saying,

⁷ “Behold, **this is the man** who would not make God his strength, but **trusted** in the abundance of his riches, taking refuge ^ain his wealth.” ⁸ **But as for me**, I am like a green olive tree in God’s house. I trust in God’s covenant-love forever and ever.

⁹ I will praise you forever for what you have done. I will hope in your name, for it is good, in the presence of your **faithful ones**.

^a 52:7 in his wealth:—as it reads in the Syriac and Targum. The Masoretic Text reads, “in his wickedness”.

[Enemy: The fool]

Psalm 53 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. According to Mahalath. A Maskil of David.^a

¹ The fool says in his heart, “There is **no God**.”

They are corrupt, and have done abominable deeds. **There is no one who does good**.

² God looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there are any who act wisely, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside. [*quot.* Rom. 3:10-12]

They have all together become corrupt. There is **no one who does good**, no, not one.

⁴ Have the workers of iniquity **no knowledge**, who eat up **my people** as they eat bread, and do not call on God?

⁵ There they are in great fear, where no fear had been, for God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you. You have put them to shame, because God has rejected them.

⁶ Oh that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When God restores the fortunes of **his people**, then Jacob will rejoice, and Israel will be glad.

[Enemy: Ziphites]

Psalm 54 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, “Is David not hiding among us?”

¹ O God, save me **by your name**, and vindicate me by your might. ² O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For strangers rise up against me, and **violent men** seek my life. They do not set God before them. *Selah*.

⁴ Behold, God is my helper. The Lord is the sustainer of my life.

⁵ May he repay **my enemies** for their evil. In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

⁶ With a free will offering, I will sacrifice to you. I will give thanks to **your name**, O Yehovah, for it is good. ⁷ For he has delivered me out of all trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

^a Psalm 53 is a duplication of Psalm 14, except that it replaces Yahweh with God (Heb. *‘elohim*). The other exception is the wording in v.5.

[Enemy: Ahithophel]

Psalm 55 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Maskil of David.

¹ Give ear to my prayer, **O God**; and do not ignore my supplication. ² Attend to me and answer me. I sway and moan in my complaint, ³ from the sound of the enemy, from the crushing force of the wicked. For they bring suffering **down** upon me, and in wrath they attack me.

⁴ My heart trembles within me. The horrors of death overcome me. ⁵ Fear and trembling grip me; horror overwhelms me. ⁶ And I say, “Oh that I had wings like a **dove**! That I might fly away and be **at rest**. ⁷ Behold, then I would wander far off, and lodge in the wilderness.” *Selah*. ⁸ “I would hasten to my shelter from the raging wind and storm.”

⁹ Confuse them, O Lord, and confound their speech, for I see violence and strife in the city. ¹⁰ **Day and night** they patrol on its walls. Malice and abuse are within it. ¹¹ Ruin is there as well. **Oppression and deceit never leave its streets.**

¹² But it is not an enemy who reviles me, then I could endure it. Nor is it a foe who rises up against me, then I could hide from him. ¹³ Rather, it is you, a man my equal, my companion and friend. ¹⁴ We took sweet counsel together. We walked in God’s house with the throng. ¹⁵ Let death come upon them suddenly. Let them go down alive to Sheol. For evil is in their homes and hearts.

¹⁶ As for me, I will call on God, and Yehovah will save me. ¹⁷ **Evening, morning, and at noon**, I complaint and moan, and he hears my voice. ¹⁸ He redeems my life from the battle that is against me, for many oppose me. ¹⁹ God, who is enthroned forever, will hear and answer them. *Selah*. They **never change** and do not fear God.

²⁰ My friend puts forth his hands against those who were **at peace** with him; he violates his covenant. ²¹ His speech is smoother than butter, but war is in his heart. His words are softer than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

²² Cast your burden on Yehovah and he will sustain you. He will never let the righteous **stumble**. [*quot.* 1 Pet. 5:7] ²³ But you, **O God**, will bring them down to the pit of destruction. Bloodthirsty and deceitful men will not live out half their days, but I will trust in you.

Form analysis (of Psalm 55)

David's appeal (55:1-2). Six verbs are used, with David at its center.

1. "Give ear" (*ha'āzînâ*)
2."do not ignore" (*'al 'ālam*; conceal, hide)
3."Attend" (*qāšab*)
4."to me"
5."answer" (*'ānâ*)
6."I sway" (*rûd*; to wander restlessly, roam)
7. "moan" (*hûm*; to murmur, to show disquietude)

Assault of the enemy (55:3-5). Six clauses are used. ("crushing force ... in wrath ... my heart trembles ... horrors of death ... fear and trembling ... horror overwhelms").

David's reaction (55:6-8). Six first-person-singular verbs are used to describe David's reaction to this attack ("I say ... I might fly ... be at rest ... wander far off ... lodge ... hasten").

Divine names. Six divine names occur in the second half (55:16-22), with a central epithet of "who is enthroned forever". The sequence is chiastically structured as follows:

1. **God** (*Elohim*), v.16
2.**Yehovah**, v.16
3.**God** (*El*), v.19
4.**who is enthroned forever** (*yôsêb qedem*), v.19
5.**God** (*Elohim*), v.19
6.**Yehovah**, v.22
7. **God** (*Elohim*), v.23

Less impressive, but also evident, is the chiastic structure of the divine names in the first half (55:1-15): **God** (*Elohim*), v.1; **Lord** (*Adonay*), v.9; and **God** (*Elohim*), v.14.

[Enemy: Philistines]

Psalm 56 [⤵]

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Silent Dove in Distant Lands.” A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, for man **tramples me**; he attacks and oppresses me all day long. ² My enemies **trample me** all day long, for many **assail me from on high**.

³ When I am afraid, I will **trust** in you. ⁴ **In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?** ⁵ All day long they twist my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶ They conspire and lurk, **watching my steps**. They are eager to take my life. ⁷ Can they get away with such wickedness? In wrath, O God, bring down these people. ⁸ **You keep track of my sorrows**; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?

⁹ Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. **This I know, that God is for me.** ¹⁰ **In God, whose word I praise, in Yehovah, whose word I praise,** ¹¹ **in God I trust; I will not fear. What can man do to me?**

¹² The vows I made to you, O God, I will bring to you with thank offerings. ¹³ For you **delivered my life from death, even my feet from stumbling, to walk before God in the light of the living.**

[Enemy: King Saul]

Psalm 57 [⌂]

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

¹ Be gracious to me, God, be gracious to me, for in you I take refuge. In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until destruction passes by. ² I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. ³ He reaches down from heaven and saves me from the taunt of the one who crushes me. *Selah*. God sends forth his **covenant-love and truth**.

⁴ I **lie down** among lions, those who are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

⁵ **Be exalted**, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

⁶ They prepared a net for my steps, **to bring me down**. They dug a pit for me, but **fell into it** themselves. *Selah*.

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God. My heart is steadfast. I will sing, yes, I will sing praises. ⁸ Wake up, ^aO lyre! Wake up, O lute and harp! I will awake the dawn. ⁹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples. I will sing praises to you among the nations. ¹⁰ For your great **covenant-love** reaches to the heavens, and your **truth** to the skies. ¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth.

^a **57:8** O lyre:—as it reads in one Hebrew manuscript and the Syriac (*kinori*). The Masoretic Text reads “my glory” (*kevodi*).

[Enemy: Unjust judges]

Psalm 58 ^[e]

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Miktam of David.

¹ Do you indeed speak **righteously**, you mighty ones? Do you **judge** men fairly? ² No, in heart you plot **injustice**.

Your hands deal out violence in the earth. ³ The wicked go astray from the **womb**. Liars are wayward from **birth**. ⁴ Their poison is like the **poison of a snake**, like a deaf cobra that stops up its ears, ⁵ which does not listen to the voice of charmers, no matter how skillful the charmer may be.

⁶ **Break the teeth** from the mouth *of my enemies*, O God; **the great teeth of the young lions**, O Yehovah. ⁷ Let them vanish like water that runs off. When they draw the bow, let their arrows be **made blunt**.

⁸ Let them be like snail dissolving slime that melts away as it moves along, like a **stillborn** child, who never sees the sun. ⁹ ^aBefore thorns ripen in bramble, he sweeps them away, both green and burned alike.

¹⁰ The **righteous** will rejoice when he sees the **retribution**. He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked, ¹¹ so that men will say, “Most certainly there is a reward for **the righteous**. Most certainly there is a God who **judges** the earth.”

^a **58:9** The meaning of this verse is unclear and is, thus, variously translated.

[Enemy: King Saul]

Psalm 59 [⚡]

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Miktam of David, when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him.

¹ **Deliver me** from my enemies, O my God; from those who rise up against me make me safe. ² **Deliver me** from workers of iniquity, and from men of bloodshed rescue me.

³ For, behold, they lie in wait for my life. The mighty gather themselves together against me, not for my transgression, nor for my **sin**, O Yehovah. ⁴ I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me. Rise up to help me, and see! ⁵ You, O Yehovah, God of Armies, the God of Israel, rouse yourself to punish the nations. Spare none who treacherously plot evil. *Selah.* ⁶ They return at evening, howling like **dogs**, prowling about the city. ⁷ Behold, they spew from their **mouth**, sharp words on their **lips**—for “Who can hear *and restrain* us?” ⁸ But you, O Yehovah, laugh at them. You scoff at all the nations.

⁹ O my strength, I will wait on you, for God is my refuge. ¹⁰ My God in his covenant-love will meet me. God will let me look at my enemies in triumph.

¹¹ Do not kill them, or my people will forget. Scatter them by your power, and bring them down, O Lord our shield. ¹² For the **sin** of their **mouth**, and the words of their **lips**, let them be caught in their pride, for the curses and lies which they utter. ¹³ Consume them in wrath. Consume them until they are gone. That men may know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth. *Selah.* ¹⁴ At evening they return, howling like **dogs**, prowling about the city. ¹⁵ They wander about for food, and growl if they are not satisfied.

¹⁶ But I will sing of your strength and joyfully proclaim your covenant-love in the morning. For you have been **my fortress, a refuge in the day of my distress.** ¹⁷ To you, my strength, I will sing praises. For God is my fortress, the God who shows me covenant-love.

[Enemy: Edomites]

Psalm 60 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “The Lily of the Covenant.” A Mikdam of David for teaching, when he fought with Aram Naharaim and with Aram Zobah, and Joab returned, and killed 12,000 from Edom in the Valley of Salt.

¹ **O God, you have rejected us.** You have broken us. You have been angry. Oh, restore us. ² You have made the earth to tremble. You have split it open. Repair its fractures, for it is ready to fall. ³ You have made your people drink a ^aharsh cup. You have made us drink the wine that makes us stagger.

⁴ You *once* gave a banner to those who fear you, to rally to it because of ^bthe bow. *Selah.* ⁵ Give victory with your right hand, **and answer us**, so that your beloved ones may be delivered.

⁶ God *once* spoke from his sanctuary: “I will triumph. I will divide Shechem, and measure out the valley of Succoth. ⁷ Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine. Ephraim also is my helmet. Judah is my scepter. ⁸ Moab is my wash basin. I will throw my sandal on Edom. I shout in triumph over Philistia.”

⁹ Who will bring me into the besieged city? Who will guide me to Edom? ¹⁰ Have you not, **O God, rejected us?** You do not, O God, go out with our armies. ¹¹ Oh give us help against the adversary, for the help of man is vain. ¹² Through God we will do valiantly, for he will trample down our foes.

^a **60:3** harsh [H7186, *qashah*]:—lit. “with harsh” which may be an omission for *kos qashah* or lit. “harsh cup”.

^b **60:4** the bow [H7189, *qoshet*]:—in Aramaic, *qoshet* means “truth” but this meaning is doubtful given the context of war. The LXX and Syriac interpret this to mean “bow,” reading *qeshet* instead of *qoshet*, with the last consonant *taw* instead of *tet*. Thus, they rally (or flee) from the range of the bow or bowmen (i.e. “archers”).

Psalm 61 [⤵]

For the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. Of David.

¹ **Hear** my cry, **O God**. Listen to my prayer. ² From the end of the earth, I call to you when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. ³ For you have been a refuge for me, a strong tower from the enemy. ⁴ **I will dwell** in your tent **forever**. I will take refuge in the shelter of your wings. *Selah*.

⁵ For you, **O God, have heard** my vows. You have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. ⁶ You will prolong the king's life. His years will be for generations. ⁷ **He will be enthroned** in God's presence **forever**. Appoint your covenant-love and truth to watch over him. ⁸ So I will sing praise to your name **forever**, as I fulfill my vows day by day.

Psalm 62 [⤵]

For the Chief Musician. On Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

¹ **I rest in God alone**. Only he can save me. ² He alone is **my rock** and **my salvation, my fortress. I will not be shaken** ^a**for long**.

³ How long will you assail a man—batter him down, like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence? ⁴ They fully intend to throw him down from his lofty place. They take pleasure in lies. They bless with their mouth, but inwardly they curse. *Selah*.

⁵ **I wait** in silence for **God alone**. Only he gives me hope. ⁶ He alone is **my rock** and **my salvation, my fortress. I will not be shaken**.

⁷ My salvation and my honor is with God. The rock of **my strength**, and my refuge, is in God.

⁸ **Trust in him** at all times, O people. Pour out your **heart** before him. God is our refuge. *Selah*.

⁹ Surely men of low degree are but a **breath**; men of high degree are a delusion. In the balances they go up. They are altogether lighter than a **breath**.

¹⁰ **Do not trust** in oppression or put false hope in robbery. Though it bear fruit of wealth, do not set your **heart** on it.

¹¹ One thing God has spoken; twice have I heard: that **power** belongs to God. ¹² And to you, O Lord, belongs covenant-love, for you reward every man according to his work. [*quot.* Matt 16:27; Rom. 2:6]

^a 62:2 for long [H7227, *rabah*; abundant, much]:—some translate it as “greatly shaken”. Or, if ‘*et rabah* was intended, then “for long” (lit. “much time”).

Psalm 63 [\[↵\]](#)

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

¹ **O God, you are my God.** I earnestly seek you. **My soul** thirsts for you. My flesh longs for you, in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.

² I have seen you in the sanctuary, and witnessed your **power and glory**.

³ **Because** your covenant-love is better than life, my **lips will praise you**. ⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live. I will lift up my **hands and pray** in your name.

⁵ **My soul** is satisfied as with the richest food. My mouth praises you with **joyful lips**, ⁶ when I remember you on my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷ **For** you have been my help. In the shadow of your wings **I sing for joy**. ⁸ My soul clings to you. Your right **hand** upholds me.

⁹ But those who seek **my life** to destroy it, may they plunge to the depths of the earth. ¹⁰ May they be given over to the **power** of the sword. May they be food for the jackals. ¹¹ But the king will rejoice **in God**. All who swear by him will **exult**, for the mouth liars will be stopped.

Psalm 64 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

¹ Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint. Preserve my life from the terror of the enemy. ² Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked, from the tumult of the workers of iniquity;

³ who sharpen their **tongues** like swords, and aim bitter words like arrows, ⁴ to **shoot** innocent men from ambushes. **Suddenly** they **shoot** at him, and do not fear.

⁵ They strengthen themselves with an evil plan. They talk of laying snares secretly, and say, “Who will see them?” ⁶ “Let them expose our evil plans. We have hidden them from the most diligent search.” Surely man’s mind and heart are deep.

⁷ But God will **shoot** at them. **Suddenly** they will be struck down with an arrow. ⁸ Their own **tongues** will ruin them. All who see them will shake their heads.

⁹ All mankind will be afraid. They will declare the work of God, and will wisely ponder what he has done. ¹⁰ The righteous will rejoice in Yehovah, and will take refuge in him. All the upright in heart will glory in him.

Psalm 65 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A song.

[*God's might*]

¹ Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion, and to you will vows be performed.

² **O Listener of prayer, to you all men will come.**

³ My sins **overwhelmed** me, but you atoned for our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed is the one you choose and bring near to live in **your courts**. We will be satisfied with the goodness of **your house**, the holiness of **your temple**.

⁵ By **awesome deeds** done in righteousness, **you answer our prayers**, O God of our salvation, the hope of all **the ends of the earth** and of the farthest seas.

⁶ Who by **his strength** formed the mountains, being **girded with power**. ⁷ Who stills the roaring seas, the crashing waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

⁸ Those who dwell at **the ends of the earth will fear your wonders**. You make the dawn and sunset shout for joy.

[*God's bounty*]

⁹ You visit the earth, and water it. You greatly enrich it, with God's streams of abundant waters. You provide them with **grain**, just as you ordained it.

¹⁰ You drench its furrows, penetrating its ridges. You soften it with showers. You bless it with a crop. ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance. ¹² The wilderness grasslands also overflow, and the hills are robed in gladness.

¹³ The pastures are clothed with flocks. The valleys are mantled with **grain**. They shout for joy, they even sing.

Psalm 66 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A song. A Psalm.

[*Descriptive praise*]

¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. ² Sing to the glory of his name. Make his praise glorious. ³ Say to God, “**How awesome are your deeds.** Before your great power, your enemies submit in fear. ⁴ All the earth worships you, and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”
Selah.

[*Descriptive praise*]

⁵ Come, and see the works of God—**his awesome deeds for mankind.** ⁶ He turned the *Red Sea* into dry land. They crossed the *Jordan River* on foot. There, we rejoiced in him. ⁷ He rules with power forever, and keeps watch on the nations. The rebellious will not exalt themselves. *Selah.*

[*Narrative praise*]

⁸ Praise our God, O peoples! Let the sound of his praise be heard, ⁹ who preserves our life among the living, and does not let our feet slip. ¹⁰ For you, O God, have tried us. You have refined us as silver. ¹¹ You brought us into the net and laid heavy burdens on our backs. ¹² You let men ride over us. We went through fire and water, **but you led us to abundance.**

[*Individual praise*]

¹³ I will enter your house with burnt offerings. I will pay you my vows, ¹⁴ which my lips uttered, and my mouth spoke, **when I was in distress.** ¹⁵ I will offer to you burnt offerings of fat animals, with the incense of rams, I will offer bulls with goats. *Selah.*

[*Individual praise*]

¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, and **I will tell you what he has done for me.** ¹⁷ I cried to him with my mouth. High praise was on my tongue. ¹⁸ If I cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹ But most certainly, God did listen. He paid attention to my prayer. ²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer, nor his covenant-love from me.

Psalm 67 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Psalm. A song.

¹ May **God** be merciful to us, **bleſs us**, and cauſe his face to ſhine on us.
Selah.

² That your way may be known on **earth**, and your ſalvation among all nations,

³ **let the peoples praise you, O God. Let all the peoples praise you.**

⁴ Oh let the **nations** be glad and ſing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity, and lead the **nations** on earth.
Selah.

⁵ **Let the peoples praise you, O God. Let all the peoples praise you.**

⁶ The **earth** has yielded its increaſe,

and God, our **God, will bleſs us.** ⁷ **God will bleſs us**, and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Psalm 68 [\[←\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A song.

[*Rider of the heavens*]

¹ Let God arise, let his enemies scatter, and let those who hate him flee before him. ² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away. As wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish before God. ³ But let the righteous be glad. Let them rejoice before God; let them rejoice exceedingly. ⁴ Sing to God. Sing praises to his name. ^a**Clear the way for the coming** ^b**Cloud-Rider**: Yah is his name. Rejoice before him. ⁵ Father of the fatherless, and defender of widows, is God **in his holy habitation**. ⁶ God provides homes for the desolate, leads prisoners to freedom, but the rebellious are left to live on parched wasteland.

[*Saving his people; conquest of the enemy*]

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness. *Selah*. ⁸ The earth trembled. The sky also poured down rain at the presence of the God of Sinai—at the presence of God, the God of Israel. ⁹ You, O God, sent abundant rain upon *the land of* your inheritance when it languished. ¹⁰ Your congregation dwelt there. In your goodness you took care of the lowly, O God. ¹¹ The Lord gave the word; great was the company of women who proclaimed it. ¹² “The **kings** of the armies flee—they flee!” She who remains at home divides the spoil, ¹³ though you were at ease in the sheepfolds, *you will be like* the wings of a dove overlaid with **silver**, and its feathers with glistening gold. ¹⁴ On the day the Almighty **scattered kings** in the land, it was ^c *dazzling* white as snow in Zalmon.

¹⁵ O mighty mountain, mountain of **Bashan**; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of **Bashan**. ¹⁶ Why do you look in envy, O many-peaked mountain, at the mountain where God chooses to reign? Yes, where Yehovah will dwell forever. ¹⁷ The chariots of God are myriads *beyond count*, thousands of thousands. The Lord is among them *as at* Sinai, **in the holy place**.

^a **68:4** Clear the way [H5549, *sālal*]:—has the sense of “to build a highway” or “prepare a way” (cf. Isa. 57:14 and 62:10).

^b **68:4** Cloud-Rider:—lit. “he who rides upon the clouds.” The Hebrew term *‘aravot* is a variant form of *‘arafot*, a poetic term that means “clouds”. The pagan god, Baal, had a similar epithet in Ugaritic, “rider of clouds”.

^c **68:14** *dazzling* white as snow in Zalmon:—the meaning is uncertain. Interpreted here to mean that the ground was covered with the spoils of glistening arms, armor, shields, etc., around Mt. Zalmon, near Shechem.

18 You have ascended on high. You have **led away captives**. You have received gifts from men, yes, even from the rebellious, that Yah—God—might dwell there. [quot. Eph. 4:8]

19 **Blessed be the Lord**, who daily bears our burdens, even the God who is our **salvation**. *Selah*. 20 God is to us a God of **salvation**. To Yehovah, the Lord, belongs escape from death.

21 But God will **crush the heads of his enemies**, the hairy scalp of him who continues in his guilt ways.

22 The Lord said, “I will bring *the enemy* back from *the heights of Bashan*, I will bring *them* back from the depths of the sea, 23 that your foot may crush them in blood, the tongue of your dogs will have a portion in it.” 24 They have seen your procession, O God, even the procession of my God, my King, **into the sanctuary**.

[*Saving his people; conquest of the enemy*]

25 The singers lead the way, the musicians follow after, among them are the young women playing their tambourines, 26 “Bless God in the great congregation, even the Lord in the lineage of Israel!” 27 There is Benjamin, the youngest, leading them, the princes of Judah, their council, the princes of Zebulun, and the princes of Naphtali. 28 Your God has decreed your strength. Strengthen, O God, that which you have done for us. 29 Because of your temple at Jerusalem, **kings** will bring tribute to you. 30 Rebuke the ^abeasts in the reeds, the herd of bulls, with their calves. Who trample the peoples in their lust for **silver**. **Scatter the nations that delight in war**. 31 Let Egypt come with gifts. Ethiopia will stretch out her hands *in tribute* to God.

[*Rider of the heavens*]

32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord; *Selah*. 33 To the **Rider** of the heaven of heavens, which are of old; behold, he utters his voice, a mighty voice. 34 Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. 35 You are awesome, **O God, out of your holy places**. The God of Israel, it is he who gives strength and power to his people. Blessed be God.

^a 68:30 beasts in the reeds:—a symbolic image of Egypt.

Psalm 69 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Lilies.” Of David.

¹ **Save me, O God**, for the waters have come up to my neck! ² I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold. I have come into deep waters, where the flood sweeps over me. ³ I am weary from crying out. My throat is parched. My eyes fail while I wait for my God. ⁴ **Those who hate me without a cause** [*quot.* John 15:25] are more numerous than the hairs of my head. The powerful, those who would destroy me, are my wrongful enemies. Must I restore what I did not steal? [*quot.* John 15:25]

⁵ O God, you know **my foolishness**, and **my guilt** is not hidden from you. ⁶ Let not those who hope in you be put to shame because of me, O Lord Yehovah of Armies. Let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor because of me, O God of Israel. ⁷ For I have endured insults for your sake, and **shame** has covered my face.

⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers, a foreigner to my mother’s sons. ⁹ **For the zeal of your house consumes me.** [*quot.* John 2:17] **The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.** [*quot.* Rom. 15:3] ¹⁰ When I wept and fasted, it only brought me insults. ¹¹ When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became the object of jokes to them. ¹² Those who sit at the city gate talk about me, and drunkards make up songs to mock me.

¹³ But I—may my prayer come to you, O Yehovah, at an acceptable time. O God, in the abundance of your **covenant-love**, **answer me** with your sure salvation. ¹⁴ Save me from the mire. Do not let me sink. Deliver me from those who hate me; from the deep waters. ¹⁵ Do not let the floodwaters sweep over me, nor the depths swallow me up, nor the pit close its mouth on me.

¹⁶ **Answer me**, O Yehovah, for your **covenant-love** is good. In your great compassion turn to me. ¹⁷ Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress. **Answer me** quickly. ¹⁸ Come near to me and save me. Rescue me from my enemies. ¹⁹ You know the insults I endure, my shame, and dishonor before all my foes. ²⁰ Insults have broken my heart, and I am sick. I looked for pity, but there was none; for comforters, but I found none. ²¹ They gave me poison for my food. **In my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink.** [*Fulfilled in:* Matt. 7:34, 48; Mark 15:36; Luke 23:36; John 19:28-29]

²² Let their table before them become a snare, a snare to their allies. [*quot.* Rom. 11:9] ²³ Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see. Let their hips continually tremble. [*quot.* Rom. 11:10] ²⁴ Pour out your indignation on them, and your burning anger overtake them. ²⁵ **Let their habitation be desolate. Let no one dwell in their tents.** [*quot.* Acts 1:20] ²⁶ For they persecute those whom you have struck down, and grieve with gossip those whom you have pierced. ²⁷ Add punishment to their iniquity, and may they not share in your pardon. ²⁸ Let them be blotted out of the book of life, and not be recorded with the righteous.

²⁹ But I am afflicted and in pain. Let your salvation, O God, **exalt me.** ³⁰ I will praise the name of God with a song, and magnify him with thanksgiving. ³¹ This will please Yehovah more than an ^aox, or a bull with horns and hoofs. ³² The humble will see it and be glad. O you who seek God, take heart. ³³ For Yehovah hears the needy, and does not forget his own *who are in bondage*.

³⁴ Let heaven and earth praise him; the seas, and everything that moves in them. ³⁵ For **God will save Zion**, and build the cities of Judah. They will settle there, and possess it. ³⁶ And the children of his servants will inherit it; those who love his name will be established there.

Psalm 70 [\[←\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. Of David. To bring to remembrance.^b

¹ **Hurry, O God, to deliver me. Come quickly** to help me, **O Yehovah.**

² Let them be ashamed and confounded **who seek** my life.

Let them be **driven back** and brought to dishonor who desire my harm. ³ Let them **turn back** because of their shame **who say**, “Aha! Aha!”

⁴ Let all **who seek** you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation **say** continually, “God is magnified!”

⁵ But I am poor and needy. **Come to me quickly, O God.** You are my help and my **deliverer. O Yehovah**, do not delay.

^a **69:31** ox:—a single ox is *shor* in Hebrew and a “song” (in v.30) is *shir*. This is clearly a pun. That is, to God, a song (*shir*) is preferable to an ox (*shor*).

^b **70:0** This entire psalm is replicated, with only minor variations of the wording, by Psalm 40:14-18.

Psalm 71 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ In you, O Yehovah, I take refuge. **Never let me be put to shame.** ² Deliver me in **your righteousness**, and rescue me. Turn your ear to me, and save me. ³ Be to me a rock of refuge to which I may always go. Give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. ⁴ Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord Yehovah, my confidence **from my youth.** ⁶ You have sustained me from birth. It was you who took me from my mother's womb. I will always **praise** you. ⁷ I have become an example to many, for you are my strong refuge. ⁸ May my mouth be filled with **your praise**, and with your honor all day long. ⁹ Do not reject me in my **old age.** Do not forsake me as my strength fails.

¹⁰ For my **enemies** talk about me. Those who spy on me conspire together, ¹¹ saying, "Since God has forsaken him and there is no one to rescue him, let's go after him and seize him."

| ¹² O God, do not be far from me. O my God, hasten to help
| me.

¹³ May my **accusers** be disgraced and perish. May those who **seek to harm me** be clothed with shame and scorn.

¹⁴ As for me, I will always hope, and **praise** you continually. ¹⁵ My mouth will tell of **your righteousness**, and of your salvation all day long, though I do not know its full measure. ¹⁶ I will come with the mighty acts of the Lord Yehovah. I will make mention of **your righteousness**, even of yours alone. ¹⁷ O God, you have taught me from my youth, and I still proclaim your wondrous works. ¹⁸ Now also when I am **old and gray-haired**, O God, do not forsake me, until I have proclaimed your might to the next generation, your power to all who are to come. ¹⁹ **Your righteousness**, O God, reaches to the heavens. You have done great things. O God, who is like you?

²⁰ You, who have shown us many and bitter troubles will revive me again. You will bring me up again from the depths of the earth. ²¹ You will increase my honor and comfort me again. ²² I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God. I will sing praises to you with the harp, O Holy One of Israel. ²³ My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed. ²⁴ All day long I will proclaim **your righteousness**, for those who tried to harm me have been **shamed** and disgraced.

Psalm 72 [\[↵\]](#)

Of Solomon. [*A royal psalm.*]

¹ **O God**, grant your judgments to the king, and your righteousness to the king's son.

² He will judge your people with righteousness, and your **poor** with justice. ³ May the mountains yield **prosperity** for the people, and the hills righteousness. ⁴ May he bring justice to the **poor** of the people, **save** the children of the **needy**, and crush the **oppressor**.

[*Long reign of peace*]

⁵ May his reign endure **as long as the sun and moon**, throughout all generations. ⁶ May he come down like rain on the mown grass, as showers that water the earth. ⁷ In his days, the righteous will flourish, and **peace will abound, until the moon is no more**.

[*Abundance of power*]

⁸ May he rule from sea to sea, and from the *Euphrates* River to the ends of the earth. ⁹ May those who dwell in the wilderness kneel before him and his enemies lick the dust. ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts. ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and **all nations serve him**.

[*Long reign of blessing*]

¹² For he **delivers** the **needy** when he cries out; the **poor**, who has no helper. ¹³ He has pity on the **poor and needy**, and **saves** the lives of the **needy**. ¹⁴ From **oppression** and violence he **redeems** them, for their lives are precious in his sight. ¹⁵ **Long may he live**, and to him be given the gold of Sheba. May prayer be made for him continually, and may he be blessed all day long.

¹⁶ May there be **abundance of grain** throughout the land; may its **fruit** sway like *the cedars of Lebanon*; and **flourish**, thriving like the grass of the field. ¹⁷ May **his name endure forever, his fame** as long as the sun. May all nations be **blessed** by him, and call him **blessed**.

¹⁸ Blessed be Yehovah God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. [*quot. Luke 1:68*] ¹⁹ **Blessed be his glorious name forever**; and may his glory fill all the earth. Amen and amen.

²⁰ The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

BOOK 3 (Psalms 73-89) [\[←\]](#) [\[↑\]](#) [\[↓\]](#)

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Introduction to Book 3 (73-89)

From Exaltation to Exile: The Fall of David's Throne.

<https://davidschrock.com/2020/08/05/the-penultimate-step-toward-jesus-reading-psalms-90-106-canonically/>

Book 3 also concludes with a poem reflecting on God's promise to David (Ps. 89), but this time in light of the tragedy of Israel's exile. The poet remembers how God said he would never abandon the line of David. But how does that promise align with Jerusalem's destruction and the downfall of David's line? The poem concludes (Ps. 89:49-51) by asking God to remember his covenant with David and to forgive his people.

Book Three begins with Solomon crowned and enthroned (72), and concludes with David's throne cast down to the dust (89). It moves from the glory of Solomon to darkness as the house of David falls.

Outline:

Psalm 73. Confusion based on Psalm 1.

Psalms 74-77 (4). Cycle 1: (74) Temple desecrated ~Rehoboam, (75) God's judgment, (76) Word of repentance ~Asa, (77) Cry for help

Psalm 78. Cycle explained. The psalm to explain Book 3. Israel forgets God; God responds in wrath; Israel cries for salvation; God responds in mercy; yet they sin. Shepherd of Israel (Psalm 80:1).

Psalms 79-82 (4). Cycle 2: (79) Temple desecrated ~Joash, (80) Cry for help ~a Messianic Psalm, (81) Word of repentance, (82) God's judgment ~Ahaz.

Psalm 83. Petition based on Psalm 1. The righteous pray for Psalm 1 justice; the answer comes in Psalm 84 and a return to the temple.

Psalms 84-87 (4). David's final stand. "Zion" in view. (84) New light: life in the Temple; (85) Forgiveness; (86) David's return; (87) Ingathering.

Psalms 88-89. End of David's covenant. (88) Complete darkness, temple and kingdom are gone; (89) The end.

The kings of this era.

Rehoboam (2 Chron. 10-12). Rehoboam did evil in the eyes of the Lord (12:14). Egypt took away the treasures of God's house and the king's house (12:9). Psalm 74 captures this plundering.

Asa (2 Chron. 14). Asa cried out to God (v.11), so Yehovah defeated the Ethiopians. Great “spoils” of ware became sacrifices to God (14:13; 15:11). Psalm 76 speaks of spoil and God’s mercy to Asa.

Jehoshapat (2 Chron. 17-20). Jehoshapat initiated temple reforms, he sent Levites to teach the Law throughout Judah (ch. 17). Psalm 78 retells the history of Israel from the Law of Moses to the reign of David.

Joash-Ahaz (2 Chron. 23, 24, and 28). Joash restored the temple, then desecrated it later in his life. Psalm 79 speaks of a defiled temple. Ahaz brought idols into Judah and fought with Assyria, Edom, Philistine. Psalm 83 refers to these nations.

Hezekiah (2 Chron. 29-32). Hezekiah made priestly, temple reforms. When death visited Hezekiah, he cried to God, God prolonged his reign. Psalms 84-87 recalls a final glorious season for Judah.

Form Analysis of Psalms 42-51 (10 psalms)

Psalm

{42-43} Individual lament

Psalm 73 [↵]

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ Surely God is good to ^athe upright, to those who are pure in heart. ² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled. **My steps had nearly slipped.** ³ **For I was envious of the arrogant,** *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

[*The wicked prosper without God*]

⁴ They have no ^bstruggles with ^ctheir health, but are well-nourished and strong. ⁵ They are not in trouble as other men, neither are they afflicted like others. ⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace, and violence covers them like a garment. ⁷ Their eyes bulge with fatness. **They have more than their hearts could wish.** ⁸ They scoff and speak with malice. In arrogance, they threaten oppression. ⁹ They set their mouth in the heavens. Their tongue roams the earth. ¹⁰ Therefore people turn to them, and they drink up waters of abundance. ¹¹ They say, “What does God know *of what we do*? Does the Most High know anything?” ¹² Look at them—these are the wicked. They are always at ease, while they pile up riches.

[*Regret*]

¹³ Surely **in vain have I kept my heart pure**, and washed my hands in innocence. ¹⁴ For I am afflicted all day long, and punished every morning.

[*Revelation*]

¹⁵ If I had said these things aloud, I would have betrayed the generation of your children. ¹⁶ But when I tried to understand this, it was too painful for me, ¹⁷ **until I entered God’s sanctuary; then I understood their end.** ¹⁸ Surely you set them in slippery places. You cast them down to ruin. ¹⁹ How they are suddenly destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. ²⁰ Like a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, they will vanish.

^a **73:1** the upright:—the Masoretic Text reads, *leyisra’el* (“to Israel”), which is emended to *layashar ‘el*. This change takes the unbalanced line (four beats then two) and makes it balanced (three beats in each verset); thus, lit. “But good is El to the upright, / God to the pure of heart.” Also, the individual perspective of the psalm is retained without the mention of “Israel”.

^b **73:4** struggles [H2784, *ḥarṣubâ*; bonds, fetters, pains]:—only used here and in Isa. 58:6, “to loose the *bands* of wickedness”.

^c **73:4** their health:—the Masoretic word *lemontam* (“their death”) is split into *lamo tam*: “their health (or soundness, of physical strength)”.

[*Regret*]

²¹ When my heart was embittered, and **I was pierced within,** ²²
I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before you.

[*Psalmist enjoys fellowship with God*]

²³ Yet I am always with you. You hold my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. ²⁵ Whom do I have in heaven but you? And there is no one on earth whom I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, **but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

²⁷ For, behold, those who are far from you will perish. You put an end to **all who are unfaithful to you.** ²⁸ But **it is good** for me to come close to God. I have made the Lord Yehovah my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Psalm 74 [\[↵\]](#)

A Maskil of Asaph.

¹ **O God**, why have you cast us off **forever**? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture? ² **Remember your congregation**, which you purchased of old, which you redeemed to be the tribe of your inheritance: Mount Zion, where you came to dwell.

³ Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins, to all the destruction the enemy has done in the **sanctuary**. ⁴ Your adversaries roar triumphantly in your **place of meeting**. They have set up their own *pagan emblems* for **signs**.

⁵ They brought it crashing down, like men wielding axes through a thicket of trees, ⁶ then smashing all its carved work with hatchets and hammers.

⁷ They burned your **sanctuary** to the ground. They have profaned the dwelling place of your name. ⁸ They said in their heart, “We will crush them completely.” They burned **all the meeting places of God in the land**. ⁹ We see no **signs**. There is no longer any prophet, and no one knows how long this will last.

¹⁰ **How long, O God**, will the enemy taunt? Will the enemy blaspheme your name **forever**? ¹¹ Why do you hold back your hand, even your right hand? Draw out your hand from your bosom and consume them!

¹² Yet God is my King of old, working salvation throughout **the earth**. ¹³ You divided **the sea** by your strength. You smashed the heads of the sea monsters in **the waters**. ¹⁴ You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces. You gave him as food to people and desert creatures. ¹⁵ You opened up **spring and stream**. You dried up mighty **rivers**. ¹⁶ The day is yours, the night is also yours. You have prepared the light and the sun. ¹⁷ You have set all the boundaries of **the earth**. You have made summer and winter.

¹⁸ **Remember** this, that **the enemy** has mocked you, Yehovah. **Foolish** people have blasphemed your name. ¹⁹ Do not deliver the soul of your dove to wild beasts. **Do not forget** the life of your poor forever.

²⁰ **Honor your covenant**, for haunts of violence fill the dark places of the earth. ²¹ Do not let the oppressed return ashamed. Let the poor and needy praise your name.

²² Arise, God! Plead your own cause. **Remember** how the **foolish** man mocks you all day. ²³ **Do not forget** the voice of your **adversaries**. The tumult of those who rise up against you ascends continually.

Psalm 75 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” A Psalm of Asaph. A song.

¹ **We give thanks to you, O God.** We give thanks, for your Name is near. Men tell about your wondrous works.

² When I choose the appointed time, **I will judge** blamelessly. ³ The earth and all its inhabitants quake. I firmly hold its pillars. *Selah.*

⁴ I said to the arrogant, “Do not boast!” I said to the wicked, “**Do not lift up the horn.** ⁵ **Do not lift up your horn** on high. Do not speak with a stiff neck.” ⁶ For neither from the east, nor from the west, nor yet from the south, comes exaltation.

⁷ But **God is the judge.** He puts down one, and lifts up another. ⁸ For in Yehovah’s hand there is a cup, full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours it out. Indeed the wicked of the earth drink and drink it to its very dregs.

⁹ But I will declare this forever: **I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.**

¹⁰ I will cut off all the horns of the wicked, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up.

Psalm 76 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A song.

¹ **In Judah**, God is known. His name is great **in Israel**.

² **His tabernacle** is also in Salem; **His dwelling place** in Zion.

³ There **he broke** the flaming arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the weapons of war. *Selah*.

⁴ **Glorious are you**, and excellent, more than mountains of game.

⁵ Valiant men lie plundered, they have **slept** their last **sleep**. None of the men of war can lift their hands. ⁶ At your rebuke, God of Jacob, both chariot and horse are cast into a dead **sleep**.

⁷ You, even you, **are to be feared**.

Who can stand in your sight when you are angry? ⁸ You pronounced judgment from heaven. The earth feared, **and was silent**, ⁹ when God arose to judgment, **to save all the afflicted ones** of the earth. *Selah*.

¹⁰ Surely the wrath of man **praises you**. The survivors of your wrath are restrained. ¹¹ **Make vows to Yehovah your God**, and fulfill them! Let all of his neighbors **bring presents to him** who is to be feared.

¹² He will cut off the spirit **of princes**. He is feared by the **kings of the earth**.

Psalm 77 ^[4]

For the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ My cry aloud to God, aloud to God. Oh, that he may hear me. ² In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord. My hand was stretched out in the night and did not grow weary. My soul refused to be comforted. ³ I call God to mind and I moan. I muse [*in prayer*] and my spirit is overwhelmed. *Selah.*

[*I remember the days of old*]

⁴ You hold open my eyelids; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. ⁵ I consider the days of old, the years long past. ⁶ I remember my song in the night. To my own heart I speak; my spirit diligently inquires:

[*Has God forgotten?*]

⁷ “Will the Lord reject us forever? Will he favor us no more? ⁸ Has his covenant-love vanished forever? Does his promise fail for all generations? ⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he, in anger, withheld his compassion?” *Selah.*

[*I will remember Yah’s deeds*]

¹⁰ And I said, “It is my failing that the right hand of the Most High has changed.” ¹¹ **I will remember Yah’s deeds; for I will remember your wonders of old.** ¹² I will also meditate on all your work, and recall your deeds.

[*No! God is still the Great Redeemer*]

¹³ Your way, O God, is in holiness. What god is great like God? ¹⁴ You are the God who does wonders. You have made your strength known among the peoples. ¹⁵ You have redeemed your people with your arm, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah.*

[*I remember God’s power at Sinai and the Red Sea*]

¹⁶ The waters saw you, O God. The waters saw you, and trembled; even the depths were troubled. ¹⁷ The clouds streamed water. The skies resounded with thunder. Your bolts, too, flashed about. ¹⁸ The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind. Your lightnings lit up the world. The earth trembled and shook.

¹⁹ In the sea was your way, and your path in the mighty waters, and your footsteps left no traces. ²⁰ You led your people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

^a 77:13 in holiness [H6944, *kodesh*]:—follows the Syriac and Targum; could also be translated, “in the sanctuary” (e.g. KJV).

Psalm 78 [\[↵\]](#)

A Maskil of Asaph.

{vv.1-8} [Introduction]

{vv.1-4} [*1st strophe: The psalm's teaching. . .*]

¹ Listen, O my people, to my instruction; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in a parable. I will utter dark sayings of old, [*quot. Matt. 13:35*] ³ Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but will tell the generation to come the praises of Yehovah, his strength, and the wondrous deeds that he has done.

{vv.5-8} [*2nd strophe: . . . for the next generation*]

⁵ For he established a rule in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; ⁶ that the generation to come might know, even the children who should be born; who should arise and tell their children, ⁷ that they might set their hope in God, and not forget God's deeds, but keep his commandments, ⁸ and might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation who was not loyal in heart, nor faithful in spirit toward God.

{vv.9-39} [First Recital]

{vv.9-11} [*1st stanza: Ephraim's rebellion*]

⁹ The sons of Ephraim, *being* skilled archers, *yet* turned back in the day of battle. ¹⁰ They did not keep God's covenant, and refused to live by his law. ¹¹ They forgot his works and wonders he had shown them.

{vv.12-16} [*2nd stanza: Yehovah's praiseworthy deeds*]

¹² In the sight of their fathers he performed miracles in the land of Egypt, in the field of ^a**Zoan**. ¹³ He split the sea, and caused them to pass through. He caused the waters to embank in a heap. ¹⁴ Then he led them with a cloud by day, and with a light of fire by night. ¹⁵ He split rocks in the wilderness, and gave them water to drink as abundant as the depths. ¹⁶ He brought streams out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

{vv.17-37} [*3rd stanza: Israel's rebellion*]

{vv.17-20} [*1st strophe: Israel's sin*]

¹⁷ Yet they continued to sin against him, to rebel against the Most High in the desert. ¹⁸ They deliberately tested God by demanding the food they craved. ¹⁹ They spoke against God, saying, "Can God set a table in the wilderness?" ²⁰ Behold, he struck the rock, so that waters gushed out, and streams overflowed. Can he give bread also? Will

he provide meat for his people?"

{vv.21-31} [2nd *strophe: Divine anger and punishment*]

²¹ Then Jehovah heard and was angered, and a fire was lit against Jacob and wrath, too, flared up against Israel. ²² For they had no faith in God, and did not trust in his salvation. ²³ Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven. ²⁴ He rained down manna on them to eat, and gave them the grain of heaven. [quot. John 6:31] ²⁵ Man ate the bread of angels. He sent them plenty to eat. ²⁶ He caused the east wind to blow in the sky. By his power he guided the south wind. ²⁷ He rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the sea. ²⁸ He let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their tents. ²⁹ So they ate and were satisfied. He gave them what they craved. ³⁰ But they did not stop craving—even with the food still in their mouths! ³¹ So God's anger went up against them, and he slew their fattest, and struck down Israel's fittest.

{vv.32-37} [3rd *strophe: God's mercy in spite of Israel's sin*]

³² Even so, the people kept on sinning, and refused to trust in him despite his wonders. ³³ Therefore he consumed their days in vanity, and their years in trouble. ³⁴ When he killed them, they sought him out; they repented and sought God earnestly. ³⁵ They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God, their redeemer. ³⁶ But they flattered him with their mouth, and lied to him with their tongue. ³⁷ Their heart was not committed toward him, nor were they faithful to his covenant.

{vv.38-39} [4th *stanza: Divine response*]

³⁸ But he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them. Many times he restrained his anger, and did not unleash all his wrath. ³⁹ He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes away, and does not return.

{78:40-72} [Second Recital]

{78:40-42} [1st *stanza: Israel tests God (again)*]

⁴⁰ How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness, and grieved him in the desert! ⁴¹ They turned again and tested God, and provoked the Holy One of Israel. ⁴² They did not remember his *mighty* hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the foe;

{78:43-55} [2nd *stanza: Jehovah's praiseworthy deeds*]

⁴³ how he performed his signs in Egypt, his wonders in the field of **aZoan**, ⁴⁴ he turned their rivers into blood, their streams they could not drink. ⁴⁵ He sent swarms of flies to devour them; and frogs to ruin them. ⁴⁶ He gave their crops to the caterpillar, and the fruit of

their labor to the locust. ⁴⁷ He killed their vines with hail, and their fig trees with frost. ⁴⁸ He also gave over their livestock to hail, and their flocks to lightning bolts. ⁴⁹ He loosed on them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, indignation, and trouble, a detachment of destroying angels. ⁵⁰ He made a path for his anger. He did not spare them from death, but handed them over to the pestilence, ⁵¹ and struck all the firstborn in Egypt, the chief of their strength in the tents of Ham. ⁵² But he led out his own people like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. ⁵³ He led them safely, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. ⁵⁴ He brought them to the border of his holy land, to this mountain, which his right hand had taken. ⁵⁵ He drove out the nations before them. He apportioned their inheritance by lot, and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

{78:56-67} [3rd stanza: Israel's rebellion]

⁵⁶ Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God, and did not keep his testimonies. ⁵⁷ But fell back, and betrayed like their fathers, as unreliable as a faulty bow. ⁵⁸ For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images. ⁵⁹ When God heard this, he was filled with wrath, and greatly abhorred Israel, ⁶⁰ so that he abandoned the tabernacle at Shiloh, the tent in which he dwelt among men, ⁶¹ and allowed *the ark of his strength* to be captured, his glory into the hand of the enemy. ⁶² He surrendered his people to the sword, against his heritage he was enraged. ⁶³ Fire consumed their young men. Their virgins had no wedding song. ⁶⁴ Their priests fell by the sword. Their widows made no lamentation. ⁶⁵ Then the Lord awoke as one out of sleep, like a mighty man shaking off wine. ⁶⁶ He beat back his foes and disgraced them forever. ⁶⁷ Moreover he rejected the tent of Joseph, and the tribe of Ephraim he did not choose,

{78:68-72} [4th stanza: Divine response]

⁶⁸ But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which he loved. ⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary on the heights, like the earth which he founded forever. ⁷⁰ He also chose David his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ from tending nursing ewes, he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, and Israel his heritage. ⁷² He shepherded them with a pure heart, and guided them with skillful hands.

^a **78:12, 43** Zoan:—the capital city of the Hyksos who ruled Egypt for over 500 years. Here Pharaoh held court with Moses and Aaron in the Exodus account.

Psalm 79 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm of Asaph.

¹ O God, the nations have come into your inheritance. They have defiled your holy temple. They have turned Jerusalem to ruins. ² They have given the bodies of **your servants** as food for the birds of the heavens, the flesh of **your faithful** to the beasts of the earth. ³ They shed their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one left to bury them.

⁴ We have become a **reproach** to our **neighbors**, a mockery and derision to those around us. ⁵ How long, O Yehovah? Will you be angry forever? Will your zeal burn like fire?

⁶ Pour out your wrath on the **nations** that disregard you, on the kingdoms that do not call on **your name**; ⁷ for they have devoured Jacob, and destroyed his homeland.

⁸ Do not hold against us the sins of our forefathers. Let your compassion come quickly, for we have been brought very low.

⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of **your name**. Deliver us, and forgive our sins, for **your name's sake**.

¹⁰ Why should the **nations** say, "Where is their God?" Let it be known among the **nations**, before our eyes, that vengeance for the shed blood of your servants is being poured out.

¹¹ Let the groaning of the prisoner come before you. According to the greatness of your power, preserve those who are appointed to die.

¹² And return sevenfold into the bosom of our **neighbors** the **taunts** which they **taunted you**, O Lord.

¹³ So we, **your people** and sheep of your pasture, will thank you forever. We will praise you to all generations.

Psalm 80 [⌵]

For the Chief Musician. To the tune of “The Lilies of the Covenant.” A Psalm by Asaph.

[Restore us!]

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock, you who sit above the cherubim, shine out. ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might! Come to save us! ³ **Turn us again**, God. Cause your face to shine, and we will be saved.

[How long?]

⁴ Yehovah God of Armies, **how long** will you be angry against the prayer of your people? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in large measure. ⁶ You make us a source of contention to our neighbors. Our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ **Turn us again**, God of Armies. Cause your face to shine, and we will be saved.

[The flourishing vine]

⁸ You brought a ^a**vine** out of Egypt. You drove out the nations, and planted it. ⁹ You cleared the ground for it. It took deep root, and filled the land. ¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shadow. Its boughs were like God’s cedars. ¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea, its shoots to the River.

[The vine is ravaged; turn again, we beg you]

¹² Why have you broken down its walls, so that all those who pass by the way pluck it? ¹³ The boar out of the wood ravages it. The wild animals of the field feed on it. ¹⁴ **Turn again, we beg you**, God of Armies. Look down from heaven, and see, and visit this vine, ¹⁵ the stock which your right hand planted, the branch that you made strong for yourself.

[Restore us!]

¹⁶ It’s burned with fire. It’s cut down. They perish at your rebuke. ¹⁷ Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, on the son of man whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁸ So we will not turn away from you. **Revive us**, and we will call on your name. ¹⁹ **Turn us again**, Yehovah God of Armies. Cause your face to shine, and we will be saved.

^a **80:8** vine:—a picture of Israel both in Ezekiel 15 and Isaiah 5. See also Genesis 49:22. In the NT, it is a picture of Jesus and his believers (John 15:12-8).

Psalm 81 [ⲉ]

For the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. By Asaph.

[Sing aloud to God]

¹ *[1]* **Sing aloud to God**, our strength! *[2]* Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob! ² *[3]* Raise a song, and *[4]* bring here the tambourine, the pleasant lyre with the harp. ³ *[5]* Blow the trumpet at the New Moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.

[God's decree]

⁴ For it is a **statute** for Israel, an **ordinance** of the God of Jacob. ⁵ He appointed it in Joseph for a **covenant**, when he went out over the land of Egypt, I heard a language that I didn't know.

[God delivered]

⁶ *“[1]* I removed his shoulder from the burden. *[2]* His hands were freed from the basket. ⁷ **You called** in trouble, and *[3]* **I delivered you**. *[4]* **I answered you** in the secret place of thunder. *[5]* I tested you at the waters of Meribah.” *Selah.*

[Listen to me!]

⁸ “Hear, my people, and I will testify to you, O Israel, if you would **listen to me!** ⁹ There shall be no strange god in you, neither shall you worship any foreign god. ¹⁰ I am Yehovah, your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

[But they did not listen]

¹¹ **But my people didn't listen** to my voice. Israel desired none of me. ¹² So I let them go after the stubbornness of their hearts, that they might walk in their own counsels.

[If only you would listen]

¹³ **Oh that my people would listen to me**, that Israel would walk in my ways! ¹⁴ I would soon subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their adversaries.

[Then Yehovah would bless]

¹⁵ The haters of Yehovah would cringe before him, and their punishment would last forever. ¹⁶ But he would have also fed them with the finest of the wheat. I will satisfy you with honey out of the rock.”

Psalm 82 [\[←\]](#)

A Psalm of Asaph.

[*God, the Judge*]

¹ **God** presides in the great assembly. **He judges** among the gods.

[*You are unjust*]

² “How long will **you judge unjustly**, and show partiality to the wicked?” *Selah*.

[*You should judge rightly*]

³ “Defend the weak, the poor, and the fatherless. Maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. ⁴ Rescue the weak and needy. Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.”

[*You are useless gods*]

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand. They walk back and forth in darkness. All the foundations of the earth are shaken.

[*You are gods*]

⁶ I said, “**You are gods**, all of you are sons of the Most High.
[*quot. John 10:34*]

[*You will be judged*]

⁷ Nevertheless **you will die like men**, and fall like one of the rulers.”

[*God, the Judge*]

⁸ Arise, **O God, judge** the earth, for you inherit all of the nations.

Psalm 83 [\[↩\]](#)

A song. A Psalm of Asaph.

[They want to destroy our nation]

¹ O God, do not keep silent. do not keep silent, and do not be still, O God. ² For, behold, your enemies are stirred up. Those who hate you have lifted up their heads. ³ They conspire with cunning against your people. They plot against your cherished ones. ⁴ “Come,” they say, “**let’s destroy them** as a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.”

[They conspire together]

⁵ For they have **conspired together** with one mind. They form an alliance against you. ⁶ The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab, and the Hagrites; ⁷ Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; ⁸ Assyria also is joined with them. They have helped the children of Lot. *Selah.*

[Destroy them]

⁹ Do to them as you did to Midian, as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the river Kishon; ¹⁰ who perished at Endor, who became as dung for the earth. ¹¹ Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, yes, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna, ¹² who said, “Let’s take possession of God’s pasture lands.”

[So they seek you]

¹³ My God, make them like tumbleweed, like chaff before the wind. ¹⁴ As the fire that burns the forest, as the flame that sets the mountains on fire, ¹⁵ so **pursue them** with your tempest, **and terrify them** with your storm. ¹⁶ Fill their faces with confusion, **that they may seek your name**, Yehovah.

[Let their plans be confounded]

¹⁷ Let them be disappointed and dismayed forever. Yes, **let them be confounded and perish**; ¹⁸ that they may know that you alone, whose name is Yehovah, are the Most High over all the earth.

Psalm 84 [\[↩\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

[Longing for his presence]

¹ How lovely is your ^a**tabernacle**, O Yehovah of Armies. ² My soul longs and yearns for the **courts** of Yehovah. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ³ Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow builds a nest to raise her young, near your **altars**, O Yehovah of Armies, my King, and my God. ⁴ Blessed are those who **dwell** in your **house**. They are ever praising you. *Selah.*

[Blessed in him]

⁵ How blessed are those whose **strength** comes from you, who have a deep desire to take the trip *to Zion*. ⁶ As they pass through the *dry* valley of Baca, springs start flowing, and the autumn rain covers it with blessings. ⁷ They go from **strength to strength**, *until each one* appears before God in Zion. ⁸ O Yehovah, God of Armies, hear my prayer. Listen, O God of Jacob. *Selah.*

[No better place]

⁹ O God, our **shield**, look with favor on your anointed. ¹⁰ For a day in your **courts** is better than a thousand *elsewhere*. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the **house** of my God, than dwell in the tents of the wicked. ¹¹ For Yehovah God is a sun and **shield**. Yehovah gives grace and glory. He does not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly. ¹² O Yehovah of Armies, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

^a **84:1** tabernacle [H4908, *miskan*; (*plural*):—lit. “dwelling places”. A reference to the tent of meeting where God dwelt on the wilderness journey following the Exodus. The tabernacle served as the precursor to the Temple built by Solomon.

Psalm 85 [\[↵\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by the sons of Korah.

[You restored your people in the past]

¹ Yehovah, you have been favorable to your land. You have restored the fortunes of Jacob. ² You have forgiven the iniquity of your people. You have covered all their sin. Selah.

[Restore us again]

³ You have taken away all your wrath. You have turned from the fierceness of your anger. ⁴ Turn us, God of our salvation, and cause your indignation toward us to cease. ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you draw out your anger to all generations?

[Show us your salvation]

⁶ Won't you revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? ⁷ Show us your covenant-love, Yehovah. Grant us your salvation.

[God will speak peace]

⁸ I will hear what God, Yehovah, will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, his saints; but let them not turn again to folly.

[His salvation is near]

⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

[We are restored]

¹⁰ ^aMercy and truth meet together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other. ¹¹ Truth springs out of the earth. Righteousness has looked down from heaven.

[God will restore us]

¹² Yes, Yehovah will give that which is good. Our land will yield its increase. ¹³ Righteousness goes before him, And prepares the way for his steps.

^a **85:10** Mercy [H2617, *hesed*]:—or, “Lovingkindness”.

Psalm 86 [\[←\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ Hear, Yehovah, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. ² Preserve my soul, for I am godly. You, my God, save your **servant** who trusts in you. ³ Be **merciful** to me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. ⁴ Bring joy to the soul of your **servant**, for to you, Lord, do I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, abundant in **covenant-love** to all those who call on you. ⁶ Hear, Yehovah, my prayer. Listen to the voice of my petitions.

⁷ In the day of my trouble I will call on you, for you will answer me.

⁸ There is no one like you among the gods, Lord, nor any deeds like your deeds. ⁹ All nations you have made will come and **worship** before you, Lord. They shall **glorify** your name. *[quot. Rev. 15:4]* ¹⁰ For you are great, and do wondrous things. You are God alone.

¹¹ Teach me your way, Yehovah. I will walk in your truth. Make my heart undivided to fear your name.

¹² I will **praise** you, Lord my God, with my whole heart. I will **glorify** your name forever more. ¹³ For your covenant-love is great toward me. You have delivered my soul from the lowest Sheol.

¹⁴ God, the proud have risen up against me. A company of violent men have sought after my soul, and they do not hold regard for you before them.

¹⁵ But you, Lord, are a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in **covenant-love** and truth.

¹⁶ Turn to me, and have **mercy** on me! Give your strength to your **servant**. Save the son of your **servant**. ¹⁷ Show me a sign of your goodness, that those who hate me may see it, and be shamed, because you, Yehovah, have helped me, and comforted me.

Psalm 87 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A song.

¹ His foundation on the holy hills: ² Yehovah loves the ^agates of Zion, more than all the dwellings of Jacob. ³ **Glorious things are said about you,** O city of God. *Selah.*

⁴ I will record ^bEgypt and Babylon among those who acknowledge me. Behold, Philistia, Tyre, and also Ethiopia: “**This one was born there.**”

⁵ But of Zion it will be said, “**This one and that one was born in her;**” the Most High himself will establish her.

⁶ Yehovah will count, when he writes up the peoples, “**This one was born there.**” *Selah.*

⁷ Singers and dancers alike will say, “**All my ^cwellsprings are in you.**”

^a **87:2** gates of Zion:—a substitute name (a *metonymy*) for the city of Jerusalem.

^b **87:4** Egypt:—lit. “*Rahab*”; a reference to Egypt (see Isa. 30:7).

^c **87:7** wellsprings [H4599, *ma’ayanim*; fountain, well, springs]:—an understandable idiom for sources of life: of blessings, joy, and peace.

Psalm 88 [\[←\]](#)

A Song. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. For the Chief Musician. According to Mahalath Leannoth. A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.

¹ O Yehovah, the God of my salvation, **I have cried out day and night in your presence.** ² Let **my prayer come before you.** Turn your ear to my cry.

³ For my soul is full of troubles. My life draws near to **Sheol.** ⁴ I am counted among those who go down into **the pit.** I am like a man without strength, ⁵ like a lifeless corpse yet unburied; like a dead man already **buried**—remembered no more; cut off from **your hand.** ⁶ You have laid me in **the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.**

⁷ Your wrath is heavy upon me. You have overwhelmed me, wave upon wave. *Selah.* ⁸ You have taken my friends from me. You have made me an abomination to them. I am confined, and I cannot escape. [*quot. Luke 23:49*] ⁹ My eyes are worn out from crying. I have called on you daily, O Yehovah.

I have stretch out **my hands** to you [*in prayer*]. ¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the **dead?** Do the **dead** rise up and praise you? *Selah.* ¹¹ Is your covenant-love declared in **the grave?** Or your faithfulness in **Abaddon?** ¹² Are your wonders made known in **the dark?** Or your righteousness in **the land of forgetfulness?**

¹³ But to you, O Yehovah, **I have cried. In the morning, my prayer comes before you.** ¹⁴ O Yehovah, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide **your face** from me?

¹⁵ I have suffered and been **near death** from my youth. While I suffer your **terrors,** I am perplexed. ¹⁶ Your wrath [*like a strong wind*] sweeps over me. Your **dreadful attacks** consume me. ¹⁷ They surround me like flood waters **all day long;** they engulf me completely. ¹⁸ Far from me is loved one and friend; my friend—**utter darkness.**

Psalm 89 [↵]

A contemplation by Ethan, the Ezrahite.

[*Promises to David*]

¹ I will sing of the covenant-love of Yehovah forever. With my mouth, I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. ² I indeed declare, “Covenant-love stands firm forever. You established the heavens. Your faithfulness is in them.” ³ “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to **David, my servant**, ⁴ ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’” *Selah*.

[*The saints praise Yehovah*]

⁵ The heavens will praise your wonders, Yehovah, your faithfulness also in **the assembly of the holy ones**. ⁶ For who in the skies can be compared to Yehovah? Who among the sons of the heavenly beings is like Yehovah, ⁷ a very awesome God in **the council of the holy ones**, to be feared above all those who are around him? ⁸ Yehovah, God of Armies, who is a mighty one, like you? Yah, your faithfulness is around you.

[*The authority of the Creator*]

⁹ You rule the pride of the sea. When its waves rise up, you calm them. ¹⁰ You have broken Rahab in pieces, like one of the slain. You have scattered your enemies with **your mighty arm**. [*quot. Luke 1:51*]

¹¹ The heavens are yours. The earth also is yours, the world and its fullness. You have founded them. ¹² You have created the north and the south. Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your name.

¹³ **You have a mighty arm**. Your hand is strong, and your right hand is exalted. ¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Covenant-love and truth go before your face.

[*The saints praise Yehovah*]

¹⁵ Blessed are **the people** who learn to acclaim you. They walk in the light of your presence, Yehovah. ¹⁶ In your name they rejoice all day. In your righteousness, they are exalted. ¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength. In your favor, our horn will be exalted. ¹⁸ For our shield belongs to Yehovah, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

[*Promises to David*]

¹⁹ Then you spoke in vision to your saints, and said, “I have given strength to the warrior. I have exalted a young man from the people.” ²⁰ I have found **David, my servant**. I have anointed him with my holy oil, [*quot. Acts 13:22*]

²¹ with whom my hand shall be established. My arm will also strengthen him. ²² No enemy will tax him. No wicked man will oppress him. ²³ I will beat down his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him. ²⁴ But my faithfulness and my covenant-love will be with him. In my name, his horn will be exalted. ²⁵ I will set his hand also on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶ He will call to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation!’

²⁷ I will also appoint him **my firstborn**, the **highest of the kings** of the earth.

²⁸ I will keep my covenant-love for him forever more. My covenant will stand firm with him. ²⁹ I will also make **his offspring endure forever**, and **his throne as the days of heaven**.

³⁰ If his children forsake my law, and do not walk in my ordinances; ³¹ if they **break** my statutes, and do not keep my commandments;

³² then I will punish their sin with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. ³³ But I will not completely take my covenant-love from him, nor allow my faithfulness to fail.

³⁴ I will not **break** my covenant, nor alter what my lips have uttered. ³⁵ Once I have sworn by my holiness, I will not lie to David.

³⁶ **His offspring will endure forever, his throne like the sun before me.** ³⁷ It will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.” *Selah*.

³⁸ But you have rejected and spurned. You have been angry with **your anointed**. ³⁹ You have renounced the covenant of your servant. **You have defiled his crown in the dust.**

⁴⁰ You have broken down all his hedges. You have brought his strongholds to ruin.

⁴¹ All who pass by the way rob him. He has become a reproach to his neighbors. ⁴² You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries. You have made all of his enemies rejoice.

⁴³ Yes, you turn back the edge of his sword, and haven’t supported him in battle.

⁴⁴ You have ended his splendor, and **thrown his throne down to the ground**. ⁴⁵ You have shortened the days of his youth. You have covered him with shame. *Selah*.

⁴⁶ How long, O Yehovah? Will you hide yourself forever? Will your wrath burn like fire? ⁴⁷ **Remember** how short my time is, for what vanity you have created all the children of men!

⁴⁸ What man is he who shall live and not see death, who shall deliver his soul from the power of Sheol? *Selah*.

⁴⁹ O Lord, where are your former covenant-lovees, which you swore to David in your faithfulness? ⁵⁰ **Remember**, O Lord, the reproach of your servants, how I bear in my heart the taunts of all the mighty peoples, ⁵¹ With which your enemies have mocked, O Yehovah, with which they have mocked the footsteps of your anointed one.

⁵² Blessed be Yehovah forever more. Amen, and Amen.

BOOK 4 (Psalms 90-106) [[←](#)] [[↑](#)] [[↓](#)]

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Introduction to Book 4 (90-106)

The God of Israel as the King of All Creation

Book 4 is designed to respond to this crisis. In the opening poem, we return to Israel's roots with a prayer of Moses (Ps. 90), describing his plea for God's mercy after the golden calf incident. The center of Book Four is dominated by a group of prayers (ps. 93-99) that announce the Lord God of Israel as the true King of all creation. The trees, mountains, and rivers are summoned to celebrate the future day when God will bring his healing justice and Kingdom over all the world.

In Book 4, we have five basic sections. They might be outlined like this.

- 3 Songs of Moses (Psalms 90–92)
- 7 Songs of Yehovah's Enthronement (Psalms 93–99)
- 1 Song of Thanksgiving (Psalm 100)
- 3 Songs of David (Psalms 101–03)
- 3 Songs "of Moses" (Psalms 104–06)

These five sections are labeled by authorship, theme, and content. Let's consider how they hang together.

First, Moses wrote Psalm 90. Psalm 91 has no superscription, which often indicates, as with Psalm 9–10; 32–33; 42–43, that the second psalm (91) should be read with the first (90). This would group Psalms 90 and 91, which share many themes and words, as two songs of Moses. Then Psalm 92, with its superscription, "a song for the sabbath" would easily be associated with Moses, as his law established the Sabbath for Israel.

Second, Psalms 93–99 form a group focused on the theme "the LORD reigns" (93:1; 96:10; 97:1; 99:1). This is how Psalm 93:1 and 99:1 begin and end the section. Also, themes of God's enthronement pervades these seven psalms. Importantly, Psalm 96 stands in the middle, citing almost verbatim 1 Chronicles 16:23–33. This citation connects Psalm 96 with the arrival of the ark in Jerusalem. And this arrival of the LORD is the same theme as Psalms 93–99.

Surrounding, the center psalm (Psalm 96) are psalms that speak of Yehovah's rule over the nations (see esp., 95:3; 96:4; 97:9). This is a theme that runs throughout these psalms and helps hold them together

too. Jehovah's kingship will play a key role in understanding the storyline of the LORD coming to Zion.

Third, Psalm 100 is a psalm of thanksgiving. It focuses on the worship of the people in the house of God, and as we will see, its placement comes after the LORD has arrived in Zion (Psalm 99). It also serves as bookend with Psalm 92. Psalm 92 introduces the theme of rest, and Psalm 100 fulfills the promise, as the people are received into the house of God—the place where God's rest is given. Finally, Psalm 100 makes a bridge between the LORD's kingship and two (or three) psalms of David, God's appointed king.

Fourth, Psalms 101–103 are associated with David. This is explicit in the superscriptions of the first (101) and last (103) psalms. Set in between, the psalm of affliction (“A Prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the Lord.”), may explain something of the experience of the king when he seeks to set up his rule. More on that below.

Fifth and last, Psalms 104–106 round out the section. Going back in time, these psalms trace out themes from creation (Psalm 104), the redemption from Abraham to Moses (Psalm 105), and from Moses to the story of Israel rebelling against God in the Wilderness (Psalm 106). What holds these psalms together is their association with Moses and their historical content. Even more, Psalm 106 ends the same way that Psalm 89 does. Just as Book 3 concluded with a need for Israel's redemption, so does Book 4.

Highlighting Israel's ongoing exile, Psalm 106:47 reads, “Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.” This verse will set up Psalm 107 and the redemption brought by the true Psalm 1 man. Still, our attention is not on that final book, but on Book 4 and its penultimate step towards Christ.

Psalm 90 [e]

A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.

¹ [*a-God*] O Lord, you have been our dwelling place [*b-time*] for all generations. ² [*c-space*] Before the mountains [*x-birth*] were **born**, before **you had formed** [*c'-space*] the earth and the world, [*b'-time*] even from everlasting to everlasting, [*a'-God*] you are God.

[*Man's mortality*]

³ You **turn** man to destruction, saying, “**Return**, you children of men.” ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are just like yesterday when it is past, like a watch in the night. [*quot. 2 Peter 3:8*] ⁵ You [*a-mortality*] sweep them away as they [*b*] sleep. In the [*c*] **morning** they sprout like new grass. ⁶ In the [*c'*] **morning** it sprouts and springs up. By [*b'*] evening, it is [*a'-mortality*] withered and dry.

[*Man's misery*]

⁷ For we are [*a*] **consumed** [H3615] in your anger. [*b*] We are troubled in your **wrath**. ⁸ [*c*] You have set our iniquities before you, [*c'*] our secret sins in the light of your presence. ⁹ [*b'*] For all **our days** have passed away in your **wrath**. We [*a'*] **bring** [H3615] **our years** to an end as a sigh.

[*Man's vain life*]

¹⁰ The [*a*] **days of our years** are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty years; yet [*x*] their pride is but labor and sorrow, for it [*a'*] passes quickly, and we fly away.

[*Man's prayer for wisdom*]

¹¹ Who knows the power of your anger, your **wrath** according to the fear that is due to you? ¹² So teach us to count our **days**, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

[*Man's prayer for gladness of days*]

¹³ **Relent**, O Yehovah! How long? **Have compassion** on your **servants!** ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the **morning** with your covenant-love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let your **work** appear to your **servants**, your glory to their children. ¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us. Establish the **work** of our hands for us. Yes, establish the **work** of our hands.

Psalm 91 ^[4]

[*God as deliverer to those who abide in him*]

¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of Yehovah, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” ³ **For he will deliver you** from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence.

[*God covers the believer*]

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers. Under his wings you will take refuge. His faithfulness is your shield and ^aarmor.

[*Natural protection*]

⁵ You will not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ nor of the pestilence that pursues in darkness, nor of the destruction that devastates at noonday. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you.

[*God’s promise of protection*]

⁸ You will only look on with your eyes, and see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹ Because you have made Yehovah your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, ¹⁰ no evil will befall you, nor any plague come near your tent.

[*Supernatural protection*]

¹¹ For he will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you in all your ways. ¹² They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

[*The believer tramples the enemy underfoot*]

¹³ You will tread on the lion and cobra. You will trample underfoot the young lion and the serpent. [*quot.* Matt. 4:6; Luke 4:10-11; 10:19]

[*God delivers those whose hearts are set on him*]

¹⁴ “Because he has his heart set on me, **therefore I will deliver him**. I will set him on high, because he has known my name. ¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. **I will deliver him**, and honor him. ¹⁶ I will satisfy him with long life, and show him my salvation.”

^a **91:4** armor:—lit. “*surrounding*”. Occurs only once in the Old Testament. Suggestive of a kind of armor or shield that covers all over. It is variously translated as: buckler, bulwark, tower and wall.

Psalm 92 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm. A song for the Sabbath day.

¹ It is a good to give thanks to Yehovah, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, ² **to proclaim** your covenant-love in the morning, and your faithfulness at night, ³ to the music of the ten-stringed lute, and the melody of the harp.

⁴ For you have made me rejoice, O Yehovah, by what you have done. At the works of your hands I sing for joy. ⁵ How great are your works, O Yehovah! How very deep are your thoughts.

⁶ The senseless man does not know, nor does the fool understand this: ⁷ that the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish—to be destroyed forever. ⁸ **But you are on high forever, O Yehovah.** ⁹ For, behold, your enemies, O Yehovah, for, behold, your enemies perish. All evildoers are scattered.

¹⁰ You have given me the strength of a wild ox; you have anointed me with fresh oil. ¹¹ My eyes behold my enemies' *defeat*. Those who rise up against me, my ears hear *their fall*.

¹² The righteous man springs up like a palm tree, like a cedar of Lebanon he towers. ¹³ Planted in Yehovah's house, in the courts of our God they flourish. ¹⁴ In old age they still bear fruit, always green and full of sap, ¹⁵ **to show** that Yehovah is upright. He is my rock, there is no unrighteousness in him.

Psalm 93 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Yehovah reigns. He is robed in majesty. Yehovah is girded with **strength**. He has set the earth **firmly** in place; nothing can move it. ² Your throne is established from **long ago**. You are from **everlasting**.

³ The floods have lifted up, O Yehovah, the floods have lifted up their voice. The floods lift up their pounding waves.

⁴ More than the sound of many waters, *more than* the mighty breakers of the sea, Yehovah on high is **mighty**. ⁵ Your statutes stand **firm**. Holiness adorns your house, O Yehovah, **forever**.

Psalm 94 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ God of **vengeance**, O Yehovah, God of **vengeance**, shine! ² Rise up, O judge of the earth. Give the proud what they deserve. ³ How long the **wicked**, O Yehovah, how long will the **wicked** triumph?

⁴ They pour out arrogant words. All the evildoers boast. ⁵ Your people, O Yehovah, they crush, and your heritage they abuse. ⁶ They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless. ⁷ They say, “**Yah will not see, neither will Jacob’s God take notice.**”

⁸ Pay attention, you senseless among the people; you fools, when will you be wise? ⁹ He who made the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see? ¹⁰ He who **disciplines** the nations, will he not punish? He who **teaches** man knowledge— ¹¹ Yehovah knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile. [*quot.* 1 Cor. 3:20]

¹² Blessed is the man whom you **discipline**, O Yah, and whom you **teach** out of your law, ¹³ to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked. ¹⁴ For Yehovah will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. [*quot.* Rom. 11:1-2] ¹⁵ For justice will again be just. All the upright in heart will follow it.

¹⁶ **Who rises up for me** against the wicked? **Who stands up for me** against evildoers? ¹⁷ If Yehovah had not been my help, my soul would have dwelt in silence. ¹⁸ When I said, “My foot slips!” Your covenant-love, O Yehovah, held me up. ¹⁹ When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations delight my soul.

²⁰ Can **wicked** rulers be allied with you, who devise mischief by decree?

²¹ They band together against the righteous, and condemn the innocent to death. ²² But Yehovah is my stronghold, my God, the rock of my refuge.

²³ He will bring upon them their own **wickedness**, by their own evil he will destroy them. Yehovah, our God, **will destroy them.**

Psalm 95 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ **Oh come**, let us sing for joy to Yehovah. Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation! ² Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving. Let us extol him with songs of praise. ³ For Yehovah is a great God, a great King above all gods.

⁴ In **his hand** are the depths of the earth. The heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his, and he made it. **his hands** formed the dry land.

⁶ **Oh come**, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Yehovah our Maker. ⁷ For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of **his hand**.

Today, if you heed his voice:

⁸ Do not harden your **hearts**, as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your fathers tested me, tried me, though they had seen my *awesome* deeds.

¹⁰ Forty long years I loathed that generation, and said, “It is a people whose **hearts** go astray, and have not learned my ways.”

¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath, “They will not enter **my rest**.” [*quot.* Heb. 3:7-18; 4:1-7]

Psalm 96 [\[↵\]](#)

[*Call to worship*]

¹ Sing to Yehovah a new song! Sing to Yehovah, all the earth. ² Sing to Yehovah! Bless his name! Proclaim his salvation from day to day! ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous deeds among all the peoples.

[*Reason for worship*]

⁴ For Yehovah is great, and greatly to be praised! He is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are ^anot-gods, but Yehovah made the heavens. ⁶ Honor and majesty are before him. Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

[*Content of worship*]

⁷ Ascribe to Yehovah, O families of the peoples, ascribe to Yehovah

^a **96:5** not-gods [H457, *’ēlîlîm*]:—formed from *’al* (“no” or “not”) and *’el* (“god”) to which a diminutive or pejorative suffix is appended. The standard meaning of the term is (worthless) “idols” which is the typical translation.

glory and strength. ⁸ Ascribe to Yehovah the glory due to his name. Bring ^atribute, and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship Yehovah in the splendor of holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth. ¹⁰ Say among the nations: Yehovah reigns. Yes, the world is established. It cannot be shaken. He will judge the peoples with equity.

[*Coming of the judge*]

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice. Let the sea roar and all its fullness. ¹² Let the field be jubilant and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy ¹³ before Yehovah; for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 97 [⚡]

¹ Yehovah reigns, let the earth **rejoice**; let the many coastlands **be glad**. ² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³ Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side. ⁴ His lightning **lights** up the world. The earth sees, and trembles. ⁵ The mountains melt like wax at the presence of Yehovah, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. ⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

⁷ All who serve graven images, who boast in their worthless idols, are put to shame. Bow down to him, **all you gods**.

⁸ Zion heard and was **glad**. The cities of Judah **rejoiced** because of your judgments, O Yehovah.

⁹ For you, O Yehovah, are most high over all the earth. You are exalted far above **all gods**.

¹⁰ You who love Yehovah, hate evil. He preserves the lives of his saints. He delivers them from the hand of the wicked. ¹¹ **Light** is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

¹² **Be glad** in Yehovah, you righteous ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

^a 96:8 tribute [H4503, *minhâ*]:—gift, tribute, present, offering. A pun is surely meant here, in which tribute to a king and an offering (in the cultic sense of sacrifice) are both intended. Generally translated as “bring an offering”.

Psalm 98 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm.

¹ Sing to Yehovah a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have won him victory. ² Yehovah has made known his victory. He has revealed his **righteousness** in the sight of the nations. ³ He has remembered his covenant-love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of **the earth** have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout joyfully to Yehovah**, all the earth. Break forth *in song*, shout for joy and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to Yehovah with the harp, with the harp and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn, **make a loud shout before Yehovah**, the King.

⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it; the world, and those who dwell in it.

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands. Let the mountains sing together for joy.

⁹ Let them sing before Yehovah, for he comes to judge **the earth**. He will judge the world with **righteousness**, and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 99 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Yehovah reigns—peoples tremble. He sits enthroned upon cherubim—the earth shakes. ² Yehovah is great in **Zion** and **exalted** above all the peoples. ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name. He is **holy**.

⁴ O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established **equity**; you have **executed justice** and righteousness in **Jacob**.

⁵ Exalt Yehovah our God. Worship at his footstool. He is holy.

⁶ **Moses** and **Aaron** were among his priests, **Samuel** was among those who call on his name. They called on Yehovah, and he answered them. ⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud. They kept his testimonies the statute that he gave them. ⁸ O Yehovah our God, who answered them, a **forgiving** God you were to them, yet **an avenger of their misdeeds**.

⁹ **Exalt** Yehovah our God. Worship at his **holy mountain**, for Yehovah, our God, is **holy**!

Psalm 100 [\[↶\]](#)

A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

¹ Make a joyful noise to Yehovah, all the earth!

² Serve Yehovah with gladness. Come before his presence with **singing**.

³ Know that Yehovah, he is God. It is he who has made us, and we are his. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter into his gates with **thanksgiving**, and into his courts with **praise**. Give thanks to him, and bless his name.

⁵ For Yehovah is good. His covenant-love endures forever, his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 101 [\[↶\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ Of loyalty and justice I will sing. To you, O **Yehovah**, I will sing.

² I will study **the way of the blameless**. O that it may serve me. That I may **walk** within **my house** with integrity of heart.

³ I will not allow a wicked thing before **my eyes**. I abhor the deeds of the devious. I will have no part in them.

⁴ A perverse **heart** will be far from me. I will know nothing of evil. ⁵ I will silence whoever secretly slanders his neighbor. I will not tolerate those of haughty eyes and arrogant **heart**.

⁶ **My eyes** will be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me.

He who **walks in the way of the blameless**, it is he who will serve me. ⁷ He who practices deceit will not dwell within **my house**. He who speaks falsehood will not be established before **my eyes**.

⁸ My daily task will be to clear out all the wicked of the land, and rid the city of **Yehovah** from their grip.

Psalm 102 [4]

A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed and pours out his lament before Yehovah.

¹ Hear my prayer, O Yehovah! Let my cry come to you. ² Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress. Turn your ear to me. Answer me quickly in the day when I call. ³ For **my days vanish** in smoke, and my bones are charred as in a furnace. ⁴ My heart is stricken and withered like grass, so that I forget to eat my bread.

⁵ I **groan** aloud; I am nothing but skin and bones. ⁶ I am like a ^avulture in the desert, like a crow perched on the rubble. ⁷ I lie awake *and moan* like a lonely bird on the rooftop.

⁸ My enemies rail against me all day long. My taunters use my name as a curse.

⁹ For I eat ashes like bread, and mix my drink with **tears**, ¹⁰ because of your indignation and your wrath; for you have picked me up and thrown me away.

¹¹ **My days** fade like a ^blong shadow; I wither like grass. ¹² But you, O Yehovah, will remain forever; your renown to **all generations**.

¹³ You will arise and have mercy on **Zion**; for it is time to have pity on her. Yes, the set time has come. ¹⁴ For your servants cherish her stones, and have pity on her dust. ¹⁵ So the nations will fear **Yehovah's name**, and all the kings of the earth your glory. ¹⁶ For Yehovah will rebuild Zion; he will appear in his glory.

¹⁷ He will regard the prayer of the **destitute**, and will not despise their prayer.

¹⁸ Let this be written for the generation to come. That a people yet unborn may praise Yah.

¹⁹ For he looked down from his holy heights; from heaven, Yehovah saw the earth, ²⁰ to hear the groans of the **captive**, to free those who are appointed to death,

²¹ to recount **Yehovah's name** in **Zion**, and his praise in Jerusalem, ²² when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, **to serve Yehovah**.

²³ He broke my strength in midlife; cutting **my days** short. ²⁴ I said, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of **my days**; **you** whose years **continue throughout all generations**."

^a **102:6** vulture...crow:—the exact identity of these birds is unknown. Most likely a set of unclean birds.

^b **102:11** long shadow:—simile of a sundial's long shadow at day's end.

²⁵ Of old you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but you remain. Indeed, they will all wear out like a garment. You change them like clothing, and they pass away.

²⁷ But **you are the same. Your years will never end.** [*quot.* Heb. 1:10-12] ²⁸ The sons of your servants will continue. Their seed will be established before you.”

Psalm 103 [e]

Of David.

¹ **Bless Yehovah, O my soul**, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! ² **Bless Yehovah, O my soul**, and do not forget all his benefits. ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with covenant-love and compassion, ⁵ who satisfies you with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

⁶ Yehovah performs **righteous** acts, and justice for all the oppressed. ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the children of Israel. ⁸ Yehovah is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in **covenant-love**. ⁹ He will not always contend with us, nor keep his anger forever. ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according our iniquities.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his covenant-love toward **those who fear him**. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so Yehovah has compassion on **those who fear him**. ¹⁴ For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass. As the bloom of the field, so he blooms— ¹⁶ the wind passes over it, and it is gone. Its place remembers it no more. ¹⁷ But Yehovah’s **covenant-love** is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his **righteousness** to children’s children, [*quot.* Luke 1:50] ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant, who remember to obey his precepts.

¹⁹ Yehovah has established his throne in the heavens. His kingdom rules over all. ²⁰ Bless Yehovah, O you his angels, you might ones who do his bidding, who obey the voice of his command. ²¹ Bless Yehovah, all his armies, who serve him, doing his will. ²² Bless Yehovah, all his works, in all places of his dominion. **Bless Yehovah, O my soul!**

Psalm 104 [⤵]

[*Bless Yehovah*]

¹ Bless Yehovah, O my soul. O Yehovah, my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty. ² Covering *himself* with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a curtain. ³ Setting beams for his upper chambers in the waters, making the clouds his chariot, who rides on the wings of the wind. ⁴ Who makes his messengers the winds, and his ministers flames of fire. [*quot.* Heb. 1:7]

[*Yehovah's great flood*]

⁵ You laid the earth on its foundations, that it should never be moved. ⁶ You covered it with the deep as with a garment. The waters stood above the mountains. ⁷ At your rebuke they fled. At the voice of your thunder they took to flight. ⁸ The mountains rose, the valleys sank down, to the place which you established for them. ⁹ You set a boundary that they cannot cross, so that they never again cover the earth.

[*Yehovah's life-giving streams*]

¹⁰ You turn springs into streams, among the mountains they flow. ¹¹ They supply water to all the beasts of the field. The wild donkeys quench their thirst. ¹² Above them the birds of the heavens dwell, among the branches they sing. ¹³ You water the mountains from above. The earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works.

[*Yehovah's sustenance*]

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may produce food from the earth: ¹⁵ wine that makes the heart of man glad, oil to make his face to shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. ¹⁶ The trees of Yehovah are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon, which he planted, ¹⁷ where the birds make their nests, where the stork makes its home in the cypress trees. ¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats. The rocks are a refuge for the hyrax.

[*Yehovah's sun, moon, and daily cycle*]

¹⁹ You made the moon for appointed times. The sun—you appointed its setting. ²⁰ You bring down darkness, and it turns to night, when all the beasts of the forest prowl. ²¹ The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their food from God. ²² The sun rises, they return to their dens to rest. ²³ Man goes out to his work, and to his labor until evening.

[*Yehovah's great works: earth, sea, and life*]

²⁴ O Yehovah, how many are your works! In wisdom, you made them all. The earth is full of your creations. ²⁵ There is the sea, great and wide, in which are innumerable living things, both small and great. ²⁶ There the ships go, and leviathan, whom you formed to play there. ²⁷ These all wait for you, that you may give them their food in due season. ²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good. ²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed. When you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. ³⁰ When you send forth your breath they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

[*Bless Yehovah*]

³¹ May the glory of Yehovah endure forever. May Yehovah rejoice in his works. ³² Who has only to look at the earth, and it trembles; who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

³³ I will sing to Yehovah as long as I live. I will sing praise to my God while I have breath. ³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in Yehovah.

³⁵ May sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Bless Yehovah, O my soul. Praise Yah!

Psalm 105 [¶]

¹ O give thanks to Yehovah; call on his name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples. ² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works. ³ Glory in his holy name. Let the heart of those who seek Yehovah rejoice. ⁴ Seek Yehovah and his strength. Seek his presence continually. ⁵ Remember his wondrous works that he has done: his miracles and the judgments he pronounced, ⁶ O offspring of Abraham, his servant, O children of Jacob, his chosen ones. ⁷ He is Yehovah, our God. His judgments are in all the earth.

{vv.8-11}[*Covenant with Abraham*]

⁸ He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded to a thousand generations, ⁹ the covenant he made with **Abraham**, his oath to Isaac, [*quot. Luke 1:72-73*] ¹⁰ and confirmed it to Jacob for a statute; to Israel for an everlasting covenant, ¹¹ saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan, a possession for you descendants,”

{vv.12-15}[*Sojourners in Canaan*]

¹² when they were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it. ¹³ They wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. ¹⁴ He allowed no man to oppress them. He rebuked kings on their account: ¹⁵ “Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.”

{vv.16-23}[*Story of Joseph*]

¹⁶ He called for a famine on the land. He cut off their food supply. ¹⁷ He sent a man before them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave. ¹⁸ They bruised his feet with shackles. His neck was locked in irons, ¹⁹ until the time his predictions came to pass, and Yehovah’s word proved him true. ²⁰ The king sent for him and released him; the ruler of peoples set him free. ²¹ He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all of his possessions, ²² to obligate his princes at his pleasure, and teach his elders wisdom. ²³ Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

²⁴ He increased his people greatly, and made them stronger than their foes, ²⁵ whose hearts he turned to hate his people, and to conspire against them.

{vv.26-38}[*Story of the Exodus*]

²⁶ He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. ²⁷ They performed miraculous signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham. ²⁸ He sent darkness, and

made it dark; they did not defy his word. ²⁹ He turned their waters into blood, and caused their fish to die. ³⁰ Then frogs overran the land, even into the kings' chambers. ³¹ He spoke, and swarms of flies came, and gnats in all their region. ³² He gave them hail for rain, with lightning throughout their land. ³³ He struck their vines and fig trees, and shattered the trees of their country. ³⁴ He spoke, and the locusts came, and young locusts, without number, ³⁵ which devoured every green plant in their land, and consumed all the crops of the field. ³⁶ He also struck all the firstborn in their land, the first fruits of all their manhood. ³⁷ He brought them out with silver and gold, and there was no feeble person among them. ³⁸ Egypt was glad when they left, for the dread of them had fallen on them.

{vv.39-41}[*Sojourners in the wilderness*]

³⁹ He spread a cloud for a covering and fire to illumine the night. ⁴⁰ They asked, and he brought quail, and satisfied them with bread from heaven. ⁴¹ He opened the rock, and waters gushed out. It flowed through the desert like a river.

{v.42}[*Covenant with Abraham*]

⁴² For he remembered his holy promise to **Abraham**, his servant.

⁴³ He brought his people out with rejoicing, his chosen with singing. ⁴⁴ He gave them the lands of the nations. They took possession of what others had worked for, ⁴⁵ that they might keep his statutes, and observe his laws. Hallelujah!

Psalm 106 [⤵]

¹ **Hallelujah!** O give thanks to Yehovah, for he is good, for his **covenant-love** endures forever. ² Who can utter the mighty acts of Yehovah, or declare all his praise? ³ Blessed are those who uphold justice, who practice righteousness at all times. ⁴ Remember me, O Yehovah, when you show favor to your people. Visit me with your deliverance, ⁵ that I may see the prosperity of your chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory with your inheritance.

{vv.6-12}[*The Exodus*]

⁶ We have sinned with our fathers. We have committed iniquity. We have done wickedly. ⁷ Our fathers in Egypt did not understand your wonders. They did not remember your many acts of covenant-love, but were rebellious by the sea—the Red Sea. ⁸ Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power known. ⁹ He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; he led them through the depths, as through a desert. ¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of the foe, and delivered them from the hand of the enemy. [*quot. Luke 1:71*]
¹¹ The waters covered their adversaries. Not one of them survived. ¹² Then they believed his words. They sang his praise.

{vv.13-15}[*In the wilderness: Israel tests God*]

¹³ But they soon forgot his works; they did not wait for his counsel, ¹⁴ they were filled with craving in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert. ¹⁵ He gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them.

{vv.16-18}[*In the wilderness: Dathan's rebellion*]

¹⁶ They envied **Moses** in the camp, and Aaron *the high priest*, Yehovah's holy one. ¹⁷ The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. ¹⁸ Fire blazed through their company; the flame consumed the wicked.

{vv.19-23}[*Golden calf*]

¹⁹ They made a calf at Horeb, and worshiped a molten image. ²⁰ Thus they exchanged the glory of God for an image of a bull that eats grass. ²¹ They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, ²² wondrous works in the land of Ham, awesome deeds at the Red Sea. ²³ Therefore he said he would destroy them, had not Moses, his chosen one, stood before him to intercede, to turn away his wrath and not destroy them.

{vv.24-27}[*Refused to enter Canaan (Num. 13-14)*]

²⁴ Then they despised the pleasant land. They did not

believe his word,²⁵ but murmured in their tents, and did not listen to Yehovah's voice.²⁶ So he swore to them that he would fall in the wilderness,²⁷ that he would disperse their descendants among the nations, and scatter them in the lands.

{vv.28-31} [*Baal-peor*]

²⁸ They also joined themselves to Baal-peor, and ate sacrifices offered to the dead.²⁹ Thus they provoked him to anger with their deeds, and a plague broke out among them.³⁰ Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stopped.³¹ And it was credited to him for righteousness, for all generations to come.

{vv.32-33} [*Moses strikes the rock*]

³² They angered him also at the waters of Meribah, and it went badly for **Moses** because of them;³³ for they embittered his spirit, and he spoke rashly with his lips.

{vv.34-39} [*Israel's idolatry in Canaan*]

³⁴ They did not destroy the peoples, as Yehovah had commanded them,³⁵ but mingled with the nations, and learned their ways.³⁶ They served their idols, which became a snare to them.³⁷ They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons.³⁸ They shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, so that the land was polluted with blood.³⁹ Thus they were defiled by their actions, and prostituted themselves by their deeds.

{vv.40-46} [*Cycle of judges*]

⁴⁰ Therefore Yehovah burned with anger against his people. He abhorred his inheritance.⁴¹ He gave them into the hand of the nations. Those who hated them ruled over them.⁴² Their enemies also oppressed them. They were brought into subjection under their hand.⁴³ He rescued them many times, but they were rebellious in their plans, and were brought low in their iniquity.⁴⁴ Nevertheless he regarded their distress, when he heard their cry.

⁴⁵ He remembered his covenant with them, and relented according to the abundance of his **covenant-love**. [*quot. Luke 1:72*]⁴⁶ He caused them to be pitied by those who held them captive.⁴⁷ Save us, O Yehovah, our God, and gather us from among the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise!⁴⁸ Blessed be Yehovah, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Let all the people say, "Amen." **Halleluyah!**

BOOK 5 (Psalms 107-150) [[↶](#)] [[↷](#)]

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Introduction to Book 5 (107-150)

Songs of Ascent and Poems of Praise

Book Five opens with a series of poems (Ps. 107-110) that affirms that God hears the cries of his people and will one day send the future King to defeat evil and bring about his Kingdom. It also contains two larger collections called the “Halle” (Ps 113-118) and the “Songs of Ascents” (Ps 120-136), both of which conclude with poems about the hope of the Messianic Kingdom (Ps 118 and 132). Right between these collections is Psalm 119, the longest poem in the Book of Psalms. It is composed in the order of the Hebrew alphabet and explores the wonder and beauty of the Torah as God’s word to his people. We see the themes from Psalms 1 and 2, the Torah, and the Messianic hope combined here in Book Five.

This brings us all the way back to the final, five-poem conclusion to the book of Psalms. In the center, Psalm 148 says that all creation is summoned to praise the God of Israel because he has “raised up a horn for his people” (Ps 148:14). This is a metaphor of a bull’s horn raised in victory. The image echoes back to the same metaphor used in Hannah’s song (1 Sam. 2:10) and earlier in Psalm 132:17. The horn is a symbol of the messianic king and his victory over evil— a fitting conclusion to this book.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5db10a56d195b40fbb2f43ab/t/5e4b4e8e01c72f4e3e6f51c9/1581993614394/Introduction+to+Book+5.pdf>

Book 5 is the longest of the five books of psalms (by three psalms over Book 1). Its theme may be succinctly stated as: “Hallelujah! Yahweh Saves!” (although there is a great variety of psalms in this collection).

There are three main segments of Book 5, each marked by “Give thanks” introductions and “Praise the Lord” conclusions. They are also distinguished by their Davidic authorship. The final five psalms are doxology and should probably be seen as corresponding to the entire collection of 150 psalms, rather than simply a conclusion to Book 5.

Form Analysis of Psalms 107-150

107-117: This is the first Davidic group (11 psalms)

118-135: Framed by Psalms 118 and 135, this includes Psalm 119 and the Songs of Ascents (120-134). Some of these psalms are attributed to David. There are 18 psalms in this group.

136-145: This is the second Davidic group, although not all of them are composed by David (137 for example is exilic), There are 10 psalms in this group.

146-150 – Doxology, 5 psalms

A Contextual Analysis of Psalms 107-118

https://biblicalelearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Davis_Ps107_118.htm

Form Analysis of Psalms 107-118

107: Thanksgiving

108-110: Davidic superscripts

111-112: Introductions to Egyptian Hallel

113-118: Egyptian Hallel used in Israel's worship

111-113: Hallelujah rubric psalms

114: Linking 111-113 and 115-117 psalms

115-117: Hallelujah colophon psalms

118: Thanksgiving

Form Analysis of Psalms 107-150

107: Call to **praise** in all circumstances

108-110: **Davidic** Psalms

111-112: Two short “introductions” to the “Egyptian Hallel”

113-118: Egyptian Hallel (for use during the Festivals, primarily Passover)

119: **Torah**

120-134: Songs of Ascents (for use during the Festivals (122,124,131,133 attributed to David; 127 to Solomon)

135-136: Call to praise

137: Lament in exile

138-145: **Davidic** Psalms

146-150: Doxology, a climactic call for all things and all people to **praise** Yehovah

Form Analysis of Psalms 101-110

101: Royal (David's Coronation Oath)

102: Individual Lament (prayer of an afflicted man)

103: Love of God (David)

104: Works of God (the earth as a bountiful garden)

105: Historical – God's faithfulness

106: Historical – Man's (Israel's) unfaithfulness

107: Works of God (He rescues all who call on him)

108: Love of God (Psalms 57 & 60 – Davidic)

109: Individual Lament (David)

110: Royal (David's Coronation Oracle)

Form Analysis of Psalms 120-134

120: Exilic distress

121: Help from Yehovah

122: To Yehovah's house and David's throne

123: Eyes lifted up to the one enthroned

124: Saved from flood-like enemies

125: The scepter of wickedness will not reign

126: Restored fortunes

127: Yehovah build the house

128: Blessed are all who fear Yehovah

129: Put the wicked to shame

130: I will wait for you

131: Eyes not lifted too high

132: Yehovah's oath to David

133: Unity like oil on Aaron's beard

134: Bless Yehovah in the temple

Psalm 107 ^[ע]

¹ O give thanks to Yehovah, for he is good, for his **covenant-love** endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of Yehovah say so, whom he has **redeemed** from ^a**trouble**, ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

[Deliverance from hunger, thirst, and homelessness]

⁴ Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a **habitable city**. ⁵ **Hungry and thirsty**, their **soul** fainted within them. ⁶ Then they cried to Yehovah in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷ He led them by a straight way, that they might reach a city to settle in. ⁸ Let them thank Yehovah for his covenant-love, for his wonderful deeds to the sons of men. ⁹ For he satisfies the **thirsty soul**, and fills the **hungry soul** with good things. *[quot. Luke 1:53]*

[Deliverance from imprisonment]

¹⁰ Some sat in **darkness** and in gloom, bound in affliction and in **iron** [*chains*], ¹¹ for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. ¹² Therefore he broke them with hard labor. They fell down, and there was no one to help. ¹³ Then they cried to Yehovah in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds asunder. ¹⁵ Let them thank Yehovah for his covenant-love, for his wonderful deeds to the sons of men! ¹⁶ For he shattered the doors of bronze, and broke the bars of **iron**.

[Deliverance from sin and its consequences]

¹⁷ Some were fools who suffered for their sinful ways, and for their iniquities. ¹⁸ They lost appetite for all food, and drew near the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried to Yehovah in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁰ He gave the command, and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. ²¹ Let them thank Yehovah for his covenant-love, for his wonderful deeds to the sons of men! ²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his deeds with joyful singing.

[Deliverance from the storm]

²³ Some went down to the **sea** in ships, plying their trade on the mighty waters; ²⁴ they saw the deeds of Yehovah, his wondrous

^a 107:2 trouble:—lit. “the hand of the enemy”

works in the **deep**.²⁵ For he commanded, and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up its waves.²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down again to the depths. Their soul melted away because of their plight.²⁷ They reeled and swayed like drunkards, and were at their wits' end.²⁸ Then they cried to Yehovah in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.²⁹ He made the storm be still, and its waves were hushed.³⁰ And they rejoiced when the **sea** grew quiet, and when he guided them to their desired haven.³¹ Let them thank Yehovah for his covenant-love, for his wonderful deeds to the sons of men!³² Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

[Deliverance from hunger, thirst, and homelessness]

³³ He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,³⁴ and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who live there.³⁵ He turns a desert into pools of water, and dry land into springs of water.³⁶ There he makes the **hungry** dwell, that they may prepare **a city to live in**,³⁷ sow fields, plant vineyards, and reap the fruits of increase.³⁸ He blesses them also, so that they multiply greatly. He does not allow their livestock to decrease.

³⁹ Again, they are diminished and brought low through oppression, **trouble**, and sorrow.⁴⁰ He pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in a trackless waste.⁴¹ Yet he lifts the needy out of their affliction, and increases their families like flocks.⁴² The **upright** see it and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths.⁴³ Whoever is wise will pay attention to these things, and reflect on Yehovah's acts of **covenant-love**.

Psalm 108 [\[¶\]](#)

A Song. A Psalm of David.

[*Praise to God*]

¹ ^aMy heart is steadfast, O God^b. I will sing, and I will sing praises with all my being. ² Awake, O lute and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. ³ I will give thanks to you, O Yehovah, among the peoples. I will sing praises to you among the nations. ⁴ For your covenant-love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness *reaches* to the clouds.

[*God's glory*]

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and your glory over all the earth. ⁶ ^cGive victory with your right hand, and answer me, so that your beloved ones may be delivered.

[*God's triumph*]

⁷ God has spoken in his sanctuary: “In triumph, I will divide Shechem, and measure out the valley of Succoth. ⁸ Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine. Ephraim also is my helmet. Judah is my scepter. ⁹ Moab is my wash basin. I will toss my sandal on Edom. I will shout in triumph over Philistia.”

[*David's plea for victory*]

¹⁰ Who will bring me into the fortified city? Who will guide me to Edom? ¹¹ Have you not, O God, rejected us? You do not, O God, go out with our armies. ¹² Oh give us help against the adversary, for the help of man is vain. ¹³ Through God, we will do valiantly. For it is he who will trample down our foes.

^a **108:1-5**:—these verses are virtually identical to Psalm 57:7-11.

^b **108:1** Five Hebrew manuscripts, the LXX, and the Syriac repeat, “*my heart is steadfast*,” to match Psalm 57:7.

^c **108:6-13**:—these verses are virtually identical to Psalm 60:5-12

Psalm 109 [\[⚡\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

¹ God of my praise, do not remain silent, ² for they have opened the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of deceit against me. They have spoken to me with a lying tongue. ³ They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and fought against me without a cause. ⁴ In return for my love, they are my adversaries; but I am in prayer. ⁵ They have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

⁶ Set a wicked man over him. Let an adversary stand at his right hand. ⁷ When he is judged, let him come out guilty. Let his prayer be turned into sin. ⁸ Let his days be few. Let another take his office. [*quot.* Acts 1:20] ⁹ Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. ¹⁰ Let his children be wandering beggars. Let them be sought from their ruins. ¹¹ Let the creditor seize all that he has. Let strangers plunder the fruit of his labor. ¹² Let there be no one to extend covenant-love to him, neither let there be anyone to have pity on his fatherless children. ¹³ Let his posterity be cut off. In the generation following let their name be blotted out. ¹⁴ Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered by Yehovah. Do not let the sin of his mother be blotted out. ¹⁵ Let them be before Yehovah continually, that he may cut off their memory from the earth;

¹⁶ because he didn't remember to show covenant-love, but persecuted the poor and needy man, the broken in heart, to kill them. ¹⁷ Yes, he loved cursing, and it came to him. He didn't delight in blessing, and it was far from him. ¹⁸ He clothed himself also with cursing as with his garment. It came into his inward parts like water, like oil into his bones. ¹⁹ Let it be to him as the clothing with which he covers himself, for the belt that is always around him. ²⁰ This is the reward of my adversaries from Yehovah, of those who speak evil against my soul.

²¹ But deal with me, Yehovah the Lord,[a] for your name's sake, because your covenant-love is good, deliver me; ²² for I am poor and needy. My heart is wounded within me. ²³ I fade away like an evening shadow. I am shaken off like a locust. ²⁴ My knees are weak through fasting. My body is thin and lacks fat. ²⁵ I have also become a reproach to them. When they see me, they shake their head. [*quot.* Matt. 27:39]

²⁶ Help me, Yehovah, my God. Save me according to your covenant-love; ²⁷ that they may know that this is your hand; that you, Yehovah, have

done it. ²⁸ They may curse, but you bless. When they arise, they will be shamed, but your servant shall rejoice. ²⁹ Let my adversaries be clothed with dishonor. Let them cover themselves with their own shame as with a robe. ³⁰ I will give great thanks to Yehovah with my mouth. Yes, I will praise him among the multitude. ³¹ For he will stand at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who judge his soul.

Psalm 110 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ Yehovah says to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” [quot. Matt. 22:44; 26:64; Mark 12:36; 14:62; 16:19; Luke 20:42-43; 22:69; Acts 2:34-35; Heb. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12-13; 12:2; 1Cor. 15:25; 1Pet. 3:22; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1]

² Yehovah will send forth from Zion your mighty scepter **to rule over your enemies.**

³ ^aYour people rally to battle on **the day your force assembles** on the holy mountains, from the fresh break of day, with all the vigor of youth.

⁴ Yehovah has sworn *an oath*, and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” [quot. Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17; 7:21]

⁵ The Lord is at your right hand. He will crush kings **in the day of his wrath.**

⁶ He will judge the nations, heaping up corpses. He will **crush the rulers of the earth.**

⁷ He will drink from the brook on the way; then he will lift up his head.

^a **110:3** Your people...:—the Hebrew is cryptic, which has resulted in varied interpretations of this verse. It lit. reads, “Your-people willing in-the-day of-your-power in-the-beauties of-holy-majesties from-the-womb of-the-morning you-have the-dew of-your-youth.”

Psalm 111 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Praise Yah! I will give thanks to Yehovah with my whole heart, in the council of the upright, and in the congregation.

² Yehovah's works are great, pondered by all those who delight in them. ³ His work is honor and majesty. His righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wonderful works to be remembered. Yehovah is gracious and merciful. ⁵ He has given food to those who fear him. He always remembers his covenant. ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are truth and justice. All his precepts are sure. ⁸ They are established forever and ever. They are done in truth and uprightness.

⁹ He has sent redemption to his people. He has ordained his covenant forever. His name is holy and awesome! [*quot.* Luke 1:49, 68] ¹⁰ The fear of Yehovah is the beginning of wisdom. All those who do his work have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Psalm 112 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Praise Yah! Blessed is the man who fears Yehovah, who delights greatly in his commandments. ² His offspring will be mighty in the land. The generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are in his house. His righteousness endures forever. ⁴ Light dawns in the darkness for the upright, gracious, merciful, and righteous.

⁵ It is well with the man who deals graciously and lends. He will maintain his cause in judgment. ⁶ For he will never be shaken. The righteous will be remembered forever.

⁷ He will not be afraid of evil news. His heart is steadfast, trusting in Yehovah. ⁸ His heart is established. He will not be afraid in the end when he sees his adversaries.

⁹ He has dispersed, he has given to the poor. His righteousness endures forever. His horn will be exalted with honor. [*quot.* 2 Cor. 9:9]

¹⁰ The wicked will see it, and be grieved. He shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away. The desire of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 113 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise, O servants of Yehovah, praise Yehovah's name. ² Blessed be Yehovah's name, from this time forth and forevermore. ³ From the **rising** of the sun to its setting, let Yehovah's name be praised.

⁴ Yehovah is supreme over all the nations, his glory reaches to the **heavens**.

⁵ Who is like Yehovah, our God, who **sits** on high,

⁶ who stoops down to see *the things* in **heaven** and on the earth?

⁷ He **raises** the poor from the dust, and from the ash heap lifts the needy, ⁸ to **seat** them with princes, *even* with the princes of his people. ⁹ He **seats** the barren woman in her home, a joyful mother of children.

Hallelujah!

Psalm 114 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of **Jacob** from a people of foreign language, ² Judah became his **sanctuary**, Israel his **dominion**.

³ The **sea** saw it, and **fled**. The **Jordan** was **driven back**. ⁴ The **mountains skipped like rams**, the **little hills like lambs**.

⁵ What was it, you **sea**, that you **fled**? You **Jordan**, that you **turned back**? ⁶ You **mountains**, that you **skipped like rams**; you **little hills, like lambs**?

⁷ Tremble, you earth, at the **presence** of the Lord, at the **presence** of the God of **Jacob**, ⁸ who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of waters.

Psalm 115 1

¹ Not to us, Yehovah, not to us, but to your name give glory, for your covenant-love, and for your truth's sake. ² Why should the nations say, "Where is their God, now?" ³ But our God is in the heavens. He does whatever he pleases.

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak. They have eyes, but they do not see. ⁶ They have ears, but they do not hear. They have noses, but they do not smell. ⁷ They have hands, but they do not feel. They have feet, but they do not walk, neither do they speak through their throat. ⁸ Those who make them will be like them; yes, everyone who trusts in them.

⁹ Israel, trust in Yehovah! He is their help and their shield. ¹⁰ House of Aaron, trust in Yehovah! He is their help and their shield. ¹¹ You who fear Yehovah, trust in Yehovah! He is their help and their shield.

¹² Yehovah remembers us. He will bless us. He will bless the house of Israel. He will bless the house of Aaron. ¹³ He will bless those who fear Yehovah, both small and great. ¹⁴ May Yehovah increase you more and more, you and your children. ¹⁵ Blessed are you by Yehovah, who made heaven and earth.

¹⁶ The heavens are Yehovah's heavens, but he has given the earth to the children of men. ¹⁷ The dead do not praise Yah, neither any who go down into silence; ¹⁸ but we will bless Yah, from this time forward and forever more. Praise Yah!

Psalm 116 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ I love Yehovah, because he listens to my voice, and my cries for mercy.

² Because he has turned his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³ The cords of death surrounded me, the pains of Sheol[a] got a hold of me. I found trouble and sorrow. ⁴ Then I called on Yehovah's name: "Yehovah, I beg you, deliver my soul." ⁵ Yehovah is gracious and righteous. Yes, our God is merciful. ⁶ Yehovah preserves the simple. I was brought low, and he saved me.

⁷ Return to your rest, my soul, for Yehovah has dealt bountifully with you. ⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. ⁹ I will walk before Yehovah in the land of the living. ¹⁰ I believed, therefore I said, "I was greatly afflicted." [*quot.* 2 Cor. 4:13] ¹¹ I said in my haste, "All people are liars."

¹² What will I give to Yehovah for all his benefits toward me?

¹³ I will take the cup of salvation, and call on Yehovah's name.

¹⁴ I will pay my vows to Yehovah, yes, in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ Precious in Yehovah's sight is the death of his saints. ¹⁶ Yehovah, truly I am your servant. I am your servant, the son of your servant girl. You have freed me from my chains. ¹⁷ I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call on Yehovah's name. ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to Yehovah, yes, in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ in the courts of Yehovah's house, in the middle of you, Jerusalem. Praise Yah!

Psalm 117 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Praise Yehovah, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples!

² For his covenant-love is great toward us.

Yehovah's faithfulness endures forever.

Praise Yah!

Psalm 118 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Give thanks to Yehovah, for he is good, for his covenant-love endures forever. ² Let Israel now say that his covenant-love endures forever. ³ Let the house of Aaron now say that his covenant-love endures forever. ⁴ Now let those who fear Yehovah say that his covenant-love endures forever.

⁵ Out of my distress, I called on Yah. Yah answered me with freedom. ⁶ Yehovah is on my side. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? [*quot. Heb. 13:6*] ⁷ Yehovah is on my side among those who help me. Therefore I will look in triumph at those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in Yehovah, than to put confidence in man. ⁹ It is better to take refuge in Yehovah, than to put confidence in princes.

¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me, but in Yehovah's name, I cut them off. ¹¹ They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me. In Yehovah's name I indeed cut them off. ¹² They surrounded me like bees. They are quenched like the burning thorns. In Yehovah's name I cut them off.

¹³ You pushed me back hard, to make me fall, but Yehovah helped me. ¹⁴ Yah is my strength and song. He has become my salvation. ¹⁵ The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous. "The right hand of Yehovah does valiantly. ¹⁶ The right hand of Yehovah is exalted! The right hand of Yehovah does valiantly!" ¹⁷ I will not die, but live, and declare Yah's works. ¹⁸ Yah has punished me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness. I will enter into them. I will give thanks to Yah. ²⁰ This is the gate of Yehovah; the righteous will enter into it. ²¹ I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me, and have become my salvation.

²² The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.[a] ²³ This is Yehovah's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. [*quot. Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1Pet. 2:4-7*]

²⁴ This is the day that Yehovah has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it! ²⁵ Save us now, we beg you, Yehovah! Yehovah, we beg you, send prosperity now.

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in Yehovah's name! We have blessed you out of Yehovah's house. [*quot.* Matt. 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13] ²⁷ Yehovah is God, and he has given us light. Bind the sacrifice with cords, even to the horns of the altar. ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you. You are my God, I will exalt you. ²⁹ Oh give thanks to Yehovah, for he is good, for his covenant-love endures forever.

Psalm 119 [⚡]

[A. (119:1-24)]

[**א** – *Alef (or Aleph)*]

¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to Yehovah's law. ² Blessed are those who keep his statutes, who seek him with their whole heart. ³ Yes, they do nothing wrong. They walk in his ways. ⁴ You have commanded your precepts, that we should fully obey them. ⁵ Oh that my ways were steadfast to obey your statutes! ⁶ Then I wouldn't be disappointed, when I consider all of your commandments. ⁷ I will give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn your righteous judgments. ⁸ I will observe your statutes. Do not utterly forsake me.

[**ב** – *Bet (or Beth)*]

⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart, I have sought you. Do not let me wander from your commandments. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹² Blessed are you, Yehovah. Teach me your statutes. ¹³ With my lips, I have declared all the ordinances of your mouth. ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of your testimonies, as much as in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts, and consider your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight myself in your statutes. I will not forget your word.

[**ג** – *Gimel*]

¹⁷ Do good to your servant. I will live and I will obey your word. ¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things out of your law. ¹⁹ I am a stranger on the earth. Do not hide your commandments from me. ²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times. ²¹ You have rebuked the proud who are cursed, who wander from your commandments. ²² Take reproach and contempt away from me, for I have kept your statutes. ²³ Though princes sit and slander me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. ²⁴ Indeed your statutes are my delight, and my counselors.

[B. (119:25-48)]

[**ד** – *Dalet*]

²⁵ My soul is laid low in the dust. Revive me according to your word! ²⁶ I declared my ways, and you answered me. Teach me your statutes. ²⁷ Let me understand the teaching of your precepts! Then I will meditate on your wondrous works. ²⁸ My soul is weary with sorrow: strengthen me according to your word. ²⁹ Keep me from the way of deceit. Grant me your law graciously! ³⁰ I have chosen the way of truth. I have set your

ordinances before me. ³¹ I cling to your statutes, Yehovah. Do not let me be disappointed. ³² I run in the path of your commandments, for you have set my heart free.

[**ה** - *He*]

³³ Teach me, Yehovah, the way of your statutes. I will keep them to the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, and I will keep your law. Yes, I will obey it with my whole heart. ³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in them. ³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes, not toward selfish gain. ³⁷ Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. Revive me in your ways. ³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, that you may be feared. ³⁹ Take away my disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. ⁴⁰ Behold, I long for your precepts! Revive me in your righteousness.

[**ו** - *Vav (or Waw)*]

⁴¹ Let your covenant-love also come to me, Yehovah, your salvation, according to your word. ⁴² So I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in your word. ⁴³ Do not snatch the word of truth out of my mouth, for I put my hope in your ordinances. ⁴⁴ So I will obey your law continually, forever and ever. ⁴⁵ I will walk in liberty, for I have sought your precepts. ⁴⁶ I will also speak of your statutes before kings, and will not be disappointed. ⁴⁷ I will delight myself in your commandments, because I love them. ⁴⁸ I reach out my hands for your commandments, which I love. I will meditate on your statutes.

[C. (119:49-72)]

[**ז** - *Zayin*]

⁴⁹ Remember your word to your servant, because you gave me hope. ⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my affliction, for your word has revived me. ⁵¹ The arrogant mock me excessively, but I do not swerve from your law. ⁵² I remember your ordinances of old, Yehovah, and have comforted myself. ⁵³ Indignation has taken hold on me, because of the wicked who forsake your law. ⁵⁴ Your statutes have been my songs in the house where I live. ⁵⁵ I have remembered your name, Yehovah, in the night, and I obey your law. ⁵⁶ This is my way, that I keep your precepts.

[**ח** - *Chet (or Het)*]

⁵⁷ Yehovah is my portion. I promised to obey your words. ⁵⁸ I sought your favor with my whole heart. Be merciful to me according to your word. ⁵⁹ I considered my ways, and turned my steps to your statutes. ⁶⁰ I will hurry, and not delay, to obey your commandments. ⁶¹ The ropes of the wicked bind me, but I won't forget your law. ⁶² At midnight I will rise to give thanks to you, because of your righteous ordinances. ⁶³ I am a friend of

all those who fear you, of those who observe your precepts. ⁶⁴ The earth is full of your covenant-love, Yehovah. Teach me your statutes.

[ט - Tet]

⁶⁵ You have treated your servant well, according to your word, Yehovah. ⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. ⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now I observe your word. ⁶⁸ You are good, and do good. Teach me your statutes. ⁶⁹ The proud have smeared a lie upon me. With my whole heart, I will keep your precepts. ⁷⁰ Their heart is as callous as the fat, but I delight in your law. ⁷¹ It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes. ⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.

[X. (119:73-104)]

[י - Yod]

⁷³ Your hands have made me and formed me. Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments. ⁷⁴ Those who fear you will see me and be glad, because I have put my hope in your word. ⁷⁵ Yehovah, I know that your judgments are righteous, that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. ⁷⁶ Please let your covenant-love be for my comfort, according to your word to your servant. ⁷⁷ Let your compassion come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight. ⁷⁸ Let the proud be disappointed, for they have overthrown me wrongfully. I will meditate on your precepts. ⁷⁹ Let those who fear you turn to me. They will know your statutes. ⁸⁰ Let my heart be blameless toward your decrees, that I may not be disappointed.

[כ - Kaf]

⁸¹ My soul faints for your salvation. I hope in your word. ⁸² My eyes fail for your word. I say, "When will you comfort me?" ⁸³ For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke. I do not forget your statutes. ⁸⁴ How many are the days of your servant? When will you execute judgment on those who persecute me? ⁸⁵ The proud have dug pits for me, contrary to your law. ⁸⁶ All of your commandments are faithful. They persecute me wrongfully. Help me! ⁸⁷ They had almost wiped me from the earth, but I didn't forsake your precepts. ⁸⁸ Preserve my life according to your covenant-love, so I will obey the statutes of your mouth.

[ל - Lamed]

⁸⁹ Yehovah, your word is settled in heaven forever. ⁹⁰ Your faithfulness is to all generations. You have established the earth, and it remains. ⁹¹ Your laws remain to this day, for all things serve you. ⁹² Unless your law had been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. ⁹³ I will never forget your precepts, for with them, you have revived me. ⁹⁴ I am yours.

Save me, for I have sought your precepts. ⁹⁵ The wicked have waited for me, to destroy me. I will consider your statutes. ⁹⁶ I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commands are boundless.

[מ - *Mem*]

⁹⁷ How I love your law! It is my meditation all day. ⁹⁸ Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for your commandments are always with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, because I have kept your precepts. ¹⁰¹ I have kept my feet from every evil way, that I might observe your word. ¹⁰² I have not turned away from your ordinances, for you have taught me. ¹⁰³ How sweet are your promises to my taste, more than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts, I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

[C'. (119:105-128)]

[נ - *Nun*]

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path. ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn, and have confirmed it, that I will obey your righteous ordinances. ¹⁰⁷ I am afflicted very much. Revive me, Yehovah, according to your word. ¹⁰⁸ Accept, I beg you, the willing offerings of my mouth. Yehovah, teach me your ordinances. ¹⁰⁹ My soul is continually in my hand, yet I won't forget your law. ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I haven't gone astray from your precepts. ¹¹¹ I have taken your testimonies as a heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. ¹¹² I have set my heart to perform your statutes forever, even to the end.

[ד - *Samech*]

¹¹³ I hate double-minded men, but I love your law. ¹¹⁴ You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in your word. ¹¹⁵ Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. ¹¹⁶ Uphold me according to your word, that I may live. Let me not be ashamed of my hope. ¹¹⁷ Hold me up, and I will be safe, and will have respect for your statutes continually. ¹¹⁸ You reject all those who stray from your statutes, for their deceit is in vain. ¹¹⁹ You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross. Therefore I love your testimonies. ¹²⁰ My flesh trembles for fear of you. I am afraid of your judgments.

[פ - *Ayin*]

¹²¹ I have done what is just and righteous. Do not leave me to my oppressors. ¹²² Ensure your servant's well-being. Do not let the proud oppress me. ¹²³ My eyes fail looking for your salvation, for your righteous word. ¹²⁴ Deal with your servant according to your covenant-love. Teach me your statutes. ¹²⁵ I am your servant. Give me understanding, that I may

know your testimonies. ¹²⁶ It is time to act, Yehovah, for they break your law. ¹²⁷ Therefore I love your commandments more than gold, yes, more than pure gold. ¹²⁸ Therefore I consider all of your precepts to be right. I hate every false way.

[B'. (119:129-152)]

[B - *Peh*]

¹²⁹ Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore my soul keeps them. ¹³⁰ The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple. ¹³¹ I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for your commandments. ¹³² Turn to me, and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name. ¹³³ Establish my footsteps in your word. Do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. ¹³⁴ Redeem me from the oppression of man, so I will observe your precepts. ¹³⁵ Make your face shine on your servant. Teach me your statutes. ¹³⁶ Streams of tears run down my eyes, because they do not observe your law.

[B - *Tsadeh*]

¹³⁷ You are righteous, Yehovah. Your judgments are upright. ¹³⁸ You have commanded your statutes in righteousness. They are fully trustworthy. ¹³⁹ My zeal wears me out, because my enemies ignore your words. ¹⁴⁰ Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them. ¹⁴¹ I am small and despised. I do not forget your precepts. ¹⁴² Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness. Your law is truth. ¹⁴³ Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me. Your commandments are my delight. ¹⁴⁴ Your testimonies are righteous forever. Give me understanding, that I may live.

[B - *Qof*]

¹⁴⁵ I have called with my whole heart. Answer me, Yehovah! I will keep your statutes. ¹⁴⁶ I have called to you. Save me! I will obey your statutes. ¹⁴⁷ I rise before dawn and cry for help. I put my hope in your words. ¹⁴⁸ My eyes stay open through the night watches, that I might meditate on your word. ¹⁴⁹ Hear my voice according to your covenant-love. Revive me, Yehovah, according to your ordinances. ¹⁵⁰ They draw near who follow after wickedness. They are far from your law. ¹⁵¹ You are near, Yehovah. All your commandments are truth. ¹⁵² Of old I have known from your testimonies, that you have founded them forever.

[A'. (119:153-176)]

[A - *Resh*]

¹⁵³ Consider my affliction, and deliver me, for I do not forget your law. ¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause, and redeem me! Revive me according to your promise. ¹⁵⁵ Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek your

statutes. ¹⁵⁶ Great is your compassion, O Yehovah. Revive me according to your ordinances. ¹⁵⁷ Many are my persecutors and my adversaries. I haven't swerved from your testimonies. ¹⁵⁸ I look at the faithless with loathing, because they do not observe your word. ¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love your precepts. Revive me, Yehovah, according to your covenant-love. ¹⁶⁰ All of your words are truth. Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

[ש - *Shin*]

¹⁶¹ Princes have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words. ¹⁶² I rejoice at your word, as one who finds great plunder. ¹⁶³ I hate and abhor falsehood. I love your law. ¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day, I praise you, because of your righteous ordinances. ¹⁶⁵ Those who love your law have great peace. Nothing causes them to stumble. ¹⁶⁶ I have hoped for your salvation, Yehovah. I have done your commandments. ¹⁶⁷ My soul has observed your testimonies. I love them exceedingly. ¹⁶⁸ I have obeyed your precepts and your testimonies, for all my ways are before you.

[ת - *Tav*]

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, Yehovah. Give me understanding according to your word. ¹⁷⁰ Let my supplication come before you. Deliver me according to your word. ¹⁷¹ Let my lips utter praise, for you teach me your statutes. ¹⁷² Let my tongue sing of your word, for all your commandments are righteousness. ¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. ¹⁷⁴ I have longed for your salvation, Yehovah. Your law is my delight. ¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live, that I may praise you. Let your ordinances help me. ¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Psalm 120 [↵]

A Song of Ascents.

¹ In my distress, I cried to Yehovah. He answered me. ² Deliver my soul, Yehovah, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.

³ What will be given to you, and what will be done more to you, you deceitful tongue? ⁴ Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.

⁵ Woe is me, that I live in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! ⁶ My soul has had her dwelling too long with him who hates peace.

⁷ I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

Psalm 121 [↵]

A Song of Ascents.

¹ I will lift up my eyes to the ^amountains. From where does **my help** come? ² **My help** comes from Yehovah,

who made **heaven and earth**.

³ He will not allow your foot to stumble. He who **keeps** [*shomer*] you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, **he who** ^b**watches** [*shomer*] **over Israel** does not slumber or sleep.

⁵ Yehovah is your **guardian** [*shomer*]. Yehovah is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The **sun** will not smite you by day, nor the **moon** by night.

⁷ Yehovah will **protect** [*shomer*] you from all evil. He will **preserve** [*shomer*] your soul. ⁸ Yehovah will **preserve** [*shomer*] your going out and your coming in, from this time forward, and forevermore.

^a **121:1** mountains [H2022, *har*]:—mountains, mounts, hills. Most likely a reference to the mountains around Jerusalem, given that this is a Psalm of Ascents.

^b **121:4** watches [H8104, *shomer*]:—to keep, guard, observe, give heed. Occurs six times in this psalm.

Psalm 122 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹ I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the **house of Yehovah.**”

² Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ **Jerusalem**—securely surrounded by its walls, ⁴ where the tribes go up, the tribes of Yah, as decreed to Israel, to give thanks to the name of Yehovah.

⁵ For there the thrones of judgment stand, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of **Jerusalem**. May those who love you prosper.

⁷ May there be peace within your walls, and security within your towers.

⁸ For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”

⁹ For the sake of the **house of Yehovah** our God, I will seek your good.

Psalm 123 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to you, you who sit in the heavens.

² Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress;

so our eyes look to Yehovah, our God, until he has mercy on us.

³ Have mercy on us, Yehovah, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt. ⁴ Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scoffing of those who are at ease, with the contempt of the proud.

Psalm 124 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹ If it had not been Yehovah who was on our side, let Israel now say, ² if it had not been Yehovah who was on our side, when men rose up against us;

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their wrath was kindled against us; ⁴ then the waters would have overwhelmed us, the stream would have gone over our soul; ⁵ then the proud waters would have gone over our soul.

⁶ Blessed be Yehovah, who has not given us as a prey to their teeth. ⁷ Our soul has escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare. The snare is broken, and we have escaped. ⁸ Our help is in Yehovah's name, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 125 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Those who trust in Yehovah are like Mount Zion, which **cannot be moved**, but **abides forever**.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so **Yehovah surrounds his people** from this time forward and forever more.

³ For the scepter of wickedness will not rest on the land allotted to the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands to do evil.

⁴ **Do good**, O Yehovah, to the good, to those who are upright in heart.

⁵ But as for those who turn aside to crooked ways, Yehovah will **lead them away** with the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel.

Psalm 126 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents.

¹ When Yehovah brought back those who returned to Zion, we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “Yehovah has done great things for them.”

³ Yehovah has done great things for us, and we are glad.

⁴ Restore our fortunes again, Yehovah, like the streams in the Negev. ⁵ Those who sow in tears will reap in joy. ⁶ He who goes out weeping, carrying seed for sowing, will certainly come again with joy, carrying his sheaves.

Psalm 127 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents. By Solomon.

¹ Unless Yehovah builds the house, they who build it labor in vain. Unless Yehovah watches over the city, the watchman guards it in vain. ² It is vain for you to rise up early, to stay up late, eating the bread of toil, for he gives sleep to his loved ones.

³ Behold, children are a heritage of Yehovah. The fruit of the womb is his reward.

⁴ As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of youth. ⁵ Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. They won't be disappointed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Blessed is everyone who fears Yehovah, who walks in his ways. ² For you will eat the labor of your hands. You will be happy, and it will be well with you. ³ Your wife will be as a fruitful vine in the innermost parts of your house, your children like olive shoots around your table.

⁴ Behold, this is how the man who fears Yehovah is blessed. ⁵ May Yehovah bless you out of Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. ⁶ Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.

Psalm 129 ^[L]

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Many times they have afflicted me from my youth up. Let Israel now say, ² many times they have afflicted me from my youth up, yet they have not prevailed against me.

³ The plowers plowed on my back. They made their furrows long.

⁴ Yehovah is righteous. He has cut apart the cords of the wicked.

⁵ Let them be disappointed and turned backward, all those who hate Zion.

⁶ Let them be as the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up, ⁷ with which the reaper doesn't fill his hand, nor he who binds sheaves, his bosom.

⁸ Neither do those who go by say, "The blessing of Yehovah be on you. We bless you in Yehovah's name."

Psalm 130 ^[L]

A Song of Ascents. [*A Penitential Psalm.*]

¹ Out of the depths I cried to you, O Yehovah. ² O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. ³ Were you, O Yah, to ^awatch for **iniquities**, O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is **forgiveness** with you, that you may be ^bfeared.

⁵ I **wait** for Yehovah. My soul **waits**,

And in his word I hope.

⁶ My soul **longs** for the Lord more than the dawn-watchers watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in Yehovah, for there is **covenant-love** with Yehovah. Abundant redemption is with him.

⁸ He will redeem Israel from all its **iniquities**.

^a **130:3** watch [H8104, *shamar*; to keep track of, to watch]:—the choice of "watch" parallels the thought of "watchmen" in v.6

^b **130:4** feared [H3372, *yārē'*]:—has a range of meanings from "fear" to "awe" to "reverence".

Psalm 131 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹ Yehovah, my heart isn't arrogant, nor my eyes lofty; nor do I concern myself with great matters, or things too wonderful for me. ² Surely I have stilled and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. ³ Israel, hope in Yehovah, from this time forward and forever more.

Psalm 132 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Yehovah, remember David and all his affliction,

² how he swore to Yehovah, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³ "Surely I will not come into the structure of my house, nor go up into my bed; ⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes, or slumber to my eyelids; ⁵ until I find out a place for Yehovah, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." [*quot. Acts 7:46*]

⁶ Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah. We found it in the field of Jaar: ⁷ "We will go into his dwelling place. We will worship at his footstool. ⁸ Arise, Yehovah, into your resting place, you, and the ark of your strength.

⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness. Let your saints shout for joy!" ¹⁰ For your servant David's sake, do not turn away the face of your anointed one. ¹¹ Yehovah has sworn to David in truth. He will not turn from it: "I will set the fruit of your body on your throne. [*quot. Acts 2:30*] ¹² If your children will keep my covenant, my testimony that I will teach them, their children also will sit on your throne forever more." ¹³ For Yehovah has chosen Zion. He has desired it for his habitation. ¹⁴ "This is my resting place forever. I will live here, for I have desired it. ¹⁵ I will abundantly bless her provision. I will satisfy her poor with bread. ¹⁶ I will also clothe her priests with salvation. Her saints will shout aloud for joy. ¹⁷ I will make the horn of David to bud there. I have ordained a lamp for my anointed. [*quot. Luke 1:69*]

¹⁸ I will clothe his enemies with shame, but on himself, his crown will shine."

Psalm 133 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents. By David.

¹ See how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head, that ran down on the beard,
even Aaron's beard, that came down on the edge of his robes,

³ like the dew of Hermon, that comes down on the hills of Zion;
for there Yehovah gives the blessing, even life forever more.

Psalm 134 [\[↵\]](#)

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Come, **bleſs Yehovah**, all you **ſervants of Yehovah**,

who ſtand in Yehovah's **houſe** by night.

² Lift up your hands *in prayer* toward **the holy place**

and **bleſs Yehovah**. ³ May **Yehovah bleſs** you from Zion—maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 135 [\[↵\]](#)

¹ Praise Yah! Praise Yehovah's name! Praise him, you servants of Yehovah, ² you who stand in Yehovah's house, in the courts of our God's house. ³ Praise Yah, for Yehovah is good. Sing praises to his name, for that is pleasant.

⁴ For Yah has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel for his own possession. ⁵ For I know that Yehovah is great, that our Lord is above all gods.

⁶ Whatever Yehovah pleased, that he has done, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. ⁷ He causes the clouds to rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings with the rain. He brings the wind out of his treasuries.

⁸ He struck the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and animal.

⁹ He sent signs and wonders into the middle of you, Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his servants.

¹⁰ He struck many nations, and killed mighty kings, ¹¹ Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan,

¹² and gave their land for a heritage, a heritage to Israel, his people. ¹³ Your name, Yehovah, endures forever; your renown, Yehovah, throughout all generations.

¹⁴ For Yehovah will judge his people and have compassion on his servants. [*quot.* Heb. 10:30] ¹⁵ The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but they can't speak. They have eyes, but they can't see. ¹⁷ They have ears, but they can't hear, neither is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them will be like them, yes, everyone who trusts in them.

¹⁹ House of Israel, praise Yehovah! House of Aaron, praise Yehovah! ²⁰ House of Levi, praise Yehovah! You who fear Yehovah, praise Yehovah!

²¹ Blessed be Yehovah from Zion, who dwells at Jerusalem. Praise Yah!

Psalm 136 [\[¶\]](#)

¹ Give thanks to Yehovah, for he is good; for his covenant-love endures forever. ² Give thanks to the God of gods; for his covenant-love endures forever. ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords; for his covenant-love endures forever:

⁴ to him who alone does great wonders; for his covenant-love endures forever: ⁵ to him who by understanding made the heavens; for his covenant-love endures forever: ⁶ to him who spread out the earth above the waters; for his covenant-love endures forever: ⁷ to him who made the great lights; for his covenant-love endures forever: ⁸ the sun to rule by day; for his covenant-love endures forever; ⁹ the moon and stars to rule by night; for his covenant-love endures forever:

¹⁰ to him who struck down the Egyptian firstborn; for his covenant-love endures forever; ¹¹ and brought out Israel from among them; for his covenant-love endures forever; ¹² with a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm; for his covenant-love endures forever: ¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea apart; for his covenant-love endures forever; ¹⁴ and made Israel to pass through the middle of it; for his covenant-love endures forever; ¹⁵ but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea; for his covenant-love endures forever: ¹⁶ to him who led his people through the wilderness; for his covenant-love endures forever:

¹⁷ to him who struck great kings; for his covenant-love endures forever; ¹⁸ and killed mighty kings; for his covenant-love endures forever: ¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites; for his covenant-love endures forever; ²⁰ Og king of Bashan; for his covenant-love endures forever; ²¹ and gave their land as an inheritance; for his covenant-love endures forever; ²² even a heritage to Israel his servant; for his covenant-love endures forever:

²³ who remembered us in our low estate; for his covenant-love endures forever; ²⁴ and has delivered us from our adversaries; for his covenant-love endures forever: ²⁵ who gives food to every creature; for his covenant-love endures forever.

²⁶ Oh give thanks to the God of heaven; for his covenant-love endures forever.

Psalm 137 [\[↩\]](#)

¹ By the rivers of **Babylon**, there we sat down, oh we wept, when we remembered Zion. ² On the poplars there we hung up our harps.

³ For there our captors asked us for songs. Those who tormented us demanded songs of **mirth** [H8057]: “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” ⁴ How can we sing a song of Yehovah in a foreign land? ⁵ If I **forget you, O Jerusalem**,

may my right hand ^awither. ⁶ May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth

if I do not **remember you**, if I do not regard **Jerusalem** as my highest **joy** [H8057]. ⁷ Remember, O Yehovah, what the Edomites said on the day Jerusalem fell, “Raze it! Raze it even to its foundation!”

⁸ O daughter of **Babylon**, you ^bdestroyer, blessed be the one who pays you back in kind, for what you have done to us. ⁹ Blessed be the one who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock.

^a **137:5** wither:—the Masoretic Text reads “may my right hand forget [*tishkah*].” This is problematic in that there is no evidence elsewhere for an intransitive use of the verb “forget”. However, a simple reversal of the consonants yields *tikhhash*, “wither”. This links the lack of use of the hand with the lack of use of the tongue in the following verse (v.6).

^b **137:8** destroyer:—the Masoretic Text reads *hashedudah*, “the destroyed”. However, this version takes the active form found in some ancient versions. The adjustment of vocalization yields *hashodeidah*, “the destroyer”.

Psalm 138 [\[↗\]](#)

Of David.

¹ I will give you thanks with my whole heart. Before the gods,[a] I will sing praises to you. ² I will bow down toward your holy temple, and give thanks to your Name

for your covenant-love and for your truth; for you have exalted your Name and your Word above all.

³ In the day that I called, you answered me. You encouraged me with strength in my soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth will give you thanks, Yehovah, for they have heard the words of your mouth. ⁵ Yes, they will sing of the ways of Yehovah, for Yehovah's glory is great!

⁶ For though Yehovah is high, yet he looks after the lowly; but he knows the proud from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the middle of trouble, you will revive me. You will stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies. Your right hand will save me. ⁸ Yehovah will fulfill that which concerns me. Your covenant-love, Yehovah, endures forever. Do not forsake the works of your own hands.

Psalm 139 [\[e\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David.

¹ O Yehovah, you have **searched me**, and **known me**. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up. You perceive my **thoughts** from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Yehovah, you **know** it completely. ⁵ [*As a potter*] behind and before you shaped me, and placed your hand on me. ⁶ Such **knowledge** is too wonderful for me; it is lofty. I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go ^afrom your spirit, or where can I **flee from your presence**? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, and *soar and then* settle beyond the western sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will lead me, and your right hand will take hold of me.

¹¹ If I say, “Surely the **darkness** will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be **night**,” ¹² even the **darkness** is not dark for you, but the **night** shines as the day. The darkness is like light to you.

¹³ For you formed my inward parts. **You knit me together** in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wondrous are your works, and my soul knows it well. ¹⁵ **My frame** was not hidden from you, when I was made in secret, woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw **my unformed substance**. In your book *all my members* were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was not one of them.

¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is their sum! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand. **When I awake**, I am still with you.

¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! **Depart from me**, you bloodthirsty men! ²⁰ For they speak against you with malice, and your enemies take your name in vain. ²¹ Oh Yehovah, should I not hate those who hate you? And should I not be grieved with those who rise up against you? ²² I hate them with perfect hatred. They have become my enemies.

^a 139:7 from your spirit [H7307, *ruah*]...from your presence [H6440, *panim*]:—lit. “from your breath...from your face.”

²³ **Search me**, O God, and **know** my heart. Try me, and **know** my thoughts. ²⁴ And see if there is any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 140 [\[↶\]](#)

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

¹ 1 Deliver me, Yehovah, from the evil man. Preserve me from the violent man: ² those who devise mischief in their hearts. They continually gather themselves together for war. ³ They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent. Viper's poison is under their lips. *Selah*. [*quot. Rom. 3:13*]

⁴ Yehovah, keep me from the hands of the wicked. Preserve me from the violent men who have determined to trip my feet. ⁵ The proud have hidden a snare for me, they have spread the cords of a net by the path. They have set traps for me. *Selah*.

⁶ I said to Yehovah, "You are my God." Listen to the cry of my petitions, Yehovah. ⁷ Yehovah, the Lord, the strength of my salvation, you have covered my head in the day of battle. ⁸ Yehovah, do not grant the desires of the wicked. Do not let their evil plans succeed, or they will become proud. *Selah*.

⁹ As for the head of those who surround me, let the mischief of their own lips cover them. ¹⁰ Let burning coals fall on them. Let them be thrown into the fire, into miry pits, from where they never rise. ¹¹ An evil speaker won't be established in the earth. Evil will hunt the violent man to overthrow him.

¹² I know that Yehovah will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the needy. ¹³ Surely the righteous will give thanks to your name. The upright will dwell in your presence.

Psalm 141 [\[↵\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ Yehovah, I have called on you. Come to me quickly! Listen to my voice when I call to you. ² Let my prayer be set before you like incense; the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice.

³ Set a watch, Yehovah, before my mouth. Keep the door of my lips.

⁴ Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice deeds of wickedness with men who work iniquity. Do not let me eat of their delicacies.

⁵ Let the righteous strike me, it is covenant-love; let him reprove me, it is like oil on the head; do not let my head refuse it; Yet my prayer is always against evil deeds. ⁶ Their judges are thrown down by the sides of the rock. They will hear my words, for they are well spoken.

⁷ “As when one plows and breaks up the earth, our bones are scattered at the mouth of Sheol.” ⁸ For my eyes are on you, Yehovah, the Lord. In you, I take refuge. Do not leave my soul destitute.

⁹ Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, from the traps of the workers of iniquity. ¹⁰ Let the wicked fall together into their own nets while I pass by.

Psalm 142 [\[↵\]](#)

A contemplation by David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

¹ I cry with my voice to Yehovah. With my voice, I ask Yehovah for mercy. ² I pour out my complaint before him. I tell him my troubles.

³ When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, you knew my route. On the path in which I walk, they have hidden a snare for me. ⁴ Look on my right, and see; for there is no one who is concerned for me. Refuge has fled from me. No one cares for my soul.

⁵ I cried to you, Yehovah. I said, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” ⁶ Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. ⁷ Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will be good to me.

Psalm 143 [\[↗\]](#)

A Psalm of David.

¹ Hear my prayer, Yehovah. Listen to my petitions. In your faithfulness and righteousness, relieve me. ² Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for in your sight no man living is righteous. [*quot.* Rom. 3:20]

³ For the enemy pursues my soul. He has struck my life down to the ground. He has made me live in dark places, as those who have been long dead. ⁴ Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me. My heart within me is desolate.

⁵ I remember the days of old. I meditate on all your doings. I contemplate the work of your hands. ⁶ I spread out my hands to you. My soul thirsts for you, like a parched land. Selah.

⁷ Hurry to answer me, Yehovah. My spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, so that I do not become like those who go down into the pit. ⁸ Cause me to hear your covenant-love in the morning, for I trust in you. Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you.

⁹ Deliver me, Yehovah, from my enemies. I flee to you to hide me. ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

¹¹ Revive me, Yehovah, for your name's sake. In your righteousness, bring my soul out of trouble. ¹² In your covenant-love, cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, For I am your servant.

Psalm 144 ^[e]

Of David.

¹ Blessed be Yehovah, my rock, who trains my hands to war, and my fingers to battle: ² ^amy strength and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield, and he in whom I take refuge; who subdues nations under me.

³ O Yehovah, what is man that you care for him? Or the son of man, that you think of him? ⁴ Man is like a breath. His days are like a passing shadow.

⁵ O Yehovah, bow your heavens, and come down. Touch the mountains that they may smoke. ⁶ Crack lightning and scatter them. Send forth your bolts of *lightning* and rout them. ⁷ Stretch forth your hand from on high, rescue me, and deliver me from great waters, from the hand of foreigners, ⁸ whose mouths speak lies, and whose right hands deceive.

⁹ I will sing a new song to you, O God. On a harp of ten-strings will I sing praises to you. ¹⁰ You are he who gives victory to kings, who delivers David, his servant, from the deadly sword. ¹¹ Rescue me, and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouths speak lies, and whose right hands deceive.

¹² That our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars carved to adorn a palace. ¹³ That our barns be full, filled with all kinds of provision. Our sheep produce thousands and ten thousands in our fields. ¹⁴ Our oxen will pull heavy loads. There is no breach in the walls, no going into captivity, and no outcry in our streets. ¹⁵ Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall. Happy are the people whose God is Yehovah.

^a **144:2** my strength: — the Masoretic Text has *hasdî* (“my kindness”) which seems unlikely. Many scholars read, instead, *hosnî* (“my strength”), which parallels Psalm 18.

Psalm 145 [ע]

A Praise Psalm of David.

[*Forever*] ¹ **I will exalt** you, my God and King. **I will praise** your name **forever and ever**. ² Every day **I will praise** you. **I will extol** your name **forever and ever**.

[*All people*] ³ Great is Yehovah, and greatly to be praised! His greatness is unsearchable. ⁴ **One generation** will extol your works **to another**, and will declare your mighty deeds.

[*His acts*] ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty and on your **wondrous works** I will meditate. ⁶ Men will speak of the **power** of your **awesome acts**. I will tell of your greatness.

[*His goodness*] ⁷ The memory of your **great goodness** they will utter, and sing of your righteousness. ⁸ Yehovah is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and great in covenant-love. ⁹ Yehovah is **good** to all and his compassion is over all his creatures. ¹⁰ All your creatures will give thanks to you, O Yehovah, and your faithful ones will bless you.

[*His acts*] ¹¹ They will speak of the glory of your **kingdom**, and declare your **power**, ¹² to make known to the sons of men his **mighty deeds**, and the glory of the majesty of his **kingdom**. ¹³ Your **kingdom** is an everlasting **kingdom**, and your **dominion** endures throughout all generations. ¹⁴ Yehovah is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

[*All people*] ¹⁴ Yehovah upholds **all** who fall, and raises up **all** those who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of **all** wait for you; you give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desire of **every** living thing. ¹⁷ Yehovah is righteous in **all** his ways, and gracious in **all** his deeds. ¹⁸ Yehovah is near to **all** those who call on him, to **all** who call on him in truth. ¹⁹ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him, and hears their cry and rescues them. ²⁰ Yehovah watches over **all** those who love him, but **all** the wicked he destroys.

[*Forever*] ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of Yehovah. Let **all flesh** **ble**s his holy name **forever and ever**.

^a **145:13** Yehovah...deeds:—not found in the Masoretic Text, but in the LXX, Syriac, the margin of one Hebrew manuscript, and in a Qumran manuscript. It represents the fourteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet (the letter *nun*) in this acrostic psalm, which is missing in the Masoretic Text.

Psalm 146 [\[¶\]](#)

¹ Hallelujah! Praise Yehovah, O my soul. ² I will praise Yehovah while I live. I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

³ Do not put your trust in princes, in a son of man, who cannot save.

⁴ His breath departs, and he returns to the earth. In that very day, his thoughts perish.

⁵ Blessed is the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in Yehovah his God: ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever; [*quot.* Acts 4:24; 14:15] ⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

Yehovah frees the prisoners. ⁸ Yehovah opens the eyes of the blind. Yehovah raises up those who are bowed down. Yehovah loves the righteous. ⁹ Yehovah preserves the foreigners. He lifts up the fatherless and widow, but he thwarts the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ Yehovah reigns forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations. Hallelujah!

Psalm 147 [\[e\]](#)

¹ **Hallelujah!** For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant and fitting to praise him.

² Yehovah rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of **Israel**. ³ He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

[*Yehovah controls the elements*] ⁴ He numbers the stars, and calls them all by name. ⁵ Great is our Lord, and mighty in power. His understanding is beyond ^anumber. ⁶ Yehovah lifts up the humble, but casts the wicked to the ground. ⁷ Sing to Yehovah with thanksgiving. Sing praises to our God on the harp, ⁸ who covers the heavens with clouds and sends rain to the earth, so that the hills flourish with grass. ⁹ He gives the beast its food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

| ¹⁰ He delights not in the strength of horses, nor does he
| value the swift feet of warriors, ¹¹ but Yehovah takes
| pleasure in those who fear him, in those who wait for his
| covenant-love.

[*Yehovah controls the elements*] ¹² Praise Yehovah, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! ¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your children in your midst. ¹⁴ He brings peace to your borders, and fills you with the finest of wheat. ¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. ¹⁶ He blankets *the earth* with snow like wool, and scatters frost like ashes. ¹⁷ He hurls down hail like pebbles. Who can endure his icy blast? ¹⁸ He sends his word and it all melts away; his breath to blow and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his ordinances to **Israel**. ²⁰ He has not done this for any other nation. His ordinances they do not know.

Hallelujah!

^a **147:5** number [H4557, *mispār*]:—the same Hebrew word is used in the previous verse when “*He numbers the stars.*”

Psalm 148 [⌘]

¹ **Hallelujah!**

Praise Yehovah from the heavens! Praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the hosts of heaven! ³ Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴ Praise him, you highest of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ **Let them praise Yehovah's name**, for he commanded, and they were created. ⁶ He established them forever and ever. He fixed their bounds which cannot be crossed.

⁷ **Praise Yehovah from the earth**, all great sea creatures, and ocean depths; ⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that obey his word; ⁹ mountains and all hills; fruit trees and all cedars; ¹⁰ wild animals and all livestock; small creatures and flying birds; ¹¹ kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth; ¹² both young men and maidens; old men and children:

¹³ **let them praise Yehovah's name**, for his name alone is exalted. His glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, the praise of all his faithful, even for the children of Israel, a people near to him.

Hallelujah!

Psalm 149 [⌘]

¹ **Hallelujah!**

Sing to Yehovah a new song, his praise in the assembly of the **faithful**. ² Let Israel rejoice in its Maker, the sons of Zion exult in their **King**. ³ Let them praise his name with dancing; on the tambourine and harp let them sing praises to him.

⁴ For Yehovah takes pleasure in his **people**. He crowns the humble with victory.

⁵ Let the faithful **celebrate** in triumphal glory. Let them sing for joy on their beds. ⁶ Let **exaltations** of God be in their mouths,

and a two-edged sword in their hand, ⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the **peoples**;

⁸ to bind their **kings** with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹ to execute on them the judgment written. This is the honor of all his **faithful**.

Hallelujah!

Psalm 150 [¶]

¹ **Hallelujah!**

[Where]

Praise God **in his sanctuary**; Praise him **in his mighty expanse**.

[Why]

² Praise him for his **mighty deeds**; Praise him for his **immeasurable greatness**.

[Wind instrument]

³ Praise him with the **sounding of the trumpet**.

[String instruments]

Praise him with **harp and lyre**.

[The whole being]

⁴ Praise him with **tambourine and dancing!**

[String instruments]

Praise him with **stringed instruments**

[Wind instrument]

and **flute**.

[Greatest sound]

⁵ Praise him with **loud cymbals**; Praise him with **resounding cymbals**.

[Who: everything that breathes]

⁶ Let **everything that has breath** praise Yah!

Hallelujah!

Notes on Psalms

Content [e]

Meaning of *hesed*

Psalms quoted in the New Testament

Meaning of *hesed*

Hesed. An excellent commentary on the meaning of *hesed* (H2617) is found at:

https://www.preceptaustin.org/lovingkindness-definition_of_hesed

Etymology of “lovingkindness.” The word “lovingkindness” appears in the 1535 translation of the Bible by Myles Coverdale and William Tyndale, known as the Coverdale Bible. The word is a combination of the English words "loving" and "kindness". Coverdale created the word to translate the Hebrew word *hesed*, which appears 248 times in the Hebrew Bible. The Coverdale Bible was the first complete modern English translation of the Bible.

Instead, I use the term “covenant-love”.

Usage in Psalms. Occurs 129 times in the Book of Psalms.

Ps 5:7; 6:4; 13:5; 17:7; 18:50; 21:7; 23:6; 25:6f, 10; 26:3; 31:7, 16, 21; 32:10; 33:5, 18, 22; 36:5, 7, 10; 40:10f; 42:8; 44:26; 48:9; 51:1; 52:1, 8; 57:3, 10; 59:10, 16f; 61:7; 62:12; 63:3; 66:20; 69:13, 16; 77:8; 85:7, 10; 86:5, 13, 15; 88:11; 89:1f, 14, 24, 28, 33, 49; 90:14; 92:2; 94:18; 98:3; 100:5; 101:1; 103:4, 8, 11, 17; 106:1, 7, 45; 107:1, 8, 15, 21, 31, 43; 108:4; 109:12, 16, 21, 26; 115:1; 117:2; 118:1ff, 29; 119:41, 64, 76, 88, 124, 149, 159; 130:7; 136:1, 2, 3; 138:2, 8; 141:5; 143:8, 12; 144:2; 145:8; 147:11.

One of the Hebrew words for “love”. It is difficult to translate into English because *hesed* has a range of meanings. It has been variously translated as: love, faithfulness, kindness, covenant-love, steadfast love, unfailing love, loyalty, mercy, and goodness. *Hesed* is not a romantic, infatuation kind of love, but a faithful, reliable love. It is the covenant love of marriage: “for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, etc.” *Hesed* is one of the most fundamental characteristics of God, consistent with what we know about His covenantal nature.

The most effective way to illustrate the meaning of *hesed* is to see it in action in the story of Ruth.

In the book of Ruth, we meet Naomi in nothing less than a bleak situation. She is living in a foreign land and has lost not only her husband, but her two sons as well. While she has two beloved daughters-in-law, she makes the difficult decision to leave the life she and her family have established in Moab.

Naomi decides to return to her native Judah and she is ready to start afresh. To this end, Naomi encourages her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab with their families, and to find new husbands.

But this is not the path which Ruth takes. Ruth remains with Naomi. And she even further solidifies her bond with Naomi, with her now famous declaration:

“Do not urge me to leave you or return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16

Ruth had every right to start anew and pursue a husband from within her own people. However, by affirming her fidelity to Naomi and the people of Israel, Ruth chose an unknown path. She was a widow and an outsider. But she was also a foreigner from a people the Israelites had enemy history with.

She affirms how important Naomi is to her, despite these other considerations. Ruth clearly had a strong relationship with her mother-in-law, so much so that she forsakes the easier path. Her display of *hesed* – the love and loyalty to Naomi is just one of multiple examples found throughout the story of Ruth.

“Though the mountains be shaken, and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love – *hesed* – for you will not be shaken.” — Isaiah 54:10

Psalms quoted in the New Testament

Verse	Psalm (text)	New Testament
2:1-2	¹ Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against Yehovah, and against his anointed, saying,	Acts 4:25-26
2:7	⁷ I will tell of the decree: Yehovah said to me, “You are my son. Today I have begotten you.”	Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5
2:8-9	⁸ Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. ⁹ You will break them with a rod	Rev. 2:26-27; 12:5; 19:15

	of iron. You will dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”	
4:4	⁴ Stand in awe, and do not sin. Search your own heart while on your bed, and be still.	Eph. 4:26
5:9	⁹ For there is no faithfulness in their mouth. Their heart is destruction. Their throat is an open tomb. They flatter with their tongue.	Rom. 3:13
6:3	³ My soul is also in great anguish. But you, O Yehovah—how long?	John 12:27
6:8	⁸ Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, for Yehovah has heard the voice of my weeping.	Matt. 7:23; Luke 13:27
8:2	² Out of the mouth of babes and infants you have laid a strong foundation, because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.	Matt. 21:16
8:4-6	⁴ what is man, that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the angels, and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You gave him dominion over the works of your hands. You put all things under his feet:	Heb. 2:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:22
10:7	⁷ His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression. Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity.	Rom. 3:14
14:1-3	¹ The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt. They have done abominable deeds. There is no one who does good. ² Yehovah looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who act wisely, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside. They have all together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, no, not one.	Rom. 3:10-12
16:8-11	⁸ I have set Yehovah always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be moved. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices. My body will also dwell in safety. ¹⁰ For you will not forsake my life to Sheol, neither will you let your holy one see the grave. ¹¹ You will show me the path of life. In your presence is fullness of joy. At your right hand are pleasures forever more.	Acts 2:25-28; 13:35
18:2	² Yehovah is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower.	Heb. 2:13
18:49	⁴⁹ Therefore I will give thanks to you, O Yehovah, among the nations, and will sing praises to your name.	Rom. 15:9
19:4	⁴ Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,	Rom. 10:18
22:1	¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?	Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34

22:7	⁷ All those who see me mock me. They insult me with their lips. They shake their heads, saying,	Matt. 27:39; Mark 15:29; Luke 23:35
22:8	⁸ "He trusts in Jehovah. Let him deliver him. Let him rescue him, since he delights in him."	Matt. 27:43
22:18	¹⁸ They divide my garments among them. They cast lots for my clothing.	Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:24
22:22	²² I will proclaim your name to my brothers. I will praise you in the assembly.	Heb. 2:12
24:1	¹ The earth is Jehovah's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and those who dwell therein.	1 Cor. 10:26-28
31:5	⁵ Into your hand I commend my spirit. You redeem me, O Jehovah, God of truth,	Luke 23:46
32:1-2	¹ Blessed is the one whose a transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man to whom Jehovah imputes no iniquity, in whose spirit there is no deceit.	Rom. 4:7-8
34:8	⁸ Oh taste and see that Jehovah is good. Happy is the man who takes refuge in him.	1 Pet. 2:3
34:12-16	¹² Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good. Seek peace, and pursue it. ¹⁵ The eyes of Jehovah are toward the righteous. And his ears are open to their cry. ¹⁶ The face of Jehovah is against evildoers, to cut off their memory from the earth.	1 Pet. 3:10-12
34:20	²⁰ He keeps all his bones. Not one of them is broken.	John 19:36
35:19	¹⁹ Let not my unprovoked enemies rejoice over me; neither let those who hate me without a cause leer at me <i>in triumph</i> .	John 15:25
36:1	¹ Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes.	Rom. 3:18
37:11	¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land, and will delight themselves in abundant peace.	Matt. 5:5
40:6-8	⁶ Sacrifice and offering you do not desire. You have opened my ears: for burnt offering and sin offering you have not asked of me. ⁷ Then I said, "Here I am [<i>as a living sacrifice</i>]. In the scroll of the book it is written of me. ⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."	Heb. 10:5-7
41:9	⁹ Even my closest friend, in whom I trusted, who ate bread with me, has lifted up his heel against me.	John 13:18
41:13	¹³ Blessed be Jehovah, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and amen.	Luke 1:68
42:5	⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul? Why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God! For I will still praise him, my savior and my God.	Matt. 26:38; Mark 14:34
44:22	²² Yes, for your sake we are killed all the day long. We are regarded as sheep for the slaughter.	Rom. 8:36

45:6-7	⁶ Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness. ⁷ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.	Heb. 1:8-9
48:1	¹ Great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in his holy mountain.	Matt. 5:35
51:4	⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak, and blameless when you judge.	Rom. 3:4
53:1-3	¹ The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable deeds. There is no one who does good. ² God looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there are any who act wisely, who seek after God. ³ They have all turned aside. They have all together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, no, not one.	Rom. 3:10-12
55:22	²² Cast your burden on Jehovah and he will sustain you. He will never let the righteous stumble.	1 Pet. 5:7
62:12		Matt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6
68:18		Eph. 4:8
69:4		John 15:25
69:9		John 2:17; Rom. 15:3
69:21		Matt. 27:34; 27:48; Mark 15:36; Luke 23:36; John 19:28-29
69:22-23		Rom. 11:9-10
69:25		Acts 1:20
72:18		Luke 1:68
78:2		Matt. 13:35
78:24		John 6:31
82:6	⁶ I said, "You are gods, all of you are sons of the Most High.	John 10:34
86:9		Rev. 15:4
88:8	⁸ You have taken my friends from me. You have made me an abomination to them. I am confined, and I cannot escape.	Luke 23:49
89:10		Luke 1:51
89:20		Acts 13:22
90:4		2 Peter 3:8
91:11-13	¹¹ For he will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you in all your ways. ¹² They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. ¹³ You will tread on the lion and cobra. You will trample the young lion and the serpent underfoot.	Matt. 4:6; Luke 4:10-11; 10:19

94:11		1 Cor. 3:20
94:14		Rom. 11:1-2
95:7-11		Heb. 3:7-18; 4:1-7
97:7		Heb. 1:6
98:3		Luke 1:54
102:25-27		Heb. 1:10-12
103:17		Luke 1:50
104:4		Heb. 1:7
105:8-9		Luke 1:72-73
106:10		Luke 1:71
106:45		Luke 1:72
106:48		Luke 1:68
107:9		Luke 1:53
109:8		Acts 1:20
109:25		Matt. 27:39
110:1		Matt. 22:44; 26:64; Mark 12:36; 14:62; 16:19; Luke 20:42-43; 22:69; Acts 2:34-35; Heb. 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12-13; 12:2; 1Cor. 15:25; 1Pet. 3:22; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1
110:4		Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17; 7:21
111:9		Luke 1:49, 68
112:9		2Cor. 9:9
116:10		2Cor. 4:13
117:1		Rom. 15:11
118:6		Heb. 13:6
118:22-23		Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1Pet. 2:4-7
118:25-26		Matt. 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13
132:4-5		Acts 7:46
132:11		Acts 2:30
132:17		Luke 1:69
135:14		Heb. 10:30
140:3		Rom. 3:13
143:2		Rom. 3:20
146:6	⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever;	Acts 4:24; 14:15

<https://www.wednesdayintheword.com/psalms-newtestament/>

Proverbs

- A. Invitation of folly (1:8-19)
- B. Invitation of wisdom (1:20-33)
- C. Invitation to call out for wisdom (2:1-1-9)
 - D. the loose woman (2:10-22)
 - E. Good consequences of wise living (3:1-20)
 - F. Practical advice about right social behaviour (3:21-35)
 - G. Embrace wisdom (4:1-27)
 - G'. Do not embrace the adulteress (5:1-23)
 - F'. Practical advice about wrong social behaviour (6:1-19)
 - E'. bad consequences of adultery (6:20-35)
 - D'. the loose woman (7:1-27)
 - C'. Invitation of wisdom who calls out (8:1-36)
 - B'. Invitation of wisdom (9:1-12)
 - A'. Invitation of Folly (9:13-18)

Proverbs [↵](#)

[*Purpose: To receive instruction in wise dealing*]

1 The proverbs of Solomon, the **son** of David, king of Israel:

² to know **wisdom** and **instruction**; to discern the words of understanding; ³ to receive **instruction** in **wise dealing**, in **righteousness, justice, and equity**;

⁴ to give prudence to **the simple**, knowledge and discretion to **the young** man: ⁵ that **the wise** man may hear, and increase in learning; that the **man of understanding** may attain to sound counsel:

⁶ to understand a proverb and parables, the words and riddles of the wise. ⁷ The fear of Yehovah is the beginning of **knowledge**; but the foolish despise **wisdom** and **instruction**.

⁸ My **son**, listen to your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching: ⁹ for they will be a garland to grace your head, and chains around your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. **11** If they say, "Come with us. **Let's lie in wait for blood. Let's lurk secretly for the innocent** without cause. **12** Let's swallow them up alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down into the pit. **13** We'll find all valuable wealth. We'll fill our houses with plunder. **14** You shall cast your lot among us. We'll all have one purse."

15 My son, do not walk on the path with them. Keep your foot from their path, **16** for their feet run to evil. They hurry to shed blood. **17** For the net is spread in vain in the sight of any bird; **18 but these lay in wait for their own blood. They lurk secretly for their own lives.** **19** So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain. It takes away the life of its owners.

20 Wisdom **calls aloud** in the street. She **utters** her voice in the public squares. **21** She **calls** at the head of noisy places. At the entrance of the city gates, she **utters** her words:

22 "How long, you **simple ones**, will you love simplicity? How long will mockers delight themselves in mockery, and **fools** hate knowledge?

23 Turn at my **reproof**. Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you. **I will make known** my words to you.

24 Because I have **called**, and you have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no one has paid attention; 25 but you have ignored all my counsel, and wanted none of my reproof;

26 I also will laugh at your **disaster**. I will mock when **calamity** overtakes you, 27 when **calamity** overtakes you like a storm, when your **disaster** comes on like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come on you.

28 Then they will **call** on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me,

29 because they **hated knowledge**, and didn't choose the fear of Yehovah. 30 They wanted none of my counsel. They despised all my **reproof**. 31 Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own schemes.

32 For the backsliding of the **simple** will kill them. The careless ease of **fools** will destroy them.

33 But whoever **listens** to me will dwell securely, and will be at ease, without fear of harm.”

2 My **son**, if you will receive my words, and store up my commandments within you, 2 so as to turn your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding;

3 yes, if you **call out for** discernment, and lift up your voice for **understanding**;

4 if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures:

5 then you will **understand the fear of Yehovah, and find the knowledge of God**.

6 For Yehovah gives wisdom. Out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

[Righteousness, justice and equity]

7 He lays up **sound wisdom** for the upright. He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

8 that he may guard the **paths** of justice, and preserve the way of his

saints.

9 Then you will understand **righteousness and justice, equity** and every good **path**.

10 For wisdom will enter into your heart. Knowledge will be **pleasant to your soul**. 11 Discretion will **watch over you**. Understanding **will keep you**,

12 to deliver you from **the way of evil**, from the men who speak perverse things, 13 who forsake the **paths [orah] of uprightness**,

to walk in the **ways [derek] of darkness**, 14 who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perverseness of evil, 15 who are crooked in their **ways [orah]**, and wayward in their **paths [magal]**,

16 to deliver you from the strange woman, even from the foreigner who flatters with her words, 17 who forsakes the friend of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God;

18 for her house **leads down to death**, her **paths [magal]** to the **departed spirits**. 19 None who go to her return again, neither do they attain to the **paths [orah]** of life.

20 So you may walk in **the way of good men**, and keep the **paths [orah] of the righteous**.

21 For the upright will **dwelt in the land**. The perfect **will remain in it**. 22 But the wicked will be **cut off from the land**. The treacherous will be **rooted out of it**.

3 [↵]

1 **My son**, do not forget my teaching; but let your heart keep my commandments: 2 for they will add to you length of days, years of life, and peace. 3 Do not let kindness and truth forsake you. **Bind them around your neck**. Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor, and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in Yehovah with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your **ways** acknowledge him, and he will make your **paths** straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear Yehovah, and depart from evil. 8 It will be **health to your body, and nourishment to your bones**.

9 Honor Yehovah with your substance, with the first fruits of all your increase: 10 so your barns will be **filled with plenty**, and your vats will **overflow with new wine**.

11 **My son**, do not despise Yehovah's discipline,
neither be weary of his **correction**; 12 for whom
Yehovah loves, he **corrects**,
even as a father reproves the **son** in whom he delights.

13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gets understanding. 14 For her **good profit is better than getting silver, and her return is better than fine gold**.

15 She is more precious than rubies. None of the things you can desire are to be compared to her. 16 **Length of days** is in her right hand. In her left hand are **riches** and honor.

17 Her ways are **ways** of pleasantness. All her **paths** are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her. Happy is everyone who retains her. 19 By wisdom Yehovah founded the earth. By understanding, he established the heavens. 20 By his knowledge, the depths were broken up, and the skies drop down the dew.

21 **My son**, let them not depart from your eyes. Keep sound wisdom and discretion: 22 so they will be life to your soul, and **adornment for your neck**.

23 Then you shall walk in your way securely. Your foot won't stumble. 24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid. Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden fear, neither

of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes; 26 for Yehovah will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being taken. 27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again; tomorrow I will give it to you," when you have it by you. 29 Do not devise evil against your neighbor, since he dwells securely by you. 30 Do not strive with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm. 31 Do not envy the man of violence. Choose none of his ways. 32 For the perverse is an abomination to Yehovah, but his friendship is with the upright. 33 Yehovah's curse is in the house of the wicked, but he blesses the habitation of the righteous. 34 Surely he mocks the mockers, but he gives grace to the humble. 35 The wise will inherit glory, but shame will be the promotion of fools.

4 [↩]

1 Listen, sons, to a father's **instruction**. Pay attention and know understanding; 2 for I give you sound learning. Do not forsake my law.

3 For I was a son to my father, tender and an only child in the sight of my mother. 4 **He taught me**, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words. Keep my commandments, and **live**."

5 Get wisdom. Get understanding. Do not forget, and **do not deviate from the words of my mouth**. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you. Love her, and she will keep you.

7 Wisdom is supreme. **Get wisdom**. Yes, though it costs all your possessions, get understanding. 8 **Esteem her**, and she will exalt you. She will bring you to honor **when you embrace her**.

9 She will give to your head a garland of grace. She will deliver a crown of splendor to you." 10 Listen, my son, and **receive my sayings**. The years of your life will be many.

11 **I have taught you** in the way of wisdom. I have led you in straight paths. 12 When you go, your steps will not be hampered. When you run, you will not stumble. 13 Take firm hold of **instruction**. Do not let her go. Keep her, for she is your **life**.

14 Do not enter into the **path of the wicked**. Do not walk in the way of evil men. 15 **Avoid it, and do not pass by it. Turn from it, and pass on.**

16 For **they cannot sleep** unless they do evil. Their **sleep is taken away**, unless they make someone fall.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. 18 But the path of the righteous is like **the dawning light** that shines more and more until the perfect day.

19 The way of the wicked is **like deep darkness**. They Do not know what they stumble over.

20 My son, **attend to my words**. Turn your ear to my sayings.

21 Let them not **depart from your eyes**. Keep them in the center of your heart.

22 For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body. 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the **wellspring of life**.

24 Put away from yourself a perverse mouth. Put corrupt lips far from you. 25 Let **your eyes** look straight ahead. Fix **your gaze** directly before you.

26 Make **the path** of your feet level. Let all of your **ways** be established. 27 **Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left. Remove your foot from evil.**

5 [↩]

1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Turn your ear to my **understanding**, 2 that you may maintain discretion, that your lips may preserve **knowledge**.

3 For the lips of an **adulteress** drip honey. Her mouth is smoother than oil, 4 but in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, and as sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to Sheol. 6 She gives no thought to the way of life. Her ways are crooked, and she doesn't know it.

7 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me. Do not depart from the words of my mouth. 8 Remove your way far from **her**. Do not come near the door of **her** house,

9 lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel

one; 10 lest **strangers** feast on your wealth, and your labors enrich **another man's** house. 11 You will groan at your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed,

12 and say, "How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof. 13 I haven't obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor turned my ear to those who instructed me! 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin, among the gathered assembly."

15 Drink water out of your own cistern, running water out of your own well. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be for yourself alone,

not for **strangers** with you. 18 Let your spring be blessed. Rejoice in **the wife of your youth**.

19 A loving doe and a graceful deer— let **her** breasts satisfy you at all times. Be captivated always with **her** love. 20 For why should you,

my son, be captivated with an **adulteress**? Why embrace the bosom of another?

21 For the ways of man are before Yehovah's eyes. He examines all his paths. 22 The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare him. The cords of his sin hold him firmly. 23 He will die for lack of **instruction**. In the greatness of his folly, he will go astray.

6 [↩]

1 My son, if you have become collateral for your neighbor, if you have struck your hands in pledge for a stranger, 2 you are **trapped** [*yags*] by the words of your mouth; you are ensnared with the words of your mouth.

3 Do this now, my son, and **deliver yourself**, since you have come into the hand of your neighbor.

Go, humble yourself. Press your plea with your neighbor. 4 Give no sleep to your eyes, nor slumber to your eyelids.

5 **Free yourself**, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of **the fowler** [*yagus*].

6 **Go** to the ant, you sluggard. Consider her ways, and be wise;

7 which having no **chief, overseer, or ruler,**

8 **provides** her bread in the summer, and **gathers** her food in the harvest. 9 **How long** will you sleep, sluggard? **When** will you arise out of your sleep?

10 A **little** sleep, a **little** slumber, a **little** folding of the hands to sleep:

11 so your poverty **will come** as a robber, and your scarcity as an armed man.

12 A worthless person, a man of iniquity, is he who walks with a **perverse mouth,**

13 who winks with his **eyes**, who signals with his **feet**, who motions with his **fingers**, 14 in whose **heart** is perverseness, who devises evil continually, who always sows discord.

15 Therefore his calamity **will come suddenly.** He will be broken suddenly, and that without remedy. 16 There are six things which **Yehovah hates**; yes, seven which are an abomination to him:

17 arrogant **eyes**, a lying tongue, **hands** that shed innocent blood, 18 a **heart** that devises wicked schemes, **feet** that are swift in running to mischief,

19 a false witness who **utters lies**, and he who sows discord among brothers.

20 My son, **keep your father's commandment**, and do not forsake your **mother's teaching**.

21 **Bind them** continually on your heart. **Tie them** around your neck.

22 When you walk, it **will lead you**. When you sleep, it **will watch over you**. When you awake, it **will talk with you**.

23 For the commandment is a **lamp**, and the law is **light**.
Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,

24 **to keep you from the immoral woman**, from the flattery of the wayward wife's tongue.

25 Do not lust after her beauty in your **heart**, neither let her captivate you with her **eyelids**.

26 For a prostitute reduces you to a piece of bread. The adulteress **hunts** for your precious life.

27 Can a man **carry** fire into his lap, and his clothes not be burned?

28 Or can one **walk on** hot coals, and his feet not be scorched?

29 So is he who goes in to his **neighbor's wife**. Whoever touches her will not be **unpunished**.

30 Men do not **despise a thief** if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry;

31 but if he is found, he shall **restore seven times**. He shall give all the wealth of his house.

32 He who commits adultery with a woman is void of understanding. He who does it **destroys his own soul**. 33 He will get wounds and dishonor. **His reproach will not be wiped away**.

34 For jealousy arouses the fury of the husband. He **won't spare** in the day of vengeance.

35 He **will accept no compensation, nor be appeased** though you give many gifts.

7 [\[↶\]](#)

1 **My son**, keep my words. Lay up my commandments within you. 2 Keep my commandments and **live!** Guard my teaching as the **apple of your eye**. 3 Bind them on your fingers. Write them on the tablet of your **heart**. 4 Tell wisdom, “You are my **sister**.” Call understanding your relative, 5 that they may **keep you** from the strange woman, from the foreigner **who flatters with her words**.

6 For at the window of my house, I looked out **through my lattice**.

7 I saw among the **simple ones**. I discerned among the youths a young man **void of understanding**,

8 **passing through the street near her corner, he went the way to her house**, 9 in the twilight, in the evening of the day, in the middle of the night and in the darkness.

10 Behold, there a woman met him with **the attire of a prostitute**, and with crafty intent. 11 She is loud and defiant. Her feet do not stay in her house. 12 Now she is in the streets, now in the squares, and **lurking at every corner**.

13 So she caught him, and kissed him. With an impudent face she said to him: 14 “**Sacrifices of peace offerings are with me. Today I have paid my vows**.” 15 Therefore I came out to meet you, to diligently seek your face, and I have found you.

16 I have **spread my couch with carpets of tapestry**, with striped cloths of the yarn of Egypt. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, **let’s take our fill of loving** until the morning. Let’s solace ourselves with loving.

19 For my husband isn’t at home. He has **gone on a long journey**. 20 He has taken a bag of money with him. He will come home at the full moon.” 21 With persuasive words, she led him astray. With the flattering of her lips, she seduced him.

22 **He followed her immediately**, as an ox goes to the slaughter, as a fool stepping into a noose. 23 Until an arrow strikes through his liver, **as a bird hurries to the snare**, and doesn’t know that it will cost his life.

24 Now therefore, **sons**, listen to me. Pay attention to the **words of my**

mouth. 25 Do not let your **heart** turn to her ways. Do not go astray in her paths, 26 for she has **thrown down many wounded.** Yes, all her slain are a mighty army. 27 Her house is the **way to Sheol**, going down to the **rooms of death.**

8 [↩]

1 Doesn't wisdom cry out? Doesn't understanding raise her voice? 2 On the top of high places **by the way**, where the **paths** meet, she stands. 3 Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entry doors, she cries aloud:

4 "I call to you **men!** I send my voice to the **sons of mankind.** 5 **You simple**, understand prudence! **You fools**, be of an understanding heart!

6 Hear, for **I will speak** excellent things. The opening of **my lips** is for right things.

7 For **my mouth** speaks **truth.** Wickedness is an **abomination** to my lips.

8 All the words of **my mouth** are in righteousness. There is nothing **crooked** or **perverse** in them.

9 They are all plain to him who understands, right to those who **find knowledge.**

10 Receive my instruction rather than silver, knowledge rather than **choice gold.** 11 For wisdom is better than rubies. All the things that may be desired can't be compared to it.

12 "I, wisdom, have made prudence my dwelling. **Find knowledge** and discretion.

13 The fear of Yehovah is to **hate evil. I hate** pride, arrogance, the evil way, and **the perverse mouth.** 14 Counsel and sound knowledge are mine. I have understanding and power.

15 By me **kings** reign, and **princes** decree justice. 16 By me **princes** rule, **nobles**, and all the righteous **rulers** of the earth.

17 **I love those who love me.** Those who seek me diligently will find me.

18 With me are riches, honor, enduring **wealth**, and prosperity.

19 **My fruit** is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, **my yield** than choice silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness, in the middle of the paths of justice, 21 that I may give **wealth** to **those who love me**. I fill their treasuries.

22 “**Yehovah possessed me in the beginning** of his work, before his deeds of old. 23 I was set up **from everlasting**, from the beginning, before **the earth** existed.

24 When there were **no depths, I was born**, when there were **no springs** abounding with **water**.

25 Before **the mountains** were settled in place, before **the hills, I was born**;

26 while as yet he had not made **the earth**, nor the fields, nor the beginning of the dust of **the world**.

27 When he established **the heavens, I was there**. When he set a circle on **the surface of the deep**,

28 when he established the clouds above, when the springs of the **deep** became strong, 29 when he gave to the **sea** its boundary, that the **waters** should not violate his commandment,

when he marked out the foundations of **the earth**, 30 then **I was** the craftsman **by his side**. I was a delight **day by day**, always rejoicing before him, 31 rejoicing in **his whole world**. My delight was with the sons of men.

32 “Now therefore, my sons, **listen to me**, for **blessed are those who keep my ways**. 33 Hear instruction, and be wise. Do not refuse it.

34 Blessed is the man **who hears me, watching** daily at my gates, **waiting** at my door posts.

35 For whoever **finds** me, finds life, and will obtain favor from Yehovah. 36 **But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul**. All those who hate me love death.”

9 [↩]

1 Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. 2 She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has also set her table. 3 She has sent out her maidens. She cries from the highest places of the city: 4 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” As for him who is void of understanding, she says to him, 5 “Come, eat some of my bread, Drink some of the wine which I have mixed! 6 Leave your simple ways, and live. Walk in the way of understanding.” 7 One who corrects a mocker invites insult. One who reproves a wicked man invites abuse.

8 Do not reprove a **scoffer**, lest he hate you.

Reprove a **wise** man, and he will love you. 9 Instruct a **wise** man, and he will be still wiser.

Teach a righteous man, and he will **increase** in learning.

10 The fear of Yehovah is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

11 For by me your days will be **multiplied**. The years of your life will be **increased**.

12 If you are **wise**, you are **wise** for yourself.

If you **mock**, you alone will bear it.

13 The foolish woman is loud, undisciplined, and knows nothing. 14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, 15 to call to those who pass by, who go straight on their ways, 16 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here.” as for him who is void of understanding, she says to him, 17 “Stolen water is sweet. Food eaten in secret is pleasant.” 18 But he doesn’t know that the departed spirits are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

24 [\[↩\]](#)

13 My son, eat honey, for it is good, the droppings of the honeycomb, which are sweet to your taste; 14 so you shall **know wisdom** to be to your soul. If you have found it, then there will be a reward: Your hope will not be cut off.

15 Do not lay in wait, wicked man, against the habitation of the righteous. Do not destroy his resting place; 16 for a righteous man falls seven times and **rises** up again; but the wicked are overthrown by calamity.

17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls. Do not let your heart be glad when he is overthrown, 18 **lest Yehovah see it, and it displease him**, and he turn away his wrath from him.

19 Do not fret yourself because of **evildoers**, neither be envious of the **wicked**; 20 for there will be no reward to the **evil man**. The lamp of the **wicked** will be snuffed out.

21 My son, **fear Yehovah and the king**.

Do not join those who are rebellious; 22 for their calamity will **rise** suddenly.

Who **knows** what destruction may come from them both? 23 These also are sayings of the **wise**. To show partiality in judgment is not good.

28 [↩]

9 He who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. 10 Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil **way**, he will **fall** into his own **trap**; but the blameless will inherit good.

11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes; but the poor who has **understanding** sees through him.

12 When the righteous **triumph**, there is great **glory**; but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.

13 He who conceals his sins doesn't prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

14 **Blessed** is the man who always fears; but one who hardens his heart **falls** into trouble.

15 As a roaring lion or a charging bear, so is a wicked ruler over helpless people. 16 A tyrannical ruler lacks **judgment**. One who hates ill-gotten gain will have long days.

17 A man who is tormented by life blood will be a **fugitive until death**; no one will support him. 18 Whoever walks blamelessly is kept safe; but one with perverse **ways** will **fall** suddenly.