

# PSALMS

## INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs of praise and prayer addressed to God. They are poems, poems intended to be sung, not doctrinal treatises, not even sermons.

David wrote seventy-three of the Psalms. Some of the Psalms were written in the days of Amos and Isaiah, some during the exile and the period following the return, and some during the building of the second temple. The Psalms did not reflect the religious experiences of individuals but of the nation of Israel.

The Israelites had a high conception of God as the all-powerful, the all-knowing, the everywhere-present God. God is also the God of all history who guides everything towards the final goal, which He has purposed to fulfill. The psalmist had no conception of a final judgment nor any conception of eternal life in which the ungodly would be punished and the godly rewarded. To them, if righteousness is to be vindicated it has to be vindicated now, if wickedness is to be punished it has to be punished now.

There was no Messianic hope in the Psalms. It centered around the return of David, whose reign marked the golden age in Israel's history.

The picture of the Messiah emerges from the Psalms in two ways.

1. The Messiah is to be the King of the Messianic Age. Psalms views the Messiah as a Messianic King against whom nations will rebel in vain.
2. The Messiah is to be a Suffering Messiah.

The Psalms cover a period of about 300 years, mostly from 1,000 B.C. to 700 B.C. from David to Hezekiah. A few psalms came from the days of Ezra and Nehemiah and one or two from the time of the Maccabees.

Educationally, the Psalms mean: "You be holy, for I am Holy."

Why should we study the Psalms?

1. We are commanded as Christians to use the Psalms in our singing and teaching. Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16
2. They are useful for teaching and confirming that Jesus is the Christ. Luke 24:44-47, Acts 2:2-28, 34-3
3. The Psalms express a number of thoughts.
  - a. The eager yearning and longing for God's presence.
  - b. The Psalms also contain prayers and songs of joyous trust and praise.
  - c. Every emotion known to man is expressed in beautiful and inspired terms (joy, anger, praise, repentance, trust, and even doubt.)

The Psalms are therefore capable of being the Christians':

1. "Hymnal,"
2. "Prayer book,"
3. "Book of Christian evidences,"
4. "Training guide for living justly and righteously before God."

There are several authors or writers of the Psalms.

1. David is commonly thought to be the author of all the Psalms, but he is not. He wrote at least seventy-three (73) of the Psalms.
2. Asaph was the music director during the reigns of David and Solomon. He wrote twelve (12) of the Psalms.
3. The sons of Korah served in the temple and they wrote twelve (12) Psalms.
4. Solomon is attributed with writing two Psalms 72 and 127. He also wrote many more Psalms according to 1 Kings 4:29-32.
5. Moses wrote the earliest Psalms. One is found in Psalms 90.

6. Heman was contemporary with David and Asaph and is known as “the singer.” He wrote Psalm 88.
7. Ethan was a companion of Asaph and Hemen in the temple worship and wrote Psalm 89.
8. Forty-eight of the Psalms name no author.

The Psalms were originally collected in “Five Books.”

1. Book I (Psalms 1-41)
2. Book II (Psalms 42-72)
3. Book III (Psalms 73-89)
4. Book IV (Psalms 90-106)
5. Book V (Psalms 107-150)

There are several “classes” of Psalms which are geared toward singing praises to God.

1. The most obvious are the “**Hallelujah**” psalms.
  - a. These Psalms begin or end with “praise the Lord” or “hallelujah.”
  - b. Psalm 148 is often called, “The Joy-Song of Creation, it has inspired several of our modern song writers, for example, the song “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah.”
  - c. Psalms 146-150 all begin with and end with “hallelujah” or “praise the Lord” depending upon the translation you use.

Another group of Psalms are those classified as psalms of “**Praise**.” These Psalms are more general in nature.

1. Psalm 100 is described as “A song of Praise for the Lord’s faithfulness to His people.”
2. Another example of a Psalm of praise is Psalm 8.

Another group of Psalms are the Psalms of “**Thanksgiving.**”

1. These Psalms are “expressions of grateful praise to Jehovah and thanksgiving to Him for deliverance and greatness.
2. In Psalm 100:4 and Psalm 118:1-4, 29 we see that thanksgiving is offered for the Lord’s saving goodness.

In addition to using the book of Psalms as a source of songs in which we can offer praise and thanksgiving to God, it also has much to offer in regards to our approaching God in prayer.

Many of the Psalms are written in the style of prayer or petition, and are thereby suitable in helping us to learn how to pray and how to express those innermost emotions and needs of which we often lack the words to express.

Let’s look at some examples of Psalms in prayer.

1. An example of Jesus using the prayer, “My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?” found in Matthew 27:46; can be found in Psalm 22:1.
2. “Father into Thy hands I commit My spirit” found in Luke 23:46 can also be found in Psalm 31:5.

Both of these prayers were uttered as Jesus hung on the cross while suffering in deep agony and He chose to use the Psalms to express His deepest feelings. Then there is the example of the early church. The prayer of the apostles in Acts 4:24-26 is quoted from Psalm 146:6. In expressing their problems, they also referred to Psalm 2:1-2.

This prayer was offered as a result of persecution, and they chose to use the Psalms to express their problems to God. Looking at these examples it is appropriate on occasions to use phrases from the Psalms in our prayers.

When we realize that found in the Psalms are man’s deepest emotions expressed in inspired terms, it is only natural that we would want to use them to express our own feelings. Note: we should use expressions from the Psalms only when truly heart-felt so that they do not become “vain repetition.”

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus taught us the proper format of prayer.

1. Addressing the Father (Verse 9), Psalm 8:1, Psalm 90:1-2.
2. Praying for God's purposes (Verse 10), Psalm 7:11, Psalm 72:18-19
3. Praying for our material needs (Verse 11), Psalm 144:12-1.
4. Praying for our spiritual needs (Verse 12-13a) Psalm 1:1-4, Psalm 71:1-3.
5. Concluding praise (Verse 13b) Psalm 36:9. Such expressions are appropriate when used.
6. Not for God's benefit, but for our own edification.
7. Not to impress others with our ability to memorize Scripture, but to be able to express praise and petition when our own words fail to express what is truly in our hearts.

My purpose is not to suggest that we formalize prayers based upon the Book of Psalms. Rather, it is to show that there is much we can learn about prayer from men like David ("a man after God's own heart").

Due to the size of Psalms—to aid your study the verses in the book of Psalms will be paraphrased.

## **THE PSALMS**

### **PSALM 1 The Righteous Man and the Lawless Contrasted**

#### **Verse 1**

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow evil men's advice, who do not hang around sinners, scoffing at the things of God.

#### **Verse 2**

But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on His laws and thinking about ways to follow Him more closely.

### Verse 3

They are like trees along a river bank bearing luscious fruit each season without fail. Their leaves shall never wither, and all they do shall prosper. “Which yields its fruit in its season,” means that seasonable fruit is the glory of fruit-bearing trees. Learning and liveliness in youth, steady work and sturdy endurance in middle life, patience and serene hope in old age as the better land draws near—these are the fruits to be looked for in the Garden of God.

### Verse 4

But for sinners, what a different story! They blow away like chaff before the wind!

### Verse 5

They are not safe on Judgment Day; they shall not stand among the godly.

### Verse 6

The Lord watches over all the plans and paths of godly men, but the paths of the godless lead to doom. Note: Psalm 1 is a psalm commending the godly life. In order to live the godly life, it tells us what to avoid, what to delight in, and what to resemble.

1. A godly man avoids the downward course by not beginning it.

#### Verse 1

2. He delights in God’s law and shows his pleasure in it by diligent study.
3. He resembles a tree planted in a spot where it is will watered.
4. A godly man does not take the advice of those who care not how they live.
5. A godly man declines bad men as companions.

Describes the future for the wicked. They will not enter the assembly of the righteous but will perish, like a track lost in the wilderness, where no steps can make a path.

This psalm is an introduction to the whole book of Psalms.

## **Psalm 2 The Messiah's Reign in Zion Assured**

### **Verse 1**

What fools the nations are, to rage against the Lord! How strange that man would try to outwit God!

### **Verse 2**

For a summit conference of the nations has been called to plot against the Lord and His Messiah, Christ the King.

### **Verse 3**

“Come let us break His chains,” they say, “And free ourselves from all this slavery to God.”

### **Verse 4**

But God in heaven merely laughs! He is amused by all their puny plans.

### **Verse 5**

And then in fierce fury He rebukes them and fills them with fear.

### **Verse 6**

The Lord declares, “This is the King of My choice, and I have enthroned Him in Jerusalem, My holy city.”

### **Verse 7**

His Chosen One replies, “I will reveal the everlasting purposes of God for the Lord has said to Me, You are My Son. This is Your Coronation Day. Today I am giving You Your glory.”

### **Verse 8**

“Only ask, and I will give You all the nations of the world.

### **Verse 9**

Rule them with an iron rod; smash them like clay pots!”

### **Verse 10**

O kings and rulers of the earth, listen while there is time.

### **Verse 11**

Serve the Lord with reverent fear; rejoice with trembling.

### **Verse 12**

Fall down before His Son and kiss His feet before His anger is roused and you perish. I am warning you—His wrath will soon begin. But, oh, the joys of those who put their trust in Him!

(Note: The nations are in an uproar, Saul is dead and David has returned to Israel, after 10 years among the Philistines, to become their king. (Verse 1) The heathens had dreamed of the utter destruction of Israel. You can imagine their confusion and consternation and even rage. Often the rulers of the earth take counsel together to defeat the purposes of God, only to be defeated.

David’s heart cried out in joy and happiness because he who had been so despised, he who felt that God had rejected him, was now declared the son of God. The great admonition “be wise now, be instructed, serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling,” is given in verses 10-12.

Faith demands that David express his trust in God. Blessed are those who put their faith in God.

## **Psalm 3      David Fled from his Son Absalom**

### **Verse 1**

O Lord, so many are against me, so many seek to harm me. I have so many enemies.

### **Verse 2**

So many say that God will never help me.



### **Verse 3**

But Lord, You are my shield, my glory, and my only hope. You alone can lift my head, now bowed in shame.

### **Verse 4**

I cried out to the Lord, and He heard me from His temple in Jerusalem.

### **Verse 5**

Then I lay down and slept in peace and woke up safely, for the Lord was watching over me.

### **Verse 6**

And now, although ten thousand enemies surround me on every side, I am not afraid!

### **Verse 7**

I will cry to Him, "Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!" And He will slap them in the face, insulting them and breaking off their teeth.

### **Verse 8**

For salvation comes from God. What joys He gives to all His people.

## **Psalm 4 The Ideal Levite's Evening Prayer**

### **Verse 1**

O God, You have declared me perfect in Your eyes; You have always cared for me in my distress; now hear me as I call again. Have mercy on me. Hear my prayer.

### **Verse 2**

The Lord God asks, "Sons of men, will you forever turn My glory into shame by worshiping these silly idols, when every claim that's made for them is false?"

**Verse 3**

Mark this well: The Lord has set apart the redeemed for Himself. Therefore He will listen to me and answer when I call to Him.

**Verse 4**

Stand before the Lord in awe, and do not sin against Him. Lie quietly upon your bed in silent meditation.

**Verse 5**

Put your trust in the Lord, and offer Him pleasing sacrifices.

**Verse 6**

Many say that God will never help us. Prove them wrong, O Lord, by letting the light of your face shine down upon us.

**Verse 7**

Yes, the gladness You have given me is far greater than the joys at harvest time as they gaze at their bountiful crops.

**Verse 8**

I will lie down in peace and sleep, for though I am alone, O Lord, You will keep me safely.

**Psalm 5 A Morning Prayer for Deliverance from Conspirators****Verses 1-2**

O Lord, hear my praying; listen to my plea, O God my King, for I will never pray to anyone but You.

**Verse 3**

Each morning I will look to You in heaven and lay my requests before You, praying earnestly.

**Verse 4**

I know You get no pleasure from wickedness and cannot tolerate the slightest sin.

**Verse 5**

Therefore, proud sinners will not survive Your searching gaze; for how You hate their evil deeds.

**Verse 6**

You will destroy them for their lies; how You abhor all murder and deception.

**Verse 7**

But as for me, I will come into Your temple protected by Your mercy and Your love; I will worship You with deepest awe.

**Verse 8**

Lord, lead me as You promised me You would; otherwise my enemies will conquer me. Tell me clearly what to do, which way to turn.

**Verse 9**

They cannot speak one truthful word. Their hearts are filled to the brim with wickedness. Their suggestions are full of the stench of sin and death. Their tongues are filled with flatteries to gain their wicked ends.

**Verse 10**

O God, hold them responsible. Catch them in their own traps; let them fall beneath the weight of their own transgressions, for they rebel against You.

**Verse 11**

But make everyone rejoice who puts his trust in You. Keep them shouting for joy because You are defending them. Fill all who love You with Your happiness.

**Verse 12**

For You bless the godly man, O Lord; You protect him with Your shield of love.

**Psalm 6 A Prayer for Deliverance from Sickness and Death**

**Verse 1**

No, Lord! Don't punish me in the heat of Your anger.

**Verse 2**

Pity me, O Lord, for I am weak. Heal me, for my body is sick.

**Verse 3**

And I am upset and disturbed. My mind is filled with apprehension and with gloom. Oh, restore me soon.

**Verse 4**

Come, O Lord, and make me well. In Your kindness save me.

**Verse 5**

For if I die I cannot give You glory by praising You before my friends.

**Verse 6**

I am worn out with pain; every night my pillow is wet with tears.

**Verse 7**

My eyes are growing old and dim with grief because of all my enemies.

**Verse 8**

Go, leave me now, you men of evil deeds, for the Lord has heard my weeping.

**Verse 9**

He has heard my pleading. He will answer all my prayers.

**Verse 10**

All my enemies shall be suddenly dishonored, terror-stricken, and disgraced. God will turn them back in shame.

**Psalm 7 One Wrongfully Accused Commits His Vindication to the Righteous Judge of All the Earth**

**Verse 1**

I am depending on You, Lord my God, to save me from my persecutors.

**Verse 2**

Don't let them pounce upon me as a lion would and maul me and drag me away with no one to rescue me.

**Verse 3**

It would be different, Lord, if I were doing evil things.

**Verse 4**

If I were paying back evil for good or unjustly attacking those I dislike.

**Verse 5**

Then it would be right for You to let my enemies destroy me, crush me to the ground, and trample my life in the dust.

**Verse 6**

But Lord! Arise in anger against the anger of my enemies. Awake!  
Demand justice for me, Lord!

**Verses 7-8**

Gather all peoples before You; sit high above them, judging their sins. But justify me publicly; establish my honor and truth before them all.

**Verse 9**

End all wickedness, O Lord, and bless all who truly worship God; for You, the righteous God, look deep within the hearts of men and examine all their motives and their thoughts.

**Verse 10**

God is my shield; He will defend me. He saves those whose hearts and lives are true and right.

**Verse 11**

God is a judge who is perfectly fair, and He is angry with the wicked every day.

**Verse 12**

Unless they repent, He will sharpen His sword and slay the wicked every day. He has bent and strung His bow.

**Verse 13**

And fitted it with deadly arrows made from shafts of fire.

**Verse 14**

The wicked man conceives an evil plot, labors with its dark details, and brings to birth his treachery and lies;

**Verse 15**

Let him fall into his own trap.

**Verse 16**

May the violence he plans for others boomerang upon him; let him die.

**Verse 17**

Oh, how grateful and thankful I am to the Lord because He is so good. I will sing praise to the name of the Lord who is above all lords.

**Psalm 8      Jehovah's Majesty Exalted by Means of Man's Dominion****Verse 1**

Lord our God, the majesty and glory of Your name fills all the earth and overflows the heavens.

**Verse 2**

You have taught the little children to praise you perfectly. May their example shame and silence Your enemies!

**Verse 3**

When I look up into the night skies and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars You have made—

**Verse 4**

I cannot understand how You can bother with mere puny man, to pay any attention to him!

**Verse 5**

And yet You have made him only a little lower than the angels, and placed a crown of glory and honor upon his head.

**Verse 6**

You have put him in charge of everything you made; everything is put under his authority:

**Verse 7**

All sheep and oxen, and wild animals too,

**Verse 8**

All birds and fish, and all the life in the sea.

**Verse 9**

O Jehovah, our Lord, the majesty and glory of Your name fills the earth.

**Psalm 9 David After a Decisive Victory Over His Enemies****Verse 1**

O Lord, I will praise You with all my heart, and tell everyone about the marvelous things You do.

**Verse 2**

I will be glad, yes, filled with joy because of You. I will sing Your praises, O Lord God above all gods.

**Verse 3**

My enemies will fall back and perish in Your presence;

**Verse 4**

You have vindicated me; You have endorsed my work, declaring from Your throne that it is good.

**Verse 5**

You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked, blotting out their names forever and ever.

**Verse 6**

O enemies of mine, you are doomed forever. The Lord will destroy your cities, even the memory of them will disappear.

**Verses 7-8**

But the Lord lives on forever; He sits upon His throne to judge justly the nations of the world.

**Verse 9**

All who are oppressed may come to Him. He is a refuge for them in their times of trouble.

**Verse 10**

All those who know Your mercy, Lord, will count on You for help. For You have never yet forsaken those who trust in You.

**Verse 11**

Oh, sing out your praises to the God who lives in Jerusalem. Tell the world about His unforgettable deeds.

**Verse 12**

He who avenges murder has an open ear to those who cry to Him for justice. He does not ignore the prayers of men in trouble when they call to Him for help.

**Verse 13**

And now, O Lord, have mercy on me; see how I suffer at the hands of those who hate me. Lord, snatch me back from the jaws of death.

**Verse 14**

Save me, so that I can praise You publicly before all the people at Jerusalem's gates and rejoice that You have rescued me.



**Verse 15**

The nations fall into the pitfalls they have dug for others; the trap they set has snapped on them.

**Verse 16**

The Lord is famous for the way He punishes the wicked in their own snares.

**Verse 17**

The wicked shall be sent away to hell; this is the fate of all the nations forgetting the Lord.

**Verse 18**

For the needs of the needy shall not be ignored forever; the hopes of the poor shall not always be crushed.

**Verse 19**

O Lord, arise and judge and punish the nations; don't let them conquer You!

**Verse 20**

Make them tremble in fear; put the nations in their place until at last they know they are but puny men.

**Psalm 10 Hezekiah's Peculiar Trials Due to the Assyrian Invasion****Verse 1**

Lord, why are You standing aloof and far away? Why do you hide when I need You the most?

**Verse 2**

Come and deal with all these proud and wicked men who viciously persecute the poor. Pour upon these men the evil they planned for others!

**Verse 3**

For these men brag of all their evil lusts; they revile God and congratulate those who the Lord abhors, whose only goal in life is money.

**Verse 4**

These wicked men, so proud and haughty, seem to think that God is dead. They wouldn't think of looking for Him!

**Verse 5**

Yet there is success in everything they do, and their enemies fall before them. They do not see Your punishment awaiting them.

**Verse 6**

They boast that neither God nor man can ever keep them down—somehow they'll find a way!

**Verse 7**

Their mouths are full of profanity and lies and fraud. They are always boasting of their evil plans.

**Verse 8**

They lurk in dark alleys of the city and murder passersby.

**Verse 9**

Like lions they crouch silently, waiting to pounce upon the poor. Like hunters they catch their victims in their traps.

**Verse 10**

The unfortunate overwhelmed by their superior strength fall beneath their blows.

**Verse 11**

"God isn't watching," they say to themselves; "He'll never know."

**Verse 12**

O Lord, arise! O God, crush them! Don't forget the poor or anyone else in need.

**Verse 13**

Why do You let the wicked get away with this contempt?

**Verse 14**

Lord, You see what they are doing. You have noted each evil act. You know what trouble and grief they have caused. Now punish them, O Lord, the poor man trusts himself to You; You are known as the helper of the helpless.

**Verse 15**

Break the arms of these wicked men. Go after them until the last of them is destroyed.

**Verse 16**

The Lord is King forever and forever. Those who follow other gods shall be swept from His land.

**Verse 17**

Lord, You know the hopes of humble people. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort their hearts by helping them.

**Verse 18**

You will be with the orphans and all who are oppressed, so that mere earthly man will terrify them no longer.

**Psalm 11 Faith's Brave Answer to the Counsels of Fear****Verse 1**

How dare you tell me, "Flee to the mountains for safety," when I am trusting in the Lord?

**Verse 2**

For the wicked have strung their bows, drawn their arrows tight against the bowstrings, and aimed from ambush at the people of God.

**Verse 3**

"Law and order have collapsed," we are told. "What can the righteous do but flee?"

**Verse 4**

But the Lord is still in His holy temple; He still rules from heaven. He closely watches everything that happens here on earth.

**Verse 5**

He puts the righteous and the wicked to the test; He hates those loving violence.

### **Verse 6**

He will rain down fire and brimstone on the wicked and scorch them with His burning wind.

### **Verse 7**

For God is good, and He loves goodness; the godly shall see His face.

## **Psalm 12 General Corruption, Evidenced by Sin of the Tongue. Impels to Prayer and Calls forth a Divine Answer**

### **Verse 1**

Lord! Help! Godly men are fast disappearing. Where in all the world can dependable men be found?

### **Verse 2**

Everyone deceives and flatters and lies. There is no sincerity left.

### **Verses 3-4**

But the Lord will not deal gently with people who act like that; He will destroy those proud liars who say, "We will lie to our heart's content. Our lips are our own; who can stop us?"

### **Verse 5**

The Lord replies, "I will arise and defend the oppressed, the poor, the needy. I will rescue them as they have longed for Me to do."

### **Verse 6**

The Lord's promise is sure. He speaks no careless word; all He says is purest truth, like silver seven times refined.

### **Verse 7**

O Lord, we know that You will forever preserve Your own from the reach of evil men,

**Verse 8**

Although they prowl on every side and vileness is praised throughout the land.

**Psalm 13 A Sorely Tried Believer in Jehovah Expostulates, Entreats, and Ultimately Exults.****Verse 1**

How long will You forget me, Lord? Forever? How long will You look the other way when I am in need?

**Verse 2**

How long must I be hiding daily anguish in my heart? How long shall my enemy have the upper hand?

**Verse 3**

Answer me, O Lord my God; give me light in my darkness lest I die.

**Verse 4**

Don't let my enemies say, "We have conquered him!" Don't let them gloat that I am down.

**Verse 5**

But I will always trust in You and in Your mercy and shall rejoice in Your salvation.

**Verse 6**

I will sing to the Lord because He has blessed me so richly.

**Psalm 14 A Vile Person's Testimony to Prevalent Wickedness, When Confirmed by Jehovah, Occasion Warning and Prayer.**

**Verse 1**

That man is a fool who says to himself, "There is no God!" Anyone who talks like that is warped and evil and cannot really be a good person at all.

**Verse 2**

The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who are wise, who want to please God.

**Verse 3**

But no, all have strayed away; all are rotten with sin. Not one is good, not one!

**Verse 4**

They eat my people like bread and wouldn't think of praying! Don't they really know any better?

**Verse 5**

Terror shall grip them, for God is with those who love Him.

**Verse 6**

He is the refuge of the poor and humble when evil doers are oppressing them.

**Verse 7**

Oh, that the time of their rescue was already here; that God would come from Zion now to save His people. What gladness when the Lord has rescued Israel.

## **Psalm 15 The Approved Citizen-Guest of Jehovah**

### **Verse 1**

Lord, who may go and find refuge and shelter in Your tabernacle up on Your holy hill?

### **Verse 2**

He who walks without blame in his righteousness and speaks truth with his heart,

### **Verse 3**

Anyone who refuses to slander others, does not listen to gossip, never harms his neighbor,

### **Verse 4**

Speaks out against sin, criticizes those committing it, commends the faithful followers of the Lord, keeps a promise even if it ruins him,

### **Verse 5**

Does not crush his debtors with high interest rates, and refuses to testify against the innocent despite the bribes offered him—such a man shall stand firm forever.

## **Psalm 16 An Ideal Israelite's Triumph over Death**

### **Verse 1**

Save me, O God, I have come to You for refuge.

### **Verse 2**

I said to Him, "You are my Lord; I have no other help but Yours."

### **Verse 3**

I want the company of the godly men and women in the land; they are the true nobility.

**Verse 4**

Those choosing other gods shall all be filled with sorrow; I will not offer the sacrifices they do or even speak the names of their gods.

**Verse 5**

The Lord Himself is my inheritance, my prize! He is my food and drink, my highest joy! He guards all that is mine.

**Verse 6**

He sees that I am given pleasant brooks and meadows as my share! What a wonderful inheritance!

**Verse 7**

I will bless the Lord who counsels me; He gives me wisdom in the night. He tells me what to do.

**Verse 8**

I am always thinking of the Lord; and because He is so near, I never need to stumble or to fall.

**Verse 9**

Heart, body, and soul are filled with joy.

**Verse 10**

For You will not leave me among the dead; you will not allow Your beloved one to rot in the grave.

**Verse 11**

You have let me experience the joys of life and the exquisite pleasures of Your own eternal presence.



## **Psalm 17 One Who is Righteous Prays, in Great Trouble, for Divine Deliverance and Manifestation**

### **Verse 1**

I am pleading for Your help, O Lord; for I have been honest and have done what is right, and You must listen to my earnest cry!

### **Verse 2**

Publicly acquit me, Lord, for You are always fair.

### **Verse 3**

You have tested me and see that I am good. You have come even in the night and found nothing amiss and know that I have told the truth.

### **Verse 4**

I have followed Your commands and have not gone along with cruel and evil men.

### **Verse 5**

My feet have not slipped from Your paths.

### **Verse 6**

Why am I praying like this? Because I know You will answer me, O God! Yes, listen as I pray.

### **Verse 7**

Show me Your strong love in wonderful ways, O Savior of all those seeking Your help against their foes.

### **Verse 8**

Protect me as You would the pupil of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings as You hover over me.

### **Verse 9**

My enemies encircle me with murder in their eyes.

**Verse 10**

They are pitiless and arrogant. Listen to their boasting.

**Verse 11**

They close in upon me and are ready to throw me to the ground.

**Verse 12**

They are like lions eager to tear me apart, like young lions hiding and waiting their chance.

**Verses 13-14**

Lord, arise and stand against them! Push them back! Come and save me from these men of the world whose only concern is earthly gain—these men whom You have filled with Your treasures so that their children and grandchildren are rich and prosperous.

**Verse 15**

But as for me, contentment is not in wealth but in seeing You and knowing all is well between us. And when I awake in heaven, I will be fully satisfied, for I will see You face to face.

**Psalm 18 David's Song of Deliverance from His Enemies, Including Saul****Verse 1**

Lord, how I love You! For You have done such tremendous things for me.

**Verse 2**

The Lord is my fort where I can enter and be safe; no one can follow me in and slay me. He is a rugged mountain where I hide; He is my Savior, a rock where none can reach me, and a tower of safety. He is my shield. He is like the strong horn of a mighty fighting bull.

**Verse 3**

All I need to do is cry to Him—oh, praise the Lord—and I am saved from all my enemies.

**Verse 4**

Death bound me with chains, and the floods of ungodliness mounted a massive attack against me.

**Verse 5**

Trapped and helpless, I struggled against the ropes that drew me on to death.

**Verse 6**

In my distress I called to the Lord for His help. And he heard me from heaven, my cry reached His ears.

**Verse 7**

Then the earth rocked and reeled, and mountains shook and trembled. How they quaked, for He was angry.

**Verse 8**

Fierce flames leaped from His mouth, setting fire to the earth; smoke blew from His nostrils.

**Verse 9**

He bent the heavens down and came to my defense; thick darkness was beneath His feet.

**Verse 10**

Mounted on the cherubim He sped swiftly to my aid with wings of the wind.

**Verse 11**

He enshrouded Himself with darkness, veiling His approach with dense clouds dark as murky waters.

**Verse 12**

Suddenly the brilliance of His presence broke through the clouds with lightning and a mighty storm of hail.

**Verse 13**

The Lord thundered in the heavens; the God above all gods has spoken—oh, the hailstones; oh, the fire!

**Verse 14**

He flashed His fearful arrows of lightning and routed all my enemies. See how they run!

**Verse 15**

Then at Your command, O Lord, the sea receded from the shore. At the blast of Your breath the depths were laid bare.

**Verse 16**

He reached down from heaven and took me and drew me out of my great trials. He rescued me from deep waters.

**Verse 17**

He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me—I who was helpless in their hands.

**Verse 18**

On the day when I was weakest, they attacked. But the Lord held me steady.

**Verse 19**

He led me to a place of safety, for He delights in me.

**Verse 20**

The Lord rewarded me for doing right and being pure.

**Verse 21**

For I have followed His commands and have not sinned by turning back from following Him.

**Verse 22**

I kept close watch on all His laws; I did not refuse a single one.

**Verse 23**

I did my best to keep them all, holding myself back from doing wrong.

**Verse 24**

And so the Lord has paid me with His blessings, for I have done what is right, and I am pure of heart. This He knows, for He watches my every step.

**Verse 25**

Lord, how merciful You are to those who are merciful. And You do not punish those who run from evil.

**Verse 26**

You give blessings to the pure but pain to those who leave Your paths.

**Verse 27**

You deliver the humble but condemn the proud and haughty ones.

**Verse 28**

You have turned on my light! The Lord my God has made my darkness turn to light.

**Verse 29**

Now in Your strength I can scale any wall, attack any troop.

**Verse 30**

What a God He is! How perfect in every way! All His promises prove true. He is a shield for everyone who hides behind Him.

**Verse 31**

For who is God except our Lord? Who but He is as a rock?

**Verse 32**

He fills me with strength and protects me wherever I go.

**Verse 33**

He gives me the surefootedness of a mountain goat upon the crags. He leads me safely along the top of the cliffs.

**Verse 34**

He prepares me for battle and gives me strength to draw an iron bow.

**Verse 35**

You have given me Your salvation as my shield. Your right hand, O Lord, supports me; Your gentleness has made me great.

**Verse 36**

You have made wide steps beneath my feet so that I need never slip.

**Verse 37**

I chase my enemies; I caught up with them and did not turn back until all were conquered.

**Verse 38**

I pinned them on the ground; all were helpless before me. I placed my feet upon their necks!

**Verse 39**

For You have armed me with strong armor for the battle. My enemies quail before me and fall defeated at my feet.

**Verse 40**

You made them turn and run; I destroyed all who hated me.

**Verse 41**

They shouted for help but no one dared to rescue them; they cried to the Lord, but He refused to answer them.

**Verse 42**

I crushed them fine as dust and cast them to the wind. I threw them away like sweepings from the floor.

**Verses 43- 45**

You gave me victory in every battle. The nations came and served me. Even those I didn't know before come now and bow before me. Foreigners who have never see me submit instantly. They come trembling from their strongholds.

**Verses 46-47**

God is alive! He is the God who pays back those who harm me and subdues the nations before me.

**Verse 48**

He rescues me from my enemies; He holds me safely out of their reach and saves me from these powerful opponents.

**Verse 49**

For this, O Lord, I will praise You among the nations.

**Verse 50**

Many times You have miraculously rescued me, the king you appointed. You have been loving and kind to me and will be to my descendants.

## **Psalm 19 Greater Than the Glory of God in the Heavens is the Grace of Jehovah in the Law**

### **Verse 1**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of His craftsmanship.

### **Verse 2**

Day and night, they keep on telling about God.

### **Verses 3- 4**

Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to the world. The sun lives in the heavens where God placed it.

### **Verse 5**

The sun moves out across the skies as radiant as a bridegroom going to his wedding, or as joyous as an athlete looking forward to a race.

### **Verse 6**

The sun crosses the heavens from end to end, and nothing can hide from its heat.

### **Verses 7- 8**

God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light.

### **Verse 9**

God's laws are just and perfect. Reverence for God keeps us pure and leads us on to heaven.

### **Verse 10**

His laws are more desirable than gold. They are sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.



**Verse 11**

For they warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them!

**Verse 12**

But how can I ever know what sins are lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

**Verse 13**

And keep me from deliberate wrongs; help me to stop doing them. Only then can I be free of guilt and innocent of some great crime.

**Verse 14**

May my spoken words and unspoken thoughts be pleasing even to You, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer.

**Psalm 20 Prayer for a King in Distress, a Favorable Answer is Confidently Awaited****Verse 1**

In your day of trouble, may the Lord be with you! May the God of Jacob keep you from all harm.

**Verse 2**

May He send you aid from His sanctuary in Zion.

**Verse 3**

May He remember with pleasure the gifts you have given Him, your sacrifices and burnt offerings.

**Verse 4**

May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans.

### **Verse 5**

May there be shouts of joy when we hear the news of your victory, flags flying with praise to God for all that He has done for you. May He answer all your prayers.

### **Verse 6**

“God save the king”—I know He does! He hears me from the highest heaven and sends great victories.

### **Verse 7**

Some nations boast of armies and of weaponry, but our boast is in the Lord our God.

### **Verse 8**

Those nations will collapse and perish; we will arise to stand firm and sure!

### **Verse 9**

Give victory to our king, O Lord; oh, hear our prayer.

## **Psalm 21 Thanks for the King’s Victory, and Confidence of Further Triumphs**

### **Verse 1**

How the king rejoices in Your strength, O Lord! How he exults in Your salvation.

### **Verse 2**

For You have given him the heart’s desire, everything he asked You for!

### **Verse 3**

You welcomed him to the throne with success and prosperity. You set a kingly crown of purest gold upon his head.

**Verse 4**

He asked for a long, good life, and You have granted his request; the days of his life stretch on and on forever.

**Verse 5**

You have given him fame and honor. You have clothed him with splendor and majesty.

**Verse 6**

You have endowed him with eternal happiness. You have given him the unquenchable joy of Your presence.

**Verse 7**

And because the king trusts in the Lord, he will never stumble, never fall; for he depends upon the steadfast love of the God who is above all gods.

**Verse 8**

Your hand, O Lord, will find Your enemies, all who hate You.

**Verses 9- 10**

When You appear, they will be destroyed in the fierce fire of Your presence. The Lord will destroy them and their children.

**Verse 11**

For these men plot against You, Lord, but they cannot possibly succeed.

**Verse 12**

They will turn and flee when they see Your arrows aimed straight at them.

**Verse 13**

Accept our praise, O Lord, for all Your glorious power! We will write songs to celebrate Your mighty acts!

## **Psalm 22 The Voice of a Forsaken Sufferer—Minutely Describing His Pain and Shame is Suddenly Silenced (in Death)**

### **Verse 1**

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why do You refuse to help me or even to listen to my groans?

### **Verse 2**

Day and night, I keep on weeping, crying for Your help, but there is no reply.

### **Verses 3- 4**

For You are holy. The praises of our fathers surrounded Your throne; they trusted You and You delivered them.

### **Verse 5**

You heard their cries for help and saved them; they were never disappointed when they sought Your aid.

### **Verse 6**

But I am a worm, not a man, scorned and despised by my own people and by all mankind.

### **Verse 7**

Everyone who sees me mocks and sneers and shrugs.

### **Verse 8**

“Is this the one who rolled his burdens on the Lord?” they laugh. “Is this the one who claims the Lord delights in him? We’ll believe it when we see God rescue him!”

### **Verses 9- 11**

Lord how You have helped me before!” You took me safely from my mother’s womb and brought me through the years of infancy. I have depended upon You since birth; You have always been my God. Don’t leave me now, for trouble is near and no one else can possibly help.

**Verse 12**

I am surrounded by fearful enemies, strong as the giant bulls of Bashan.

**Verse 13**

They came at me with open jaws, like roaring lions attacking their prey.

**Verse 14**

My strength has drained away like water, and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart melts like wax.

**Verse 15**

My strength has dried up like sun baked clay; my tongue sticks to my mouth, for You have laid me in the dust of death.

**Verse 16**

The enemy, this gang of evil men, circles me like a pack of dogs; they have pierced my hands and feet.

**Verse 17**

I can count every bone in my body. These men of evil gloat and stare.

**Verse 18**

They divide My clothes among themselves by a toss of the dice.

**Verse 19**

O Lord, don't stay away. O God my Strength, hurry to My aid.

**Verse 20**

Rescue me from death; spare my precious life from all these evil men.

**Verse 21**

Save me from the lion's jaw and from the horns of these wild oxen; yes, God will answer me and rescue Me.

**Verse 22**

I will praise You to all my brothers; I will stand up before the congregation and testify of the wonderful things You have done.

**Verse 23**

“Praise the Lord, each one of you who fears Him.” I will say, “Each of you must fear and reverence His name. Let all Israel sing His praises.”

**Verse 24**

“He has not despised my cries of deep despair; He has not turned and walked away. When I cried to Him, He heard and came.”

**Verse 25**

Yes, I will stand and praise You before all the people. I will publicly fulfill my vows in the presence of all who reverence Your name.

**Verse 26**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; all who seek the Lord shall find Him and shall praise His name. Their hearts shall rejoice with everlasting joy.

**Verse 27**

The whole earth shall see it and return to the Lord; the people of every nation shall worship Him.

**Verse 28**

For the Lord is King and rules the nations.

**Verse 29**

Both proud and humble together, all who are mortal—born to die—shall worship Him.

**Verse 30**

Our children too shall serve Him, for they shall hear from us about the wonders of the Lord.

### **Verse 31**

Generations yet unborn shall hear of all the miracles He did for us.

## **Psalm 23 The All-Sufficiency of Jehovah**

### **Verse 1**

Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need!

### **Verses 2-3**

He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He restores my failing health. He helps me do what honors Him the most.

### **Verse 4**

Even when walking through the Dark Valley of Death I will not be afraid, for You are close beside Me, guarding and guiding all the way.

### **Verse 5**

You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as Your guest. Blessings overflow!

### **Verse 6**

Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life, and afterwards I will live with You forever in Your home. Note: Let us break down this Psalm in more detail as it is a very well known Psalm.

The essential thought of this Psalm is that God is mine, and cares for me, provides for me, and is with me. There may be need and danger, discipline and even hostility, but God will deliver me.

There are only two persons in the Psalm, God and you. God begins by being my Shepherd, but soon He becomes my everything. This is the first and chief element in the preciousness of this Psalm.

Three functions of God are set forth: God is my Shepherd, Guide, and Host. I can quickly image my relationship as sheep, traveler, and guest.

As a Shepherd God secures for His sheep food, with rest, drink, rest, and the consequent reinvigoration of life. As a sheep God leads me and with renovated life, all is well. As a Guide, God leads me in the right paths for conducting me home.

Over the hills, the paths may be few, faint, and divergent, for the sake of His own name and honor He guides me to the paths that are right. Down among the valleys I may come to a dark and fearsome ravine, still He is with me, and will be my Companion as well as my Guide.

I hear His voice as He cheers me along. He has a club for defense against assailants and is able to use it. He lends me His staff to lean on in my weariness. So, both His rod and His staff comfort me. The idea of guidance is complete.

As a Host He welcomes me to a mansion. A spread table awaits me. Enemies who may witness my admission dare not come near to molest me for they know our host will protect me. I am His privileged guest. I have been bathed and now with His own hand He anoints my head with fragrant oil. My cup is well filled and overflows.

In the hall of our Guest are attendants. Upon me two of them wait. Their names are Goodness and Kindness and they follow me wherever I go.

So, it is to be as long as I live; for finally I discover here in this mansion, at last I am home.

## **Psalm 24 The Admission of Worshipers into the Presence of the Previously Admitted King**

### **Verse 1**

The earth belongs to God! Everything in all the world is His!

### **Verse 2**

He is the One who pushed the oceans back to let dry land appear.



**Verse 3**

Who may climb the mountain of the Lord and enter where He lives? Who may stand before the Lord?

**Verse 4**

They are those with pure hands and hearts, who do not practice dishonesty and lying.

**Verse 5**

They will receive God's own goodness as their blessing from Him, planted in their lives by God Himself, their Savior.

**Verse 6**

These are the ones who are allowed to stand before the Lord and worship the God of Jacob.

**Verse 7**

Open up, O ancient gates, and let the King of glory in.

**Verse 8**

Who is this King, the Lord, strong and mighty, invincible in battle?

**Verse 9**

Yes, open wide the gate and let the King of glory in.

**Verse 10**

Who is this King of glory? The Commander of all of heaven's armies!

**Psalm 25 A Psalm of Supplication****Verse 1**

To You, O Lord, I pray!

**Verse 2**

Don't fail me, Lord, for I am trusting in You. Don't let my enemies succeed. Don't give them victory over me.

**Verse 3**

None who have faith in God will ever be disgraced for trusting Him. But all who harm the innocent shall be defeated.

**Verse 4**

Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk.

**Verse 5**

Lead me; teach me; for You are the God who gives me salvation. I have no hope except You.

**Verses 6- 7**

Overlook my youthful sins, O Lord! Look at me instead through eyes of mercy and forgiveness, through eyes of everlasting love and kindness.

**Verse 8**

The Lord is good and glad to teach the proper path to all who go astray.

**Verse 9**

He will teach the ways that are right and best to those who humbly turn to Him.

**Verse 10**

And when we obey Him, every path He guides us on is fragrant with His lovingkindness and His truth.

**Verse 11**

But Lord, My sins! How many they are. Oh, pardon them for the honor of Your name.

**Verse 12**

Where is the man who fears the Lord? God will teach him how to choose the best!

**Verse 13**

He shall live within God's circle of blessing, and his children shall inherit the earth!

**Verse 14**

Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence Him. With them alone He shares the secrets of His promises.

**Verse 15**

My eyes are ever looking to the Lord for help, for He alone can rescue me.

**Verse 16**

Come, Lord, and show me Your mercy, for I am helpless, overwhelmed, in deep distress;

**Verse 17**

My problems go from bad to worse. Oh, save me from them all!

**Verse 18**

See my sorrows; feel my pain; forgive my sins.

**Verse 19**

See how many enemies I have and how viciously they hate me!

**Verse 20**

Save me from them! Deliver my life from their power! Oh, let it never be said that I trusted You in vain!

**Verse 21**

Assign me Godliness and Integrity as my bodyguards, for I expect You to protect me.

**Verse 22**

And ransom Israel from all her troubles.

**Psalm 26 An Ideal Levite's Prayer for Vindication by the Prolongation of His Life**

**Verse 1**

Dismiss all the charges against me, Lord, for I have tried to keep Your laws and have trusted You without wavering.

**Verse 2**

Cross-examine me, O Lord, and see that this is so; test my motives and affections too.

**Verse 3**

For I have taken Your lovingkindness and Your truth as my ideals.

**Verse 4**

I do not have fellowship with tricky, two-faced men; they are false and hypocritical.

**Verse 5**

I hate the sinners' hangouts and refuse to enter them.

**Verse 6**

I wash my hands to prove my innocence and come before Your altar.

**Verse 7**

Singing a song of thanksgiving and telling about Your miracles.

**Verse 8**

Lord, I love Your home, this shrine where the brilliant, dazzling splendor of Your presence lives.

### **Verses 9-10**

Don't treat me as a common sinner or murderer who plots against the innocent and demands bribes.

### **Verse 11**

No, I am not like that, Lord; I try to walk a straight and narrow path of doing what is right; therefore, in mercy save me.

### **Verse 12**

I publicly praise the Lord for keeping me from slipping and falling.

## **Psalm 27 Trust and Prayer in the Hour of Danger**

### **Verse 1**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

### **Verse 2**

When evil men come to destroy me, they will stumble and fall!

### **Verse 3**

Yes, though a mighty army marches against me, my heart shall know no fear! I am confident that God will save me.

### **Verse 4**

The one thing I want from God, the thing I seek the most of all, is the privilege of meditating in His temple, living in His presence every day of my life, delighting in His incomparable perfections and glory.

### **Verse 5**

There I'll be when troubles come! He will hide me. He will set me on a high rock.

### **Verse 6**

There I will be, out of the reach of all my enemies. Then I will bring Him sacrifices and sing His praises with much joy.

**Verse 7**

Listen to my pleading, Lord! Be merciful and send the help I need.

**Verse 8**

My heart has heard You say, "Come and talk with Me, O My people." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."

**Verse 9**

Oh, do not hide Yourself when I am trying to find You. Do not angrily reject Your servant! You have been my help in all my trials before; don't leave me now. Don't forsake me, O God of my salvation.

**Verse 10**

For if my father and mother should abandon me, You would welcome and comfort me.

**Verse 11**

Tell me what to do, O Lord, and make it plain because I am surrounded by waiting enemies.

**Verse 12**

Don't let them get me, Lord! Don't let me fall into their hands! For they accuse me of things I never did, and all the while they are plotting cruelty.

**Verse 13**

I am expecting the Lord to rescue me again, so that once again I will see His goodness to me here in the land of the living!

**Verse 14**

Don't be impatient! Wait for the Lord, and He will come and save you. Be brave, stout-hearted and courageous. Yes, wait and He will help you.

## **Psalm 28 Prayer Turned into Praise**

### **Verse 1**

I plead with You to help me, Lord, for You are my Rock of safety. If you refuse to answer me, I might as will give up and die.

### **Verse 2**

Lord, I lift my hands to heaven and implore Your help. Oh, listen to my cry.

### **Verse 3**

Don't punish me with all the wicked ones who speak so sweetly to their neighbors while planning to murder them.

### **Verse 4**

Give them the punishment they so richly deserve! Measure it out to them in proportion to their wickedness; pay them back for all their evil deeds.

### **Verse 5**

They care nothing for God or what He has done or what He has made; therefore God will dismantle them like old buildings, never to be rebuilt again.

### **Verse 6**

Oh, praise the Lord, for He has listened to my pleadings!

### **Verse 7**

He is my strength, my shield from every danger. I trusted in Him, and He helped me! Joy rises in my heart until I burst out in songs of praise to Him.

### **Verse 8**

The Lord protects His people and gives victory to His anointed king.

### **Verse 9**

Defend Your people, Lord; defend and bless Your chosen ones. Lead them like a shepherd and carry them forever in Your arms.

## **Psalm 29 Glory in the Temple and in the Tempest; Jehovah's Kingship of Judgment in the Past and of Blessing in the future**

### **Verse 1**

Praise the Lord, you angels of His; praise His glory and His strength.

**Verse 2**

Praise Him for His majestic glory, the glory of His name. Come before Him clothed in sacred garments.

**Verse 3**

The voice of the Lord echoes from the clouds. The God of glory thunders through the skies.

**Verse 4**

So powerful is His voice; so full of majesty.

**Verses 5-6**

It breaks down the cedars! It splits the giant trees of Lebanon. It shakes Mount Lebanon and Mount Sirion. They leap and skip before Him like young calves!

**Verse 7**

The voice of the Lord thunders through the lightning.

**Verse 8**

It resounds through the deserts and shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**Verse 9**

The voice of the Lord spins and topples the mighty oaks. It strips the forests bare! They whirl and sway beneath the blast. But in His temple all are praising "Glory, glory to the Lord."

**Verse 10**

At the flood, the Lord showed His control of all creation. Now He continues to unveil His power.

**Verse 11**

He will give His people strength. He will bless them with peace.



## **Psalm 30 A Song of Joy on Recovery from Sickness**

### **Verse 1**

I will praise You, Lord, for You have saved me from my enemies. You refuse to let them triumph over me.

### **Verse 2**

O Lord my God, I pled with You, and You gave me my health again.

### **Verse 3**

You brought me back from the brink of the grave, from death itself, and here I am alive!

### **Verse 4**

Oh, sing to Him you saints of His; give thanks to His holy name.

### **Verse 5**

His anger lasts a moment; His favor lasts for life! Weeping may go on all night, but in the morning, there is joy.

### **Verses 6-7**

In my prosperity I said, “This is forever; nothing can stop me now! The Lord has shown me His favor. He has made me steady as a mountain.” Then Lord, You turned Your face away from me and cut off Your river of blessings. Suddenly my courage was gone; I was terrified and panic-stricken.

### **Verse 8**

I cried to You, Oh Lord; oh, how I pled.

### **Verse 9**

“What will You gain, O Lord, from killing me? How can I praise You then to all my friends? How can my dust in the grave speak out and tell the world about Your faithfulness?”

### **Verse 10**

Hear me, Lord; oh, have pity and help me.”

### **Verse 11**

Then He turned my sorrow into joy! He took away my clothes of mourning and gave me gay and festive garments to rejoice in.

### **Verse 12**

So that I might sing glad praises to the Lord instead of lying in silence in the grave. O Lord my God, I will keep on thanking You forever!

## **Psalm 31 Fellowship in Suffering and Salvation**

### **Verse 1**

Lord, I trust in You alone. Don't let my enemies defeat me. Rescue me because You are the God who always does what is right.

### **Verse 2**

Answer quickly when I cry to You; bend low and hear my whispered plea. Be for me a great Rock of safety from my foes.

### **Verse 3**

You are my Rock and my Fortress; honor Your name by leading me out of this peril.

### **Verse 4**

Pull me from the trap my enemies have set for me. For You alone are strong enough.

### **Verses 5- 6**

Into Your hand I commit my spirit. You have rescued me, O God who keeps His promises! For I worship only You and how You hate all those who worship idols, those imitation gods.

### **Verse 7**

I am radiant with joy because of Your mercy, for You have listened to my troubles and have seen the crisis in my soul.

**Verse 8**

You have not handed me over to my enemy, but have given me open ground in which to maneuver.

**Verses 9-10**

O Lord, have mercy on me in my anguish. My eyes are red from weeping; my health is broken from sorrow. I am pining away with grief; my years are shortened, drained away because of sadness. My sins have sapped my strength! I stoop with sorrow and with shame.

**Verse 11**

I am scorned by all my enemies and even more by my neighbors and friends. They dread meeting me and look the other way when I go by.

**Verse 12**

I am forgotten like a dead man, like a broken and discarded pot.

**Verse 13**

I heard the lies about me, the slanders of my enemies. Everywhere I looked I was afraid, for they were plotting against my life.

**Verses 14-15**

But I was trusting You, O Lord. I said, "You alone are my God; my times are in Your hands." Rescue me from those who hunt me down relentlessly.

**Verse 16**

Let Your favor shine again upon Your servant; save me just because You are so kind!

**Verse 17**

Don't disgrace me, Lord, by not replying when I call to You for aid. But let the wicked be shamed by what they trust in; let them lie silently in their graves.

**Verse 18**

Their lying lips are quieted at last—the lips of these arrogant men who are accusing honest men of evil deeds.

**Verse 19**

Oh, how great is Your goodness to those who publicly declare that You will rescue them. For You have stored up great blessings for those who trust and reverence You.

**Verse 20**

Hide Your loved ones in the shelter of Your presence, safe beneath Your hand, safe from all conspiring men.

**Verse 21**

Blessed is the Lord, for He has shown me that His never failing love protects me like the walls of a fort!

**Verse 22**

I spoke too hastily when I said, "The Lord has deserted me," for You listened to my plea and answered me.

**Verse 23**

Oh, love the Lord all of you who are His people; for the Lord protects those who are loyal to Him, but harshly punishes all who haughtily reject Him.

**Verse 24**

Cheer up! Take courage if you are depending on the Lord!

**Psalm 32 Congratulations to the Forgiven, and Examples of the Songs That They Sing****Verses 1-2**

What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record.

**Verse 3**

There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was. But my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my days with frustration.

**Verse 4**

All day and all night Your hand was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water on a sunny day.

**Verse 5**

Until I finally admitted all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess them to the Lord." And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone!

**Verse 6**

After this experience, I say that every believer should confess his sins to God as soon as he becomes aware of them, while there is yet time to be forgiven. If he does this, judgment will not touch him.

**Verse 7**

You are my hiding place from every storm of life; You even keep me from getting into trouble! You surround me with songs of victory.

**Verse 8**

I will instruct you (says the Lord) and guide you along the best pathway for your life; I will advise you and watch your progress.

**Verse 9**

Don't be like a senseless horse or mule that has to have a bit in its mouth to keep it in line!

**Verse 10**

May sorrows come to the wicked, but abiding love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

**Verse 11**

So, rejoice in Him, all those who are His, and shout for joy, all those who try to obey Him.

Note: The theme of this Psalm is that unforgiven sin must sooner or later be punished. There is another thought here also and that is, that unconfessed sin cannot be forgiven.

All Divine chastisements are designed to lead to the confessing and forsaking of sin and are administered in mercy,

How much misery might be spared us if we would quickly confess our sins? The ways of a horse and a mule in verse 9 suggests, "That we should be aware of becoming brutish," lest Divine pity deals with us sternly.

One whose heart is touched by the Divine kindness may pray that a pardoning God would become a delivering God.

### **Psalm 34 A Psalm of Praise and Instruction**

#### **Verse 1**

I will praise the Lord no matter what happens. I will constantly speak of His glories and grace.

#### **Verse 2**

I will boast of all His kindness to me. Let all who are discouraged take heart!

#### **Verse 3**

Let us praise the Lord together and exalt His name.

#### **Verse 4**

For I cried to Him and He answered me! He freed me from all my fears.

#### **Verse 5**

Others too were radiant at what He did for them. Theirs was no downcast look of rejection!

#### **Verse 6**

This poor man cried to the Lord—and the Lord heard him and saved him out of his troubles.

#### **Verse 7**

For the Angel of the Lord guards and rescues all who reverence Him.

#### **Verse 8**

Oh, put God to the test and see how kind He is! See for yourself the way His mercies shower down on all who trust in Him.

#### **Verse 9**

If you belong to the Lord, reverence Him; for everyone who does this has everything he needs.

#### **Verse 10**

Even strong lions sometimes go hungry, but those of us who reverence the Lord will never lack any good thing.

**Verse 11**

Sons and daughters come and listen and let me teach you the importance of trusting and fearing the Lord.

**Verse 12**

Do you want a long, good life?

**Verse 13**

Then watch your tongue! Keep your lips from lying.

**Verse 14**

Turn from all known sin and spend your time in doing good. Try to live in peace with everyone; work hard at it.

**Verse 15**

For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching all who live good lives, and He gives attention when they cry to Him.

**Verse 16**

But the Lord has made up His mind to wipe out even the memory of evil men from the earth.

**Verse 17**

Yes, the Lord hears the good man when he calls to Him for help, and saves him out of all his troubles.

**Verse 18**

The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking; He rescues those who are humbly sorry for their sins.

**Verse 19**

The good man does not escape all troubles—he has them too. But the Lord helps him in each and every one.

**Verse 20**

God even protects him from accidents.

**Verse 21**

Calamity will surely overtake the wicked; heavy penalties are meted out to those who hate the good.

**Verse 22**

But as for those who serve the Lord, He will redeem them; everyone who takes refuge in Him will be freely pardoned.

## **Psalm 35 Prayer against Open and Concealed Enemies, Followed by Promises of Praise**

### **Verse 1**

O Lord, fight those fighting me; declare war on them for their attacks on me.

### **Verse 2**

Put on Your armor, take Your shield and protect me by standing in front.

### **Verse 3**

Lift Your spear in my defense, for my pursuers are getting very close! Let me hear You say that You will save me from them!

### **Verse 4**

Dishonor those who are trying to kill me! Turn them back and confuse them.

### **Verse 5**

Blow them away like chaff in the wind—wind sent by the Angel of the Lord pursuing them.

### **Verse 7**

For though I did them no wrong, yet they laid a trap for me and dug a pitfall in my path.

### **Verse 8**

Let them be overtaken by sudden ruin, caught in their own net, and destroyed.

### **Verse 9**

But I will rejoice in the Lord. He shall rescue me!

### **Verse 10**

From the bottom of my heart praise rises to Him. Where is His equal in all of heaven and earth? Who else protects the weak and helpless from the strong and the poor and needy from those who would rob them?

### **Verse 11**

These evil men swear to a lie. They accuse me of things I have never even heard about.

### **Verse 12**

I do them good, but they return me harm. I am sinking down to death.



**Verse 13**

When they were ill, I mourned before the Lord in a sackcloth, asking Him to make them well; I refused to eat; I prayed for them with utmost earnestness, but God did not listen.

**Verse 14**

I went about sadly as though it were my mother, friend or brother who was sick and nearing death.

**Verse 15**

But now that I am in trouble they are glad; they come together in meetings filled with slander against me—I didn't even know some of those who were there.

**Verse 16**

For they gather with the worthless fellows of the town and spend their time cursing me.

**Verse 17**

Lord, how long will You stand there, doing nothing? Act now and rescue me, for I have but one life and these young lions are out to get it.

**Verse 18**

Save me, and I will thank You publicly before the entire congregation, before the largest crowd I can find.

**Verse 19**

Don't give victory to those who fight me without any reason! Don't let them rejoice at my fall—let them die.

**Verse 20**

They don't talk of peace and doing good, but of plots against innocent men who are minding their own business.

**Verse 21**

They shout that they have seen me doing wrong! "Aha!" they say, "With our own eyes we saw him do it."

**Verse 22**

Lord You know all about it. Don't stay silent! Don't desert me now!

**Verse 23**

Rise up, O Lord my God; vindicate me.

**Verse 24**

Declare me “not guilty,” for You are just. Don’t let my enemies rejoice over me in my troubles.

**Verse 25**

Don’t let them say. “Aha! Our dearest wish against him will soon be fulfilled!” and, “Aha! At last we have him!”

**Verse 26**

Shame them; let these who boast against me and who rejoice at my troubles, be themselves overcome by misfortune that strips them bare of everything they own. Bare them to dishonor.

**Verse 27**

But give great joy to all who wish me well. Let them shout with delight. “Great is the Lord who enjoys helping His child!”

**Verse 28**

And I will tell everyone how great and good You are; I will praise You all day long.

**Psalm 36 Oracles False and True, Prompting Prayer and Praise****Verse 1**

Sin lurks deep in the hearts of the wicked, forever urging them on to evil deeds. They have no fear of God to hold them back.

**Verse 2**

Instead, in their conceit, they think they can hide their evil deeds and not get caught.

**Verse 3**

Everything they say is crooked and deceitful; they are no longer wise and good.

**Verse 4**

They lie awake at night to hatch their evil plots, instead of planning how to keep away from wrong.

**Verse 5**

Your steadfast love, O Lord, is as great as all the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds!

**Verse 6**

Your justice is as solid as God's mountains. Your decisions are as full of wisdom as the oceans are with water. You are concerned for men and animals alike.

**Verse 7**

How precious is Your constant love, O God! All humanity takes refuge in the shadow of Your wings!

**Verse 8**

You feed them with blessings from Your own table and let them drink from Your rivers of delight.

**Verse 9**

For You are the Fountain of Life; our light is from Your Light.

**Verse 10**

Pour out Your unfailing love on those who know You! Never stop giving Your salvation to those who long to do Your will.

**Verse 11**

Don't let these proud men trample me. Don't let their wicked hands push me around.

**Verse 12**

Look! They have fallen. They are thrown down and will not rise again.

**Psalm 37 An Exhortation to Patience in Well-Doing, Notwithstanding the Temporary Prosperity of the Lawless****Verse 1**

Never envy the wicked.

**Verse 2**

Soon they fade away like grass and disappear.

**Verse 3**

Trust in the Lord instead. Be kind and good to others; then you will live safely here in the land and prosper, feeding in safety.

**Verse 4**

Be delighted with the Lord! Then He will give you all your heart's desires.

**Verse 5**

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you do it and He will.

**Verse 6**

Your innocence will be clear to everyone. He will vindicate you with the blazing light of justice shining down as from the noonday sun.

**Verse 7**

Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him to act. Don't be envious of evil men who prosper.

**Verse 8**

Stop your anger! Turn off your wrath. Don't fret and worry—it only leads to harm.

**Verse 9**

For the wicked shall be destroyed, but those who trust the Lord shall be given every blessing.

**Verse 10**

Only a little while and the wicked shall disappear. You will look for them in vain.

**Verse 11**

But all who humble themselves before the Lord shall be given every blessing, and shall have wonderful peace.

**Verses 12-13**

The Lord is laughing at those who plot against the godly, for He knows their judgment day is coming.

**Verse 14**

Evil men take aim to slay the poor; they are ready to butcher those who do right.

**Verse 15**

But their swords will be plunged into their own hearts and all their weapons will be broken.

**Verse 16**

It is better to have little and be godly than to own an evil man's wealth.

**Verse 17**

For the strength of evil men shall be broken, but the Lord takes care of those He has forgiven.

**Verse 18**

Day by day the Lord observes the good deeds done by godly men; and gives them eternal rewards.

**Verse 19**

He cares for them when times are hard; even in famine, they will have enough.

**Verse 20**

But evil men shall perish. These enemies of God will wither like grass, and disappear like smoke.

**Verse 21**

Evil men borrow and “cannot pay it back”! But the good man returns what he owes with some extra besides.

**Verse 22**

Those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the earth; but those cursed by Him shall die.

**Verse 23**

The steps of good men are directed by the Lord. He delights in each step they take.

**Verse 24**

If they fall it isn't fatal, for the Lord holds them with His hand.

**Verse 25**

I have been young and now I am old. And in all my years I have never seen the Lord forsake a man who loves Him; nor have I seen the children of the godly go hungry.

**Verse 26**

Instead, the godly are able to be generous with their gifts and loans to others, and their children are a blessing.

**Verse 27**

So if you want an eternal home leave your evil, low-down ways and live good lives.

**Verse 28**

For the Lord loves justice and fairness; He will never abandon His people. They will be kept safe forever; but all who love wickedness shall perish.

**Verse 29**

The godly shall be firmly planted in the land and live there forever.

**Verses 30-31**

The godly man is a good counselor because he is just and fair and knows right from wrong.

**Verse 32**

Evil men spy on the godly, waiting for an excuse to accuse them and then demanding their death!

**Verse 33**

But the Lord will not let these evil men succeed or let the godly be condemned when they are brought before the judge.

**Verse 34**

Don't be impatient for the Lord to act! Keep steadily along His pathway and in due season He will honor you with every blessing, and you will see the wicked destroyed.

**Verses 35-36**

I myself have seen it happen: a proud and evil man towering like a cedar of Lebanon, but when I looked again, he was gone! I searched but could not find him!

**Verse 37**

But the good men—what a different story! For the good man—the blameless, the upright, the man of peace—he has a wonderful future ahead of him. For him there is a happy ending.

**Verse 38**

But evil men shall be destroyed, and their posterity shall be cut off.

**Verse 39**

The Lord saves the godly! He is their salvation and their refuge when trouble comes.

**Verse 40**

Because they trust in Him, He helps them and delivers them from the plots of evil men.

**Psalm 38 Prayer for Deliverance from Disease and from Enemies****Verse 1**

O Lord, don't punish me while You are angry.

**Verse 2**

Your arrows have struck deep; Your blows are crushing me.

**Verses 3- 4**

Because of Your anger my body is sick, my health is broken beneath my sins. They are like a flood, higher than my head; they are a burden too heavy to bear.

**Verses 5- 6**

My wounds are festering and full of pus. Because of my sins I am bent and racked with pain. My days are filled with anguish.

**Verse 7**

My loins burn with inflammation and my whole body is diseased.

**Verse 8**

I am exhausted and crushed; I groan in despair.

**Verse 9**

Lord, You know how I long for my health once more. You hear my every sigh.

**Verse 10**

My heart beats wildly, my strength fails, and I am going blind.

**Verse 11**

My loved ones and friends stay away, fearing my disease. Even my own family stands at a distance.

**Verse 12**

Meanwhile my enemies are trying to kill me. They plot my ruin and spend all their waking hours planning treachery.

**Verses 13-14**

But I am deaf to all their threats; I am silent before them as a man who cannot speak, I have nothing to say.

**Verse 15**

For I am waiting for You, O Lord my God. Come and protect me.

**Verse 16**

Put an end to their arrogance, these who gloat when I am cast down!

**Verse 17**

How constantly I find myself upon the verge of sin; this source of sorrow always stares me in the face.

**Verse 18**

I confess my sins; I am sorry for what I have done.

**Verse 19**

But my enemies persecute with vigor, and continue to hate me—though I have done nothing against them to deserve it.

**Verse 20**

They repay me evil for good and hate me for standing for the right.

**Verse 21**

Don't leave me, Lord! Don't go away!

**Verse 22**

Come quickly! Help me, O my Savior.

**Psalm 39 The Lament and Prayer of a Divinely Stricken One****Verse 1**

I said to myself, I'm going to quit complaining! I'll keep quiet, especially when the ungodly are around me.

**Verses 2-3**

But as I stood there silently, the turmoil within me grew to the bursting point. The more I mused, the hotter the fires inside. Then at last I spoke, and pled with God.



**Verse 4**

Lord, help me to realize how brief my time on earth will be! Help me to know that I am here for but a moment more.

**Verses 5- 6**

My life is no longer than my hand! My whole lifetime is but a moment to You. Proud man! Frail as breath! A shadow and all his busy rushing ends in nothing. He heaps up riches for someone else to spend.

**Verse 7**

And so, Lord, my only hope is in You.

**Verse 8**

Save me from being overpowered by my sins, for even fools will mock me then.

**Verse 9**

Lord, I am speechless before You. I will not open my mouth to speak one word of complaint, for my punishment is from You.

**Verse 10**

Lord, don't hit me anymore—I am exhausted beneath Your hand.

**Verse 11**

When You punish a man for his sins, he is destroyed; for he is as fragile as a moth-infested cloth; yes, man is frail as breath.

**Verse 12**

Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry! Don't sit back, unmindful of my tears! For I am your guest! I am a traveler passing through the earth, as all my fathers were!

**Verse 13**

Spare me, Lord! Let me recover and be filled with happiness again before my death.

**Psalm 40 Three Stirring Reminiscences of King David's History****Verse 1**

I waited patiently for God to help me; then He listened and heard my cry.

**Verse 2**

He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out from the bog and the mire, and set my feet on a hard, firm path and steadied me as I walked along.

**Verse 3**

He has given me a new song to sing, of praises to our God. Now many will hear of the glorious things He did for me, and stand in awe before the Lord, and put their trust in Him.

**Verse 4**

Many blessings are given to those who trust the Lord, and have no confidence in those who are proud, or who trust in idols.

**Verse 5**

Our Lord my God, many and many a time You have done great miracles for us, and we are ever in Your thought. Who else can do such glorious things? No one else can be compared with You. There isn't time to tell of all Your wonderful deeds.

**Verse 6**

It isn't sacrifices and offerings which You really want from our people. Burnt animals bring no special joy to Your heart. But You have accepted the offer of my lifelong service.

**Verse 7**

I said, "See, I have come, just as all the prophets foretold."

**Verse 8**

And I delight to do Your will, my God; for Your law is written upon my heart!"

**Verse 9**

I have told everyone the Good News that You forgive men's sins. I have not been timid about it, as You well know, O Lord.

**Verse 10**

I have not kept this Good News hidden in my heart, but have proclaimed Your lovingkindness and truth to all the congregation.

**Verse 11**

O Lord, don't hold back Your tender mercies from me! My only hope is in Your love and faithfulness.

**Verse 12**

Otherwise I perish, for problems far too big for me to solve are piled higher than my head. Meanwhile my sins, too many to count, have all caught up with me and I am ashamed to look up. My heart fails within me.

**Verse 13**

Please, Lord, rescue me! Quick! Come and help me!

**Verses 14-15**

Confuse them! Turn them around and send them sprawling—all these who are trying to destroy me. Disgrace these scoffers with their utter failure!

**Verse 16**

But may the joy of the Lord be given to everyone who loves Him and His salvation. May they constantly exclaim, "How great God is!"

**Verse 17**

I am poor and needy, yet the Lord is thinking about me right now! O my God, You are my Helper; You are my Savior; come quickly, and save me. Please don't delay!

**Psalm 41 Regretting that Enemies and Friends Rejoice in His Sickness, the Psalmist Perseveres in Prayer for Pardon and Recovery****Verse 1**

God blesses those who are kind to the poor. He helps them out of their troubles!

**Verse 2**

He protects them and keeps them alive; He publicly honors them and destroys the power of their enemies.

**Verse 3**

He nurses them when they are sick and soothes their pains and worries.

**Verse 4**

“O Lord,” I prayed, “be kind and heal me, for I have confessed my sins.”

**Verse 5**

But my enemies say, “May he soon die and be forgotten.”

**Verse 6**

They act so friendly when they come to visit me while I am sick; but all the time they hate me and are glad that I am lying there upon my bed of pain. And when they leave, they laugh and mock.

**Verse 7**

They whisper together about what they will do when I am dead.

**Verse 8**

"It's fatal, whatever it is," they say. "He'll never get out of that bed!"

**Verse 9**

Even my best friend has turned against me—a man I completely trusted; how often we are together.

**Verse 10**

Lord, don't You desert me! Be gracious, Lord, and make me well again so I can pay them back!

**Verse 11**

I know You are pleased with me because You haven't let my enemies triumph over me.

**Verse 12**

You have preserved me because I was honest; You have admitted me forever to Your presence.

**Verse 13**

Bless the Lord, the God of Israel, who exists from everlasting ages past—and on into everlasting eternity ahead. Amen and Amen!

**THE PSALMS, BOOK 42-72****Psalm 42 A Debarred Worshiper Mastering His Sorrow****Verse 1**

As the deer pants for water, so I long for You, O God.

**Verse 2**

I thirst for God, the living God. Where can I find Him to come and stand before Him?

**Verse 3**

Day and night, I weep for His help, and all the while my enemies taunt me. “Where is this God of yours,” they scoff.

**Verses 4-5**

Take courage, my soul! Do you remember these times (but how could you ever forget them) when you led a great procession to the temple on festival days, singing with joy, praising the Lord? Why then be downcast? Why be discouraged and sad? Hope in God! I shall yet praise Him again! Yes, I shall again praise Him for His help.

**Verse 6**

Yet I am standing here depressed and gloomy; but I will meditate upon Your kindness to this lovely land where the Jordan River flows and where Mount Hermon and Mount Mizar stand.

**Verse 7**

All your waves and billows have gone over me, and floods of sorrow pour upon me like a thundering cataract.

**Verse 8**

Yet day by day the Lord also pours out His steadfast love upon me, and through the night I sing His songs and pray to God who gives me life.

**Verse 9**

“O God my Rock,” I cry. “Why have You forsaken me? Why must I suffer these attacks from my enemies?”

**Verse 10**

Their taunts pierce me like a fatal wound; again and again they scoff, “Where is that God of yours?”

**Verse 11**

But O my soul, don’t be discouraged! Don’t be upset! Expect God to act! For I know that I shall have plenty of reason to praise Him for all that He will do! He is my help! He is my God!

**Psalm 43 A Worshiper Mastering his Sorrow.****Verse 1**

O God, defend me from the charges of these merciless deceitful men.

**Verse 2**

For You are God, my only place of refuge. Why have You tossed me aside? Why must I mourn at the oppression of my enemies?

**Verse 3**

Oh, send out Your light and Your truth—let them lead me. Let them lead me to Your temple on Your holy mountain, Zion.

**Verse 4**

There I will go to the altar of God, my exceeding joy, and praise Him with my harp, O God—my God!

**Verse 5**

O my soul, why be so gloomy and discouraged? Trust in God! I shall again praise Him for His wondrous help; He will make me smile again, for He is my God!

**Psalm 44 Israel Suffers for God****Verse 1**

O God, we have heard of the glorious miracles You did in the days of long ago.

**Verse 2**

Our forefathers have told us how You drove the heathen nations from this land and gave it all to us, spreading Israel from one end of the country to the other.

**Verse 3**

They did not conquer by their own strength and skill; but by Your mighty power and because You smiled upon them and favored them.

**Verse 4**

You are my King and my God. Decree victories for Your people!

**Verse 5**

For it is only by Your power and through Your name that we tread down our enemies.

**Verse 6**

I do not trust my weapons! They never save me.

**Verse 7**

Only You can give me the victory over those who hate us.

**Verse 8**

My constant boast is God, I can never thank You enough!

**Verse 9**

And yet for a time, O Lord, You have tossed us aside in dishonor, and have not helped us in our battles.

**Verse 10**

You have actually fought against us and defeated us before our foes. Our enemies have invaded our land and pillaged the countryside.

**Verse 11**

You have treated us like sheep in a slaughter pen and scattered us among the nations.

**Verse 12**

You sold us for a pittance. You valued us at as nothing at all.

**Verse 13**

The neighboring nations laugh and mock at us because of all the evil You have sent.

**Verse 14**

You have made the word "Jew" a byword of contempt and shame among the nations, disliked by all.

**Verses 15-16**

I am constantly despised, mocked, taunted and cursed by my vengeful enemies.

**Verse 17**

And all this has happened, Lord, despite our loyalty to You. We have not violated your covenant.



**Verse 18**

Our hearts have not deserted You! We have not left Your path by a single step.

**Verse 19**

If we had, we could understand Your punishing us in the barren wilderness and sending us into darkness and death.

**Verses 20-21**

If we had turned away from worshiping our God, and were worshiping idols, would God not know it? Yes, He knows the secrets of every heart.

**Verse 22**

But this is not our case! For we are facing death threats constantly because of serving You! We are like sheep awaiting slaughter.

**Verses 23-24**

Why do you look the other way? Why do You ignore our sorrows and oppression?

**Verse 25**

We lie face downward in the dust.

**Verse 26**

Rise up, O Lord, and come and help us. Save us by Your constant love.

**Psalm 45 A Royal Marriage****Verse 1**

My heart is overflowing with a beautiful thought! I will write a lovely poem to the King for I am as full of words as the speediest writer pouring out his story.

**Verse 2**

You are the fairest of all; Your words are filled with grace; God Himself is blessing You forever!

**Verse 3**

Arm yourself, O Mighty One, so glorious, so majestic.

**Verse 4**

And in your majesty go on to victory, defending truth, humility and justice. Go forth to awe-inspiring deeds!

**Verse 5**

Your arrows are sharp in your enemies' hearts; they fall before You.

**Verse 6**

Your throne, O God, endures forever. Justice is Your royal scepter.

**Verse 7**

You love what is good and hate what is wrong. Therefore God, Your God, has given you more gladness than anyone else.

**Verse 8**

Your robes are perfumed with myrrh, aloes and cassia. In your inland palaces of ivory, lovely music is being played from Ophir.

**Verses 10-11**

“I advise you, O daughter, not to fret about your parents in your homeland far away. Your royal husband delights in your beauty. Reverence him, for he is your lord.

**Verse 12**

The people of Tyre, the richest people of our day, will shower you with gifts and entreat your favors.”

**Verse 13**

The bride, a princess, waits within her chamber, robed in beautiful clothing woven with gold.

**Verse 14**

Lovely she is, led beside her maids of honor to the king!

**Verse 15**

What a joyful, glad procession as they enter the palace gates!

**Verse 16**

“Your sons will someday be kings like their father. They shall sit on thrones around the world!

**Verse 17**

I will cause your name to be honored in all generations; the nations of the earth will praise you forever.”

**Psalm 46 Trust in God, Joyfully Maintained in Face of Peril. Speedily Rewarded****Verse 1**

God is our refuge and strength, a tested help in times of trouble.

**Verse 2**

And so, we need not fear even if the world blows up, and the mountains crumble into the sea.

**Verse 3**

Let the oceans roar and foam; let the mountains tremble!

**Verse 4**

There is a river of joy flowing through the City of our God—the sacred home of the God above all gods.

### **Verse 5**

God Himself is living in that City; therefore, it stands unmoved despite the turmoil everywhere. He will not delay His help.

### **Verse 6**

The nations rant and rave in anger—but God speaks, the earth melts in submission and kingdoms totter into ruin.

### **Verse 7**

The Commander of the armies of heaven is here among us, He, the God of Jacob, has come to rescue us.

### **Verses 8-9**

Come, see the glorious things that our God does, how He brings ruin upon the world, and causes wars to end throughout the earth, breaking and burning every weapon.

### **Verse 10**

“Stand silent! Know that I am God! I shall be honored by every nation in the world.”

### **Verse 11**

The Commander of the heavenly armies is here among us! He, the God of Jacob, has come to rescue us!

## **Psalm 47 Israel Invites the Nations to Rejoice in the Universal Kingship of Her God**

### **Verse 1**

Come everyone, and clap for joy! Shout triumphant praises to the Lord!

### **Verse 2**

For the Lord, the God above all gods, is awesome beyond words; He is the great King of all the earth.

### **Verses 3- 4**

He subdues the nations before us, and will personally select the choicest blessings for His Jewish people—the very best for those He loves.

### **Verse 5**

God has ascended (into heaven) with a mighty shout, with trumpets blaring.

### **Verses 6-7**

Sing out your praises to our God, our King. Yes, sing your highest praises to our King, the King of all the earth. Sing thoughtful praises!

### **Verse 8**

He reigns above the nations, sitting on His holy throne.

### **Verse 9**

The Gentile rulers of the world have joined with us in praising Him—praising the God of Abraham—for the battle shields of the armies of the world are His trophies. He is highly honored everywhere.

## **Psalm 48 Jehovah Worthy to be Praised in His Holy City, Whose History Rebounds to the Honor of Her Shepherd-King, Who Will Yet Lead Israel Against Death**

### **Verse 1**

How great is the Lord! How much we should praise Him. He lives upon Mount Zion in Jerusalem.

### **Verse 2**

What a glorious sight! See Mount Zion rising north of the city high above the plains for all to see—Mount Zion, joy of all the earth, the residence of the great King.

**Verse 3**

God Himself is the defender of Jerusalem.

**Verse 4**

The kings of the earth have arrived together to inspect the city.

**Verse 5**

They marvel at the sight and hurry home again.

**Verse 6**

Afraid of what they have seen; they are filled with panic like a woman in travail!

**Verse 7**

For God destroys the mightiest warships with a breath of wind!

**Verse 8**

We have heard of the city's glory—the city of our God, the Commander of the armies of heaven. And now we see it for ourselves! God has established Jerusalem forever.

**Verse 9**

Lord, here in Your temple we meditate upon Your kindness and our love.

**Verse 10**

Your name is known throughout the earth, O God. You are praised everywhere for the salvation You have scattered throughout the world.

**Verse 11**

O Jerusalem, rejoice! O people of Judah, rejoice! For God will see to it that you are finally treated fairly.

**Verse 12**

Go, inspect the city! Walk around and count her many towers!

### **Verse 13**

Note her walls and tour her palaces, so that you can tell your children!

### **Verse 14**

For this great God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide until we die.

## **Psalm 49 Death and Redemption: Oppressed Saints Comforted and Oppressors Rebuked**

### **Verse 1, 2-3**

Listen, everyone! High and low, rich and poor, all around the world—listen to my words, for they are wise and filled with insight.

### **Verse 4**

I will tell in song accompanied by harps the answer to one of life's most perplexing problems.

### **Verse 5**

There is no need to fear when times of trouble come, even though surrounded by enemies!

### **Verse 6**

For they trust in their wealth and boast about how rich they are!

### **Verse 7**

Yet not one of them, though rich as kings, can ransom his own brother from the penalty of sin! For God's forgiveness does not come that way!

### **Verses 8-9**

For a soul is far too precious to be ransomed by mere earthly wealth. There is not enough of it in all the earth to buy eternal life for just one soul, to keep it out of hell.

**Verse 10**

Rich man! Proud man! Wise man! You must die like all the rest! You have no greater lease on life than foolish, stupid men. You must leave your wealth to others!

**Verse 11**

You name your estates after yourselves as though your lands could be forever yours, and you could live on them eternally!

**Verse 12**

But man, with all his pomp must die like any animal!

**Verse 13**

Such is the folly of these men, though after they die they will be quoted as having great wisdom.

**Verse 14**

Death is the shepherd of all mankind. And “in the morning” those who are evil will be slaves of those who are good. For the power of their wealth is gone when they die; they cannot take it with them.

**Verse 15**

But as for me, God will redeem my soul from the power of death, for He will receive me.

**Verse 16**

So, do not be dismayed when evil men grow rich and build their lovely homes.

**Verse 17**

For when they die they carry nothing with them! Their honors will not follow them.



### **Verses 18-19**

Though a man calls himself happy all through his life—and the world loudly applauds success—yet in the end he died like everyone else, and enters eternal darkness.

### **Verse 20**

For man with all his pomp must die like any animal.

## **Psalm 50 Judgment on Israel Pronounced Amid the Solemnites and an Audible and Visible Divine Manifestation**

### **Verse 1**

The mighty God, the Lord, has summoned all mankind from east to west!

### **Verse 2**

God's glory-light shines from the beautiful temple on Mount Zion.

### **Verse 3**

He comes with the noise of thunder, surrounded by devastating fire; a great storm rages round about Him.

### **Verse 4**

He has come to judge His people. To heaven and earth He shouts.

### **Verse 5**

“Gather together My own people who by their sacrifice upon My altar have promised to obey Me.”

### **Verse 6**

God will judge them with complete fairness, for all heaven declares that He is just.

### **Verse 7**

O My people, listen! For I am your God. Listen! Here are my charges against you:

**Verse 8**

I have no complaint about the sacrifices you bring to My altar, for you bring them regularly.

**Verse 9**

But it isn't sacrificial bullocks and goats that I really want from you!

**Verses 10-11**

For all the animals of field and forest are Mine! The cattle on a thousand hills! And all the birds upon the mountains.

If I were hungry, I would not mention it to you—for all the world is Mine, and everything in it.

**Verse 13**

No, I don't need your sacrifices of flesh and blood.

**Verses 14-15**

What I want from you is your true thanks; I want your promises fulfilled. I want you to trust Me in your times of trouble, so I can rescue you, and you can give Me glory!

**Verse 16**

But God says to evil men: Recite My laws no longer, and stop claiming My promises,

**Verse 17**

For you have refused My discipline, disregarded My laws.

**Verse 18**

You see a thief and help him and spend your time with evil and immoral men.

**Verse 19**

You curse and lie, and vile language streams from your mouths.

**Verse 20**

You slander your own brother.

**Verse 21**

I remained silent—you thought I didn't care—but now your time of punishment has come, and I list all the above charges against you.

**Verse 22**

This is the last chance, for all of you who have forgotten God before I tear you apart—and no one can help you then.

**Verse 23**

But true praise is a worthy sacrifice; this really honors Me. Those who walk My paths will receive salvation from the Lord.

**Psalm 51 The Prayer of a Penitent****Verse 1**

O loving and kind God, have mercy. Have pity upon me and take away the awful stain of my transgressions.

**Verse 2**

Oh, wash me, cleanse me from this guilt. Let me be pure again.

**Verse 3**

I admit my shameful deed—it haunts me day and night.

**Verse 4**

It is against You and You alone I sinned and did this terrible thing. You saw it all, and Your sentence against me is just.

**Verse 5**

But I was born a sinner, yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

**Verse 6**

You deserve honesty from the heart; yes, utter sincerity and truthfulness. Oh, give me this wisdom.

**Verse 7**

Sprinkle me with the cleansing blood and I shall be clean again. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Verse 8**

And after You have punished me, give me back my joy again.

**Verse 9**

Don't keep looking at my sins—erase them from Your sight.

**Verse 10**

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires.

**Verse 11**

Don't toss me aside, banished forever from Your presence. Don't take Your Holy Spirit from me.

**Verse 12**

Restore to me again the joy of Your salvation and make me willing to obey You.

**Verse 13**

Then I will teach Your ways to other sinners, and they—guilty like me—will repent and return to You.

**Verses 14-15**

Don't sentence me to death, O my God, You alone can rescue me. Then I will sing of Your forgiveness, for my lips will be unsealed—oh, how I will praise You.

### Verse 16

You don't want penance; if You did, how gladly I would do it! You aren't interested in offerings burned before You on the altar.

### Verse 17

It is a broken spirit You want—remorse and penitence. A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not ignore.

### Verse 18

And Lord, don't punish Israel for my sins—help Your people and protect Jerusalem.

### Verse 19

And when my heart is right, then You will rejoice in the good that I do and in the bullocks I bring to sacrifice upon Your altar.

Note: The lesson of Psalm 1 is, blessed is the man who has not sinned.

The lesson of Psalm 32 is blessed is the man who though he has sinned has been forgiven.

The lesson of Psalm 51 is that the removal of sin by pardon and purification is so difficult, that none but God can accomplish it.

In the Bible, this prayer stands above all others. This prayer is so personal, so comprehensive, so sustained that it naturally serves for all time as a storehouse of words to help all petitioners who are craving for pardon at the hands of a loving God.

**Verse 8** presents a plea for a favorable answer physically — “Let the bones which thou has broken rejoice.”

**Verse 13** presents a plea for a favorable answer spiritually — “And sinners will be converted to Thee.”

This Psalm leads off with four petitions. The *first* is general, “Be gracious to me.” *The next three* are specific, “Blot out my transgressions,” **Verse 1**, “Wash me thoroughly” and **Verse 2**, “cleanse me from my sin.”

### **Verse 1**

“Transgression” means defection from God or rebellion against Him.

### **Verse 2**

“Iniquity” means the perversion of right, depravity of conduct.

Also, in **Verse 2**, “sin” means error, wandering from the right way, missing the mark in life. The psalmist uses an expression for the removal of sin.

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1. “Blot out” suggests sin as a debt recorded in God’s book which needs to be erased or cancelled by God.
2. “Wash” applies to clothes suggesting that no mere skin-deep cleansing meets the sinners case, but that as garments become ingrained with filth, so the very fibers of our minds become defiled, so that a process of much treading and rinsing is needed to detach and remove the sin. Only God can so “wash.”
3. “Cleanse” suggests the corroding and loathsome nature of that which has to be removed.

It is the process of “un-sinning.” It is always closely associated with the blood-shedding and furnishes the idea of sacrifice.

**Psalm 52 Protest Against His Enemy Doeg the Edomite (who slaughtered 85 priests and their families) (1 Samuel 22)**

**Verse 1**

You call yourself a hero, do you? You boast about this evil deed of yours against God's people.

**Verse 2**

You are sharp as a tack in plotting your evil tricks.

**Verse 3**

How you love wickedness—far more than good--and lying more than truth.

**Verse 4**

You love to slander—you love to say anything that will do harm, O man with the lying tongue!

**Verse 5**

But God will strike you down and pull you from your home, and drag you away from the land of the living.

**Verse 6**

The followers of God will see it happen. They will watch in awe. Then they will laugh and say,

**Verse 7**

“See what happens to those who despise God and trust in their wealth and become ever more bold in their wickedness.”

**Verse 8**

But I am like a sheltered olive tree protected by the Lord Himself. I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.

### **Verse 9**

O Lord, I will praise You forever and ever. And I will for Your mercies—for everyone knows what a merciful God You are.

## **Psalm 53 A Vile Person's Testimony**

### **Verse 1**

Only a fool would say to himself, "There is no God." And why does he say it? Because of his wicked heart, his dark and evil deeds. His life is corroded with sin.

### **Verse 2**

God looks down from heaven, searching among all mankind to see if there is a single one who does right and seeks God.

### **Verse 3**

But all have turned their backs on Him; they are filthy with sin—corrupt and rotten through and through. Not one is good, not one!

### **Verse 4**

How can this be? Can't they understand anything? For they devour My people like bread and refuse to come to God.

### **Verse 5**

But soon, unheard of terror will fall on them. God will scatter the bones of these, your enemies! They are doomed, for God has rejected them.

### **Verse 6**

Oh, that God would come from Zion now and save Israel! Only when the Lord Himself restores them can they ever be really happy again.



## **Psalm 54 A Prayer Prompted by the Hostile Action of the Zephites**

### **Verse 1**

Come with great power, O God, and save me! Defend me with Your might.

### **Verse 2**

Oh, listen to my prayer.

### **Verse 3**

Violent men have arisen against me—ruthless men, who care nothing for God are seeking my life.

### **Verse 4**

But God is my helper! He is a friend of mine!

### **Verse 5**

He will cause the evil deeds of my enemies to boomerang upon them. Do as You promised, put an end to these wicked men, O God.

### **Verse 6**

Gladly I bring my sacrifices to You; I will praise Your name, O Lord, for it is good.

### **Verse 7**

God has rescued me from all my trouble; and triumphed over my enemies.

## **Psalm 55 A bitter Complaint of the Treachery of an Intimate Friend**

### **Verse 1**

Listen to my prayer, God; don't hide Yourself when I cry to You!

### **Verse 2**

Hear me, Lord! Listen to me! For I groan and weep beneath my woe.

**Verse 3**

My enemies shout against me and threaten me with death. They surround me with terror and plot to kill me. Their fury and hatred rise to engulf me.

**Verse 4**

My heart is in anguish within me. Stark fear overpowers me.

**Verse 5**

Trembling and horror overwhelm me.

**Verse 6**

Oh, for wings like a dove, to fly away and rest!

**Verse 7**

I would fly to the far-off deserts and stay there.

**Verse 8**

I would flee to some refuge from all this storm.

**Verse 9**

O Lord, make these enemies begin to quarrel among themselves—destroy them with their own violence and strife.

**Verse 10**

Though they patrol their walls night and day against invaders, their real problem is internal—wickedness and dishonesty are entrenched in the heart of the city.

**Verse 11**

There is murder and robbery there, and cheating in the markets and everywhere one looks.

**Verse 12**

It was not an enemy who taunted me—then I could have borne it; I could have hidden and escaped.

**Verse 13**

But it was you, a man like myself, my companion and my friend.

**Verse 14**

What fellowship we had, what wonderful discussions as we walked together to the temple of the Lord on holy days.

**Verse 15**

Let death seize them and cut them down in their prime, for there is sin in their homes, and they are polluted to the depths of their souls.

**Verse 16**

But I will call upon the Lord to save me—and He will.

**Verse 17**

I will pray morning, noon and night pleading aloud with God; and He will hear and answer.

**Verse 18**

Though the tide of battle runs strongly against me, for so many are fighting me, yet He will rescue me.

**Verse 19**

God Himself—God from everlasting ages past—will answer them! For they refuse to fear Him or even honor His commands.

**Verse 20**

This friend of mine betrayed me—I who was at peace with him. He broke his promises.

**Verse 21**

His words were oily smooth, but in his heart was war. His words were sweet, but underneath were daggers.

### **Verse 22**

Give your burdens to the Lord. He will carry them. He will not permit the godly to slip or fall.

### **Verse 23**

He will send my enemies to the pit of destruction. Murderers and liars will not live out half of their days. But I trust You, to save me.

## **Psalm 56 A Song by David in Captivity**

### **Verses 1-2**

Lord, have mercy on me; all day long the enemy troops press in. So many are proud to fight against me; how they long to conquer me.

### **Verses 3-4**

But when I am afraid, I will put my confidence in You. Yes, I will trust the promises of God. And since I trust Him, what can mere man do to me?

### **Verse 5**

They are always twisting what I say. All their thoughts are how to harm me.

### **Verse 6**

They meet together to perfect their plans; they hide beside the trail, listening for my steps, waiting to kill me.

### **Verse 7**

They expect to get away with it. Don't let them, Lord. In anger cast them to the ground.

### **Verse 8**

You have seen me tossing and turning through the night. You have collected all my tears and preserved them in Your bottle! You have recorded everyone in Your book.

**Verse 9**

The very day I call for help, the tide of battle turns! My enemies flee. This one thing I know; God is for me!

**Verses 10-11**

I am trusting God—oh, praise His promises! I am not afraid of anything mere man can do to me! Yes, praise His promises.

**Verse 12**

I will surely do what I have promised, Lord, and thank You for Your help.

**Verse 13**

For You have saved me from death and my feet from slipping, so that I can walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

**Psalm 57 A Reminiscence of David's Early Troubles when Pursued by Saul, Subsequently Adapted to Brighter Times****Verse 1**

O God, have pity, for I trust You! I will hide beneath the shadow of Your wings until this storm is past.

**Verse 2**

I will cry to the God of heaven who does such wonders for me.

**Verse 3**

He will send down help from heaven to save me, because of His love and His faithfulness. He will rescue me from these liars who are so intent upon destroying me.

**Verse 4**

I am surrounded by fierce lions—hotheads whose teeth are sharp as spears and arrows. Their tongues are like swords.

### **Verse 5**

Lord, be exalted above the highest heavens! Show Your glory high above the earth.

### **Verse 6**

My enemies have set a trap for me. Frantic fear grips me. They have dug a pitfall in my path. But look! They themselves have fallen into it!

### **Verse 7**

O God, my heart is quiet and confident. No wonder I can sing Your praises.

### **Verse 8**

Rouse yourself, my soul! Arise, O harp and lyre! Let us greet the dawn with song!

### **Verse 9**

I will thank You publicly throughout the land. I will sing Your praises among the nations.

### **Verse 10**

Your kindness and love are as vast as the heavens. Your faithfulness is higher than the skies.

### **Verse 11**

Yes, be exalted, O God, above the heavens. May Your glory shine throughout the earth.

## **Psalm 58 A Significant Warning to Corrupt Judges**

### **Verses 1- 2**

Justice? You high and mighty politicians don't even know the meaning of the word! Fairness? Which of you has any left? Not one! All your dealings are crooked: you give "justice" in exchange for bribes.

**Verse 3**

These men are born sinners, lying from their earliest words!

**Verses 4-5**

They are poisonous as deadly snakes, cobras that close their ears to the most expert of charmers.

**Verse 6**

O God, break off their fangs. Tear out the teeth of these young lions, Lord.

**Verse 7**

Let them disappear like water into thirsty ground. Make their weapon useless in their hands.

**Verse 8**

Let them be as snails that dissolve into slime; and as those who die at birth, who never see the sun.

**Verse 9**

God will sweep away both the old and young. He will destroy them more quickly than a cooking pot can feel the blazing fire of thorns beneath it.

**Verse 10**

The godly shall rejoice in the triumph of right; they shall walk the blood-stained fields of slaughtered, wicked men.

**Verse 11**

Then at last everyone will know that good is rewarded, and that there is a God who judges justly here on earth.

**Psalm 59 The Beleaguered Psalmist Prays for Rescue and Avenging**  
**(Written by David at the time King Saul set guards at his home to capture and kill him. (I Samuel 19:11))**

**Verse 1**

O my God, save me from my enemies. Protect me from those who have come to destroy me.

**Verse 2**

Preserve me from these criminals, these murderers.

**Verse 3**

They lurk in ambush for my life. Strong men are out there waiting. And not, O Lord, because I've done them wrong.

**Verse 4**

Yet they prepare to kill me, Lord, waken! See what is happening! Help me!

**Verse 5**

(And O Jehovah, God of heaven's armies, God of Israel, arise and punish the heathen nations surrounding us.) Do not spare these evil, treacherous men.

**Verse 6**

At evening they come to spy, slinking around like dogs that prowl the city.

**Verse 7**

I hear them shouting insults and cursing God, for "No one will hear us," they think.

**Verse 8**

Lord, laugh at them! (And scoff at these surrounding nations too.)

**Verse 9**

O God my strength! I will sing Your praises, for You are my place of safety.



**Verse 10**

My God is changeless in His love for me and He will come and help me. He will let me see my wish come true upon my enemies.

**Verse 11**

Don't kill them—for my people soon forget such lessons—but stagger them with Your power and bring them to their knees. Bring them to the dust, O Lord our shield.

**Verses 12-13**

They are proud, cursing liars. Angrily destroy them. Wipe them out. (And let the nations find out too that God rules in Israel and will reign throughout the world.)

**Verses 14-15**

Let these evil men slink back at evening and prowl the city all night before they are satisfied, howling like dogs and searching for food.

**Verse 16**

But as for me, I will sing each morning about Your power and mercy. For You have been my high tower of refuge, a place of safety in the day of my distress.

**Verse 17**

O my Strength, to You I sing my praises; for You are my high tower of safety, my God of mercy.

**Psalm 60 An Outcry of Anguish, Expostulation and Entreaty, Under A Severe Reverse**

**David wrote this Psalm when Joab, captain of the forces, slaughtered 12,000 men of Edom in the Valley of Salt.**

**Verse 1**

O God, You have rejected us and broken our defenses; You have become angry and detested us. Lord, restore us again to Your favor.

**Verse 2**

You have caused this nation to tremble in fear; You have torn it apart. Lord, heal it now, for it is shaken to its depths.

**Verse 3**

You have been very hard on us and made us reel beneath Your blows.

**Verses 4-5**

But You have given us a banner to rally to; all who love truth will rally to it; then you can deliver Your beloved people. Use Your strong right arm to rescue us!

**Verses 6- 7**

God has promised to help us! He has vowed it by His holiness! No wonder I exult; “Shechem, Succoth, Gilead, Manasseh—still are Mine!” He says. “Judah shall continue to produce kings, and Ephraim great warriors.

**Verse 8**

Moab shall become My lowly servant, and Edom My slave. And I will shout in triumph over the Philistines.”

**Verses 9- 10**

Who will bring me in triumph into Edom’s strong cities! God will! He who cast us off! He who abandoned us to our foes!

**Verse 11**

Yes, Lord, help us against our enemies, for man's help is useless.

**Verse 12**

With God's help we shall do mighty things, for He will trample down our foes.

**Psalm 61 The Psalmist, in Banishment, Prays for Restoration****Verse 1**

O God, listen to me! Hear my prayer!

**Verse 2**

For whatever I am, though far away at the ends of the earth, I will cry to You for help. When my heart is faint and overwhelmed, lead me to the mighty, towering Rock of Safety.

**Verse 3**

For You are my refuge, a high tower where my enemies can never reach me.

**Verse 4**

I shall live forever in Your tabernacle: oh, to be safe beneath the shelter of Your wings.

**Verse 5**

For You have heard my vows, O God, to praise You every day, and You have given me the blessings You reserve for those who reverence Your name.

**Verse 6**

You will give me added years of life, as rich and full as those of many generations, all packed into one.

### **Verse 7**

And I shall live before the Lord forever. Oh, send your lovingkindness and truth to guard and watch over me,

### **Verse 8**

And I will praise Your name continually, fulfilling my vow of praising You each day.

## **Psalm 62 Restful Resolution, Exposing the Treacherous and Encouraging the Timorous, Traces both Power and Kindness to God the Judge of all**

### **Verse 1**

I stand silently before the Lord, waiting for Him to rescue me. For salvation comes from Him alone.

### **Verse 2**

Yes, He alone is my Rock, my rescuer, defense and fortress. Why should I be tense with fear when troubles come?

### **Verses 3 - 4**

But what is this? They pick on me at a time when my throne is tottering; they plot my death and use lies and deceit to try to force me from the throne. They are so friendly to my face while cursing in their hearts!

### **Verse 5**

But I stand silent before the Lord, waiting for Him to rescue me. For salvation comes from Him alone.

### **Verse 6**

Yes, He alone is my Rock, my Rescuer, Defense and Fortress—why then should I be tense with fear when troubles come?

### **Verse 7**

My protection and success come from God alone. He is my refuge, a Rock where no enemy can reach me.

### **Verse 8**

O my people, trust Him all the time. Pour out your longings before Him, for He can help!

### **Verse 9**

The greatest of men, or the lowest—both alike are nothing in His sight. They weigh less than air on scales!

### **Verses 10 - 11**

Don't become rich by extortion and robbery. And don't let the rich men be proud.

### **Verse 12**

He is loving and kind and rewards each one of us according to the work we do for Him.

## **Psalm 63 A Banished Soul, A Thirst for God, Anticipates Satisfaction and Vindication**

**Psalm of David when he was hiding in the wilderness of Judea.**

### **Verse 1**

O God, my God! How I search for You! How I thirst for You in this parched and weary land where there is no water! How I long to find You!

### **Verse 2**

How I wish I could go into Your sanctuary to see Your strength and glory!

### **Verse 3**

For Your love and kindness are better to me than life itself. How I praise You!

**Verse 4**

I will bless You as long as I live, lifting up my hands to You in prayer.

**Verse 5**

At last I shall be fully satisfied; I will praise You with great joy!

**Verse 6**

I lie awake at night thinking of You.

**Verse 7**

O how much You have helped me—and how I rejoice through the night beneath the protecting shadow of Your wings.

**Verse 8**

I follow close behind You, protected by Your strong right Arm.

**Verse 9**

But those plotting to destroy me shall go down to the depths of hell.

**Verse 10**

They are doomed to die by the sword, to become the food of jackals.

**Verse 11**

But I will rejoice in God! All who trust in Him exult, while liars shall be silenced.

**Psalm 64 A Prayer Against the Evil Tongues of Conspirators, Who Are Destroyed by Their Own Weapon**

**Verses 1- 2**

Lord, listen to my complaint: Oh, preserve my life from the conspiracy of these wicked men, these gangs of criminals.

### **Verse 3**

They cut me down with sharpened tongues; they aim their bitter words like arrows straight at my heart.

### **Verse 4**

They shoot from ambush at the innocent. They meet in secret to set their traps. "He will never notice them here," they say.

### **Verses 5- 6**

They keep a sharp lookout for opportunities of crime. They spend long hours with all their endless evil thoughts and plans.

### **Verse 7**

But God Himself will shoot them down. Suddenly His arrow will pierce them.

### **Verse 8**

They will stagger backward, destroyed by those they spoke against. All who see it happen will scoff at them.

### **Verse 9**

Then everyone shall stand in awe and confess the greatness of the miracles of God; at last they will realize what amazing things He does!

### **Verse 10**

And the godly shall rejoice in the Lord and trust and praise Him.

## **Psalm 65 Israel's Temple-Song of Praise, in Grateful Acknowledgement of Seedtime and Harvest**

### **Verses 1- 2**

O God of Zion, we wait before You in silent praise, and thus fulfill our vow. And because You answer prayer, all mankind will come to You with their requests.

**Verse 3**

Though sins fill our hearts You forgive them all.

**Verse 4**

How greatly to be envied are those You have chosen to come and live with You within the holy tabernacle courts! What joys await us among all the good things there.

**Verse 5**

With dread deeds and awesome power You will defend us from our enemies, O God who saves us. You are the only hope of all mankind throughout the world and far away upon the sea.

**Verse 6**

He formed the mountains by His mighty strength.

**Verse 7**

He quiets the raging oceans and all the world's clamor.

**Verse 8**

In the farthest corners of the earth the glorious acts of God shall startle everyone. The dawn and sunset shout for joy!

**Verse 9**

He waters the earth to make it fertile. The rivers of God will not run dry! He prepares the earth for His people and sends them rich harvests of grain.

**Verse 10**

He waters the furrows with abundant rain. Showers soften the earth, melting the clods and causing seeds to sprout across the land.

**Verses 11- 12**

Then He crowns it all with green, lush pastures in the wilderness; hillsides blossom with joy.



### **Verse 13**

The pastures are filled with flocks of sheep, and the valleys are carpeted with grain. All the world shouts with joy, and sings.

## **Psalm 66 Invitation to All the Earth to Join in Israel's Song of Praise**

### **Verse 1**

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

### **Verse 2**

Sing of His glorious name! Tell the world how wonderful He is.

### **Verse 3**

How awe-inspiring are Your deeds, O God! How great Your Powers! No wonder Your enemies surrender!

### **Verse 4**

All the earth shall worship You and sing of Your glories,

### **Verse 5**

Come, see the glorious things God has done. What marvelous miracles happen to His people!

### **Verse 6**

He made a dry road through the sea for them. They went across on foot. What excitement and joy there was that day!

### **Verse 7**

Because of His great power He rules forever. He watches every movement of the nations. O rebel lands, He will deflate your pride.

### **Verse 8**

Let everyone bless God and sing His praises,

**Verse 9**

For He holds our lives in His hands! And He holds our feet to the path!

**Verse 10**

You have purified us with fire, O Lord, like silver in a crucible.

**Verse 11**

You captured us in Your net and laid great burdens on our backs.

**Verse 12**

You sent troops to ride across our broken bodies. We went through fire and flood. But in the end, You brought us into wealth and great abundance.

**Verse 13**

Now I have come to Your temple with burnt-offerings to pay my vows.

**Verse 14**

For when I was in trouble I promised You many offerings.

**Verse 15**

That is why I am bringing You these fat he-goats, rams and calves. The smoke of their sacrifice shall rise before You.

**Verse 16**

Come and hear, all of you who reverence the Lord, and I will tell you what He did for me:

**Verse 17**

I cried to Him for help, with praises ready on my tongue.

**Verse 18**

He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins.

**Verse 19**

But He listened! He heard my prayer! He paid attention to it!

### **Verse 20**

Blessed be God who didn't turn away when I was praying and didn't refuse me His kindness and love.

## **Psalm 67 Prayer for Blessing on Israel as a Means of Blessing to All Nations**

### **Verse 1**

O God, in mercy bless us, let Your face beam with joy as You look down at us.

### **Verse 2**

Send us around the world with the news of Your saving power and Your eternal plan for all mankind.

### **Verse 3**

How everyone throughout the earth will praise the Lord!

### **Verse 4**

How glad the nations will be, singing for joy because You are their King and will give true justice to their people!

### **Verse 5**

Praise God, O world! May all the peoples of the earth give thanks to You.

### **Verses 6- 7**

For the earth has yielded abundant harvests. God, even our own God, will bless us. And peoples from remotest lands will worship Him.

## **Psalm 68 Glimpses of Jehovah's Visible Reign over Israel and the Nations**

### **Verse 1**

Arise, O God, and scatter all Your enemies! Chase them away!

**Verse 2**

Drive them off like smoke before the wind; melt them like wax in fire! So let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

**Verse 3**

But may the godly man exult! May he rejoice and be merry!

**Verse 4**

Sing praises to the Lord! Raise your voice in song to Him who rides upon the clouds! Jehovah is His name—Oh, rejoice in His presence.

**Verse 5**

He is a father to the fatherless; He gives justice to the widows; for He is Holy.

**Verse 6**

He gives families to the lonely, and releases prisoners from jail, singing with joy! But for rebels there in famine and distress.

**Verses 7-8**

O God, when You led Your people through the wilderness, the earth trembled and the heavens shook. Mount Sinai quaked before You—the God of Israel.

**Verses 9-10**

You sent abundant rain upon Your land, O God, to refresh it in its weariness! There Your people lived, for You gave them this home when they were destitute.

**Verses 11-13**

The Lord speaks. The enemy flees. The women at home cry out the happy news.

“The armies that came to destroy us have fled!” Now all the women of Israel are dividing the booty. See them sparkle with jewels of silver and gold, covered all over as wings cover doves!

**Verse 14**

God scattered their enemies like snowflakes melting in the forests of Zalmon.

**Verses 15-16**

O mighty mountains in Bashan! O splendid many-peaked ranges! Well may you look with envy at Mount Zion, and the mount where God has chosen to live forever.

**Verse 17**

Surrounded by unnumbered chariots, the Lord moves on from Mount Sinai and comes to His holy temple high upon Mount Zion.

**Verse 18**

He ascends the heights, leading many captives in His train. He receives gifts for men, even those who once were rebels. God will live among us here.

**Verse 19**

What a glorious Lord! He who daily bears our burdens also gives us our salvation.

**Verse 20**

He frees us! He rescues us from death.

**Verse 21**

But He will crush His enemies, for they refuse to leave their guilty, stubborn ways.

**Verse 22**

The Lord says, "Come," to all His peoples' enemies; they are hiding on Mount Hermon's highest slopes and deep within the sea!

**Verse 23**

His people must destroy them. Cover your feet with their blood; dogs will eat them.

**Verses 24-25**

The procession of God my King moves onward to the sanctuary, singers in front, musicians behind, girls playing the timbrels in between.

**Verse 26**

Let all the people of Israel praise the Lord, who is Israel's fountain.

**Verse 27**

The little tribe of Benjamin leads the way. The princes and elders of Judah, and the princes of Zebulun and Naphtali are right behind.

**Verse 28**

Summon Your might; display Your strength, O God, for You have done such mighty things for us.

**Verse 29**

The kings of the earth are bringing their gifts to Your temple in Jerusalem.

**Verse 30**

Rebuke our enemies, O Lord. Bring them—submissive--submitting pieces of silver in their hand. Scatter all who delight in war.

**Verse 31**

Egypt will send gifts of precious metals. Ethiopia will stretch out her hands to God in adoration.

**Verse 32**

Sing to the Lord, O kingdoms of the earth—sing praises to the Lord.

**Verse 33**

To Him who rides upon the ancient heavens, whose mighty voice thunders from the sky.

**Verse 34**

Power belongs to God! His majesty shines down on Israel; His strength is mighty in the heavens.

### **Verse 35**

What awe we feel, kneeling here before Him in the sanctuary. The God of Israel gives strength and mighty power to His people. Blessed be God!

## **Psalm 69 Pictures of Distress and Outcries for Deliverance, Followed by Curses on Cruel Enemies, and by Promises of Praise**

### **Verses 1-2**

Save me, O my God. The floods have risen. Deeper and deeper I sink in the mire; the waters rise around me.

### **Verse 3**

I have wept until I am exhausted; my throat is dry and hoarse; my eyes are swollen with weeping, waiting for my God to act.

### **Verse 4**

I cannot even count all those who hate me without cause. They are influential men, these who plot to kill me though I am innocent. They demand that I be punished for what I didn't do.

### **Verse 5**

O God, You know so well how stupid I am, and You know all my sins.

### **Verse 6**

O Lord God of the armies of heaven, don't let me be a stumbling block to those who trust in You. O God of Israel, don't let me cause them to be confused.

### **Verse 7**

Though I am mocked and cursed and shamed for your sake.

### **Verse 8**

Even my own brothers pretend they don't know me!

**Verse 9**

My zeal for God and His work burns hot within me. And because I advocate Your cause, Your enemies insult me even as they insult You.

**Verse 10**

How they scoff and mock me when I mourn and fast before the Lord!

**Verse 11**

How they talk about me when I wear sackcloth to show my humiliation and sorrow for my sins!

**Verse 12**

I am the talk of the town and the song of the drunkards.

**Verse 13**

But I keep right on praying to You, Lord. For now is the time—You are bending down to hear! You are ready with a plentiful supply of love and kindness! Now answer my prayer and rescue me as You promised.

**Verse 14**

Pull me out of this mire. Don't let me sink in. Rescue me from those who hate me, and from these deep waters I am in.

**Verse 15**

Don't let the floods overwhelm me, or the ocean swallow me; save me from the pit that threatens me.

**Verse 16**

O Jehovah, answer my prayers, for Your loving kindness is wonderful; Your mercy is so plentiful, so tender and so kind.

**Verse 17**

Don't hide from me; for I am in deep trouble. Quick! Come and save me.

**Verse 18**

Come, Lord, and rescue me. Ransom me from all my enemies.



**Verse 19**

You know how they talk about me, and how they so shamefully dishonor me. You see them all and know what each has said.

**Verse 20**

Their contempt has broken my heart; my spirit is heavy within me. If even one would show some pity, if even one would comfort me!

**Verse 21**

For food they give me poison; for my awful thirst they offered me vinegar.

**Verse 22**

Let their joys turn to ashes and their peace disappear.

**Verse 23**

Let darkness, blindness and great feebleness be theirs.

**Verse 24**

Pour out Your fury upon them; consume them with the fierceness of Your anger.

**Verse 25**

Let their homes be desolate and abandoned.

**Verse 26**

For they persecute the one You have smitten; and scoff at the pain of the one You have pierced.

**Verse 27**

Pile their sins high and do not overlook them.

**Verse 28**

Let these men be blotted from the list of the living; do not give them the joys of life with the righteous.

**Verse 29**

But rescue me, O God, from my poverty and pain.

**Verse 30**

Then I will praise God with my singing! My thanks will be His praise.

**Verse 31**

That will praise Him more than sacrificing a bullock or an ox.

**Verse 32**

The humble shall see their God at work for them. No wonder they will be so glad! All who seek for God shall live in joy.

**Verse 33**

For Jehovah hears the cries of His needy ones and does not look the other way.

**Verse 34**

Praise Him, all heaven and earth! Praise Him, all the seas and everything in them!

**Verse 35**

For God will save Jerusalem; He rebuilds the cities of Judah. His people shall live in them and not be dispossessed.

**Verse 36**

Their children shall inherit the land; all who love His name shall live there safely.

**Psalm 70 Prayer Not to be Forsaken in Old Age****Verse 1**

Rescue me, O God! Lord, hurry to my aid!

### **Verses 2-3**

They are after my life, and delight in hurting me. Confuse them! Shame them! Stop them! Don't let them keep on mocking me!

### **Verse 4**

But fill the followers of God with joy! Let those who love Your salvation exclaim, "What a wonderful God He is!"

### **Verse 5**

But I am in deep trouble. Rush to my aid, for only You can help and save me. O Lord, don't delay.

## **Psalm 71 Prayer Not to be Forsaken in Old Age**

### **Verse 1**

Lord, You are my refuge! Don't let me down!

### **Verse 2**

Save me from my enemies, for You are just! Rescue me! Bend down Your ear and listen to my plea and save me.

### **Verse 3**

Be to me a great protecting rock, where I am always welcome, safe from all attacks. For You have issued the order to save me.

### **Verse 4**

Rescue me, O God, from these unjust and cruel men.

### **Verse 5**

O Lord, You alone are my hope; I've trusted You from childhood.

### **Verse 6**

Yes, You have been with me from birth and have helped me constantly—no wonder I am always praising You!

**Verse 7**

My success—at which so many stand amazed—is because You are my mighty protector.

**Verse 8**

All day long I'll praise and honor You, O God, for all that You have done for me.

**Verse 9**

And now, in my old age, don't set me aside! Don't forsake me now when my strength is failing!

**Verses 10-11**

My enemies are whispering, "God has forsaken him! Now we can get him. There is no one to help him now.!"

**Verse 12**

O God, don't stay away! Come quickly! Help!

**Verse 13**

Destroy them! Cover them with failure and disgrace—these enemies of mine.

**Verse 14**

I will keep on expecting You to help me. I will praise You more and more.

**Verse 15**

I cannot count the times when You have faithfully rescued me from danger. I will tell everyone how good You are, and of Your constant, daily care.

**Verse 16**

I walk in the strength of the Lord God. I tell everyone that You alone are just and good.

**Verse 17**

O God, You have helped me for my earliest childhood—and I have constantly testified to others of the wonderful things You do.

**Verse 18**

And now that I am old and gray, don't forsake me. Give me time to tell this new generation (and their children too) about all Your mighty miracles.

**Verse 19**

Your power and goodness, Lord, reach to the highest heavens. You have done such wonderful things. Where is there another God like You?

**Verse 20**

You have let me sink down in desperate problems. But You will bring me back to life again, up from the depths of the earth.

**Verse 21**

You will give me greater honor than before and turn again and comfort me.

**Verse 22**

I will praise You with music, telling of Your faithfulness to all Your promises, O Holy One of Israel.

**Verse 23**

I will shout and sing Your praises for redeeming me.

**Verse 24**

I will talk to others all day long about Your justice and Your goodness. For all who tried to hurt me have been disgraced and dishonored.

**Psalm 72 A People's Prayer for a Perfect King****Verse 1**

O God, help the king to judge as You would, and help his son to walk in godliness.

**Verse 2**

Help him to give justice to our people, even to the poor!

**Verse 3**

May the mountains and hills flourish in prosperity because of his good reign.

**Verse 4**

Help him to defend the poor and needy and to crush their oppressors.

**Verse 5**

May the poor and needy revere You constantly, as long as sun and moon continue in the skies! Yes forever!

**Verse 6**

May the reign of the Son of mine be as gentle and fruitful as the springtime rains upon the grass—like showers that water the earth!

**Verse 7**

May all good men flourish in His reign with abundance of peace and to the end of time.

**Verse 8**

Let Him reign from sea to sea, and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

**Verse 9**

The desert nomads shall bow before Him; His enemies shall fall face downward in the dust.

**Verse 10**

Kings along the Mediterranean coast—the kings of Tarshish and the islands—and those from Sheba and from Seba—all will bring their gifts.

**Verse 11**

Yes, kings from everywhere! All will bow before Him! All will serve Him!

**Verse 12**

He will take care of the helpless and poor when they cry to Him; for they have no one else to defend them.

**Verse 13**

He feels pity for the weak and needy, and will rescue them.

**Verse 14**

He will save them from oppression and from violence, for their lives are precious to Him.

**Verse 15**

And He shall live; and to Him will be given the gold of Sheba, and there will be constant praise for Him. His people will bless Him all day long.

**Verse 16**

Bless us with abundant crops throughout the land, even on the highland plains; may there be fruit like that of Lebanon; may the cities be as full of people as the fields are of grass.

**Verse 17**

His name will be honored forever; it will continue as the sun; and all will be blessed in Him; all the nations will praise Him.

**Verse 18**

Blessed be Jehovah God; the God of Israel, Who only does wonderful things!

**Verse 19**

Blessed be His glorious name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and amen!

**Verse 20**

(This ends the psalms of David, son of Jesse.)

**Psalm 73 Temptation, Arising from the Prosperity of the Lawless,  
Triumphantly Overcome**

**Verse 1**

How good God is to Israel—to those whose hearts are pure.

**Verse 2**

But as for me, I came so close to the edge of the cliff! My feet were slipping and I was almost gone.

**Verse 3**

I was envious of the prosperity of the proud and wicked.

**Verse 4**

Yes, all through life their road is smooth! They grow sleek and fat.

**Verse 5**

They aren't always in trouble and plagued with problems like everyone else.

**Verse 6**

So, their pride sparkles like a jeweled necklace, and their clothing is woven of cruelty!

**Verse 7**

Those fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for!

**Verse 8**

They scoff at God and threaten His people. How proudly they speak!

**Verse 9**

They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut through the earth.

**Verse 10**

And so, God's people are dismayed and confused, and drink it all in.



**Verse 11**

“Does God realize what is going on?” they ask.

**Verse 12**

“Look at these men of arrogance; they never have to lift a finger—theirs is a life of ease; and all the time their riches multiply.

**Verse 13**

Have I been wasting my time? Why take the trouble to be pure?

**Verse 14**

All I get of it is trouble and woe—every day and all day long!

**Verse 15**

If I had really said that, I would have been a traitor to Your people.

**Verse 16**

Yet it is so hard to explain it—this prosperity of those who hate the Lord.

**Verse 17**

Then one day I went into God’s sanctuary to meditate and thought about the future of these evil men.

**Verses 18-19**

What a slippery path they are on—suddenly God will send them sliding over the edge of the cliff and down to their destruction: an instant end to all their happiness, and eternity of terror.

**Verse 20**

Their present life is only a dream! They will awaken to the truth as one awakens from a dream of things that never really were!

**Verse 21**

When I saw this, what turmoil filled my heart!

**Verse 22**

I saw myself so stupid and so ignorant; I must seem like an animal to You, O God.

**Verse 23**

But even so, You love me! You are holding my right hand!

**Verse 24**

You will keep on guiding me all my life with Your wisdom and counsel; and afterwards receive me into the glories of heaven!

**Verse 25**

Whom have I in heaven but You? And I desire no one on earth as much as You!

**Verse 26**

My health fails; my spirits droop, yet God remains! He is the strength of my heart; He is mine forever!

**Verse 27**

But those refusing to worship God will perish, for He destroys those serving other gods.

**Verse 28**

But as for me, I get as close to Him as I can! I have chosen Him and I will tell everyone about the wonderful ways He rescues me.

**Psalm 74 Ruthless Injuries to the Sanctuary and Oppression in the Land by an Enemy****Verse 1**

O God, why have You cast us away forever? Why is Your anger hot against us—the sheep of Your own pasture?

**Verse 2**

Remember that we are Your people—the ones You chose in ancient times from slavery and made the choicest of Your possessions. You chose Jerusalem as Your home on earth!

**Verse 3**

Walk through the awful ruins of the city and see what the enemy has done to Your sanctuary.

**Verse 4**

There they shouted their battle cry and erected their idols to flaunt their victory.

**Verses 5-7**

Everything lies in shambles like a forest chopped to the ground. They came with their axes and sledgehammers and smashed and chopped the carved paneling. And set the sanctuary on fire, and razed it to the ground—Your sanctuary, Lord.

**Verse 8**

“Let’s wipe out every trace of God, “ they said, and went through the entire country burning down the assembly places where we worshiped You.

**Verses 9-10**

There is nothing left to show that we are Your people. The prophets are gone, and who can say when all will end? How long, O God, will You allow our enemies to dishonor Your name? Will You let them get away with this forever?

**Verse 11**

Why do You delay? Why hold back Your power? Unleash Your fist and give them a final blow.

**Verse 12**

God is my King from ages past; You have been actively helping me everywhere throughout the land.

**Verses 13-14**

You divided the Red Sea with Your strength; You crushed the sea-god's heads! You gave him to the desert tribes to eat!

**Verse 15**

At Your command the springs burst forth to give Your people water; and then You dried a path for them to cross the overflowing Jordan.

**Verse 16**

Day and night alike belong to You; You made the starlight and the sun.

**Verse 17**

All nature is within Your hands; You make the summer and the winter too.

**Verse 18**

Lord, see how these enemies scoff at You. Jehovah, an arrogant nation has blasphemed Your name.

**Verse 19**

O Lord, save me! Protect Your turtle-dove from the hawks. Save Your beloved people from these beasts.

**Verse 20**

Remember Your promise! For the land is full of darkness and cruel men.

**Verse 21**

O Lord, don't let Your downtrodden people be constantly insulted. Give cause for these poor and needy ones to praise Your name!

**Verse 22**

Arise, O God, and state Your case against our enemies. Remember the insults these rebels have hurled against You all day long.

**Verse 23**

Don't overlook the cursing of these enemies of Yours; it grows louder and louder.

## **Psalm 75 A Song, Enshrining an Oracular Assurance of Equitable Judgment by the Judge of the Earth**

### **Verse 1**

How we thank You Lord! Your mighty miracles give proof that You care.

### **Verse 2**

“Yes,” the Lord replies, “And when I am ready, I will punish the wicked!”

### **Verse 3**

Though the earth shakes and all its people live in turmoil, yet its pillars are firm, for I have set them in place!”

### **Verse 4**

I warned the proud to cease their arrogance! I told the wicked to lower their insolent gaze.

### **Verse 5**

I also told them to stop being stubborn and proud.

### **Verses 6-7**

For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only from God. He promotes one and deposes another.

### **Verse 8**

In Jehovah’s hand there is a cup of pale and sparkling wine. It is His judgment, poured out upon the wicked of the earth. They must drain that cup of the dregs.

### **Verse 9**

But as for me, I shall forever declare the praises of the God of Jacob.

### **Verse 10**

“I will cut off the strength of evil men,” says the Lord, “and increase the power of good men in their place.”

## **Psalm 76 A Song of Triumph over a Divinely-smitten Foe**

### **Verse 1**

God's reputation is very great in Judah and in Israel!

### **Verse 2**

His home is in Jerusalem! He lives upon Mount Zion.

### **Verse 3**

There He breaks the weapons of our enemies.

### **Verse 4**

The everlasting mountains cannot compare with You in glory!

### **Verse 5**

The mightiest of our enemies are conquered; they lie before us in the sleep of death; not one can lift a hand against us.

### **Verse 6**

When You rebuked them, God of Jacob, steeds and riders fell.

### **Verse 7**

No wonder You are greatly feared! Who can stand before an angry God?

### **Verse 8**

You pronounce sentence on them from heaven; the earth trembles and stands silent before You.

### **Verse 9**

You stand up to punish the evil-doers and to defend the meek of the earth.

### **Verse 10**

Man's futile wrath will bring You glory! You will use it as an ornament!

### **Verse 11**

Fulfill all your vows that you have made to Jehovah Your God. Let everyone bring Him presents. He should be revered and feared.

**Verse 12**

He cuts down princes and does awesome things to the kings of the earth.

**Psalm 77 Comfort in Distress Obtained by the Study of a Song**

**Verse 1**

I cry to the Lord; I call and call on Him. Oh, that He would listen.

**Verse 2**

I am in deep trouble and I need His help so badly. All night long I pray, lifting my hands to heaven, pleading. There can be no joy for me until He acts.

**Verse 3**

I think of God and man, overwhelmed with longing for His help.

**Verse 4**

I cannot sleep until You act. I am too distressed even to pray!

**Verse 5**

I keep thinking of the good old days of the past, long since ended.

**Verse 6**

Then my nights were filled with joyous songs. I search my soul and meditate upon the difference now.

**Verse 7**

Has the Lord rejected me forever? Will He never again be favorable?

**Verse 8**

Is His lovingkindness gone forever? Has His promise failed?

**Verse 9**

Has He forgotten to be kind to one so undeserving? Has He slammed the door in anger on His love?

**Verse 10**

And I said: This is my fate, that the blessings of God has changed to hate.

**Verse 11**

I recall the many miracles He did for me so long ago.

**Verse 12**

Those wonderful deeds are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about them.

**Verse 13**

O God, Your ways are holy. Where is there any other as mighty as You?

**Verse 14**

You are the God of miracles and wonders! You still demonstrate Your awesome power.

**Verse 15**

You have redeemed us who are the sons of Jacob and of Joseph by Your might.

**Verse 16**

When the Red Sea saw You, how it feared! It trembled to its depths!

**Verse 17**

The clouds poured down their rain, the thunder rolled and crackled in the sky. Your lightning flashed.

**Verse 18**

There was thunder in the whirlwind; the lightning lighted up the world! The earth trembled and shook.

**Verse 19**

Your road led by a pathway through the sea—a pathway no one knew was there.



### **Verse 20**

You led Your people along that road like a flock of sheep, with Moses and Aaron as their shepherds.

## **Psalm 78 A Didactic Poem, counseling the Reunion of the Tribes**

### **Verse 1**

O My people, listen to my teaching. Open your ears to what I am saying.

### **Verses 2-3**

I will show you lessons from our history, stories handed down to us from former generations.

### **Verse 4**

I will reveal these truths to you so that you can describe these glorious deeds of Jehovah to your children and tell them about the mighty miracles He did.

### **Verse 5**

He gave his laws to Israel and commanded our fathers to teach them to their children.

### **Verse 6**

So that they in turn could teach their children too. Thus, His laws pass down from generation to generation.

### **Verse 7**

In this way each generation has been able to obey His laws and to set its hope anew on God and nor forget His glorious miracles.

### **Verse 8**

Thus, they did not need to be as their fathers were—stubborn, rebellious, unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

**Verse 9**

The people of Ephraim, though fully armed, were defeated in battle.

**Verse 10**

They didn't obey His laws, and they refused to follow His ways.

**Verses 11-12**

And they forgot about the wonderful miracles God had done for them and for their fathers back in Egypt.

**Verse 13**

He divided the sea before them and led them through! The water stood banked up along both sides of them!

**Verse 14**

In the daytime He led them by a cloud, and at night by a pillar of fire.

**Verse 15**

He split open the rocks in the wilderness to give them plenty of water, as though gushing from a spring.

**Verse 16**

Streams poured from the rock, flowing like a river!

**Verse 17**

Yet they kept on with their rebellion, sinning against God who is above all gods.

**Verse 18**

They murmured and complained, demanding other food than God was giving them.

**Verses 19-20**

They even spoke against God Himself. "Why can't He give us decent food as well as water?" they grumbled.

**Verse 21**

Jehovah heard them and was angry; the fire of His wrath burned against Israel.

**Verse 22**

They didn't believe in God or trust in Him to care for them.

**Verse 23**

Even though He commanded the skies to open—He opened the windows of heaven.

**Verse 24**

It rained down manna for their food. He gave them bread from heaven!

**Verse 25**

They ate angel's food! He gave them all that they could hold.

**Verse 26**

And He led forth the east wind and guided the south wind by His mighty power.

**Verse 27**

He rained down birds as thick as dust, clouds of them like sands along the shore!

**Verse 28**

He caused the birds to fall to the ground among the tents!

**Verse 29**

The people ate their fill. He gave them what they asked for.

**Verse 30**

But they had hardly finished eating, and the meat was yet in their mouths,

**Verse 31**

When the anger of the Lord rose against them and killed the finest of Israel's young men.

**Verse 32**

Yet even so the people kept on sinning and refused to believe in miracles.

**Verse 33**

So, He cut their lives short and gave them years of terror and disaster.

**Verse 34**

Then at last, when He had ruined them, they walked awhile behind Him; how earnestly they turned around and followed Him!

**Verse 35**

Then they remembered that God was their Rock—that their Savior was the God above all gods.

**Verse 36**

But it was only with their words they followed Him, not with their hearts.

**Verse 37**

Their hearts were far away. They did not keep their promises.

**Verse 38**

Yet He was merciful and forgave their sins and didn't destroy them all. Many and many a time He held back His anger.

**Verse 39**

For He remembered that they were merely mortal men, gone in a moment, like a breath of wind.

**Verse 40**

Oh, how often they rebelled against Him in those desert years and grieved His heart.

### **Verse 41**

Again, and again they turned away and tempted God to kill them and limited the Holy One of Israel from giving them His blessings.

### **Verses 42-43**

They forgot His power and love and how He had rescued them from their enemies; and they forgot the plagues He sent upon the Egyptians in Tanis, “the plains of Zoan.”

### **Verses 44-45**

How He turned their rivers into blood, so that no one could drink; and how He sent vast swarms of flies to fill the land, and how the frogs had covered all of Egypt.

### **Verse 46**

He gave their crops to caterpillars. Their harvest was consumed by locusts.

### **Verse 47**

He destroyed their grapevines and their sycamores with hail.

### **Verse 48**

Their cattle died in the fields, mortally wounded by ice balls from heaven. Their sheep were killed by lightning.

### **Verse 49**

He loosed on them the fierceness of His anger, sending sorrow and trouble. He dispatched against them a band of destroying angels.

### **Verse 50**

He gave them free course to His anger and did not spare the Egyptian’s lives, but handed them over to plagues and sickness.

### **Verse 51**

Then He killed the eldest son, literally all the first-born, in each Egyptian family—he who was the beginning of its strength and joy.

**Verse 52**

But He led forth His own people like a flock, guiding them safely through the wilderness.

**Verse 53**

He kept them safe, so they were not afraid. But the Sea closed in upon their enemies and overwhelmed them.

**Verse 54**

He brought them to the border of His land of blessing, to this land of hills He made for them.

**Verse 55**

He drove out the nations occupying the land and gave each tribe of Israel its apportioned place as its home.

**Verse 56**

Yet though He did all this for them, they still rebelled against the God above all gods, and refused to follow His commands.

**Verse 57**

They turned back from entering the Promised Land and disobeyed as the fathers had. Like a crooked arrow, they missed the target of God's will.

**Verse 58**

They made Him angry by erecting idols and altars to other gods.

**Verse 59**

When God saw their deeds, His wrath was strong and He despised His people.

**Verses 60-61**

Then He abandoned His tabernacle at Shiloh, where He lived among mankind and allowed His Ark to be captured; He surrendered His glory into enemy hands.

**Verse 62**

He caused His people to be butchered because His anger was intense.

**Verse 63**

Their young men were killed by fire and their girls died before they were old enough to sing their wedding songs.

**Verse 64**

The priests were slaughtered and their widows died before they could even begin their lament.

**Verses 65-66**

Then the Lord rose up as though awakening from sleep, and like a mighty man aroused by wine, He routed His enemies and drove them back and sent them to eternal shame.

**Verses 67-68**

But He rejected Joseph's family the tribe of Ephraim and chose the tribe of Judah—and mount Zion which He loved.

**Verse 69**

There He built His towering temple, solid and enduring as the heavens and the earth.

**Verses 70-72**

He chose His servant David, taking him from feeding sheep, and from following the ewes and lambs; and God presented David to His people as their shepherd and he cared for them with a true heart and skillful hands.

**Psalm 79 Invasion, Desecration, Demolition, Massacre and Derision call Forth Lamentation, Protest, Petition and Pleading, and the Hope of Deliverance evokes a Promise of Perpetual Praise**

**Verse 1**

O God, Your land has been conquered by the heathen nations. Your temple is defiled and Jerusalem is a heap of ruins.

**Verse 2**

The bodies of Your people lie exposed—food for birds and animals.

**Verse 3**

The enemy has butchered the entire population of Jerusalem; blood has flowed like water; no one is left even to bury them.

**Verse 4**

The nations all around us scoff. They heap contempt on us.

**Verse 5**

O Jehovah, how long will You be angry with us? Forever? Will Your jealousy burn till every hope is gone?

**Verse 6**

Pour out Your wrath upon the godless nations, not on us. And on kingdoms that refuse to pray, that will not call upon Your name!

**Verse 7**

For they have destroyed Your people Israel, invading every home.

**Verse 8**

Oh, do not hold us guilty for our former sins! Let Your tenderhearted mercies meet our needs, for we are brought low to the dust.

**Verse 9**

Help us, God of our salvation! Help us for the honor of Your name! Oh, save us and forgive our sins.



**Verse 10**

Why should the heathen nations be allowed to scoff, “Where is their God?”  
Publicly avenge this slaughter of Your people!

**Verse 11**

Listen to the sighing of the prisoners and those condemned to die.  
Demonstrate the greatness of Your power by saving them.

**Verse 12**

O Lord, take sevenfold vengeance on these nations scorning You.

**Verse 13**

Then we Your people, the sheep of your pasture, will thank you forever and  
forever, praising Your greatness from generation to generation.

**Psalm 80 Prayer for the Flock and Vine of Israel****Verse 1**

O Shepherd of Israel who leads Israel like a flock; O God enthroned above  
the cherubim, bend down Your ear and listen as I plead. Display your power  
and radiant glory.

**Verse 2**

Let Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh see You rouse Yourself and use Your  
mighty power to rescue us.

**Verse 3**

Turn us again to Yourself, O God. Look down on us in joy and love; only  
then shall we be saved.

**Verse 4**

O Jehovah, God of heaven’s armies, how long will You be angry and reject  
our prayers?

### **Verses 5-6**

You have fed us with sorrow and tears and have made us the scorn of the neighboring nations. They laugh among themselves.

### **Verse 7**

Turn us again to Yourself, O God of Hosts. Look down on us in joy and love; only then shall we be saved.

### **Verse 8**

You brought us from Egypt as though we were a tender vine and drove away the heathen from Your land and planted us.

### **Verse 9**

You cleared the ground and tilled the soil and we took root and filled the land.

### **Verses 10-11**

The mountains were covered with our shadow; we were like the mighty cedar trees, covering the entire land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River.

### **Verse 12**

But now You have broken down our walls leaving us without protection.

### **Verse 13**

The boar from the forest roots around us and, the wild animals feed on us.

### **Verse 14**

Come back, we beg of You, O God of the armies of heaven, and bless us. Look down from heaven and see our plight and care for this Your vine.

### **Verse 15**

Protect what You Yourself have planted, this son You have raised for Yourself.

**Verse 16**

We are chopped and burned by our enemies. May they perish at Your frown.

**Verses 17-18**

Strengthen the man You love, the son of Your choice, and we will never forsake You again. Revive us to trust in You.

**Verse 19**

Turn us again to Yourself, O God of the armies of heaven. Look down on us, Your face aglow with joy and love—only then shall we be saved.

**Psalm 81 A Mission-Song, to be Sung to the Northern Tribes****Verse 1**

The Lord makes us strong! Sing praises! Sing to Israel's God!

**Verse 2**

Sing, accompanied by drums; pluck the sweet lyre and harp.

**Verse 3**

Sound the trumpet! Come to the joyous celebrations at full moon, new moon and all the other holidays!

**Verse 4**

For God has given us these times of joy; they are scheduled in the laws of Israel.

**Verses 5-6**

He gave them as reminders of His war against Egypt where we were slaves on foreign soil.

I heard an unknown voice that said, "Now I will relieve your shoulder of its burden; I will free your hands from their heavy tasks."

**Verse 7**

He said, "You cried to Me in trouble and I saved you; I answered from Mount Sinai where the thunder hides. I tested your faith at Meribah, when you complained there was no water.

**Verse 8**

Listen to Me, O My people, while I give you stern warnings. O Israel, if you will only listen!

**Verse 9**

You must never worship any other god, nor ever have an idol in your home.

**Verse 10**

It was I, Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. Only test Me! Open your mouth wide and see if I won't fill it! You will receive every blessing you can use!

**Verse 11**

But no, My people won't listen. Israel doesn't want Me around.

**Verse 12**

So I am letting them go their blind and stubborn way, living according to their own desires.

**Verse 13**

But oh, that My people would listen to Me! Oh, that Israel would follow Me, walking in My paths!

**Verse 14**

Now quickly then I would subdue her enemies! How soon My hands would be upon her foes!

### **Verse 15**

Those who hate the Lord would cringe before Him; their desolation would last forever.

### **Verse 16**

But He would feed you with the choicest foods. He would satisfy you with honey for the taking.

## **Psalm 82 The Judgment of Unjust Judge**

### **Verse 1**

God stands up to open heaven's court. He pronounces judgment on the judges.

### **Verse 2**

How long will you judges refuse to listen to the evidence? How long will you shower special favors on the wicked?

### **Verse 3**

Give fair judgment to the poor man, the afflicted, the fatherless, and the destitute.

### **Verse 4**

Rescue the poor and needy from the grasp of evil men.

### **Verse 5**

But you are so foolish and so ignorant! Because you are in darkness, all the foundations of society are shaken to the core.

### **Verse 6**

I have called you all "gods" and "sons of the Most High."

### **Verse 7**

But in death you are mere men. You will fall as any prince—for all must die.

### **Verse 8**

Stand up, O God, and judge the earth. For all of it belongs to You. All nations are in Your hands.

## **Psalm 83 An appeal to God for Deliverance from an Impending Invasion**

### **Verse 1**

O God, don't sit idly by, silent and inactive when we pray. Answer us! Deliver us!

### **Verse 2**

Don't You hear the tumult and commotion of Your enemies? Don't You see what they are doing, these proud men who hate the Lord?

### **Verse 3**

They are full of craftiness and plot against Your people, laying plans to slay Your precious ones.

### **Verse 4**

Come, they say, and let us wipe out Israel as a nation—we will destroy the very memory of her existence.

### **Verses 5-8**

This was their unanimous decision at their summit conference—they signed a treaty to ally themselves against Almighty God—these Ishmaelites and Edomites and Moabites and Hagrites, people from the lands of Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, Philistia and Tyre, Assyria has joined them too, and is allied with the descendants of Lot.

### **Verse 9**

Do to them as once You did to Midian, or as You did to Sisera and Jabin at the Kishon.

**Verse 10**

And as You did to Your enemies at Endor, whose decaying corpses fertilized the soil.

**Verses 11-12**

Make their mighty nobles die as Oreb did, and Zeeb; let all their princes die like Zebah and Zalmunna, who said, “Let us seize for our own use these pasture lands of God!”

**Verses 13-14**

O my God, blow them away like dust; like chaff before the wind—as a forest fire that roars across a mountain.

**Verse 15**

Chase them with Your fiery storms, tempests and tornadoes.

**Verse 16**

Utterly disgrace them until they recognize Your power and name, Lord.

**Verses 17-18**

Make them failures in everything they do; let them be ashamed and terrified until they learn that You alone, Jehovah, are the God above all gods in supreme charge of all the earth.

**Psalm 84 The Longing of a Levite for the Habitations of Jehovah in Zion with Inspiring Memories of a Past Pilgrimage and Exultant Joy in Renewed Service****Verse 1**

How lovely is our temple, O Lord of the armies of heaven.

**Verse 2**

I long, yes, pant with longing to be able to enter Your courtyard and come near to the Living God.

**Verse 3**

Even the sparrows and swallows are welcome to come and nest among Your altars and there have their young, O Lord of heaven's armies, my King and my God!

**Verse 4**

How happy are Your priests who can always be in Your temple, singing Your praises.

**Verse 5**

Happy are those who are strong in the Lord, who want above all else to follow Your steps.

**Verse 6**

When they walk through the Valley of Weeping it will become a place of springs where pools of blessing and refreshing collect after rains!

**Verse 7**

They will row constantly in strength and each of them is invited to meet with the Lord in Zion!

**Verse 8**

O Jehovah, God of the heavenly armies, hear my prayer! Listen, God of Israel!

**Verse 9**

O God, our Defender and our Shield, have mercy on the one You have anointed as Your king.

**Verse 10**

A single day spent in Your temple is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a doorman of the temple of my God than live in palaces of wickedness.



**Verse 11**

Jehovah God is our light and protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will He withhold from those who walk along His paths.

**Verse 12**

O Lord of the armies of heaven, blessed are those who trust in You.

**Psalm 85 Praise, Prayer, and Prophecy lead up to the Reconciliation of Earth and Heaven****Verses 1-3**

Lord, You have poured out amazing blessings on this land! You have restored the fortunes of Israel, and forgiven the sins of Your people—yes, covered over each one, so that all Your wrath, Your blazing anger, is now ended.

**Verse 4**

Now bring us back to loving You, O Lord, so that Your anger will never need rise against us again.

**Verse 5**

(Or will You be always angry—on and on to distant generations?)

**Verse 6**

Oh, revive us! Then Your people can rejoice in You again.

**Verse 7**

Pour out Your love and kindness on us, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

**Verse 8**

I am listening carefully to all the Lord is saying—for He speaks peace to His people, His saints, if they will only stop their sinning.

**Verse 9**

Surely His salvation is near to those who reverence Him; our land will be filled with His glory!

**Verse 10**

Mercy and truth have met together. Grim justice and peace have kissed!

**Verse 11**

Truth rises from the earth and righteousness smiles down from heaven.

**Verse 12**

Yes, the Lord pours down His blessings on the land and it yields its bountiful crops.

**Verse 13**

Justice goes before Him to make a pathway for His steps.

**Psalm 86 Prayer of a Tried and Faithful Servant of Jehovah**

**Verse 1**

Bend down and hear my prayer, O Lord, and answer me, for I am deep in trouble.

**Verse 2**

Protect me from death, for I try to follow all Your laws. Save me, for I am serving You and trusting You.

**Verse 3**

Be merciful, O Lord, for I am looking up to You in constant hope.

**Verse 4**

Give me happiness, O Lord, for I worship only You.

**Verse 5**

O Lord, You are so good and kind, so ready to forgive; so full of mercy for all who ask Your aid.

**Verse 6**

Listen closely to my prayer, O God. Hear my urgent cry.

**Verse 7**

I will call to You whenever trouble strikes, and You will help me.

**Verse 8**

Where among the heathen gods is there a God like You? Where are their miracles?

**Verse 9**

All nations—and You made each one—will come and bow before You Lord, and praise Your great and holy name.

**Verse 10**

For You are great and do great miracles. You alone are God.

**Verse 11**

Tell me where You want me to go and I will go there. May every fiber of my being unite in reverence to Your name.

**Verse 12**

With all my heart I will praise You. I will give glory to Your name forever.

**Verse 13**

For You love me so much! And You are constantly so kind! And you have rescued me from deepest hell.

**Verse 14**

O God, proud and insolent men defy me; violent, godless men are trying to kill me.

**Verses 15-16**

But You are merciful and gentle, Lord, slow in getting angry, full of constant lovingkindness and of truth; look down in pity and grant strength to Your servant and save me.

### **Verse 17**

Send me a sign of Your favor. When those who hate me see it they will lose face because You help and comfort me.

## **Psalm 87 The Glorious Destiny of Zion as the Metropolis of the Nations**

### **Verses 1-2**

High on His Holy Mountain stands Jerusalem, the city of God, the city He loves more than any other!

### **Verse 3**

O city of God, what wondrous tales are told of You!

### **Verse 4**

Nowadays when I mention among my friends the name of Egypt and Babylonia, Philistia and Tyre, or even distant Ethiopia, someone boasts that he was born in one or another of these countries.

### **Verse 5**

But someday the highest honor will be to a native of Jerusalem! For the God above all gods will personally bless this city.

### **Verse 6**

When He registers the citizens He will place a checkmark beside the names of those who were born here!

### **Verse 7**

And in the festivals they'll sing, "All my heart is in Jerusalem."

## **Psalm 88 The anguished Cry of one Smitten and Forsaken**

### **Verse 1**

O Jehovah, God of my salvation, I have wept before You day and night.

**Verse 2**

Now hear my prayers; oh, listen to my cry.

**Verse 3**

For my life is full of troubles, and death draws near.

**Verse 4**

They say my life is ebbing out—a hopeless case.

**Verse 5**

They have left me here to die, like those slain on battlefields, from whom Your mercies are removed.

**Verse 6**

You have thrust me down to the darkest depths.

**Verse 7**

Your wrath lies heavy on me; wave after wave engulfs me.

**Verse 8**

You have made my friends to loathe me, and they have gone away. I am in a trap with no way out.

**Verse 9**

My eyes grow dim with weeping. Each day I beg Your help; O Lord, I reach my pleading hands to You for mercy.

**Verse 10**

Soon it will be too late! Of what use are Your miracles when I am in the grave? How can I praise You then?

**Verse 11**

Can those in the grave declare Your lovingkindness? Can they proclaim Your faithfulness?

**Verse 12**

Can the darkness speak of Your miracles? Can anyone in the land of forgetfulness talk about Your help?

**Verse 13**

O Lord, I plead for my life and shall keep on pleading day by day.

**Verse 14**

O Jehovah, why have You thrown my life away? Why are You turning Your face from me, and looking the other way?

**Verse 15**

From my youth I have been sickly and ready to die. I stand helpless before Your terrors.

**Verse 16**

Your fierce wrath has overwhelmed me. Your terrors have cut me off.

**Verse 17**

They flow around me all day long.

**Verse 18**

Lover, friend, acquaintance—all are gone. There is only darkness everywhere.

**Psalm 89 The Covenant with David Contrasted with the Present Dishonor of David's Heir****Verse 1**

Forever and ever I will sing about the tender kindness of the Lord! Young and old shall hear about Your blessings.

**Verse 2**

Your love and kindness are forever; Your truth is as enduring as the heavens.

### **Verses 3-4**

The Lord God says, “I have made a solemn agreement with My chosen servant David. I have taken an oath to establish his descendants as kings forever on his throne, from now until eternity!”

### **Verse 5**

All heavens shall praise Your miracles, O Lord; myriads of angels will praise You for Your faithfulness.

### **Verse 6**

For who in all of heaven can be compared with God? What mightiest angel is anything like Him?

### **Verse 7**

The highest of angelic powers stand in dread and awe of Him. Who is as revered as He by those surrounding Him?

### **Verse 8**

O Jehovah, Commander of the heavenly armies, where is there any other Mighty One like You? Faithfulness is Your very character.

### **Verse 9**

You rule the oceans when their waves arise in fearful storms; You speak, and they lie still.

### **Verse 10**

You have cut haughty Egypt to pieces. Your enemies are scattered by Your awesome power.

### **Verse 11**

The heavens are Yours, the world, everything—for You created them all.

### **Verse 12**

You created north and south! Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon rejoice to be signed by Your name as their maker!

**Verse 13**

Strong is Your arm! Strong is Your hand! Your right hand is lifted high in glorious strength.

**Verses 14-15**

Your throne is founded on two strong pillars—the one is Justice and the other Righteousness. Mercy and Truth walk before You as Your attendants. Blessed are those who hear the joyful blast of the trumpet, for they shall walk in the light of Your presence.

**Verse 16**

They rejoice all day long in Your wonderful reputation and in Your perfect righteousness.

**Verse 17**

You are their strength! What glory! Our power is based on Your favor!

**Verse 18**

Yes, our protection is from the Lord Himself and He, the Holy One of Israel, has given us our king.

**Verses 19-20**

In a vision You spoke to Your prophet and said, “I have chosen a splendid young man from the common people to be the king—he is my servant David! I have anointed him with My holy oil.

**Verse 21**

I will steady him and make him strong.

**Verse 22**

His enemies shall not outwit him, nor shall the wicked overpower him.

**Verse 23**

I will beat down his adversaries before him, and destroy those who hate him.



**Verse 24**

I will protect and bless him constantly and surround him with my love; he will be great because of Me.

**Verse 25**

He will hold sway from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea.

**Verse 26**

And he will cry to Me, "You are my Father, my God, and my Rock of Salvation.

**Verse 27**

I will treat him as My firstborn son, and make him the mightiest king in all the earth.

**Verse 28**

I will love him forever and be kind to him always; My covenant with him will never end.

**Verse 29**

He will always have an heir; his throne will be as endless as the days of heaven.

**Verses 30-32**

If his children forsake My laws and don't obey them, then I will punish them.

**Verse 33**

But I will never completely take away My lovingkindness from them, nor let My promise fail.

**Verse 34**

No, I will not break My covenant; I will not take back one word of what I said.

### **Verses 35-36**

For I have sworn to David; (and a holy God can never lie), that his dynasty will go on forever, and his throne will continue to the end of time.

### **Verse 37**

It shall be eternal as the moon, My faithful witness in the sky.

### **Verse 38**

Then why cast me off, rejected? Why be so angry with the one You chose as king?

### **Verse 39**

Have You renounced Your covenant with him? For You have thrown his crown in the dust.

### **Verse 40**

You have broken down the walls protecting him and laid to ruins every fort defending him.

### **Verse 41**

Everyone who comes along has robbed him while his neighbors mock.

### **Verses 42-44**

You have ended his splendor and overturned his throne. You have strengthened his enemies against him and made them rejoice.

### **Verse 45**

You have struck down his sword and refused to help him in battle. You have made him old before his time and publicly disgraced him.

### **Verse 46**

O Jehovah, how long will this go on? Will You hide Yourself from me forever? How long will Your wrath burn like fire?

**Verse 47**

Oh, remember how short You have made man's lifespan. Is it an empty, futile life You give the sons of men?

**Verse 48**

No man can live forever. All will die. Who can rescue his life from the power of the grave?

**Verse 49**

Lord, where is the love You used to have for me? Where is Your kindness that You promised to David with a faithful pledge?

**Verse 50**

Lord, see how all the people are despising me.

**Verse 51**

Your enemies joke about me, the one You anointed as their king.

**Verse 52**

And yet—blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen!

**Psalm 90 A Prayer of Moses, the Man of God****Verse 1**

Lord, through all the generations You have been our home!

**Verse 2**

Before the mountains were created, before the earth was formed, You are God without beginning or end.

**Verse 3**

You speak, and man turns back to dust.

**Verse 4**

A thousand years are but as yesterday to You! They are like a single hour!

### **Verses 5-6**

We glide along the tides of time as swiftly as a racing river, and vanish as quickly as a dream. We are like grass that is green in the morning but mowed down and withered before the evening shadows fall.

### **Verse 7**

We die beneath Your anger; we are overwhelmed by Your wrath.

### **Verse 8**

You spread out our sins before You—our secret sins—and see them all.

### **Verse 9**

No wonder the years are long and heavy here beneath Your wrath. All our days are filled with sighing.

### **Verse 10**

Seventy years are given us! And some may even live to 80. But even the best of these years are often emptiness and pain; soon they disappear, and we are gone.

### **Verse 11**

Who can realize the terrors of Your anger? Which of us can fear You as we should?

### **Verse 12**

Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should.

### **Verse 13**

O Jehovah, come and bless us! How long will You delay? Turn away Your anger from us.

### **Verse 14**

Satisfy us in our earliest youth with Your lovingkindness, giving us constant joy to the end of our lives.

**Verse 15**

Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery. Replace the evil years with good.

**Verse 16**

Let us see Your miracles again; let our children see glorious things, the kind You used to do.

**Verse 17**

And let the Lord our God favor us give us success.

**Psalm 91 A Personal Application of the Foregoing Psalm****Verse 1**

We live within the shadow of the Almighty, sheltered by the God who is above all gods.

**Verse 2**

This I declare, that He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I am trusting Him.

**Verse 3**

He rescues you from every trap and protects you from the fatal plague.

**Verse 4**

He will shield you with His wings! They will shelter you. His faithful promises are your armor.

**Verses 5-6**

Now you don't need to be afraid of the dark any more, nor fear the dangers of the day; nor dread the plagues of darkness, nor disasters in the morning.

**Verse 7**

Though a thousand fall at my side, though ten thousand are dying around me, the evil will not touch me.

**Verse 8**

I will see how the wicked are punished but I will not share it.

**Verse 9**

For Jehovah is my refuge! I choose the God above all gods to shelter me.

**Verse 10**

How then can evil overtake me or any plague come near?

**Verse 11**

For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go.

**Verse 12**

They will steady you with their hands to keep you from stumbling against the rocks on the trail.

**Verse 13**

You can safely meet a lion or step on poisonous snakes; yes, even trample them beneath your feet!

**Verse 14**

For the Lord says, "Because he loves Me, I will rescue him; I will make him great because he trusts in My name."

**Verse 15**

When He calls on me I will answer; I will be with him in trouble, and even rescue him and honor him.

**Verse 16**

I will satisfy him with a full life and give him My salvation.

## **Psalm 92 A Song To Sing On The Lord's Day**

### **Verse 1**

It is good to say, "Thank You" to the Lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods.

### **Verse 2**

Every morning, tell Him, "Thank You for Your kindness," and every evening rejoice in all His faithfulness.

### **Verse 3**

Sing His praises, accompanied by music from the harp, flute and lyre.

### **Verse 4**

You have done so much for me, O Lord. No wonder I am glad! I sing for joy.

### **Verse 5**

O Lord, what miracles You do! And how deep are Your thoughts!

### **Verses 6-7**

Unthinking people do not understand them! No fool can comprehend this: that although the wicked flourish like weeds, there is only eternal destruction ahead of them.

### **Verses 8-9**

But the Lord continues forever, exalted in the heavens, while His enemies—all evil-doers—shall be scattered.

### **Verse 10**

But You have made me as strong as a wild bull. How refreshed I am by Your blessings.

### **Verse 11**

I have heard the doom of my enemies announced and seen them destroyed.

**Verse 12**

But the godly shall flourish like palm trees and grow tall as the cedars of Lebanon.

**Verse 13**

They are transplanted into the Lord's own garden and are under His personal care.

**Verse 14**

Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital and green.

**Verse 15**

This honors the Lord and exhibits His faithful care. He is my shelter. There is nothing but goodness in Him!

**Psalm 93****Verse 1**

Jehovah is King! He is robed in majesty and strength. The world is His throne. O Lord, You have reigned from prehistoric times, from the everlasting past.

**Verse 3**

The mighty oceans thunder Your praise.

**Verse 4**

You are mightier than all the breakers pounding on the seashores of the world!

**Verse 5**

Your royal decrees cannot be changed. Holiness is forever the keynote of Your reign.



## **Psalm 94**

### **Verses 1-2**

Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs, let Your glory shine out. Arise and judge the earth; sentence the proud to the penalties they deserve.

### **Verse 3**

Lord, how long shall the wicked be allowed to triumph and exult?

### **Verse 4**

Hear their insolence! See their arrogance! How these men of evil boast!

### **Verse 5**

See them oppressing Your people, O Lord, afflicting those You love.

### **Verses 6-8**

They murder widows, immigrants, and orphans for, “The Lord isn’t looking,” they say, “and besides, “He doesn’t care.” Fools!

### **Verse 9**

Is God deaf and blind—He who makes ears and eyes?

### **Verse 10**

He punishes the nations—won’t He also punish you? He knows everything—doesn’t He also know what you are doing?

### **Verses 11-13**

The Lord is fully aware of how limited and futile the thoughts of mankind are, so He helps us by punishing us. This makes us follow His paths, and gives us respite from our enemies while God traps them and destroys them.

### **Verse 14**

The Lord will not forsake His people, for they are His prize.

### **Verse 15**

Judgment will again be just and all the upright will rejoice.

**Verse 16**

Who will protect me from the wicked? Who will be my shield?

**Verse 17**

I would have died unless the Lord had helped me.

**Verse 18**

I screamed, "I'm slipping Lord!" and He was kind and saved me.

**Verse 19**

Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer.

**Verse 20**

Will You permit a corrupt government to rule under Your protection—a government permitting wrong to defeat right?

**Verses 21-22**

Do You approve of those who condemn the innocent to death? No! The Lord my God is my fortress—the mighty Rock where I can hide.

**Verse 23**

God has made the sins of evil men to boomerang upon them! He will destroy them by their own plans! Jehovah our God will cut them off.

**Psalm 95****Verse 1**

Oh, come let us sing to the Lord! Give a joyous shout in honor of the Rock of our salvation!

**Verse 2**

Come before Him with thankful hearts. Let us sing Him psalms of praise.

**Verse 3**

For the Lord is a great God, the great King of all gods.

**Verse 4**

He controls the formation of the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains; all are His.

**Verse 5**

He made the sea and formed the land; they too are His.

**Verses 6-7**

Come, kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God. We are His sheep and He is our Shepherd! Oh, that you would hear Him calling you today and come to Him!

**Verse 8**

Don't harden your hearts as Israel did in the wilderness at Meribah and Massah.

**Verse 9**

For there your fathers doubted Me, though they had seen so many of My miracles before. My patience was severely tried by their complaints.

**Verse 10**

"For forty years I watched them in disgust," the Lord God says. "They were a nation whose thoughts and heart were far away from Me. They refused to accept My laws."

**Verse 11**

"Therefore, in mighty wrath I swore that they would never enter the Promised Land, the place of rest I planned for them."

## **Psalm 96**

### **Verse 1**

Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing it everywhere around the world!

### **Verse 2**

Sing out His praises! Bless His name. Each day tell someone that He saves.

### **Verse 3**

Publish His glorious acts throughout the earth. Tell everyone about the amazing things He does.

### **Verse 4**

For the Lord is great beyond description, and greatly to be praised.  
Worship only Him among the gods.

### **Verse 5**

The gods of other nations are merely idols, but our God made the heavens!

### **Verse 6**

Honor and majesty surround Him; strength and beauty are in His temple.

### **Verse 7**

O nations of the world confess that God alone is glorious and strong.

### **Verse 8**

Give Him the glory He deserves! Bring your offering and come to worship Him.

### **Verse 9**

Worship the Lord with the beauty of holy lives. Let the earth tremble before Him.

### **Verse 10**

Tell the nations that Jehovah reigns! He rules the world. His power can never be overthrown. He will judge all nations fairly.

**Verse 11**

Let the heavens be glad, the earth rejoice; let the vastness of the roaring seas demonstrate His glory.

**Verse 12**

Praise Him for the growing fields, for they display His greatness. Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise.

**Verse 13**

For the Lord is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the nations fairly and with truth!

**Psalm 97****Verse 1**

Jehovah is King! Let all the earth rejoice! Tell the farthest island to be glad.

**Verse 2**

Clouds and darkness surround Him! Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

**Verse 3**

Fire goes forth before Him and burns up all His foes.

**Verse 4**

His lightning flashes out across the world. The earth sees and trembles.

**Verse 5**

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

**Verse 6**

The heavens declare His perfect righteousness; every nation sees His glory.

### **Verse 7**

Let those who worship idols be disgraced—all who brag about their worthless gods—for every god must bow to Him.

### **Verses 8-9**

Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah have heard of Your justice, Lord, and are glad that You reign in majesty over the entire earth and are far greater than these other gods.

### **Verse 10**

The Lord loves those who hate evil; He protects the lives of His people, and rescues them from the wicked.

### **Verse 11**

Light is sown for the godly and joy for the good.

### **Verse 12**

May all who are godly be happy in the Lord and crown Him, our holy God.

## **Psalm 98 and 99 A Shorter Service of Song (for a Sabbath Day)**

**Psalm 98 An invitation to sing the new song of Jehovah's victory in behalf of the House of Israel.**

### **Verse 1**

O sing to Jehovah a new song. His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.

### **Verse 2**

Jehovah has made known His salvation to all nations.

### **Verse 3**

The earth has seen the salvation of Jehovah.

**Verse 4**

Shout joyfully to Jehovah and sing for joy and sing praises.

**Verses 5-6**

Sing praises to Jehovah with the lyre, with trumpets and with the sound of the horn. Shout joyfully before the King Jehovah.

**Verse 7**

Let the sea roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

**Verse 8**

Let the rivers clap their hands and let the mountains sing together for joy.

**Verse 9**

Exalt Jehovah and worship Him at His holy hill; for holy is our God.

**Psalm 99 Jehovah's Assumption of Kingship Proclaimed: with a Renewed Call to Worship.**

**Verse 1**

Let the people tremble; let the earth shake.

**Verse 2**

Jehovah is exalted above all the peoples.

**Verse 3**

Let them praise Thy great and awesome name; holy is Jehovah.

**Verse 4**

Jehovah loves justice and equity. He has executed justice and righteousness in His people.

**Verse 5**

Exalt Jehovah and worship at His footstool; Holy is He.

### **Verse 6**

Moses and Aaron were among His priests. Samuel was also among those who called on His name and Jehovah answered them.

### **Verse 7**

Jehovah spoke to them in a pillar of cloud and they kept His testimonies and laws that He gave them.

### **Verse 8**

Jehovah answered them for He was a forgiving God even though He was an avenger of their evil deeds.

### **Verse 9**

Exalt Jehovah, our God, and worship at His holy hill; for holy is Jehovah our God.

## **Psalm 100 Invitation to All the Earth to Come In Before Jehovah and Worship**

### **Verse 1**

Shout with joy before the Lord, O earth!

### **Verse 2**

Obey Him gladly; come before Him singing with joy.

### **Verse 3**

Try to realize what this means—the Lord is God! He made us—we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

### **Verse 4**

Go through His open gates with great thanksgiving; enter His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and bless His name.



### **Verse 5**

For the Lord is always good. He is always loving and kind, and His faithfulness goes on and on to each succeeding generation.

## **Psalm 101 A King's Resolve to have a Pure House and Court and Royal City**

### **Verse 1**

To Thee, O Lord, I will sing of lovingkindness and of justice.

### **Verse 2**

I will give heed to the way that is blameless. Oh when will You come to me.

### **Verse 3**

I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me.

### **Verse 4**

Perverseness of heart shall be far from me; I will know nothing of evil.

### **Verse 5**

He who slanders his neighbor secretly I will destroy. The man of haughty looks and arrogant heart I will not endure.

### **Verse 6**

The faithful in the land may dwell with Me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to Me.

### **Verse 7**

No man who practices deceit shall dwell in My house; No man who utters lies shall continue in My presence.

### **Verse 8**

I will destroy all the wicked in the land, cutting off all the evildoers from the city of the LORD.

**Psalm 102 The Prayer of a Humbled One brings a Threefold Answer of Peace**

**Verse 1**

Hear my prayer, O LORD; let my cry come to You!

**Verse 2**

Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress. Incline Your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call.

**Verse 3**

For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.

**Verse 4**

My heart is smitten like grass and withered; I forget to eat my bread.

**Verse 5**

Because of my loud groaning my bones cleave to my flesh.

**Verse 6**

I am like a vulture of the wilderness, like an owl of the waste places.

**Verse 7**

I lay awake, I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.

**Verse 8**

My enemies taunt me and deride me using my name for a curse.

**Verses 9-10**

I eat ashes like bread, and mingle tears with my drink, because of Your indignation and anger; for You have taken me up and thrown me away.

**Verse 11**

My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass.

**Verse 12**

O Lord, You are enthroned forever; Your name endures to all generations.

**Verse 13**

You will arise and have pity on Zion; the appointed time has come.

**Verse 14**

Your servants hold her stones dear and have pity of her dust.

**Verse 15**

Nations will fear the name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth Your glory.

**Verses 16- 17**

For the LORD will build up Zion; He will appear in His glory, He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and will not despise their supplication.

**Verses 18-22**

Record this for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the LORD; that He looked down from His holy height, from heaven the LORD looked at the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free those who were doomed to die; that men may declare in Zion the name of the LORD and in Jerusalem His praise, when people gathered together and kingdoms come to worship the LORD.

**Verse 23**

He has broken my strength, He has shortened my days.

**Verse 24**

“O Lord, take me not away in the midst of my days.”

**Verse 25**

You formed the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

**Verses 26-27**

They will perish, but You will endure; they will all wear out like a garment, but You are the same, and Your years have no end.

**Verse 28**

The children shall dwell secure; their posterity shall be established before You.

**Psalm 103 Bless Jehovah; For He is Worthy****Verse 1**

Bless Jehovah, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

**Verses 2-5**

Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. He forgives all your iniquity, He heals all your diseases, He redeems your life from the pit (pawnshop), He crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, He satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

**Verse 6**

The Lord performs righteous deeds and justice for all who are oppressed.

**Verse 7**

He made known his ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

**Verse 8**

Jehovah is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Verse 9**

He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.

**Verse 10**

Jehovah does not deal with us according to our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities.

**Verses 11-12**

For high as the heavens are above the earth, great is His steadfast love towards those who fear Him, as far as the east is from the west, He has removed our transgressions.

**Verse 13**

As a father has compassion on his children, so Jehovah has compassion on those who fear Him.

**Verse 14**

Jehovah knows our frame, He remembers that we are but dust.

**Verses 15-18**

As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field, for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, but the steadfast love of Jehovah is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

**Verse 19**

Jehovah has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.

**Verse 20**

Bless Jehovah, you mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of His word!

**Verse 21**

Bless Jehovah, all His hosts, His ministers that do His will!

**Verse 22**

Bless Jehovah, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless Jehovah, O my soul!

## **Psalm 104 A Creative Hymn**

### **Verses 1-3**

I bless the Lord: O Lord my God, how great You are! You are robed with honor and with majesty and light! You stretched out the starry curtain of the heavens.

You hollowed out the surface of the earth to form the seas. The clouds are His chariot! He rides upon the wings of the wind!

### **Verse 4**

The angels are His messengers—His servants of fire!

### **Verse 5**

You bound the world together so that it would never fall apart.

### **Verse 6**

You clothed the earth with floods of water covering up the mountains.

### **Verses 7-8**

You spoke, and at the sound of Your shout the water collected into its vast ocean beds, and mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels You decreed.

### **Verse 9**

And then You set a boundary for the seas, so that they would never again cover the earth.

### **Verse 10**

He placed springs in the valleys, and streams that gush from the mountains,

### **Verse 11**

They gave water for the animals to drink. There the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

**Verse 12**

And the birds nested beside the streams and sing among the branches of the trees.

**Verse 13**

He sends rain upon the mountains and fills the earth with fruit.

**Verse 14**

The tender grass grows up at His command to feed the cattle, and there are fruit trees, vegetables and grain for man to cultivate.

**Verse 15**

And wine to make him glad, and olive oil as lotion for his skin, and bread to give him strength.

**Verse 16**

The Lord planted the cedars of Lebanon. They are tall and flourishing.

**Verse 17**

There the birds make their nests and the storks make their nests in the firs.

**Verse 18**

High in the mountain are pastures for the wild goats; and rock-badgers burrow in among the rocks and find protection there.

**Verse 19**

He assigned the moon to mark the months, and the sun to mark the days.

**Verse 20**

He sends the night and darkness, when all the forest folk come out.

**Verse 21**

Then the young lions roar for their food; but they are dependent on the Lord.

**Verses 22-23**

At dawn they slink back into their dens to rest, and men go off to work until evening shadows fall again.

**Verse 24**

O Lord, what a variety You have made! And in wisdom You have made them all! The earth is full of Your riches.

**Verse 25**

There before me lies the mighty ocean, teeming with life of every kind, both great and small.

**Verse 26**

And look! See the ships! And over there, the whale You made to play in the sea!

**Verse 27**

Every one of these depends on You to give them daily food.

**Verse 28**

You supply it, and they gather it! You open wide Your hand to feed them and they are satisfied with all Your bountiful provision.

**Verse 29**

But if You turn away from them, then all is lost. And when You gather up their breath they die and turn again to dust.

**Verse 30**

Then You send Your Spirit, and new life is born to replenish all the living of the earth.

**Verse 31**

Praise God forever! How He must rejoice in all His work.



**Verse 32**

The earth trembles at His glance; the mountains burst into flame at His touch.

**Verse 33**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live! I will praise God to my last breath!

**Verse 34**

May He be pleased by all these thoughts about Him, for He is the source of all my joy.

**Verse 35**

Let all sinners perish—all who refuse to praise Him. But I will praise Him. Hallelujah!

**Psalm 105 Hymn of Praise to Jehovah for Giving Israel a Covenant Land in Which to Observe His Law****Verse 1**

Thank the Lord for all the glorious things He does; proclaim them to the nations.

**Verse 2**

Sing His praises and tell everyone about His miracles.

**Verse 3**

Glory in the Lord; O worshipers of God, rejoice.

**Verse 4**

Search for Him and for His strength and keep on searching!

**Verses 5- 6**

Think of the mighty deeds He did for us, His chosen ones—descendants of God's servant Abraham, and of Jacob. Remember how He destroyed our enemies.

**Verse 7**

He is the Lord our God. His goodness is seen everywhere throughout the land.

**Verses 8-11**

Though a thousand generations pass He never forgets His promise, His covenant with Abraham and Isaac, and confirmed with Jacob. This is His never-ending treaty with the people of Israel: "I will give you the land of Canaan as your inheritance."

**Verse 12**

He said this when they were but few in number, very few, and were only visitors in Canaan.

**Verse 13**

Later they were dispersed among the nations and were driven from one kingdom to another.

**Verse 14**

But through it all He would not let one thing be done to them apart from His decision. He destroyed many a king who tried!

**Verse 15**

"Touch not these chosen ones of Mine," He warned, "and do not hurt My prophets."

**Verse 16**

He called for a famine on the land of Canaan, cutting off its food supply.

**Verse 17**

Then He sent Joseph as a slave to Egypt to save His people from starvation.

**Verse 18**

There in prison they hurt his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar.

**Verse 19**

Until God's time finally came—how God tested his patience!

**Verse 20**

Then the king sent for him and set him free.

**Verse 21**

He was put in charge of all the king's possessions.

**Verse 22**

At his pleasure he could imprison the king's aides and teach the king's advisors.

**Verse 23**

Then Jacob (Israel) arrived in Egypt and lived there with his sons.

**Verse 24**

In the years that followed, the people of Israel multiplied explosively, until they were a greater nation than their rulers.

**Verse 25**

At that point God turned the Egyptians against the Israelites; they hated and enslaved them.

**Verses 26-27**

But God sent Moses as His representative, and Aaron with him, to call down miracles of terror upon the land of Egypt.

**Verse 28**

They followed His instructions and He sent thick darkness through the land, and turned the nation's water into blood, poisoning the fish.

**Verse 30**

Then frogs invaded in enormous numbers; they were found even in the king's private rooms.

**Verse 31**

When Moses spoke, the flies and other insects swarmed in vast clouds from one end of Egypt to the other.

**Verse 32**

Instead of rain He sent down murderous hail, and lightning flashes overwhelmed the nation.

**Verse 33**

Their grape vines and fig trees were ruined; all the trees lay broken on the ground.

**Verses 34-35**

He spoke, and hordes of locusts came, and ate up everything green, destroying all the crops.

**Verses 36-37**

Then He killed the oldest child in each Egyptian home, their pride and joy—and brought His people safely out from Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; there were no sick and feeble folk among them then.

**Verse 38**

Egypt was glad when they were gone, for the dread of them was great.

**Verse 39**

He spread out a cloud above them to shield them from the burning sun, and gave them a pillar of flame at night to give them light.

**Verse 40**

They asked for meat and He sent them quail and gave them manna—bread from heaven.

### **Verses 41-42**

He opened up a rock, and water gushed out to form a river through the dry and barren land; for He remembered His sacred promises to Abraham His servant.

### **Verse 43**

So, He brought His chosen ones singing into the Promised Land.

### **Verse 44**

He gave them the lands of the Gentiles, complete with their growing crops; they ate what others planted.

### **Verse 45**

This was done to make them faithful and obedient to His laws. Hallelujah!

## **Psalm 106 Humbled Israel Confessing Her Sins as a Nation**

### **Verse 1**

Hallelujah! Thank You, Lord! How good You are! Your love for us continues on forever.

### **Verse 2**

Who can ever list the glorious miracles of God? Who can ever praise Him half enough?

### **Verse 3**

Happiness comes to those who are fair to others and are always just and good.

### **Verse 4**

Remember me too, O Lord, while You are blessing and saving our people.

### **Verse 5**

Let me share in Your chosen ones' prosperity and rejoice in all their joys, and receive the glory You gave to them.

**Verse 6**

Both we and our fathers have sinned so much.

**Verse 7**

They weren't impressed by the wonder of Your miracles in Egypt, and soon forgot Your many acts of kindness to them. Instead they rebelled against You at the Red Sea.

**Verse 8**

Even so You saved them—to defend the honor of Your name and demonstrate Your power to all the world.

**Verse 9**

You commanded the Red Sea to divide, forming a dry road across its bottom. Yes, as dry as any desert!

**Verse 10**

You rescued them from their enemies.

**Verse 11**

Then the waters returned and covered the road and drowned their foes; not one survived.

**Verse 12**

Then at last His people believed Him. Then they finally sang His praise.

**Verses 13-14**

Yet how quickly they forgot again! They wouldn't wait for him to act, but demanded better food, testing God's patience to the breaking point.

**Verse 15**

So, He gave them their demands, but sent them leanness in their souls.

**Verse 16**

They were envious of Moses; yes, and Aaron, too, the man anointed by God as His priest.

### **Verses 17-18**

Because of this the earth opened and swallowed Dathan, Abiram and his friends; and fire fell from heaven to consume these wicked men.

### **Verses 19-20**

They preferred a statue of an ox that eats grass to the glorious presence of God Himself.

### **Verses 21-22**

Thus, they despised their Savior who had done such mighty miracles in Egypt and at the Sea.

### **Verse 23**

So, the Lord declared He would destroy them. But Moses, His chosen one, stepped into the breach between the people and their God and begged Him to turn from His wrath, and not destroy them.

### **Verse 24**

They refused to enter the Promised Land, for they wouldn't believe His solemn oath to care for them.

### **Verse 25**

Instead, they pouted in their tents and mourned and despised His command.

### **Verses 26-27**

Therefore, He swore that He would kill them in the wilderness and send their children away to distant lands as exiles.

### **Verse 28**

Then our fathers joined the worshipers of Baal at Peor and even offered sacrifices to the dead!

### **Verses 29-30**

With all these things they angered Him—and so a plague broke out upon them and continued until Phineas executed those whose sins had caused the plague to start.

### **Verse 31**

(For this good deed Phineas will be remembered forever.)

### **Verses 32-33**

At Meribah, too, Israel angered God, causing Moses serious trouble, for he became angry and spoke foolishly.

### **Verses 34-36**

Nor did Israel destroy the nations in the land as God had told them to but mingled in among the heathen and learned their evil ways, sacrificing to their idols, and were led away from God.

### **Verses 37-38**

They even sacrificed their little children to the demons—the idols of Canaan—shedding innocent blood and polluting the land with murder.

### **Verse 39**

Their evil deeds defiled them, for their love of idols was adultery in the sight of God.

### **Verse 40**

That is why Jehovah's anger burned against His people, and He abhorred them.

### **Verses 41-42**

That is why He let the heathen nations crush them. They were ruled by those who hated them and oppressed by their enemies.



### **Verse 43**

Again, and again He delivered them from their slavery, but they continued to rebel against Him, and were finally destroyed by their sin.

### **Verses 44-46**

Yet, even so, He listened to their cries and heeded their distress; He remembered His promises to them and relented because of His great love, and caused even their enemies who captured them to pity them.

### **Verse 47**

O Lord God, save us! Regather us from the nations so we can thank Your holy name and rejoice and praise You.

### **Verse 48**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Hallelujah!

## **Psalm 107 Examples of Men's Straits, Leading to Prayer; and of Jehovah's Deliverance, Calling for Praise**

### **Verse 1**

Say, "Thank You" to the Lord for being so good, for always being so loving and kind.

### **Verse 2**

Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others He has saved you from your enemies.

### **Verse 3**

He brought the exiles back from the farthest corners of the earth.

### **Verses 4-5**

They were wandering homeless in the desert, hungry and thirsty and faint.

**Verse 6**

“Lord, help!” they cried, and He did!

**Verse 7**

He led them straight to safety and a place to live.

**Verse 8**

Oh, that these men would praise the Lord for His lovingkindness, and for all of His wonderful deeds!

**Verse 9**

He satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry soul with good.

**Verse 10**

Who are these who sit in darkness, in the shadow of death, crushed by misery and slavery?

**Verse 11**

They rebelled against the Lord, scorning Him who is the God above all gods.

**Verse 12**

That is why He broke them with hard labor; they fell and none could help them rise again.

**Verse 13**

Then they cried to the Lord in their troubles, and He rescued them!

**Verse 14**

He led them from the darkness and shadow of death and snapped their chains!

**Verse 15**

Oh, that these men would praise the Lord for His lovingkindness and for all of His wonderful deeds!

**Verse 16**

For He broke down the prison gates of brass and cut apart their iron bars.

**Verse 17**

Others, the fools, were ill because of their sinful ways.

**Verse 18**

Their appetites were gone and death was near.

**Verse 19**

Then they cried to the Lord in their troubles, and He helped them and delivered them.

**Verse 20**

He spoke, and they were healed—snatched from the door of death.

**Verse 21**

Oh, that these men would praise the Lord for His lovingkindness and for all of His wonderful deeds!

**Verse 22**

Let them tell Him “Thank You” as their sacrifice and sing about His glorious deeds.

**Verse 23**

And then there are the sailors sailing the seven seas, plying the trade routes of the world.

**Verse 24**

They, too, observe the power of God in action.

**Verse 25**

He calls to the storm winds; the waves rise high.

**Verse 26**

Their ships are tossed to the heavens and sink again to the depths; the sailors cringe in terror.

**Verse 27**

They reel and stagger like drunkards and are at their wit's end.

**Verse 28**

Then they cry to the Lord in their trouble, and He saves them!

**Verse 29**

He calms the storm and stills the waves.

**Verse 30**

What a blessing is that stillness, as He brings them safely into harbor!

**Verse 31**

Oh, that these men would praise the Lord for His lovingkindness and all of His wonderful deeds!

**Verse 32**

Let them praise Him publicly before the congregation and before the leaders of the nation.

**Verses 33-34**

He dries up rivers and turns the good land of the wicked into deserts of salt.

**Verse 35**

Again, He turns deserts into fertile, watered valleys!

**Verse 36**

He brings the hungry to settle there and build their cities,

**Verse 37**

To sow their fields and plant their vineyards and reap their bumper crops!

**Verse 38**

How He blesses them! They raise big families there, and many cattle.

**Verse 39**

But others become poor through oppression, trouble and sorrow.

**Verses 40-41**

For God pours contempt upon the haughty and causes princes to wander among the ruins; but He rescues the poor who are godly and gives them many children and much prosperity.

**Verse 42**

Good men everywhere will see it and be glad, while evil men are stricken silent.

**Verse 43**

Listen, if you are wise, to what I am saying. Think about the lovingkindness of the Lord!

**Psalm 108 Two Fragments of Earlier Psalms (verses 1-6 are taken from Psalm 57:7-11 and verses 6-9 from Psalm 60:5-8)****Verse 1**

O God, my heart is ready to praise You! I will sing and rejoice before You.

**Verse 2**

Wake up, O harp and lyre! We will meet the dawn with song.

**Verse 3**

I will praise You everywhere around the world, in every nation.

**Verse 4**

For Your lovingkindness is great beyond measure, high as the heavens!  
Your faithfulness reaches the skies!

**Verse 5**

His glory is more vast than the heavens! It towers above the earth.

**Verse 6**

Hear the cry of Your beloved child—come with mighty power and rescue me.

**Verse 7**

God has given sacred promises; no wonder I exult! He has promised to give us all the land of Shechem, and also Succoth Valley!

**Verses 8-9**

“Gilead is Mine to give to you,” He says, “and Manasseh as well; the land of Ephraim is the helmet on My head. Judah is My scepter. But Moab and Edom are despised; and I will shout in triumph over the Philistines.”

**Verse 10**

Who but God can give me strength to conquer these fortified cities? Who else can lead me into Edom?

**Verse 11**

Lord, have You thrown us away? Have You deserted our army?

**Verse 12**

Oh, help us fight against our enemies, for men are useless allies.

**Verse 13**

But with the help of God we shall do mighty acts of valor. He treads down our foes.

## **Psalm 109 David, Rehearsing How His Enemies Have Cursed him, Refers His Cause to Jehovah**

### **Verses 1-2**

O God of my praise, don't stand silent and aloof while the wicked slander me and tell their lies.

### **Verse 3**

They have no reason to hate and fight me, yet they do!

### **Verse 4**

I love them, even while I am praying for them, they are trying to destroy me.

### **Verse 5**

They return evil for good, and hatred for love!

### **Verse 6**

Show him how it feels! Let lies be told about him, and bring him to court before an unfair judge.

### **Verse 7**

When his case is called for judgment, let him be pronounced guilty! Count his prayers as sins!

### **Verse 8**

Let his years be few and brief; let others step forward to replace him.

### **Verses 9-10**

May his children become fatherless and his wife a widow and be evicted from the ruins of their home.

### **Verse 11**

May creditors seize his entire estate and strangers take all he has earned.

**Verses 12-13**

Let no one be kind to him; let no one pity his fatherless children. May they die. May his family name be blotted out in a single generation.

**Verse 14**

Punish the sins of his father and mother. Don't overlook them.

**Verse 15**

Think constantly about the evil things he has done and cut off his name from the memory of men.

**Verse 16**

He refused all kindness to others and persecuted those in need and hounded brokenhearted ones to death.

**Verse 17**

He loved to curse others; now You curse him. He never blessed others; now don't You bless him.

**Verse 18**

Cursing is as much a part of him as his clothing, or as the water he drinks, or the rich food he eats!

**Verse 19**

Now may those curses return and cling to him like his clothing or his belt.

**Verse 20**

This is the Lord's punishment upon my enemies who tell lies about me and threaten me with death.

**Verse 21**

But as for me, O lord, deal with me as Your child, as one who bears Your name! Because You are so kind, O Lord, deliver me.



**Verses 22-23**

I am slipping down the hill to death; I am shaken off from life as easily as a man brushes a grasshopper from his arm.

**Verse 24**

My knees are weak from fasting and I am skin and bones.

**Verse 25**

I am a symbol of failure to all mankind; when they see me they shake their heads.

**Verse 26**

Help me, O Lord my God! Save me because You are loving and kind.

**Verse 27**

Do it publicly, so all will see that You Yourself have done it.

**Verse 28**

Then let them curse me if they like—I won't mind that if You are blessing me! For then all their efforts to destroy me will fail, and I shall go right on rejoicing!

**Verse 29**

Make them fail in everything they do. Clothe them with disgrace.

**Verse 30**

But I will give repeated thanks to the Lord, praising Him to everyone.

**Verse 31**

He stands beside the poor and hungry to save them from their enemies.

## **Psalm 110 A Revelation, Through David to his “Lord,” the Messiah**

### **Verse 1**

Jehovah said to my Lord the Messiah, “Rule as My regent—I will subdue Your enemies and make them bow low before You.”

### **Verse 2**

Jehovah has established Your throne in Jerusalem to rule over your enemies.

### **Verse 3**

In that day of Your power; Your people shall come to You willingly, dressed in holy altar robes. And Your strength shall be renewed day by day like morning dew.

### **Verse 4**

Jehovah has taken oath, and will not rescind His vow, that You are a priest forever like Melchizedek.

### **Verse 5**

God stands beside You to protect You. He will strike down many kings in the day of His anger.

### **Verse 6**

He will punish the nations and fill them with their dead. He will crush many heads.

### **Verse 7**

But He himself shall be refreshed from springs along the way.

## **Psalm 111 Alphabetical Psalm in Praise of Jehovah**

### **Verses 1-2**

Hallelujah! I want to express publicly before His people my heartfelt thanks to God for His mighty miracles! All who are thankful should ponder them with me.

### **Verse 3**

For His miracles demonstrate His honor, majesty and eternal goodness.

### **Verse 4**

Who can forget the wonders He performs—deeds of mercy and of grace?

### **Verse 5**

He gives food to those who trust Him; He never forgets His promises!

### **Verse 6**

He has shown His great power to His people by giving them the land of Israel, though it was the home of many nations living there.

### **Verses 7-8**

All He does is just and good, and all His laws are right, for they are formed from truth and goodness, and stand firm forever.

### **Verse 9**

He has paid a full ransom for His people; now they are always free to come to God (what a holy, awe-inspiring name that is).

### **Verse 10**

How can men be wise? The only way to begin is by reverence for God. For growth comes from obeying His laws. His name will be forever.

## **Psalm 112 Alphabetical Psalm in Praise for the Man Who Reveres Jehovah**

### **Verse 1**

Praise the Lord! For all who fear God and trust in Him are blessed beyond expression. Yes, happy is the man who delights in doing His commands.

### **Verse 2**

His children shall be honored everywhere, for good men's sons have a special heritage.

### **Verse 3**

He himself shall be wealthy, and his good deeds will never be forgotten.

### **Verses 4-5**

When darkness overtakes him, light will come bursting in. He is kind and merciful—and all goes well for the generous man who conducts his business fairly.

### **Verse 6**

Such a man will not be overthrown by evil circumstances. God's constant care of him will make a deep impression on all who see it.

### **Verse 7**

He does not fear bad news, nor live in dread of what may happen. He is settled in his mind that Jehovah will take care of him.

### **Verse 8**

That is why he is not afraid but can calmly face his foes.

### **Verse 9**

He gives generously to those in need. His deeds will never be forgotten. He shall have influence and honor.

### **Verse 10**

Evil-minded men will be infuriated when they see all this; they will gnash their teeth in anger and slink away, their hopes thwarted.

**Psalm 113 A Song of Sublime Simplicity: Reaching Its Climax by Rejoicing with a Glad Mother**

**Verse 1**

Hallelujah! O servant of Jehovah, praise His name.

**Verse 3**

Blessed is His name forever and forever.

**Verse 3**

Praise Him from sunrise to sunset!

**Verse 4**

For He is high above the nations; His glory is far greater than the heavens.

**Verse 5**

Who can be compared with God enthroned on high?

**Verses 6-8**

Far below Him are the heavens and the earth; He stoops to look, and lifts the poor from the dirt, and the hungry from the garbage dump, and sets them among princes!

**Verse 9**

He gives children to the childless wife, so that she becomes a happy mother. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

**Psalm 114 A Passover Song**

**Verses 1-2**

Long ago when Israel escaped from Egypt, from that land of foreign tongue, then the lands of Judah and of Israel became God's new home and kingdom.

**Verse 3**

The Red Sea saw them coming and quickly broke apart before them! The Jordan River opened up a path for them to cross!

**Verse 4**

The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs!

**Verse 5**

What's wrong, Red Sea, that made you cut yourself in two? What happened, Jordan River, to your waters? Why were they held back?

**Verse 6**

Why, mountains, did you skip like rams? Why, little hills, like lambs?

**Verse 7**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, the God of Jacob.

**Verse 8**

For He caused gushing streams to burst from flinty rock.

**Psalm 115 Not for Her Own Glory but for His, Israel Moves Herself to Trust in Jehovah to Show His Superiority over Idols****Verse 1**

Glorify Your name, not ours O Lord! Cause everyone to praise Your lovingkindness and our truth.

**Verse 2**

Why let the nations say, "Their God is dead!"

**Verse 3**

He is in the heavens and does as He wishes.

**Verse 4**

Their gods are merely man-made things of silver and of gold.

**Verse 5**

They can't talk or see, despite their eyes and mouths!

**Verses 6-8**

Nor can they hear, nor smell, nor use their hands or feet! Nor speak! And those who make and worship them are just as foolish as their idols are.

**Verse 9**

O Israel, trust the Lord! He is your helper. He is your shield.

**Verse 10**

O priests of Aaron, trust the Lord! He is your helper; He is your shield.

**Verse 11**

All of you, His people, trust in Him. He is your helper; He is your shield.

**Verses 12-13**

Jehovah is constantly thinking about us and He will surely bless us! He will bless the people of Israel and the priests of Aaron, and all, both great and small, who reverence him.

**Verse 14**

May the Lord bless you richly both you and your children.

**Verse 15**

Yes, Jehovah who made the heaven and earth will personally bless you!

**Verse 16**

The heavens belong to the Lord, but He has given the earth to all mankind.

**Verse 17**

The dead cannot sing praises to Jehovah here on earth.

**Verse 18**

But we can! We praise Him forever! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

## **Psalm 116 Individual Thanks for Deliverance from Peril of Death**

### **Verse 1**

I love the Lord because He hears my prayers and answers them.

### **Verse 2**

Because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe!

### **Verse 3**

Death stared me in the face—I was frightened and sad.

### **Verse 4**

Then I cried, “Lord, save me!”

### **Verse 5**

How fine He is! How good He is! So merciful, this God of ours!

### **Verse 6**

The Lord protects the simple and the childlike: I was facing death and then He saved me.

### **Verse 7**

Now I can relax. For the Lord has done this wonderful miracle for me.

### **Verse 8**

He has saved me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

### **Verse 9**

I shall live! Yes, in His presence—here on earth!

### **Verses 10-11**

In my discouragement I thought, “They are lying when they say I will recover.”

### **Verse 12**

But now what can I offer Jehovah for all He has done for me?



**Verse 13**

I will bring Him an offering of wine and praise His name.

**Verse 14**

I will publicly bring Him the sacrifice I vowed I would.

**Verse 15**

His loved ones are very precious to Him and He does not lightly let them die.

**Verse 16**

O Lord, You have freed me from my bonds and I will serve You forever.

**Verse 17**

I will worship You and offer You a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

**Verses 18-19**

Here in the courts of the temple in Jerusalem before all the people, I will pay everything I vowed to the Lord. Praise the Lord.

**Psalm 117 All Nations Invited to Join in Israel's Tribute of Praise****Verse 1**

Praise the Lord, all nations everywhere. Laud Him, all the peoples of the earth.

**Verse 2**

He loves us very dearly, and His truth endures. Praise the Lord.

**Psalm 118 The Passover "Hosanna"-Song****Verse 1**

Oh, thank the Lord, for He's so good! His lovingkindness is forever."

**Verse 2**

Let the congregation of Israel praise Him with these same words: "His lovingkindness is forever."

**Verse 3**

And let the priests of Aaron chant, "His lovingkindness is forever."

**Verse 4**

Let the Gentile converts chant, "His lovingkindness is forever."

**Verse 5**

In my distress I prayed to the Lord and He answered me and rescued me.

**Verse 6**

He is for me! How can I be afraid? What can mere man do to me?

**Verse 7**

The Lord is on my side, He will help me. Let those who hate me beware.

**Verse 8**

It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in men.

**Verse 9**

It is better to take refuge in Him than in the mightiest king!

**Verse 10**

Though all the nations of the world attack me, I will march out behind His banner and destroy them.

**Verse 11**

Yes, they surround and attack me, but with His flag flying above me I will cut them off.

**Verse 12**

They swarm around me like bees; they blaze against me like a roaring flame. Yet beneath His flag I shall destroy them.

**Verse 13**

You did your best to kill me, O my enemy, but the Lord helped me.

**Verse 14**

He is my strength and song in the heat of battle, and now He has given me the victory.

**Verses 15-16**

Songs of joy at the news of our rescue are sung in the homes of the godly. The strong arm of the Lord has done glorious things.

**Verse 17**

I shall not die but live to tell of all His deeds.

**Verse 18**

The Lord has punished me, but not handed me over to Death.

**Verse 19**

Open the gate of the temple—I will go in and give Him my thanks.

**Verse 20**

Those gates are the way into the presence of the Lord, and the godly enter there.

**Verse 21**

O Lord, thank You so much for answering my prayer and saving me.

**Verse 22**

The stone rejected by the builders has now become the capstone of the arch!

**Verse 23**

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous to see!

**Verse 24**

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Verse 25**

O Lord, please help us. Save us. Give us success.

**Verse 26**

Blessed is the One who is coming, the One sent by the Lord. We bless You from the temple.

**Verses 27-28**

Jehovah God is our light. I present to Him my sacrifice upon the altar, for You are my God, and I shall give You thanks and this praise.

**Verse 29**

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is so good! For His lovingkindness is forever.

**Psalm 119 Jehovah's Will in Relation to Human Character and Conduct****Verse 1**

Happy are all who perfectly follow the laws of God.

**Verses 2-3**

Happy are all who search for God, and always do His will, rejecting compromise with evil, and walking only in His paths.

**Verses 4- 5**

You have given us Your laws to obey—oh, how I want to follow them consistently.

**Verse 6**

Then I will not be disgraced, for I will have a clean record.

**Verse 7**

After You have corrected me I will thank You by living as I should!

**Verse 8**

I will obey! Oh, don't forsake me and let me slip back into sin again.

**Verse 9**

How can a young man stay pure? By reading Your word and following its rules.

**Verse 10**

I have tried my best to find You—don't let me wander off from Your instructions.

**Verse 11**

I have thought much about Your words and stored them in my heart so that they would hold me back from sin.

**Verse 12**

Blessed Lord, teach me Your rules.

**Verses 13-14**

I have recited Your laws and rejoiced in them more than in riches.

**Verse 15**

I will meditate upon them and give them my full respect.

**Verse 16**

I will delight in them and not forget them.

**Verse 17**

Bless me with life so that I can continue to obey You.

**Verse 18**

Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your word.

**Verse 19**

I am but a pilgrim here on earth: how I need a map—and your commands are my chart and guide.

**Verse 20**

I long for Your instructions more than I can tell.

**Verses 21-22**

You rebuke those cursed proud ones who refuse Your commands—don't let them scorn me for obeying You.

**Verse 23**

For even princes sit and talk against me, but I will continue in Your plans.

**Verse 24**

Your laws are both my light and my counselors.

**Verse 25**

I am completely discouraged—I lie in the dust. Revive me by Your word.

**Verse 26**

I told You my plans and You replied. Now give me Your instructions.

**Verse 27**

Make me understand what You want; for then I shall see Your miracles.

**Verse 28**

I weep with grief; my heart is heavy with sorrow; encourage and cheer me with Your words.

**Verses 29-30**

Keep me far from every wrong; help me, undeserving as I am, to obey Your laws, for I have chosen to do right.

**Verse 31**

I cling to Your commands and follow them as closely as I can. Lord, don't let me make a mess of things.

**Verse 32**

If You will only help me to want Your will, then I will follow Your laws even more closely.

**Verses 33-34**

Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey.

**Verse 35**

Make me walk along the right paths for I know how delightful they really are.

**Verse 36**

Help me to prefer obedience to making money!

**Verse 37**

Turn me away from wanting any other plan than Yours. Revive my heart towards You.

**Verse 38**

Reassure me that Your promises are for me; for I trust and revere You.

**Verse 39**

How I dread being mocked for obeying; for Your laws are right and good.

**Verses 40-42**

I long to obey them! Therefore, in fairness renew my life, for this was Your promise—yes, Lord, to save me!

Now spare me by Your kindness and Your love. Then I will have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust Your promises.

**Verse 43**

May I never forget Your words; for they are my only hope.

**Verses 44-46**

Therefore, I will keep on obeying You forever and forever, free within the limits of Your laws. I will speak to kings about their value, and they will listen with interest and respect.

**Verse 47**

How I love your laws! How I enjoy your commands!

**Verse 48**

“Come, come to me,” I call to them, for I love them and will let them fill my life.

**Verses 49-50**

Never forget Your promises to me Your servant; for they are my only hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!

**Verse 51**

Proud men hold me in contempt for obedience to God, but I stand unmoved.

**Verse 52**

From my earliest youth I have tried to obey You; Your Word has been my comfort.

**Verse 53**

I am very angry with those who spurn Your commands.

**Verse 54**

For these laws of Yours have been my source of joy and singing through all these years of my earthly pilgrimage.

**Verse 55**

I obey them even at night and keep my thoughts, O Lord, on You.

**Verse 56**

What a blessing this has been to me—to constantly obey.



**Verse 57**

Jehovah is mine! And I promise to obey!

**Verse 58**

With all my heart I want Your blessings. Be merciful just as You promised.

**Verses 59-60**

I thought about the wrong directions in which I was headed, and turned around and came running back to You.

**Verse 61**

Evil men have tried to drag me into sin, but I am firmly anchored to Your laws.

**Verse 62**

At midnight I will rise to give my thanks to You for Your good laws.

**Verse 63**

Anyone is my brother who fears and trusts the Lord and obeys Him.

**Verse 64**

O Lord, the earth is full of Your lovingkindness! Teach me Your good paths.

**Verse 65**

Lord, I am overflowing with Your blessings, just as You promised!

**Verse 66**

Now teach me good judgment as well as knowledge! For your laws are my guide.

**Verse 67**

I used to wander off until You punished me, now I closely follow all You say.

**Verse 68**

You are good and do only good; make me follow Your lead!

**Verse 69**

Proud men have made up lies about me, but the truth is that I obey Your laws with all my heart.

**Verse 70**

Their minds are dull and stupid, but I have sense enough to follow You.

**Verses 71-72**

The punishment You gave me was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to Your laws. They are more valuable to me than millions in silver and gold!

**Verse 73**

You made my body, Lord, now give me sense to heed Your laws.

**Verse 74**

All those who fear and trust in You will welcome me because I too am trusting in Your Word.

**Verses 75-77**

I know, O lord, that your decisions are right and that Your punishment was right and did me good. Now let Your lovingkindness comfort me, just as You promised. Surround me with Your tender mercies, that I may live. For Your law is my delight.

**Verse 78**

Let the proud be disgraced, for they have cut me down with all their lies. But I will concentrate my thoughts upon Your laws.

**Verse 79**

Let all others join me, who trust and fear You, and we will discuss Your laws.

**Verse 80**

Help me to love Your every wish; then I will never have to be ashamed of myself!

**Verse 81**

I faint for Your salvation; but I expect Your help, for You have promised it.

**Verse 82**

My eyes are straining to see Your promises come true. When will You comfort me with Your help?

**Verse 83**

I am shriveled like a wineskin in the smoke, exhausted with waiting. But still I cling to Your laws and obey them.

**Verse 84**

How long must I wait before You punish those who persecute me?

**Verses 85-86**

These proud men who hate Your truth and laws have dug deep pits for me to fall in. Their lies have brought me into deep trouble. Help me, for You love only truth.

**Verse 87**

They had almost finished me off, yet I refused to yield and disobey Your laws.

**Verse 88**

In Your kindness, spare my life; then I can continue to obey You.

**Verse 89**

Forever, O Lord, Your word stands firm in heaven.

**Verses 90-91**

Your faithfulness extends to every generation, like the earth You created; it endures by Your decree, for everything serves Your plans.

**Verse 92**

I would have despaired and perished unless Your laws had been my deepest delight.

**Verse 93**

I will never lay aside Your laws, for You have used them to restore my joy and health.

**Verse 94**

I am Yours! Save me! For I have tried to live according to Your desires.

**Verse 95**

Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind upon Your promises.

**Verse 96**

Nothing is perfect except Your words.

**Verse 97**

Oh, how I love them. I think about them all day long.

**Verse 98**

They make me wiser than my enemies because they are my constant guide.

**Verse 99**

Yes, wiser than my teachers; for I am ever thinking of Your rules.

**Verse 100**

They make me even wiser than the aged.

**Verse 101**

I have refused to walk the paths of evil for I will remain obedient to Your Word.

**Verses 102-103**

No, I haven't turned away from what You taught me: Your words are sweeter than honey.

**Verse 104**

And since only Your rules can give me wisdom and understanding, no wonder I hate every false teaching.

**Verse 105**

Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me and keep me from stumbling.

**Verse 106**

I've said it once and I'll say it again and again: I will obey these wonderful laws of Yours.

**Verse 107**

I am close to death at the hands of my enemies; oh, give me back my life again, just as You promised me.

**Verse 108**

Accept my grateful thanks and teach me Your desires.

**Verse 109**

My life hangs in balance, but I will not give up obedience to Your laws.

**Verse 110**

The wicked have set their traps for me along Your path, but I will not turn aside.

**Verse 111**

Your laws are my joyous treasure forever.

**Verse 112**

I am determined to obey You until I die.

**Verse 113**

I hate those who are undecided whether or not to obey You; but my choice is clear—I love Your law.

**Verse 114**

You are my refuge and my shield, and Your promises are my only source of hope.

**Verse 115**

Be gone, you evil-minded men. Don't try to stop me from obeying God's commands.

**Verse 116**

Lord, You promised to let me live! Never let it be said that God failed me.

**Verse 117**

Hold me safe above the heads of all my enemies; then I can continue to obey Your laws.

**Verse 118**

But You have rejected all who reject Your laws, they are only fooling themselves.

**Verse 119**

The wicked are the scum You skim off and throw away; no wonder I live to obey Your laws!

**Verse 120**

I tremble in fear of You; I fear Your punishments.

**Verse 121**

Don't leave me to the mercy of my enemies, for I have done right; I've been perfectly fair.

**Verse 122**

Commit yourself to bless me! Don't let the proud oppress me!

**Verse 123**

My eyes grow dim with longing for You to fulfill Your wonderful promises to rescue me.

**Verse 124**

Lord, deal with me in lovingkindness, and teach me, Your servant, to obey.

**Verse 125**

For I am Your servant; give me common sense to apply Your rules to everything I do.

**Verses 126-127**

Lord, it is time for You to act. For these evil men have violated Your laws, while I love Your commandments more than the finest gold.

**Verse 128**

Every law of God is right, whatever it concerns. I hate every other way.

**Verse 129**

Your laws are wonderful; no wonder I obey them.

**Verse 130**

As Your plan unfolds, even the simple can understand it.

**Verse 131**

No wonder I wait expectedly for each of Your commands.

**Verse 132**

Come and have mercy on me as is Your way with those who love You.

**Verse 133**

Guide me with Your laws so that I will not be overcome by evil.

**Verse 134**

Rescue me from the oppression of evil men; then I can obey You.

**Verse 135**

Look down in love upon me and teach me all our laws.

**Verse 136**

I weep because Your laws are disobeyed.

**Verse 137**

O Lord, You are just and our punishments are fair.

**Verse 139**

I am indignant and angry because of the way my enemies have disregarded Your laws.

**Verse 140**

I have thoroughly tested Your promises and that is why I love them so much.

**Verse 141**

I am worthless and despised, but I don't despise Your laws.

**Verse 142**

Your justice is eternal for Your laws are perfectly fair.

**Verse 143**

In my distress and anguish, Your commandments comfort me.

**Verse 144**

Your laws are always fair; help me to understand them and I shall live.

**Verse 145**

I am praying with great earnestness; answer me, O Lord, and I will obey Your laws.

**Verse 146**

“Save me,” I cry, “for I am obeying.”



**Verse 147**

Early in the morning, before the sun is up, I was praying and pointing out how much I trust in You.

**Verses 148-149**

I stay awake through the night to think about Your promises, because You are so loving and kind, listen to me and make me well again.

**Verses 150-151**

Here come these lawless men to attack me; but You are near, O Lord; all Your commandments are based on truth.

**Verse 152**

I have known from earliest days that Your will never changes.

**Verse 153**

Look down upon my sorrows and rescue me, for I am obeying Your commands.

**Verse 154**

Yes, rescue me and give me back my life again just as You have promised.

**Verse 155**

The wicked are far from salvation for they do not care for Your laws.

**Verse 156**

Lord, how great is Your mercy; oh, give me back my life again.

**Verse 157**

My enemies are so many. They try to make me disobey; but I have not swerved from Your will.

**Verse 158**

I loathed these traitors because they care nothing for Your laws.

**Verse 159**

Lord, see how much I really love Your demands. Now give me back my life and health because You are so kind.

**Verse 160**

There is utter trust in all Your laws; Your decrees are eternal.

**Verse 161**

Great men have persecuted me, though they have no reason to, but I stand in awe of only Your words.

**Verse 162**

I rejoice in Your laws like one who finds a great treasure.

**Verse 163**

How I hate all falsehood but how I love Your Laws.

**Verse 164**

I will praise You seven times a day because of Your wonderful laws.

**Verse 165**

Those who love Your laws have a great peace of heart and mind and do not stumble.

**Verse 166**

I long for Your salvation, Lord and so I have obeyed Your laws.

**Verses 167-168**

I have looked for your commandments and I love them very much; yes, I have searched for them. You know this because everything I do is known to You.

**Verse 169**

O Lord, listen to my prayers; give me the common sense You promised.

**Verse 170**

Hear my prayers; rescue me as You said You would.

**Verse 171**

I praise You for letting me learn Your laws.

**Verse 172**

I will sing about their wonder, for each of them is just.

**Verse 173**

Stand ready to help me because I have chosen to follow Your will.

**Verse 174**

O, Lord, I have longed for Your salvation and Your law is my delight.

**Verse 175**

If You will let me live, I will praise You; let Your laws assist me.

**Verse 176**

I have wandered away like a lost sheep; come and find me for I have not turned away from Your commandments.

**Psalm 120 Peace Versus War**

**Verse 1**

In my troubles I pled with God to help me and He did!

**Verse 2**

Deliver me, O Lord, from liars.

**Verse 3**

O lying tongue, what shall be your fate?

**Verse 4**

You shall be pierced with sharp arrows and burned with glowing coals.

### **Verses 5-6**

My troubles pile high among these haters of the Lord, these men of Meshech and Kedar. I am tired of being here among these men who hate peace.

### **Verse 7**

I am for peace, but they are for war, and my voice goes unheeded in their councils.

## **Psalm 121 Jehovah the True Helper and Keeper of Israel**

### **Verse 1**

Shall I look to the mountain gods for help?

### **Verse 2**

No! My help is from Jehovah who made the mountains, and the heavens also.

### **Verses 3-4**

He will never let me stumble, slip or fail. For He is always watching, never sleeping.

### **Verse 5**

Jehovah Himself is caring for you! He is your defender.

### **Verse 6**

He protects you day and night.

### **Verse 7**

He keeps you from all evil and preserves your life.

### **Verse 8**

He keeps His eye upon you as you come and go, and always guards you.

## **Psalm 122 The Tribes Welcomed to the Passover**

### **Verse 1**

I was glad for the suggestion of going to Jerusalem, to the temple of the Lord.

### **Verses 2-3**

Now we are standing here inside the crowded city.

### **Verse 4**

All Israel—Jehovah's people—have come to worship as the law requires, to thank and praise the Lord.

### **Verse 5**

Look! There are the judges holding court beside the city gates, deciding all the people's arguments.

### **Verse 6**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May all who love this city, prosper.

### **Verse 7**

O Jerusalem may there be peace within your walls and prosperity in your palaces.

### **Verses 8-9**

This I ask for the sake of all my brothers and my friends who live here; may there be peace as a protection to the temple of the Lord.

## **Psalm 123 The King's Response to the Injunction to Lift up his Eyes as High as Heaven**

### **Verse 1**

O God enthroned in heaven, I lift my eyes to You.

## **Verse 2**

We look to Jehovah our God for His mercy and kindness just a servant keeps his eyes upon his master or a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal.

## **Verses 3-4**

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. For we have had our fill of contempt and of the scoffing of the rich and proud.

## **Psalm 124 Sudden and Complete Deliverance Acknowledged as Jehovah's Own Work**

### **Verses 1- 3**

If the Lord had not been on our side (let all Israel admit it), if the Lord had not been on our side, we would have been swallowed alive by our enemies, destroyed by their anger.

### **Verses 4-5**

We would have drowned beneath the flood of these men's fury and pride.

### **Verse 6**

Blessed be Jehovah who has not let them devour us.

### **Verse 7**

We have escaped with our lives as a bird from a hunter's snare. The snare is broken and we are free!

### **Verse 8**

Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth!

## **Psalm 125 Trust in Jehovah Encouraged in Presence of the Invader**

### **Verse 1**

Those who trust in the Lord are steady as Mount Zion, unmoved by any circumstance.

### **Verse 2**

Just as the mountains surround and protect Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds and protects His people.

### **Verse 3**

The wicked shall not rule the godly, lest the godly be forced to do wrong.

### **Verses 4-5**

O Lord, do good to those who are good, whose hearts are right with the Lord; but lead evil men to execution. Let Israel have quietness and peace.

## **Psalm 126 The Invader Gone: The First Sowing Begun**

### **Verse 1**

When Jehovah brought back His exiles to Jerusalem, it was like a dream!

### **Verse 2**

How we laughed and sang for joy. And the other nations said, "What amazing things the Lord has done for them."

### **Verse 3**

Yes, glorious things! What wonder! What joy!

### **Verse 4**

May we be refreshed as by streams in the desert.

### **Verse 5**

Those who sow tears shall reap joy.

## **Verse 6**

Yes, they go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing and return singing, carrying their sheaves.

## **Psalm 127 In Relief of Domestic and Civic Anxiety**

### **Verse 1**

Unless the Lord builds a house, the builders' work is useless. Unless the Lord protects a city, sentries do no good.

### **Verse 2**

It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death; for God wants His loved ones to get their proper rest.

### **Verse 3**

Children are a gift from God; they are His reward.

### **Verse 4**

Children born to a young man are like sharp arrows to defend him.

### **Verse 5**

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. That man shall have the help he needs when arguing with his enemies.

## **Psalm 128 A Happy Home and a Prosperous Commonwealth**

### **Verse 1**

Blessings on all who reverence and trust the Lord—on all who obey Him!

### **Verse 2**

Their reward shall be prosperity and happiness.



**Verse 3**

Your wife shall be contented in your home. And look at all those children! There they sit around the dinner table as vigorous and healthy as young olive trees.

**Verse 4**

That is God's reward to those who reverence and trust Him.

**Verse 5**

May the Lord continually bless you with heaven's blessings as well as with human joys.

**Verse 6**

May you live to enjoy your grandchildren! And may God bless Israel!

**Psalm 129 Israel's Thanks for Past Deliverances, and Prayer for Continued Vindication****Verses 1-2**

Persecuted from my earliest youth (Israel is speaking), and faced with never-ending discrimination—but not destroyed! My enemies have never been able to finish me off!

**Verses 3-4**

Though my back is cut to ribbons with their whips, the Lord is good. For He has snapped the chains that evil men had bound me with.

**Verse 5**

May all who hate the Jews be brought to ignominious defeat.

**Verses 6-7**

May they be as grass in shallow soil, turning sear (dried up) and yellow when half grown, ignored by the reaper, and despised by the binder.

### **Verse 8**

And may those passing by refuse to bless them by saying, “Jehovah’s blessings be upon you; we bless you in Jehovah’s name.”

## **Psalm 130 Ransomed Out of the Depths**

### **Verses 1-2**

Lord, from the depths of despair I cry for Your help: “Hear me! Answer! Help me!”

### **Verses 3-4**

Lord, if You keep in mind our sins then who can ever get an answer to his prayers? But You forgive! What an awesome thing this is!

### **Verse 5**

That is why I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for He has promised.

### **Verse 6**

I long for Him more than sentinels long for the dawn.

### **Verse 7**

O Israel, hope in the Lord; for He is loving and kind, and comes to us with armloads of salvation.

### **Verse 8**

He Himself shall ransom Israel from her slavery to sin.

## **Psalm 131 The Sinking of Self in Seeking Israel’s Welfare**

### **Verse 1**

Lord, I am not proud and haughty. I don’t think myself better than others. I don’t pretend to “know it all.”

**Verse 2**

I am quiet now before the Lord, just as a child who is weaned from the breast. Yes, my begging has been stilled.

**Verse 3**

O Israel, you too should quietly trust in the Lord—now and always.

**Psalm 132 The Davidic Dynasty Humbled and Exalted****Verse 1**

Lord, do You remember the time when my heart was so filled with turmoil?

**Verses 2-5**

I couldn't rest, I couldn't sleep, thinking how I ought to build a permanent home for the Ark of the Lord, a temple for the mighty One of Israel. Then I vowed that I would do it; I made a solemn promise to the Lord.

**Verse 6**

First the Ark was in Ephrathah, then in the distant countryside of Jaar.

**Verse 7**

But now it will be settled in the temple with the Ark, the symbol of Your power.

**Verse 9**

We will clothe the priests in white, the symbol of all purity. May our nation shout for joy.

**Verse 10**

Do not reject Your servant David—the king You chose for Your people.

**Verse 11**

For You promised me that my son would sit on my throne and succeed me. And surely You will never go back on a promise!

**Verse 12**

You also promised that if my descendants will obey the terms of Your contract with me, then the dynasty of David shall never end.

**Verses 13-14**

O Lord, You have chosen Jerusalem as Your home, “This is My permanent home where I shall live,” You said, “for I have always wanted it this way.

**Verse 15**

I will make this city prosperous and satisfy her poor with food.

**Verse 16**

I will clothe her priests with salvation; her saints shall shout for joy.

**Verse 17**

David’s power shall grow, for I have decreed for him a mighty Son.

**Verse 18**

I’ll clothe His enemies with shame, but He shall be a glorious King.”

**Psalm 133 Brethren in Fellowship: a Charming Spectacle****Verse 1**

How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live in harmony!

**Verse 2**

For harmony is as precious as the fragrant anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, and ran down onto his beard, and onto the border of his robe.

**Verse 3**

Harmony is as refreshing as the dew on Mount Hermon, on the mountains of Israel. And God has pronounced this eternal blessing on Jerusalem, even life forevermore.

## **Psalm 134 The Night Service in the Temple**

### **Verse 1**

Oh, bless the Lord, you who serve Him as watchmen in the temple every night.

### **Verse 2**

Lift your hands in holiness and bless the Lord.

### **Verse 3**

The Lord bless you from Zion—the Lord who made heaven and earth.

## **Psalm 135 A Call to Temple Worship**

### **Verses 1-2**

Hallelujah! Yes, let His people praise Him, as they stand in His temple courts.

### **Verse 3**

Praise the Lord because He is so good; sing His wonderful name.

### **Verse 4**

For the Lord has chosen Israel as His personal possession.

### **Verse 5**

I know the greatness of the Lord—that He is greater far than any other god.

### **Verse 6**

He does whatever pleases Him throughout all of heaven and earth, and in the deepest seas.

**Verse 7**

He makes mists rise throughout the earth and sends the lightning to bring down the rain; and sends the winds from His treasuries.

**Verse 8**

He destroyed the eldest child in each Egyptian home, along with the firstborn of the flocks.

**Verse 9**

He did great miracles in Egypt before Pharaoh and all his people.

**Verses 10-12**

He smote great nations, slaying mighty kings—Sihon, king of Amorites; and Og, the king of Bashan; and the kings of Canaan—and gave their land as an eternal gift to His people Israel.

**Verse 13**

O Jehovah, Your name endures forever; Your fame is known to every generation.

**Verse 14**

Jehovah will vindicate His people and have compassion on His servants.

**Verses 15-16**

The heathen worship idols of gold and silver, made by man—idols with speechless mouths and sightless eyes.

**Verse 17**

And ears that cannot hear; they cannot even breathe.

**Verse 18**

Those who make them become like them! And so do all who trust in them!

**Verse 19**

O Israel, bless Jehovah! His priests of Aaron, bless His name.

**Verse 20**

O Levite priests, bless the Lord Jehovah! Oh bless His name, all of you who trust and reverence Him.

**Verse 21**

All people of Jerusalem, praise the Lord, for He lives here in Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**Psalm 136 A Second Call to Temple Worship, with Responses Inserted****Verse 1**

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 2**

Give thanks to the God of gods, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 3**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 4**

Praise Him who made the heavens for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 5**

Praise Him who made the heavens, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 6**

Praise Him who planted the water within the earth, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verses 7-9**

Praise Him who made the heavenly lights, for His lovingkindness continues forever; the sun to rule the day, for His lovingkindness continues

forever, and the moon and stars at night, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 10**

Praise the God who smote the firstborn of Egypt, for His lovingkindness to Israel continues forever.

**Verses 11-12**

He brought them out with mighty power and upraised fist to strike their enemies, for His lovingkindness to Israel continues forever.

**Verses 13-15**

Praise the Lord who opened the Red Sea to make a path before them, for His lovingkindness continues forever, and led them safely through, for His lovingkindness forever—but drowned Pharaoh’s army in the sea, for His lovingkindness to Israel continues forever.

**Verse 16**

Praise Him who led His people through the wilderness, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verses 17-20**

Praise Him who saved His people from the power of mighty kings, for His lovingkindness continues forever, and killed famous kings, who were their enemies, for His lovingkindness to Israel continues forever; Sihon, king of Amorites—for God’s lovingkindness continues forever--and Og, king of Bashan—for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verses 21-22**

God gave the land of these kings to Israel as a gift forever, for His loving kindness to Israel continues forever; yes, a permanent gift to His servant Israel, for His lovingkindness continues forever.



**Verse 23**

He remembered our utter weakness, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 24**

And saves us from our foes, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 25**

He gives food to every living thing, for His lovingkindness continues forever.

**Verse 26**

Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven, for His loving kindness continues forever.

**Psalm 137 A Returned Levite's Memories of Babylon, Apostasy to Jerusalem, and Imprecations on Edom and on Babylon****Verse 1**

Weeping, we sat beside the rivers of Babylon thinking of Jerusalem.

**Verses 2-4**

We have put away our lyres, hanging them upon the branches of the willow trees, for how can we sing? Yet our captors, our tormentors, demand that we sing for them the happy songs of Zion!

**Verses 5-6**

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her skill upon the harp. If I fail to love her more than my highest joy, let me never sing again.

**Verse 7**

O Jehovah, do not forget what these Edomites did on that day when the armies of Babylon captured Jerusalem. "Raze her to the ground!: they yelled.

### **Verse 8**

O Babylon, evil beast, you shall be destroyed. Blessed is the man who destroys you as you have destroyed us.

### **Verse 9**

Blessed is the man who takes your babies and smashes them against the rocks!

## **Psalm 138 A King's Public Thanks for Advancement in Royal Dignity**

### **Verse 1**

Lord, with all my heart I thank You. I will sing Your praises before the armies of angels in heaven.

### **Verse 2**

I face Your temple as I worship, giving thanks to You for all Your lovingkindness and Your faithfulness, for Your promises are backed by all the honor of Your name.

### **Verse 3**

When I pray You answer me and encourage me by giving me the strength I need.

### **Verse 4**

Every king in all the earth shall give You thanks, O Lord, for all of them shall hear Your voice.

### **Verse 5**

Yes, they shall sing about Jehovah's glorious ways, for His glory is very great.

### **Verse 6**

Yet though He is so great, He respects the humble; but proud men must keep their distance.

### **Verse 7**

Though I am surrounded by troubles, You will bring me safely through them. You will clench Your fist against my angry enemies! Your power will save me.

### **Verse 8**

The Lord will work out His plans for my life—for your lovingkindness, Lord, continues forever. Don't abandon me—for You made me.

## **Psalm 139 An Individual Submits Himself to Jehovah's All-Searching Eye**

### **Verse 1**

O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me.

### **Verse 2**

You know when I sit or stand. When far away You know my every thought.

### **Verse 3**

You chart the path ahead of me and tell where to stop and rest! Every moment You know where I am!

### **Verse 4**

You know what I am going to say before I even say it.

### **Verse 5**

You both precede and follow me, and place Your hand of blessing on my head.

### **Verse 6**

This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe!

### **Verse 7**

I can never be lost to Your Spirit! I can never get away from God!

**Verse 8**

If I go up to heaven You are there; if I go down to the place of the dead, You are there.

**Verses 9-10**

If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans, even there Your hand will guide me, Your strength will support me.

**Verse 11**

If I try to hide in the darkness, the night becomes light around me!

**Verse 12**

For even darkness cannot hide from God; to You the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are both alike to You.

**Verse 13**

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother's womb.

**Verse 14**

Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it.

**Verse 15**

You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion!

**Verse 16**

You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in Your Book!

**Verses 17-18**

How precious it is, Lord, to realize that You are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day Your thoughts turn towards me! And when I waken in the morning, You are still thinking of me!

**Verse 19**

Surely You will slay the wicked, Lord! Away, blood-thirsty men! Be gone!

**Verse 20**

They blaspheme Your name and stand in arrogance against You—how silly can they be?

**Verse 21**

O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate You? Shouldn't I be grieved with them?

**Verse 22**

Yes, I hate them, for Your enemies are my enemies too.

**Verse 23**

Search me, O God, and know my heart, test my thoughts.

**Verse 24**

Point out anything You find in me that makes You sad, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

**Psalm 140 Deliverance From Slanderous and Violent Enemies Implored and Expected****Verses 1-2**

O Lord, deliver me from evil men. Preserve me from the violent who plot and stir up trouble all day long.

**Verse 3**

Their words sting like poisonous snakes.

**Verse 4**

Keep me out of their power. Preserve me from their violence, for they are plotting against me,

### **Verse 5**

These proud men have set a trap to catch me, a noose to yank me up and leave me dangling in the air; they wait in ambush with a net to throw over and hold me helpless in its meshes.

### **Verses 6-8**

O Jehovah, my Lord and Savior, my God and my shield—hear me as I pray! Don't let these wicked men succeed; don't let them prosper and be proud.

### **Verse 9**

Let their plots boomerang! Let them be destroyed by the very evil they have planned for me.

### **Verse 10**

Let burning coals fall down upon their heads, or throw them into the fire, or into deep pits from which they can't escape.

### **Verse 11**

Don't let liars prosper here in our land; quickly punish them.

### **Verse 12**

But the Lord will surely help those they persecute; He will maintain the rights of the poor.

### **Verse 13**

Surely the godly are thanking You, for they shall live in Your presence.

## **Psalm 141 A Temptation to Conspiracy Shunned**

### **Verse 1**

Quick, Lord, answer me—for I have prayed. Listen when I cry to You for help.

### **Verse 2**

Regard my prayer as my evening sacrifice and as incense wafting up to You.

**Verse 3**

Help me, Lord, to keep my mouth shut and my lips sealed.

**Verse 4**

Take away my lust for evil things; don't let me want to be with sinners, doing what they do, sharing their dainties.

**Verse 5**

Let the godly smite me! It will be a kindness! If they reprove me, it is medicine. Don't let me refuse it. But I am in constant prayer against the wicked and their deeds.

**Verses 6-7**

When their leaders are condemned, and their bones are strewn across the ground then these men will finally listen to me and know that I am trying to help them.

**Verse 8**

I look to You for help, O Lord God. You are my refuge. Don't let them slay me.

**Verse 9**

Keep me out of their traps.

**Verse 10**

Let them fall into their own snares, while I escape.

**Psalm 142 Loud Outcries in a Cave Succeed Guarded Petitions at Court****Verses 1-2**

How I plead with God, how I implore His mercy, pouring out my troubles before Him.

### **Verse 3**

For I am overwhelmed and desperate, and You alone know which way I ought to turn to miss the traps my enemies have set for me.

### **Verse 4**

(There's one—just over there to the right!) No one gives me a passing thought. No one will help me; no one cares one whit what happens to me.

### **Verse 5**

Then I prayed to Jehovah. "Lord," I pled, "You are my only place of refuge. Only You can keep me safe.

### **Verse 6**

"Hear my cry, for I am very low. Rescue me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

### **Verse 7**

"Bring me out of prison, so that I can thank You. The godly will rejoice with me for all Your help."

## **Psalm 143 Continued Concealment in the Cave: Its Grievs and Its Gains**

### **Verse 1**

Hear my prayer, O Lord; answer my plea, because You are faithful to Your promises.

### **Verse 2**

Don't bring me to trial! For as compared with You, no one is perfect.

### **Verse 3**

My enemies chased and caught me. They have knocked me to the ground. They force me to live in the darkness like those in the grave.

### **Verse 4**

I am losing all hope; I am paralyzed with fear.



**Verse 5**

I remember the glorious miracles You did in days of long ago.

**Verse 6**

I reach out for You. I thirst for You as parched land thirsts for rain.

**Verse 7**

Come quickly, Lord and answer me, for my depression deepens; don't turn away from me or I shall die.

**Verse 8**

Let me see Your kindness to me in the morning, for I am trusting You. Show me where to walk, for my prayer is sincere.

**Verse 9**

Save me from my enemies, O Lord, I run to You to hide me.

**Verse 10**

Help me to do Your will, for You are my God. Lead me in good paths, for Your Spirit is good.

**Verse 11**

Lord, saving me will bring glory to Your name. Being me out of all this trouble because You are true to Your promises.

**Verse 12**

And because You are loving and kind to me, cut off all my enemies and destroy those who are trying to harm me; for I am Your servant.

**Psalm 144 From David's Psalms are Selected Strains, By One of His Sons, Emboldening Him to Plead for Deliverance From Foreigners****Verse 1**

Bless the Lord who is my immovable Rock. He gives me strength and skill in battle.

**Verse 2**

He is always kind and loving to me; He is my fortress, my tower of strength and safety, my deliverer. He stands before me as a shield. He subdues my people under me.

**Verse 3**

O Lord, what is man that You even notice him? Why bother at all with the human race?

**Verse 4**

For man is but a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

**Verse 5**

Bend down the heavens, Lord and come. The mountains smoke beneath Your touch.

**Verse 6**

Let loose Your lightning bolts, Your arrows, Lord, upon Your enemies, and scatter them.

**Verse 7**

Reach down from heaven and rescue me; deliver me from deep waters, from the power of my enemies.

**Verse 8**

Their mouths are filled with lies; they swear to the truth of what is false.

**Verse 9**

I will sing You a new song, O God, with a ten-stringed harp.

**Verse 10**

For You grant victory to kings! You are the one who will rescue Your servant David from the fatal sword.

**Verse 11**

Save me! Deliver me from these enemies, these liars, these treacherous men.

**Verses 12-15**

Here is my description of a truly happy land where Jehovah is God:

Sons vigorous and tall as growing plants.

Daughters of graceful beauty like the pillars of a palace wall.

Barns full to the brim with crops of every kind.

Sheep by the thousands out in our fields.

Oxen loaded down with produce.

No enemy attacking the walls, but peace everywhere.

No crime in our streets.

Yes, happy are those whose God is Jehovah.

**Psalm 145 Psalm in Praise of Jehovah's Greatness, Goodness and Righteousness****Verses 1-2**

I will praise You, my God and King, and bless Your name each day and forever.

**Verse 3**

Great is Jehovah! Greatly praise Him! His greatness is beyond discovery!

**Verse 4**

Let each generation tell its children what glorious things He does.

**Verse 5**

I will meditate about Your glory, splendor, majesty and miracles;

**Verse 6**

Your awe-inspiring deeds shall be on every tongue; I will proclaim Your greatness.

**Verse 7**

Everyone will tell about how good You are and sing about Your righteousness.

**Verse 8**

Jehovah is kind and merciful, slow to get angry, full of love.

**Verse 9**

He is good to everyone, and His compassion is intertwined with everything He does.

**Verse 10**

All living things shall thank You, Lord, and Your people will bless You.

**Verse 11**

They will talk together about the glory of Your kingdom and mention examples of Your power.

**Verse 12**

They will tell about Your miracles and about the majesty and glory of Your reign.

**Verse 13**

Your kingdom never ends. You rule generation after generation.

**Verse 14**

The Lord lifts the fallen and those bent beneath their loads.

**Verse 15**

The eyes of all mankind look up to You for help; You give them their food as they need it.

**Verse 16**

You constantly satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

**Verse 17**

The Lord is fair in everything He does, and full of kindness.

**Verse 18**

He is close to all who call on Him sincerely.

**Verse 19**

He fulfills the desires of those who reverence and trust Him; He hears their cries for help and rescues them.

**Verse 20**

He protects all those who love Him but destroys the wicked.

**Verse 21**

I shall praise the Lord and call on all men everywhere to bless His holy name forever and forever.

**Psalm 146 Twelve Reasons for Trusting in Jehovah****Verse 1**

Praise the Lord! Yes, really praise Him

**Verse 2**

I will praise Him as long as I live, yes, even with my dying breath.

**Verse 3**

Don't look to men for help; their greatest leaders fail.

**Verse 4**

For every man must die. His breathing stops, life ends, and in a moment all he planned for himself is ended.

### **Verses 5-6**

But happy is the man who has the God of Jacob as his helper, whose hope is in the Lord his God—the God who made the earth and heaven, the seas and everything in them. He is the God who keeps every promise.

### **Verses 7-8**

He gives justice to the poor and oppressed, and food to the hungry. He frees the prisoners, and opens the eyes of the blind; He lifts the burdens from those bent down beneath their loads. The Lord loves good men.

### **Verse 9**

He protects the immigrants, and cares for the orphans and widows. But He turns topsy-turvy the plans of the wicked.

### **Verse 10**

The Lord will reign forever. O Jerusalem, your God is King in every generation! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

## **Psalm 147 Praise for the Restoration of Jerusalem and for Israel's Preeminence: with Grateful Recognition of Rain and of Spring**

### **Verse 1**

Hallelujah! Yes, praise the Lord! How good it is to sing His praises! How delightful, and how right!

### **Verse 2**

He is rebuilding Jerusalem and bringing back the exiles.

### **Verse 3**

He heals the broken-hearted, binding up their wounds.

### **Verse 4**

He counts the stars and calls them all by name.

**Verse 5**

How great He is! His power is absolute! His understanding is unlimited.

**Verse 6**

The Lord supports the humble but brings the wicked into the dust.

**Verse 7**

Sing out your thanks to Him; sing praises to our God, accompanied by harps.

**Verse 8**

He covers the heavens with clouds, sends down the showers and makes the green grass growing in mountain pastures.

**Verse 9**

He feeds the wild animals and the young ravens cry to Him for food.

**Verse 10**

The speed of a horse is nothing to Him. How puny in His sight is the strength of a man.

**Verse 11**

But His joy is in those who reverence Him; those who expect Him to be loving and kind.

**Verse 12**

Praise Him, O Jerusalem! Praise Your God, O Zion!

**Verse 13**

He has fortified your gates against all enemies and blessed your children.

**Verse 14**

He sends peace across your nation and fills your barns with plenty of the finest wheat.

**Verse 15**

He sends his orders to the world. How swiftly His word flies.

**Verses 16-17**

He sends the snow in all its lovely whiteness, and scatters the frost upon the ground, and hurls the hail upon the earth. Who can stand before His freezing cold?

**Verse 18**

But then He calls for warmer weather, and the spring winds blow and all the river ice is broken.

**Verses 19-20**

He has made known His laws and ceremonies of worship to Israel—something He has not done with any other nation; they have not known His commands. Hallelujah! Yes, praise the Lord!

**Psalm 148 Praise Invoked From All Creation****Verse 1**

Praise the Lord, O heavens! Praise Him from the skies.

**Verse 2**

Praise Him, all angels, all the armies of heaven.

**Verse 3**

Praise Him sun and moon, and all you twinkling stars.

**Verse 4**

Praise Him, skies above. Praise Him, vapors high above the clouds.

**Verse 5**

Let everything He has made give praise to Him! For He issued His command, and they came into being; He established them forever and forever. His orders will never be revoked.



**Verse 7**

Praise Him down here on earth, you creatures of the ocean depths.

**Verse 8**

Let fire and hail snow, rain, wind and weather, all obey.

**Verses 9-13**

Let the mountains and hills, the fruit trees and cedars, the wild animals and cattle, the snakes and birds, the kings and all the people, with their rulers and their judges, young men and maidens, old men and children—all praise together. He alone is worthy. His glory is far greater than all of the earth and heaven.

**Verse 14**

He has made his people strong, honoring His godly ones—the people of Israel, the people closest to Him.

Hallelujah! Yes, praise the Lord!

**Psalm 149 A New Song for Israel, Which Others May Not Sing****Verse 1**

Hallelujah! Yes, praise the Lord! Sing Him a new song. Sing His praises, all His people.

**Verse 2**

O Israel, rejoice in your Maker. O people of Jerusalem, exult in Your King.

**Verse 3**

Praise His name by marching together to the temple, accompanied by drums and lyre.

**Verses 4-5**

For Jehovah enjoys His people; He will save the humble. Let His people rejoice in this honor. Let them sing for joy as they lie upon their beds.

### **Verses 6-7**

Adore Him, O His people! And take a double-edged sword to execute His punishment upon the nations.

### **Verses 8-9**

Bind their kings and leaders with iron chains and execute their sentences. He is the glory of His people. Hallelujah! Praise Him!

## **Psalm 150 Invitation to the People to Join in the Responses in the Temple-Worship**

### **Verse 1**

Hallelujah! Yes, praise the Lord! Praise Him in His temple, and in the heavens He made with mighty power.

### **Verse 2**

Praise Him for His mighty works. Praise His unequalled greatness.

### **Verse 3**

Praise Him with the trumpet and with lyre and harp.

### **Verse 4**

Praise Him with the timbrel (ancient tambourine) and processional. Praise Him with stringed instruments and horns.

### **Verse 5**

Praise Him with the cymbals, yes, loud clanging cymbals.

### **Verse 6**

Let everything alive give praises to the Lord! You praise Him! Hallelujah!