

## Psalms



**T**his poetic book consists of 150 prayers and hymns that were used by the Hebrew people as part of their public and private worship. Rich in beauty and wisdom, they continue to be an important component of Jewish and Christian worship today. Psalms expresses a wide range of human emotions—from joy to fear, from trust to anger, from hope to despair.

### **BOOK I** (Psalms 1-41)

#### **Psalm 1**

##### **The Way to Happiness**

- <sup>1</sup> God blesses those people who refuse evil advice and won't follow sinners or join in sneering at God.
- <sup>2</sup> Instead, the Law of the LORD makes them happy, and they think about it day and night.
- <sup>3</sup> They are like trees growing beside a stream, trees that produce fruit in season and always have leaves. Those people succeed in everything they do.
- <sup>4</sup> That isn't true of those who are evil, because they are like straw blown by the wind.
- <sup>5</sup> Sinners won't have an excuse on the day of judgment, and they won't have a place with the people of God.

- <sup>6</sup> The LORD protects everyone who follows him, but the wicked follow a road that leads to ruin.

#### **Psalm 2**

##### **The LORD's Chosen King**

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations plot,▷ and why do their people make useless plans?▷
- <sup>2</sup> The kings of this earth have all joined together to turn against the LORD and his chosen one.
- <sup>3</sup> They say, "Let's cut the ropes and set ourselves free!"
- <sup>4</sup> In heaven the LORD laughs as he sits on his throne, making fun of the nations.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD becomes furious and threatens them. His anger terrifies them as he says,
- <sup>6</sup> "I've put my king on Zion, my sacred hill."
- <sup>7</sup> I will tell the promise that the LORD made to me: "You are my son, because today I have become your father."

- <sup>8</sup> Ask me for the nations,  
and every nation on earth  
will belong to you.
- <sup>9</sup> You will smash them  
with an iron rod  
and shatter them  
like dishes of clay."
- <sup>10</sup> Be smart, all you rulers,  
and pay close attention.
- <sup>11</sup> "Serve and honor the LORD;  
be glad and tremble.
- <sup>12</sup> Show respect to his son  
because if you don't,  
the LORD might become furious  
and suddenly destroy you.<sup>1</sup>  
But he blesses and protects  
everyone who runs to him.

### Psalm 3

[Written by David when he was running from his son Absalom.]

#### An Early Morning Prayer

- <sup>1</sup> I have a lot of enemies, LORD.  
Many fight against <sup>2</sup> me and say,  
"God won't rescue you!"
- <sup>3</sup> But you are my shield,  
and you give me victory  
and great honor.
- <sup>4</sup> I pray to you, and you answer  
from your sacred hill.
- <sup>5</sup> I sleep and wake up refreshed  
because you, LORD,  
protect me.
- <sup>6</sup> Ten thousand enemies attack  
from every side,  
but I am not afraid.
- <sup>7</sup> Come and save me, LORD God!  
Break my enemies' jaws  
and shatter their teeth,
- <sup>8</sup> because you protect  
and bless your people.

### Psalm 4

[A psalm by David for the music leader. Use stringed instruments.]

#### An Evening Prayer

- <sup>1</sup> You are my God and protector.  
Please answer my prayer.  
I was in terrible distress,

but you set me free.  
Now have pity and listen  
as I pray.

- <sup>2</sup> How long will you people  
refuse to respect me?<sup>2</sup>  
You love foolish things,  
and you run after  
what is worthless.
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD has chosen  
everyone who is faithful  
to be his very own,<sup>3</sup>  
and he answers my prayers.
- <sup>4</sup> But each of you  
had better tremble  
and turn from your sins.  
Silently search your heart  
as you lie in bed.
- <sup>5</sup> Offer the proper sacrifices  
and trust the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> There are some who ask,  
"Who will be good to us?"  
Let your kindness, LORD,  
shine brightly on us.
- <sup>7</sup> You brought me more happiness  
than a rich harvest  
of grain and grapes.
- <sup>8</sup> I can lie down  
and sleep soundly  
because you, LORD,  
will keep me safe.

### Psalm 5

[A psalm by David for the music leader. Use flutes.]

#### A Prayer for Help

- <sup>1</sup> Listen, LORD, as I pray!  
Pay attention when I groan.<sup>2</sup>
- <sup>2</sup> You are my King and my God.  
Answer my cry for help  
because I pray to you.
- <sup>3</sup> Each morning you listen  
to my prayer,  
as I bring my requests<sup>3</sup> to you  
and wait for your reply.
- <sup>4</sup> You are not the kind of God  
who is pleased with evil.  
Sinners can't stay with you.
- <sup>5</sup> No one who boasts can stand  
in your presence, LORD,  
and you hate evil people.

- 6 You destroy every liar,  
and you despise violence  
and deceit.
- 7 Because of your great mercy,  
I come to your house, LORD,  
and I am filled with wonder  
as I bow down to worship  
at your holy temple.
- 8 You do what is right,  
and I ask you to guide me.  
Make your teaching clear  
because of my enemies.
- 9 Nothing they say is true!  
They just want to destroy.  
Their words are deceitful  
like a hidden pit,  
and their tongues are good  
only for telling lies.
- 10 Punish them, God,  
and let their own plans  
bring their downfall.  
Get rid of them!  
They keep committing crimes  
and turning against you.
- 11 Let all who run to you  
for protection  
always sing joyful songs.  
Provide shelter for those  
who truly love you  
and let them rejoice.
- 12 Our LORD, you bless those  
who live right,  
and you shield them  
with your kindness.

### Psalm 6

[A psalm by David for the music leader. Use stringed instruments. >]

#### A Prayer in Time of Trouble

- 1 Don't punish me, LORD,  
or even correct me  
when you are angry!
- 2 Have pity on me and heal  
my feeble body.  
My bones tremble with fear,  
3 and I am in deep distress.  
How long will it be?

- 4 Turn and come to my rescue.  
Show your wonderful love  
and save me, LORD.
- 5 If I die, I cannot praise you  
or even remember you.
- 6 My groaning has worn me out.  
At night my bed and pillow  
are soaked with tears.
- 7 Sorrow has made my eyes dim,  
and my sight has failed  
because of my enemies.
- 8 You, LORD, heard my crying,  
and those hateful people  
had better leave me alone.
- 9 You have answered my prayer  
and my plea for mercy.
- 10 My enemies will be ashamed  
and terrified,  
as they quickly run away  
in complete disgrace.

### Psalm 7

[Written by David. > He sang this to the LORD because of Cush from the tribe of Benjamin.]

#### The LORD Always Does Right

- 1 You, LORD God,  
are my protector.  
Rescue me and keep me safe  
from all who chase me.
- 2 Or else they will rip me apart  
like lions attacking a victim,  
and no one will save me.
- 3 I am innocent, LORD God!
- 4 I have not betrayed a friend  
or had pity on an enemy >  
who attacks for no reason.
- 5 If I have done any of this,  
then let my enemies  
chase and capture me.  
Let them stomp me to death  
and leave me in the dirt.
- 6 Get angry, LORD God!  
Do something!  
Attack my furious enemies.  
See that justice is done.
- 7 Make the nations come to you,  
as you sit on your throne >  
above them all.

- 8 Our LORD, judge the nations!  
Judge me and show that I  
am honest and innocent.
- 9 You know every heart and mind,  
and you always do right.  
Now make violent people stop,  
but protect all of us  
who obey you.
- 10 You, God, are my shield,  
the protector of everyone  
whose heart is right.
- 11 You see that justice is done,  
and each day  
you take revenge.
- 12 Whenever your enemies refuse  
to change their ways,  
you sharpen your sword  
and string your bow.
- 13 Your deadly arrows are ready  
with flaming tips.
- 14 An evil person is like a woman  
about to give birth  
to a hateful, deceitful,  
and rebellious child.
- 15 Such people dig a deep hole,  
then fall in it themselves.
- 16 The trouble they cause  
comes back on them,  
and their heads are crushed  
by their own evil deeds.
- 17 I will praise you, LORD!  
You always do right.  
I will sing about you,  
the LORD Most High.

### Psalm 8

[A psalm by David for the music leader. >]

#### The Wonderful Name of the LORD

- 1 Our LORD and Ruler,  
your name is wonderful  
everywhere on earth!  
You let your glory be seen >  
in the heavens above.
- 2 With praises from children  
and from tiny infants,  
you have built a fortress.  
It makes your enemies silent,  
and all who turn against you  
are left speechless.

- 3 I often think of the heavens  
your hands have made,  
and of the moon and stars  
you put in place.
- 4 Then I ask, "Why do you care  
about us humans?  
Why are you concerned  
for us weaklings?"
- 5 You made us a little lower  
than you yourself, >  
and you have crowned us  
with glory and honor.
- 6 You let us rule everything  
your hands have made.  
And you put all of it  
under our power—
- 7 the sheep and the cattle,  
and every wild animal,  
8 the birds in the sky,  
the fish in the sea,  
and all ocean creatures.
- 9 Our LORD and Ruler,  
your name is wonderful  
everywhere on earth!

### Psalm 9

[A psalm by David for the music leader. To the  
tune "The Death of the Son."]

#### Sing Praises to the LORD

- 1 I will praise you, LORD,  
with all my heart  
and tell about the wonders  
you have worked.
- 2 God Most High, I will rejoice;  
I will celebrate and sing  
because of you.
- 3 When my enemies face you,  
they run away and stumble  
and are destroyed.
- 4 You take your seat as judge,  
and your fair decisions prove  
that I was in the right.
- 5 You warn the nations  
and destroy evil people;  
you wipe out their names  
forever and ever.
- 6 Our enemies are destroyed  
completely for all time.  
Their cities are torn down,

- and they will never  
be remembered again.
- 7 You rule forever, LORD,  
and you are on your throne,  
ready for judgment.
- 8 You judge the world fairly  
and treat all nations  
with justice.
- 9 The poor can run to you  
because you are a fortress  
in times of trouble.
- 10 Everyone who honors your name  
can trust you,  
because you are faithful  
to all who depend on you.
- 11 You rule from Zion, LORD,  
and we sing about you  
to let the nations know  
everything you have done.
- 12 You did not forget  
to punish the guilty  
or listen to the cries  
of those in need.
- 13 Please have mercy, LORD!  
My enemies mistreat me.  
Keep me from the gates  
that lead to death,
- 14 and I will sing about you  
at the gate to Zion.  
I will be happy there  
because you rescued me.
- 15 Our LORD, the nations fell  
into their own pits,  
and their feet were caught  
in their own traps.
- 16 You showed what you are like,  
and you made certain  
that justice is done,  
but evil people are trapped  
by their own evil deeds.
- 17 The wicked will go down  
to the world of the dead  
to be with those nations  
that forgot about you.
- 18 The poor and the homeless  
won't always be forgotten  
and without hope.
- 19 Do something, LORD!  
Don't let the nations win.

- Make them stand trial  
in your court of law.
- 20 Make the nations afraid  
and let them all discover  
just how weak they are.

### Psalm 10

#### A Prayer for Help

- 1 Why are you far away, LORD?  
Why do you hide yourself  
when I am in trouble?
- 2 Proud and brutal people  
hunt down the poor.  
But let them get caught  
by their own evil plans!
- 3 The wicked brag about  
their deepest desires.  
Those greedy people hate  
and curse you, LORD.
- 4 The wicked are too proud  
to turn to you  
or even think about you.
- 5 They are always successful,  
though they can't understand  
your teachings,  
and they keep sneering  
at their enemies.
- 6 In their hearts they say,  
"Nothing can hurt us!  
We'll always be happy  
and free from trouble."
- 7 They curse and tell lies,  
and all they talk about  
is how to be cruel  
or how to do wrong.
- 8 They hide outside villages,  
waiting to strike and murder  
some innocent victim.
- 9 They are hungry lions  
hiding in the bushes,  
hoping to catch  
some helpless passerby.  
They trap the poor in nets  
and drag them away.
- 10 They crouch down and wait  
to grab a victim.
- 11 They say, "God can't see!  
He's got on a blindfold."
- 12 Do something, LORD God,  
and use your powerful arm  
to help those in need.

- 13 The wicked don't respect you.  
In their hearts they say,  
"God won't punish us!"
- 14 But you see the trouble  
and the distress,  
and you will do something.  
The poor can count on you,  
and so can orphans.
- 15 Now break the arms  
of all merciless people.  
Punish them for doing wrong  
and make them stop.
- 16 Our LORD, you will always rule,  
but nations will vanish  
from the earth.
- 17 You listen to the longings  
of those who suffer.  
You offer them hope,  
and you pay attention  
to their cries for help.
- 18 You defend orphans  
and everyone else in need,  
so that no one on earth  
can terrify others again.

### Psalm 11

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### Trusting the LORD

- 1 The LORD is my fortress!  
Don't say to me,  
"Escape like a bird  
to the mountains!"
- 2 You tell me, "Watch out!  
Those evil people have put  
their arrows on their bows,  
and they are standing  
in the shadows,  
aiming at good people.
- 3 What can an honest person do  
when everything crumbles?"
- 4 The LORD is sitting  
in his sacred temple  
on his throne in heaven.  
He knows everything we do  
because he sees us all.
- 5 The LORD tests honest people,  
but despises those  
who are cruel  
and love violence.

- 6 He will send fiery coals▷  
and flaming sulfur  
down on the wicked,  
and they will drink nothing  
but a scorching wind.
- 7 The LORD always does right  
and wants justice done.  
Everyone who does right  
will see his face.

### Psalm 12

[A psalm by David for the music leader.▷]

#### A Prayer for Help

- 1 Please help me, LORD!  
All who were faithful  
and all who were loyal  
have disappeared.
- 2 Everyone tells lies,  
and no one is sincere.
- 3 Won't you chop off  
all flattering tongues  
that brag so loudly?
- 4 They say to themselves,  
"We are great speakers.  
No one else has a chance."
- 5 But you, LORD, tell them,  
"I will do something!  
The poor are mistreated  
and helpless people moan.  
I'll rescue all who suffer."
- 6 Our LORD, you are true  
to your promises,  
and your word is like silver  
heated seven times  
in a fiery furnace.▷
- 7 You will protect us  
and always keep us safe  
from those people.
- 8 But all who are wicked  
will keep on strutting,  
"while everyone praises  
their shameless deeds."

### Psalm 13

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### A Prayer for the LORD's Help

- 1 How much longer, LORD,  
will you forget about me?

- Will it be forever?  
How long will you hide?
- 2 How long must I be confused  
and miserable all day?  
How long will my enemies  
keep beating me down?
- 3 Please listen, LORD God,  
and answer my prayers.  
Make my eyes sparkle again,  
or else I will fall  
into the sleep of death.
- 4 My enemies will say,  
"Now we've won!"  
They will be greatly pleased  
when I am defeated.
- 5 I trust your love,  
and I feel like celebrating  
because you rescued me.
- 6 You have been good to me, LORD,  
and I will sing about you.

### Psalm 14

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### No One Can Ignore the LORD

- 1 Only a fool would say,  
"There is no God!"  
People like that are worthless;  
they are heartless and cruel  
and never do right.
- 2 From heaven the LORD  
looks down to see  
if anyone is wise enough  
to search for him.
- 3 But all of them are corrupt;  
no one does right.
- 4 Won't you evil people learn?  
You refuse to pray,  
and you gobble down  
the LORD's people.
- 5 But you will be frightened,  
because God is on the side  
of every good person.
- 6 You may spoil the plans  
of the poor,  
but the LORD protects them.
- 7 I long for someone from Zion  
to come and save Israel!

Our LORD, when you bless  
your people again,  
Jacob's family will be glad,  
and Israel will celebrate.

### Psalm 15

[A psalm by David.]

#### Who May Worship the LORD?

- 1 Who may stay in God's temple  
or live on the holy mountain  
of the LORD?
- 2 Only those who obey God  
and do as they should.  
They speak the truth
- 3 and don't spread gossip;  
they treat others fairly  
and don't say cruel things.
- 4 They hate worthless people,  
but show respect for all  
who worship the LORD.  
And they keep their promises,  
no matter what the cost.
- 5 They lend their money  
without charging interest,  
and they don't take bribes  
to hurt the innocent.
- Those who do these things  
will always stand firm.

### Psalm 16

[A special psalm by David.]

#### The Best Choice

- 1 Protect me, LORD God!  
I run to you for safety,
- 2 and I have said,  
"Only you are my Lord!  
Every good thing I have  
is a gift from you."
- 3 Your people are wonderful,  
and they make me happy,▷
- 4 but worshipers of other gods  
will have much sorrow.†  
I refuse to offer sacrifices  
of blood to those gods  
or worship in their name.
- 5 You, LORD, are all I want!  
You are my choice,  
and you keep me safe.

- 6 You make my life pleasant,  
and my future is bright.
- 7 I praise you, LORD,  
for being my guide.  
Even in the darkest night,  
your teachings fill my mind.
- 8 I will always look to you,  
as you stand beside me  
and protect me from fear.
- 9 With all my heart,  
I will celebrate,  
and I can safely rest.
- 10 I am your chosen one.  
You won't leave me in the grave  
or let my body decay.
- 11 You have shown me  
the path to life,  
and you make me glad  
by being near to me.  
Sitting at your right side,  
I will always be joyful.

### Psalm 17

[A prayer by David.]

#### The Prayer of an Innocent Person

- 1 I am innocent, LORD!  
Won't you listen as I pray  
and beg for help?  
I am honest!  
Please hear my prayer.
- 2 Only you can say  
that I am innocent,  
because only your eyes  
can see the truth.
- 3 You know my heart,  
and even during the night  
you have tested me  
and found me innocent.  
I have made up my mind  
never to tell a lie.
- 4 I don't do like others.  
I obey your teachings  
and am not cruel.
- 5 I have followed you,  
without ever stumbling.
- 6 I pray to you, God,  
because you will help me.  
Listen and answer my prayer!
- 7 Show your wonderful love.
- Your mighty arm protects those  
who run to you for safety  
from their enemies.
- 8 Protect me as you would  
your very own eyes;  
hide me in the shadow  
of your wings.
- 9 Don't let my brutal enemies  
attack from all sides  
and kill me.
- 10 They refuse to show mercy,  
and they keep bragging.
- 11 They have caught up with me!  
My enemies are everywhere,  
eagerly hoping to smear me  
in the dirt.
- 12 They are like hungry lions  
hunting for food,  
or like young lions  
hiding in ambush.
- 13 Do something, LORD!  
Attack and defeat them.  
Take your sword and save me  
from those evil people.
- 14 'Use your powerful arm  
and rescue me  
from the hands of mere humans  
whose world won't last.'
- You provide food  
for those you love.  
Their children have plenty,  
and their grandchildren  
will have more than enough.
- 15 I am innocent, LORD,  
and I will see your face!  
When I awake, all I want  
is to see you as you are.

### Psalm 18

[For the music leader. A psalm by David, the LORD's servant. David sang this to the LORD after the LORD had rescued him from his enemies, but especially from Saul.]

#### David's Song of Thanks

- 1 I love you, LORD God,  
and you make me strong.
- 2 You are my mighty rock,<sup>▷</sup>  
my fortress, my protector,  
the rock where I am safe,

- my shield, my powerful weapon,<sup>></sup>  
and my place of shelter.
- <sup>3</sup> I praise you, LORD!  
I prayed, and you rescued me  
from my enemies.
- <sup>4</sup> Death had wrapped  
its ropes around me,  
and I was almost swallowed  
by its flooding waters.
- <sup>5</sup> Ropes from the world  
of the dead  
had coiled around me,  
and death had set a trap  
in my path.
- <sup>6</sup> I was in terrible trouble  
when I called out to you,  
but from your temple  
you heard me  
and answered my prayer.
- <sup>7</sup> The earth shook and shivered,  
and the mountains trembled  
down to their roots.  
You were angry  
<sup>8</sup> and breathed out smoke.  
Scorching heat and fiery flames  
spewed from your mouth.
- <sup>9</sup> You opened the heavens  
like curtains,  
and you came down  
with storm clouds  
under your feet.
- <sup>10</sup> You rode on the backs  
of flying creatures  
and swooped down  
with the wind as wings.
- <sup>11</sup> Darkness was your robe;  
thunderclouds filled the sky,  
hiding you from sight.
- <sup>12</sup> Hailstones and fiery coals  
lit up the sky  
in front of you.
- <sup>13</sup> LORD Most High, your voice  
thundered from the heavens,  
as hailstones and fiery coals  
poured down like rain.
- <sup>14</sup> You scattered your enemies  
with arrows of lightning.
- <sup>15</sup> You roared at the sea,  
and its deepest channels  
could be seen.
- You snorted,  
and the earth shook  
to its foundations.
- <sup>16</sup> You reached down from heaven,  
and you lifted me  
from deep in the ocean.
- <sup>17</sup> You rescued me from enemies,  
who were hateful  
and too powerful for me.
- <sup>18</sup> On the day disaster struck,  
they came and attacked,  
but you defended me.
- <sup>19</sup> When I was fenced in,  
you freed and rescued me  
because you love me.
- <sup>20</sup> You are good to me, LORD,  
because I do right,  
and you reward me  
because I am innocent.
- <sup>21</sup> I do what you want  
and never turn to do evil.
- <sup>22</sup> I keep your laws in mind  
and never look away  
from your teachings.
- <sup>23</sup> I obey you completely  
and guard against sin.
- <sup>24</sup> You have been good to me  
because I do right;  
you have rewarded me  
for being innocent  
by your standards.
- <sup>25</sup> You are always loyal  
to your loyal people,  
and you are faithful  
to the faithful.
- <sup>26</sup> With all who are sincere,  
you are sincere,  
but you treat the unfaithful  
as their deeds deserve.
- <sup>27</sup> You rescue the humble,  
but you put down all  
who are proud.
- <sup>28</sup> You, the LORD God,  
keep my lamp burning  
and turn darkness to light.
- <sup>29</sup> You help me defeat armies  
and capture cities.
- <sup>30</sup> Your way is perfect, LORD,  
and your word is correct.

- You are a shield for those  
who run to you for help.
- 31 You alone are God!  
Only you are a mighty rock.▷
- 32 You give me strength  
and guide me right.
- 33 You make my feet run as fast  
as those of a deer,  
and you help me stand  
on the mountains.
- 34 You teach my hands to fight  
and my arms to use  
a bow of bronze.
- 35 You alone are my shield.  
Your right hand supports me,  
and by coming to help me,  
you have made me famous.
- 36 You clear the way for me,  
and now I won't stumble.
- 37 I kept chasing my enemies,  
until I caught them  
and destroyed them.
- 38 I stuck my sword  
through my enemies,  
and they were crushed  
under my feet.
- 39 You helped me win victories,  
and you forced my attackers  
to fall victim to me.
- 40 You made my enemies run,  
and I killed them.
- 41 They cried out for help,  
but no one saved them;  
they called out to you,  
but there was no answer.
- 42 I ground them to dust  
blown by the wind,  
and I poured them out  
like mud in the streets.
- 43 You rescued me  
from stubborn people,  
and you made me the leader  
of foreign nations,  
who are now my slaves.
- 44 They obey and come crawling.
- 45 They have lost all courage,  
and from their fortresses,  
they come trembling.
- 46 You are the living LORD!  
I will praise you.

- You are a mighty rock.▷  
I will honor you  
for keeping me safe.
- 47 You took revenge for me,  
and you put nations  
in my power.
- 48 You protected me  
from violent enemies  
and made me much greater  
than all of them.
- 49 I will praise you, LORD,  
and I will honor you  
among the nations.
- 50 You give glorious victories  
to your chosen king.  
Your faithful love for David  
and for his descendants  
will never end.

### Psalm 19

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### The Wonders of God and the Goodness of His Law

- 1 The heavens keep telling  
the wonders of God,  
and the skies declare  
what he has done.
- 2 Each day informs  
the following day;  
each night announces  
to the next.
- 3 They don't speak a word,  
and there is never  
the sound of a voice.
- 4 Yet their message reaches  
all the earth,  
and it travels  
around the world.
- In the heavens a tent  
is set up for the sun.
- 5 It rises like a bridegroom  
and gets ready like a hero  
eager to run a race.
- 6 It travels all the way  
across the sky.  
Nothing hides from its heat.
- 7 The Law of the LORD is perfect;  
it gives us new life.  
His teachings last forever,

- and they give wisdom  
to ordinary people.
- 8 The LORD's instruction is right;  
it makes our hearts glad.  
His commands shine brightly,  
and they give us light.
- 9 Worshiping the LORD is sacred;  
he will always be worshiped.  
All of his decisions  
are correct and fair.
- 10 They are worth more  
than the finest gold  
and are sweeter than honey  
from a honeycomb.
- 11 By your teachings, Lord,  
I am warned;  
by obeying them,  
I am greatly rewarded.
- 12 None of us know our faults.  
Forgive me when I sin  
without knowing it.
- 13 Don't let me do wrong  
on purpose, Lord,  
or let sin have control  
over my life.  
Then I will be innocent,  
and not guilty  
of some terrible fault.
- 14 Let my words and my thoughts  
be pleasing to you, LORD,  
because you are my mighty rock  
and my protector.

### Psalm 20

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### A Prayer for Victory

- 1 I pray that the LORD  
will listen when you  
are in trouble,  
and that the God of Jacob  
will keep you safe.
- 2 May the LORD send help  
from his temple  
and come to your rescue  
from Mount Zion.
- 3 May he remember your gifts  
and be pleased  
with what you bring.

- 4 May God do what you want most  
and let all go well for you.
- 5 Then you will win victories,  
and we will celebrate,  
while raising our banners  
in the name of our God.  
May the LORD answer  
all of your prayers!
- 6 I am certain, LORD,  
that you will help  
your chosen king.  
You will answer my prayers  
from your holy place  
in heaven,  
and you will save me  
with your mighty arm.
- 7 Some people trust the power  
of chariots or horses,  
but we trust you, LORD God.
- 8 Others will stumble and fall,  
but we will be strong  
and stand firm.
- 9 Give the king victory, LORD,  
and answer our prayers.▷

### Psalm 21

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### Thanking the LORD for Victory

- 1 Our LORD, your mighty power  
makes the king glad,  
and he celebrates victories  
that you have given him.
- 2 You did what he wanted most  
and never told him "No."
- 3 You truly blessed the king,  
and you placed on him  
a crown of finest gold.
- 4 He asked to live a long time,  
and you promised him life  
that never ends.
- 5 The king is highly honored.  
You have let him win victories  
that have made him famous.
- 6 You have given him blessings  
that will last forever,  
and you have made him glad  
by being so near to him.
- 7 LORD Most High,  
the king trusts you,

and your kindness  
keeps him from defeat.

<sup>8</sup> With your mighty arm, LORD,  
you will strike down all  
of your hateful enemies.

<sup>9</sup> They will be destroyed by fire  
once you are here,  
and because of your anger,  
flames will swallow them.

<sup>10</sup> You will wipe their families  
from the earth,  
and they will disappear.

<sup>11</sup> All their plans to harm you  
will come to nothing.

<sup>12</sup> You will make them run away  
by shooting your arrows  
at their faces.

<sup>13</sup> Show your strength, LORD,  
so that we may sing  
and praise your power.

### Psalm 22

[A psalm by David for the music leader. To the  
tune "A Deer at Dawn."]

#### Suffering and Praise

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you  
deserted me?

Why are you so far away?  
Won't you listen to my groans  
and come to my rescue?

<sup>2</sup> I cry out day and night,  
but you don't answer,  
and I can never rest.

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are the holy God,  
ruling from your throne  
and praised by Israel.

<sup>4</sup> Our ancestors trusted you,  
and you rescued them.

<sup>5</sup> When they cried out for help,  
you saved them,  
and you did not let them down  
when they depended on you.

<sup>6</sup> But I am merely a worm,  
far less than human,  
and I am hated and rejected  
by people everywhere.

<sup>7</sup> Everyone who sees me  
makes fun and sneers.  
They shake their heads,

<sup>8</sup> and say, "Trust the LORD!  
If you are his favorite,  
let him protect you  
and keep you safe."

<sup>9</sup> You, LORD, brought me  
safely through birth,  
and you protected me  
when I was a baby  
at my mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup> From the day I was born,  
I have been in your care,  
and from the time of my birth,  
you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup> Don't stay far off  
when I am in trouble  
with no one to help me.

<sup>12</sup> Enemies are all around  
like a herd of wild bulls.  
Powerful bulls from Bashan  
are everywhere.

<sup>13</sup> My enemies are like lions  
roaring and attacking  
with jaws open wide.

<sup>14</sup> I have no more strength  
than a few drops of water.  
All my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like melted wax.

<sup>15</sup> My strength has dried up  
like a broken clay pot,  
and my tongue sticks  
to the roof of my mouth.  
You, God, have left me  
to die in the dirt.

<sup>16</sup> Brutal enemies attack me  
like a pack of dogs,  
'tearing at' my hands  
and my feet.

<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones,  
and my enemies just stare  
and sneer at me.

<sup>18</sup> They took my clothes  
and gambled for them.

<sup>19</sup> Don't stay far away, LORD!  
My strength comes from you,  
so hurry and help.

<sup>20</sup> Rescue me from enemy swords  
and save me from those dogs.

<sup>21</sup> Don't let lions eat me.

You rescued me from the horns  
of wild bulls,

- 22 and when your people meet,  
I will praise you, LORD.
- 23 All who worship the LORD,  
now praise him!  
You belong to Jacob's family  
and to the people of Israel,  
so fear and honor the LORD!
- 24 The LORD doesn't hate  
or despise the helpless  
in all of their troubles.  
When I cried out, he listened  
and did not turn away.
- 25 When your people meet,  
you will fill my heart  
with your praises, LORD,  
and everyone will see me  
keep my promises to you.
- 26 The poor will eat and be full,  
and all who worship you  
will be thankful  
and live in hope.
- 27 Everyone on this earth  
will remember you, LORD.  
People all over the world  
will turn and worship you,  
28 because you are in control,  
the ruler of all nations.
- 29 All who are rich  
and have more than enough  
will bow down to you, Lord.  
Even those who are dying  
and almost in the grave  
will come and bow down.
- 30 In the future, everyone  
will worship and learn  
about you, our Lord.
- 31 People not yet born  
will be told,  
"The Lord has saved us!"

### Psalm 23

[A psalm by David.]

#### The Good Shepherd

- 1 You, LORD, are my shepherd.  
I will never be in need.
- 2 You let me rest in fields  
of green grass.

You lead me to streams  
of peaceful water,  
3 and you refresh my life.

- You are true to your name,  
and you lead me  
along the right paths.
- 4 I may walk through valleys  
as dark as death,  
but I won't be afraid.  
You are with me,  
and your shepherd's rod  
makes me feel safe.
- 5 You treat me to a feast,  
while my enemies watch.  
You honor me as your guest,  
and you fill my cup  
until it overflows.
- 6 Your kindness and love  
will always be with me  
each day of my life,  
and I will live forever  
in your house, LORD.

### Psalm 24

[A psalm by David.]

#### Who Can Enter the LORD's Temple?

- 1 The earth and everything on it  
belong to the LORD.  
The world and its people  
belong to him.
- 2 The LORD placed it all  
on the oceans and rivers.
- 3 Who may climb the LORD's hill  
or stand in his holy temple?
- 4 Only those who do right  
for the right reasons,  
and don't worship idols  
or tell lies under oath.
- 5 The LORD God, who saves them,  
will bless and reward them,  
6 because they worship and serve  
the God of Jacob.▷
- 7 Open the ancient gates,  
so that the glorious king  
may come in.
- 8 Who is this glorious king?  
He is our LORD, a strong  
and mighty warrior.

- <sup>9</sup> Open the ancient gates,  
so that the glorious king  
may come in.
- <sup>10</sup> Who is this glorious king?  
He is our LORD,  
the All-Powerful!

**Psalm 25**  
*[By David.]*

**A Prayer for Guidance and Help**

- <sup>1</sup> I offer you my heart, LORD God,  
<sup>2</sup> and I trust you.  
Don't make me ashamed  
or let enemies defeat me.
- <sup>3</sup> Don't disappoint any  
of your worshipers,  
but disappoint all  
deceitful liars.
- <sup>4</sup> Show me your paths  
and teach me to follow;  
<sup>5</sup> guide me by your truth  
and instruct me.  
You keep me safe,  
and I always trust you.
- <sup>6</sup> Please, LORD, remember,  
you have always  
been patient and kind.
- <sup>7</sup> Forget each wrong I did  
when I was young.  
Show how truly kind you are  
and remember me.
- <sup>8</sup> You are honest and merciful,  
and you teach sinners  
how to follow your path.
- <sup>9</sup> You lead humble people  
to do what is right  
and to stay on your path.
- <sup>10</sup> In everything you do,  
you are kind and faithful  
to everyone who keeps  
our agreement with you.
- <sup>11</sup> Be true to your name, LORD,  
by forgiving each one  
of my terrible sins.
- <sup>12</sup> You will show the right path  
to all who worship you.
- <sup>13</sup> They will have plenty,  
and then their children  
will receive the land.

- <sup>14</sup> Our LORD, you are the friend  
of your worshipers,  
and you make an agreement  
with all of us.
- <sup>15</sup> I always look to you,  
because you rescue me  
from every trap.
- <sup>16</sup> I am lonely and troubled.  
Show that you care  
and have pity on me.
- <sup>17</sup> My awful worries keep growing.  
Rescue me from sadness.
- <sup>18</sup> See my troubles and misery  
and forgive my sins.
- <sup>19</sup> Look at all my enemies!  
See how much they hate me.
- <sup>20</sup> I come to you for shelter.  
Protect me, keep me safe,  
and don't disappoint me.
- <sup>21</sup> I obey you with all my heart,  
and I trust you, knowing  
that you will save me.
- <sup>22</sup> Our God, please save Israel  
from all of its troubles.

**Psalm 26**  
*[By David.]*

**The Prayer of an Innocent Person**

- <sup>1</sup> Show that I am right, LORD!  
I stay true to myself,  
and I have trusted you  
without doubting.
- <sup>2</sup> Test my thoughts and find out  
what I am like.
- <sup>3</sup> I never forget your kindness,  
and I am always faithful  
to you.▷
- <sup>4</sup> I don't spend my time  
with worthless liars  
<sup>5</sup> or go with evil crowds.
- <sup>6</sup> I wash my hands, LORD,  
to show my innocence,  
and I worship at your altar,  
<sup>7</sup> while gratefully singing  
about your wonders.
- <sup>8</sup> I love the temple  
where you live, and where  
your glory shines.
- <sup>9</sup> Don't sweep me away,  
as you do sinners.

- Don't punish me with death  
as you do those people  
who are brutal  
10 or full of meanness  
or who bribe others.  
11 I stay true to myself.  
Be kind and rescue me.  
12 Now I stand on solid ground!  
And when your people meet,  
I will praise you, LORD.

**Psalm 27**  
*[By David.]*

**A Prayer of Praise**

- 1 You, LORD, are the light  
that keeps me safe.  
I am not afraid of anyone.  
You protect me,  
and I have no fears.  
2 Brutal people may attack  
and try to kill me,  
but they will stumble.  
Fierce enemies may attack,  
but they will fall.  
3 Armies may surround me,  
but I won't be afraid;  
war may break out,  
but I will trust you.  
4 I ask only one thing, LORD:  
Let me live in your house  
every day of my life  
to see how wonderful you are  
and to pray in your temple.  
5 In times of trouble,  
you will protect me.  
You will hide me in your tent  
and keep me safe  
on top of a mighty rock.▷  
6 You will let me defeat  
all of my enemies.  
Then I will celebrate,  
as I enter your tent  
with animal sacrifices  
and songs of praise.  
7 Please listen when I pray!  
Have pity. Answer my prayer.  
8 My heart tells me to pray.  
I am eager to see your face,  
9 so don't hide from me.

- I am your servant,  
and you have helped me.  
Don't turn from me in anger.  
You alone keep me safe.  
Don't reject or desert me.  
10 Even if my father and mother  
should desert me,  
you will take care of me.  
11 Teach me to follow, LORD,  
and lead me on the right path  
because of my enemies.  
12 Don't let them do to me  
what they want.  
People tell lies about me  
and make terrible threats,  
13 but I know I will live  
to see how kind you are.  
14 Trust the LORD!  
Be brave and strong  
and trust the LORD.

**Psalm 28**  
*[By David.]*

**A Prayer for Help**

- 1 Only you, LORD,  
are a mighty rock!▷  
Don't refuse to help me  
when I pray.  
If you don't answer me,  
I will soon be dead.  
2 Please listen to my prayer  
and my cry for help,  
as I lift my hands  
toward your holy temple.  
3 Don't drag me away, LORD,  
with those cruel people,  
who speak kind words,  
while planning trouble.  
4 Treat them as they deserve!  
Punish them for their sins.  
5 They don't pay any attention  
to your wonderful deeds.  
Now you will destroy them  
and leave them in ruin.  
6 I praise you, LORD,  
for answering my prayers.  
7 You are my strong shield,  
and I trust you completely.

You have helped me,  
and I will celebrate  
and thank you in song.

<sup>8</sup> You give strength  
to your people, LORD,  
and you save and protect  
your chosen ones.

<sup>9</sup> Come save us and bless us.  
Be our shepherd and always  
carry us in your arms.

### Psalm 29

[A psalm by David.]

#### The Voice of the LORD in a Storm

<sup>1</sup> All of you angels<sup>></sup> in heaven,  
honor the glory and power  
of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup> Honor the wonderful name  
of the LORD,  
and worship the LORD  
most holy and glorious.<sup>></sup>

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD  
echoes over the oceans.  
The glorious LORD God  
thunders above the roar  
of the raging sea,

<sup>4</sup> and his voice is mighty  
and marvelous.

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD  
destroys the cedar trees;  
the LORD shatters cedars  
on Mount Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> God makes Mount Lebanon  
skip like a calf  
and Mount Hermon  
jump like a wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
makes lightning flash

<sup>8</sup> and the desert tremble.  
And because of the LORD,  
the desert near Kadesh  
shivers and shakes.

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD  
makes deer give birth  
before their time.<sup>></sup>  
Forests are stripped of leaves,  
and the temple is filled  
with shouts of praise.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD rules on his throne,  
king of the flood forever.

<sup>11</sup> Pray that our LORD  
will make us strong  
and give us peace.

### Psalm 30

[A psalm by David for the dedication of the temple.]

#### A Prayer of Thanks

<sup>1</sup> I will praise you, LORD!  
You saved me from the grave  
and kept my enemies  
from celebrating my death.

<sup>2</sup> I prayed to you, LORD God,  
and you healed me,

<sup>3</sup> saving me from death  
and the grave.

<sup>4</sup> Your faithful people, LORD,  
will praise you with songs  
and honor your holy name.

<sup>5</sup> Your anger lasts a little while,  
but your kindness lasts  
for a lifetime.

At night we may cry,  
but when morning comes  
we will celebrate.

<sup>6</sup> I was carefree and thought,  
"I'll never be shaken!"

<sup>7</sup> You, LORD, were my friend,  
and you made me strong  
as a mighty mountain.  
But when you hid your face,  
I was crushed.

<sup>8</sup> I prayed to you, LORD,  
and in my prayer I said,

<sup>9</sup> "What good will it do you  
if I am in the grave?"

Once I have turned to dust,  
how can I praise you  
or tell how loyal you are?

<sup>10</sup> Have pity, LORD! Help!"

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my sorrow  
into joyful dancing.

No longer am I sad  
and wearing sackcloth.

<sup>12</sup> I thank you from my heart,  
and I will never stop  
singing your praises,  
my LORD and my God.

**Psalm 31***[A psalm by David for the music leader.]***A Prayer for Protection**

- 1 I come to you, LORD,  
for protection.  
Don't let me be ashamed.  
Do as you have promised  
and rescue me.
- 2 Listen to my prayer  
and hurry to save me.  
Be my mighty rock<sup>></sup>  
and the fortress  
where I am safe.
- 3 You, LORD God,  
are my mighty rock  
and my fortress.  
Lead me and guide me,  
so that your name  
will be honored.
- 4 Protect me from hidden traps  
and keep me safe.
- 5 You are faithful,  
and I trust you  
because you rescued me.
- 6 I hate the worshipers  
of worthless idols,  
but I trust you, LORD.
- 7 I celebrate and shout  
because you are kind.  
You saw all my suffering,  
and you cared for me.
- 8 You kept me from the hands  
of my enemies,  
and you set me free.
- 9 Have pity, LORD!  
I am hurting and almost blind.  
My whole body aches.
- 10 I have known only sorrow  
all my life long, and I suffer  
year after year.  
I am weak from sin,  
and my bones are limp.
- 11 My enemies insult me.  
Neighbors are even worse,  
and I disgust my friends.  
People meet me on the street,  
and they turn and run.
- 12 I am completely forgotten  
like someone dead.  
I am merely a broken dish.
- 13 I hear the crowds whisper,  
"Everyone is afraid!"  
They are plotting and scheming  
to murder me.
- 14 But I trust you, LORD,  
and I claim you as my God.
- 15 My life is in your hands.  
Save me from enemies  
who hunt me down.
- 16 Smile on me, your servant.  
Have pity and rescue me.
- 17 I pray only to you.  
Don't disappoint me.  
Disappoint my cruel enemies  
until they lie silent  
in their graves.
- 18 Silence those proud liars!  
Make them stop bragging  
and insulting your people.
- 19 You are wonderful,  
and while everyone watches,  
you store up blessings for all  
who honor and trust you.
- 20 You are their shelter  
from harmful plots,  
and you are their protection  
from vicious gossip.
- 21 I will praise you, LORD,  
for showing great kindness  
when I was like a city  
under attack.
- 22 I was terrified and thought,  
"They've chased me  
far away from you!"  
But you answered my prayer  
when I shouted for help.
- 23 All who belong to the LORD,  
show how you love him.  
The LORD protects the faithful,  
but he severely punishes  
everyone who is proud.
- 24 All who trust the LORD,  
be cheerful and strong.

**Psalm 32***[A special psalm by David.]***The Joy of Forgiveness**

- 1 Our God, you bless everyone  
whose sins you forgive  
and wipe away.

- <sup>2</sup> You bless them by saying,  
"You told me your sins,  
without trying to hide them,  
and now I forgive you."
- <sup>3</sup> Before I confessed my sins,  
my bones felt limp,  
and I groaned all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> Night and day your hand  
weighed heavily on me,  
and my strength was gone  
as in the summer heat.
- <sup>5</sup> So I confessed my sins  
and told them all to you.  
I said, "I'll tell the LORD  
each one of my sins."  
Then you forgave me  
and took away my guilt.
- <sup>6</sup> We worship you, Lord,  
and we should always pray  
whenever we find out  
that we have sinned.▷  
Then we won't be swept away  
by a raging flood.
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding place!  
You protect me from trouble,  
and you put songs in my heart  
because you have saved me.
- <sup>8</sup> You said to me,  
"I will point out the road  
that you should follow.  
I will be your teacher  
and watch over you.
- <sup>9</sup> Don't be stupid  
like horses and mules  
that must be led with ropes  
to make them obey."
- <sup>10</sup> All kinds of troubles  
will strike the wicked,  
but your kindness shields those  
who trust you, LORD.
- <sup>11</sup> And so your good people  
should celebrate and shout.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD with harps!  
Use harps with ten strings  
to make music for him.
- <sup>3</sup> Sing a new song. Shout!  
Play beautiful music.
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD is truthful;  
he can be trusted.
- <sup>5</sup> He loves justice and fairness,  
and he is kind to everyone  
everywhere on earth.
- <sup>6</sup> The LORD made the heavens  
and everything in them  
by his word.
- <sup>7</sup> He scooped up the ocean  
and stored the water.
- <sup>8</sup> Everyone in this world  
should worship and honor  
the LORD!
- <sup>9</sup> As soon as he spoke  
the world was created;  
at his command,  
the earth was formed.
- <sup>10</sup> The LORD destroys the plans  
and spoils the schemes  
of the nations.
- <sup>11</sup> But what the LORD has planned  
will stand forever.  
His thoughts never change.
- <sup>12</sup> The LORD blesses each nation  
that worships only him.  
He blesses his chosen ones.
- <sup>13</sup> The LORD looks at the world  
<sup>14</sup> from his throne in heaven,  
and he watches us all.
- <sup>15</sup> The LORD gave us each a mind,  
and nothing we do  
can be hidden from him.
- <sup>16</sup> Mighty armies alone  
cannot win wars for a king;  
great strength by itself  
cannot keep a soldier safe.
- <sup>17</sup> In war the strength of a horse  
cannot be trusted  
to take you to safety.
- <sup>18</sup> But the LORD watches over  
all who honor him  
and trust his kindness.
- <sup>19</sup> He protects them from death  
and starvation.

### Psalm 33

#### Sing Praises to the LORD

- <sup>1</sup> You are the LORD's people.  
Obey him and celebrate!  
He deserves your praise.

- 20 We depend on you, LORD,  
to help and protect us.  
21 You make our hearts glad  
because we trust you,  
the only God.  
22 Be kind and bless us!  
We depend on you.

### Psalm 34

*[Written by David when he pretended to be crazy  
in front of Abimelech, so that Abimelech would  
send him away, and David could leave.]*

#### Honor the LORD

- 1 I will always praise the LORD.  
2 With all my heart,  
I will praise the LORD.  
Let all who are helpless,  
listen and be glad.  
3 Honor the LORD with me!  
Celebrate his great name.  
4 I asked the LORD for help,  
and he saved me  
from all my fears.  
5 Keep your eyes on the LORD!  
You will shine like the sun  
and never blush with shame.  
6 I was a nobody, but I prayed,  
and the LORD saved me  
from all my troubles.  
7 If you honor the LORD,  
his angel will protect you.  
8 Discover for yourself  
that the LORD is kind.  
Come to him for protection,  
and you will be glad.  
9 Honor the LORD!  
You are his special people.  
No one who honors the LORD  
will ever be in need.  
10 Young lions may go hungry  
or even starve,  
but if you trust the LORD,  
you will never miss out  
on anything good.  
11 Come, my children, listen  
as I teach you  
to respect the LORD.  
12 Do you want to live  
and enjoy a long life?

- 13 Then don't say cruel things  
and don't tell lies.  
14 Do good instead of evil  
and try to live at peace.  
15 If you obey the LORD,  
he will watch over you  
and answer your prayers.  
16 But God despises evil people,  
and he will wipe them all  
from the earth,  
till they are forgotten.  
17 When his people pray for help,  
he listens and rescues them  
from their troubles.  
18 The LORD is there to rescue  
all who are discouraged  
and have given up hope.  
19 The LORD's people  
may suffer a lot,  
but he will always  
bring them safely through.  
20 Not one of their bones  
will ever be broken.  
21 Wicked people are killed  
by their own evil deeds,  
and if you hate God's people  
you will be punished.  
22 The LORD saves the lives  
of his servants.  
Run to him for protection,  
and you won't be punished.

### Psalm 35

*[A psalm by David.]*

#### A Prayer for Protection from Enemies

- 1 Fight my enemies, LORD!  
Attack my attackers!  
2 Shield me and help me.  
3 Aim your spear at everyone  
who hunts me down,  
but promise to save me.  
4 Let all who want to kill me  
be disappointed  
and disgraced.  
Chase away and confuse  
all who plan to harm me.  
5 Send your angel after them  
and let them be like straw  
in the wind.

- 6 Make them run in the dark  
on a slippery road,  
as your angel chases them.
- 7 I did them no harm,  
but they hid a net  
to trap me,  
and they dug a deep pit  
to catch and kill me.
- 8 Surprise them with disaster!  
Trap them in their own nets  
and let them fall and rot  
in the pits they have dug.
- 9 I will celebrate and be joyful  
because you, LORD,  
have saved me.
- 10 Every bone in my body  
will shout:  
"No one is like the LORD!"  
You protect the helpless  
from those in power;  
you save the poor and needy  
from those who hurt them.
- 11 Liars accuse me of crimes  
I know nothing about.
- 12 They repay evil for good,  
and I feel all alone.
- 13 When they were sick,  
I wore sackcloth  
and went without food.  
I truly prayed for them,<sup>></sup>
- 14 as I would for a friend  
or a relative.  
I was in sorrow and mourned,  
as I would for my mother.
- 15 I have stumbled,  
and worthless liars  
I don't even know  
surround me and sneer.
- 16 "Worthless people make fun"  
and never stop laughing.
- 17 But all you do is watch!  
When will you do something?  
Save me from the attack  
of those vicious lions.
- 18 And when your people meet,  
I will praise you  
and thank you, Lord,  
in front of them all.
- 19 Don't let my brutal enemies  
be glad because of me.
- They hate me for no reason.  
Don't let them wink  
behind my back.
- 20 They say hurtful things,  
and they lie to people  
who want to live in peace.
- 21 They are quick to accuse me.  
They say, "You did it!  
We saw you ourselves."
- 22 You see everything, LORD!  
Please don't keep silent  
or stay so far away.
- 23 Fight to defend me, Lord God,  
24 and prove that I am right  
by your standards.  
Don't let them laugh at me
- 25 or say to each other,  
"Now we've got what we want!  
We'll gobble him down!"
- 26 Disappoint and confuse  
all who are glad  
to see me in trouble,  
but disgrace and embarrass  
my proud enemies who say to me,  
"You are nothing!"
- 27 Let all who want me to win  
be happy and joyful.  
From now on let them say,  
"The LORD is wonderful!  
God is glad when all goes well  
for his servant."
- 28 Then I will shout all day,  
"Praise the LORD God!  
He did what was right."

**Psalm 36**

[For the music leader by David, the LORD's servant.]

**Human Sin and God's Goodness**

- 1 Sinners don't respect God;  
sin is all they think about.
- 2 They like themselves too much  
to hate their own sins  
or even to see them.
- 3 They tell deceitful lies,  
and they don't have the sense  
to live right.
- 4 Those people stay awake,  
thinking up mischief,

and they follow the wrong road,  
refusing to turn from sin.

<sup>5</sup>Your love is faithful, LORD,  
and even the clouds in the sky  
can depend on you.

<sup>6</sup>Your decisions are always fair.  
They are firm like mountains,  
deep like the sea,  
and all people and animals  
are under your care.

<sup>7</sup>Your love is a treasure,  
and everyone finds shelter  
in the shadow of your wings.

<sup>8</sup>You give your guests a feast  
in your house,  
and you serve a tasty drink  
that flows like a river.

<sup>9</sup>The life-giving fountain  
belongs to you,  
and your light gives light  
to each of us.

<sup>10</sup>Our LORD, keep showing love  
to everyone who knows you,  
and use your power to save all  
whose thoughts please you.

<sup>11</sup>Don't let those proud  
and merciless people  
kick me around  
or chase me away.

<sup>12</sup>Look at those wicked people!  
They are knocked down,  
never to get up again.

**Psalm 37**  
*[By David.]*

**Trust the LORD**

<sup>1</sup>Don't be annoyed by anyone  
who does wrong,  
and don't envy them.

<sup>2</sup>They will soon disappear  
like grass without rain.

<sup>3</sup>Trust the LORD and live right!  
The land will be yours,  
and you will be safe.

<sup>4</sup>Do what the LORD wants,  
and he will give you

your heart's desire.

<sup>5</sup>Let the LORD lead you  
and trust him to help.

<sup>6</sup>Then it will be as clear  
as the noonday sun  
that you were right.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient and trust the LORD.  
Don't let it bother you  
when all goes well for those  
who do sinful things.

<sup>8</sup>Don't be angry or furious.  
Anger can lead to sin.

<sup>9</sup>All sinners will disappear,  
but if you trust the LORD,  
the land will be yours.

<sup>10</sup>Sinners will soon disappear,  
never to be found,

<sup>11</sup>but the poor will take the land  
and enjoy a big harvest.

<sup>12</sup>Merciless people make plots  
against good people  
and snarl like animals,

<sup>13</sup>but the Lord laughs and knows  
their time is coming soon.

<sup>14</sup>The wicked kill with swords  
and shoot arrows to murder  
the poor and the needy  
and all who do right.

<sup>15</sup>But they will be killed  
by their own swords,  
and their arrows  
will be broken.

<sup>16</sup>It is better to live right  
and be poor  
than to be sinful and rich.

<sup>17</sup>The wicked will lose all  
of their power,  
but the LORD gives strength  
to everyone who is good.

<sup>18</sup>Those who obey the LORD  
are daily in his care,  
and what he has given them  
will be theirs forever.

<sup>19</sup>They won't be in trouble  
when times are bad,  
and they will have plenty  
when food is scarce.

<sup>20</sup>Wicked people are enemies  
of the LORD  
and will vanish like smoke  
from a field on fire.

- 21 An evil person borrows  
and never pays back;  
a good person is generous  
and never stops giving.
- 22 Everyone the LORD blesses  
will receive the land;  
everyone the LORD curses  
will be destroyed.
- 23 If you do what the LORD wants,  
he will make certain  
each step you take is sure.
- 24 The LORD will hold your hand,  
and if you stumble,  
you still won't fall.
- 25 As long as I can remember,  
good people have never  
been left helpless,  
and their children have never  
gone begging for food.
- 26 They gladly give and lend,  
and their children  
turn out good.
- 27 If you stop sinning  
and start doing right,  
you will keep living  
and be secure forever.
- 28 The LORD loves justice,  
and he won't ever desert  
his faithful people.  
He always protects them,  
but destroys the children  
of the wicked.
- 29 God's people will own the land  
and live here forever.
- 30 Words of wisdom come  
when good people speak  
for justice.
- 31 They remember God's teachings,  
and they never take  
a wrong step.
- 32 The wicked try to trap  
and kill good people,  
33 but the LORD is on their side,  
and he will defend them  
when they are on trial.
- 34 Trust the LORD and follow him.  
He will give you the land,  
and you will see  
the wicked destroyed.
- 35 I have seen brutal people  
abuse others and grow strong  
'like trees in rich soil.'
- 36 Suddenly they disappeared!  
I looked, but they were gone  
and no longer there.
- 37 Think of the bright future  
waiting for all the families  
of honest and innocent  
and peace-loving people.
- 38 But not a trace will be left  
of the wicked  
or their families.
- 39 The LORD protects his people,  
and they can come to him  
in times of trouble.
- 40 The LORD helps them  
and saves them from the wicked  
because they run to him.

### Psalm 38

[A psalm by David to be used when an offering is made.]

#### A Prayer in Times of Trouble

- 1 When you are angry, LORD,  
please don't punish me  
or even correct me.
- 2 You shot me with your arrows,  
and you struck me  
with your hand.
- 3 My body hurts all over  
because of your anger.  
Even my bones are in pain,  
and my sins <sup>4</sup> are so heavy  
that I am crushed.
- 5 Because of my foolishness,  
I am covered with sores  
that stink and spread.
- 6 My body is twisted and bent,  
and I groan all day long.
- 7 Fever has my back in flames,  
and I hurt all over.
- 8 I am worn out and weak,  
moaning and in distress.
- 9 You, Lord, know every one  
of my deepest desires,  
and my noisy groans  
are no secret to you.

- 10 My heart is beating fast.  
I feel weak all over,  
and my eyes are red.
- 11 Because of my sickness,  
no friends or neighbors  
will come near me.
- 12 All who want me dead  
set traps to catch me,  
and those who want  
to harm and destroy me  
plan and plot all day.
- 13 I am not able to hear  
or speak a word;
- 14 I am completely deaf  
and can't make a sound.
- 15 I trust you, LORD God,  
and you will do something.
- 16 I said, "Don't let them laugh  
or brag because I slip."
- 17 I am about to collapse  
from constant pain.
- 18 I told you my sins,  
and I am sorry for them.
- 19 Many deadly and powerful  
enemies hate me,  
20 and they repay evil for good  
because I try to do right.
- 21 You are the LORD God!  
Stay nearby  
and don't desert me.
- 22 You are the one who saves me.  
Please hurry and help.

### Psalm 39

[A psalm by David for Jeduthun, the music leader.]

#### A Prayer for Forgiveness

- 1 I told myself, "I'll be careful  
not to sin by what I say,  
and I'll muzzle my mouth  
when evil people are near."  
2 I kept completely silent,  
'but it did no good,'  
and I hurt even worse.
- 3 I felt a fire burning inside,  
and the more I thought,  
the more it burned,  
until at last I said:

- 4 "Please, LORD,  
show me my future.  
Will I soon be gone?"
- 5 You made my life short,  
so brief that the time  
means nothing to you.
- 6 "Human life is but a breath,  
and it disappears  
like a shadow.  
Our struggles are senseless;  
we store up more and more,  
without ever knowing  
who will get it all.
- 7 "What am I waiting for?  
I depend on you, Lord!"
- 8 Save me from my sins.  
Don't let fools sneer at me.
- 9 You treated me like this,  
and I kept silent,  
not saying a word.
- 10 "Won't you stop punishing me?  
You have worn me down.
- 11 You punish us severely  
because of our sins.  
Like a moth, you destroy  
what we treasure most.  
We are as frail as a breath.
- 12 "Listen, LORD, to my prayer!  
My eyes are flooded with tears,  
as I pray to you.  
I am merely a stranger  
visiting in your home  
as my ancestors did.
- 13 Stop being angry with me  
and let me smile again  
before I am dead and gone."

### Psalm 40

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### A Prayer for Help

- 1 I patiently waited, LORD,  
for you to hear my prayer.  
You listened <sup>2</sup> and pulled me  
from a lonely pit  
full of mud and mire.  
You let me stand on a rock  
with my feet firm,  
3 and you gave me a new song,  
a song of praise to you.

- Many will see this,  
and they will honor and trust  
you, the LORD God.
- <sup>4</sup> You bless all of those  
who trust you, LORD,  
and refuse to worship idols  
or follow false gods.
- <sup>5</sup> You, LORD God, have done  
many wonderful things,  
and you have planned  
marvelous things for us.  
No one is like you!  
I would never be able to tell  
all you have done.
- <sup>6</sup> Sacrifices and offerings  
are not what please you;  
gifts and payment for sin  
are not what you demand.  
But you made me willing  
to listen and obey.
- <sup>7</sup> And so, I said, 'I am here  
to do what is written  
about me in the book,  
where it says,
- <sup>8</sup> 'I enjoy pleasing you.  
Your Law is in my heart.' "
- <sup>9</sup> When your people worshiped,  
you know I told them,  
"Our LORD always helps!"
- <sup>10</sup> When all your people met,  
I did not keep silent.  
I said, "Our LORD is kind.  
He is faithful and caring,  
and he saves us."
- <sup>11</sup> You, LORD, never fail  
to have pity on me;  
your love and faithfulness  
always keep me secure.
- <sup>12</sup> I have more troubles  
than I can count.  
My sins are all around me,  
and I can't find my way.  
My sins outnumber  
the hairs on my head,  
and I feel weak.
- <sup>13</sup> Please show that you care  
and come to my rescue.  
Hurry and help me!
- <sup>14</sup> Disappoint and confuse  
all who want me dead;
- turn away and disgrace  
all who want to hurt me.
- <sup>15</sup> Embarrass and shame  
all of those who say,  
"Just look at you now!"
- <sup>16</sup> Our LORD, let your worshipers  
rejoice and be glad.  
They love you for saving them,  
so let them always say,  
"The LORD is wonderful!"
- <sup>17</sup> I am poor and needy,  
but, LORD God,  
you care about me,  
and you come to my rescue.  
Please hurry and help.

### Psalm 41

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### A Prayer in Time of Sickness

- <sup>1</sup> You, LORD God, bless everyone  
who cares for the poor,  
and you rescue those people  
in times of trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> You protect them  
and keep them alive.  
You make them happy here  
in this land,  
and you don't hand them over  
to their enemies.
- <sup>3</sup> You always heal them  
and restore their strength  
when they are sick.
- <sup>4</sup> I prayed, "Have pity, LORD!  
Heal me, though I have sinned  
against you."
- <sup>5</sup> My vicious enemies ask me,  
"When will you die  
and be forgotten?"
- <sup>6</sup> When visitors come,  
all they ever bring  
are worthless words,  
and when they leave,  
they spread gossip.
- <sup>7</sup> My enemies whisper about me.  
They think the worst,
- <sup>8</sup> and they say,  
"You have some fatal disease!  
You'll never get well."

- <sup>9</sup> My most trusted friend  
has turned against me,  
though he ate at my table.
- <sup>10</sup> Have pity, LORD! Heal me,  
so I can pay them back.
- <sup>11</sup> Then my enemies  
won't defeat me,  
and I will know  
that you really care.
- <sup>12</sup> You have helped me  
because I am innocent,  
and you will always  
be close to my side.
- <sup>13</sup> You, the LORD God of Israel,  
will be praised forever!  
Amen and amen.

**BOOK II***(Psalms 42-72)***Psalm 42***[A special psalm for the people of Korah and for the music leader.]***Longing for God**

- <sup>1</sup> As a deer gets thirsty  
for streams of water,  
I truly am thirsty  
for you, my God.
- <sup>2</sup> In my heart, I am thirsty  
for you, the living God.  
When will I see your face?
- <sup>3</sup> Day and night my tears  
are my only food,  
as everyone keeps asking,  
"Where is your God?"
- <sup>4</sup> Sorrow floods my heart,  
when I remember  
'leading the worshipers  
to your house.'  
I can still hear them shout  
their joyful praises.
- <sup>5</sup> Why am I discouraged?  
Why am I restless?  
I trust you!  
And I will praise you again  
because you help me,
- <sup>6</sup> and you are my God.
- I am deeply discouraged  
as I think about you

- from where the Jordan begins  
at Mount Hermon  
and from Mount Mizar.
- <sup>7</sup> Your vicious waves  
have swept over me  
like an angry ocean  
or a roaring waterfall.
- <sup>8</sup> Every day, you are kind,  
and at night  
you give me a song  
as my prayer to you,  
the living LORD God.
- <sup>9</sup> You are my mighty rock.▷  
Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must enemies mistreat me  
and make me sad?
- <sup>10</sup> Even my bones are in pain,  
while all day long  
my enemies sneer and ask,  
"Where is your God?"
- <sup>11</sup> Why am I discouraged?  
Why am I restless?  
I trust you!  
And I will praise you again  
because you help me,  
and you are my God.

**Psalm 43****A Prayer in Times of Trouble**

- <sup>1</sup> Show that I am right, God!  
Defend me against everyone  
who doesn't know you;  
rescue me from each  
of those deceitful liars.
- <sup>2</sup> I run to you  
for protection.  
Why have you turned me away?  
Why must enemies mistreat me  
and make me sad?
- <sup>3</sup> Send your light and your truth  
to guide me.  
Let them lead me to your house  
on your sacred mountain.
- <sup>4</sup> Then I will worship  
at your altar because you  
make me joyful.  
You are my God,  
and I will praise you.  
Yes, I will praise you  
as I play my harp.

5 Why am I discouraged?  
 Why am I restless?  
 I trust you!  
 And I will praise you again  
 because you help me,  
 and you are my God.

### Psalm 44

[A special psalm for the people of Korah and for the music leader.]

#### A Prayer for Help

- 1 Our God, our ancestors told us  
 what wonders you worked  
 and we listened carefully.
- 2 You chased off the nations  
 by causing them trouble  
 with your powerful arm.  
 Then you let our ancestors  
 take over their land.
- 3 Their strength and weapons  
 were not what won the land  
 and gave them victory!  
 You loved them and fought  
 with your powerful arm  
 and your shining glory.
- 4 You are my God and King,  
 and you give victory<sup>></sup>  
 to the people of Jacob.
- 5 By your great power,  
 we knocked our enemies down  
 and stomped on them.
- 6 I don't depend on my arrows  
 or my sword to save me.
- 7 But you saved us  
 from our hateful enemies,  
 and you put them to shame.
- 8 We boast about you, our God,  
 and we are always grateful.
- 9 But now you have rejected us;  
 you don't lead us into battle,  
 and we look foolish.
- 10 You made us retreat,  
 and our enemies have taken  
 everything we own.
- 11 You let us be slaughtered  
 like sheep,  
 and you scattered us  
 among the nations.
- 12 You sold your people

for little or nothing,  
 and you earned no profit.

- 13 You made us look foolish  
 to our neighbors,  
 and people who live nearby  
 insult us and sneer.
- 14 Foreigners joke about us  
 and shake their heads.
- 15 I am embarrassed every day,  
 and I blush with shame.
- 16 But others mock and sneer,  
 as they watch my enemies  
 take revenge on me.
- 17 All of this has happened to us,  
 though we didn't forget you  
 or break our agreement.
- 18 We always kept you in mind  
 and followed your teaching.
- 19 But you crushed us,  
 and you covered us  
 with deepest darkness  
 where wild animals live.
- 20 We did not forget you  
 or lift our hands in prayer  
 to foreign gods.
- 21 You would have known it  
 because you discover  
 every secret thought.
- 22 We face death all day for you.  
 We are like sheep on their way  
 to be slaughtered.
- 23 Wake up! Do something, Lord!  
 Why are you sleeping?  
 Don't desert us forever.
- 24 Why do you keep looking away?  
 Don't forget our sufferings  
 and all of our troubles.
- 25 We are flat on the ground,  
 holding on to the dust.
- 26 Do something! Help us!  
 Show how kind you are  
 and come to our rescue.

### Psalm 45

[A special psalm for the people of Korah and for the music leader. To the tune "Lilies." A love song.]

#### For a Royal Wedding

- 1 My thoughts are filled  
 with beautiful words  
 for the king,

- and I will use my voice  
as a writer would use  
pen and ink.
- 2 No one is as handsome as you!  
Your words are always kind.  
That is why God  
will always bless you.
- 3 Mighty king, glorious ruler,  
strap on your sword
- 4 and ride out in splendor!  
Win victories for truth  
and mercy and justice.  
Do fearsome things  
with your powerful arm.
- 5 Send your sharp arrows  
through enemy hearts  
and make all nations fall  
at your feet.
- 6 You are God, and you will rule  
forever as king.▷  
Your royal power  
brings about justice.
- 7 You love justice and hate evil.  
And so, your God chose you  
and made you happier  
than any of your friends.
- 8 The sweet aroma of the spices  
myrrh, aloes, and cassia,  
covers your royal robes.  
You enjoy the music of harps  
in palaces decorated  
with ivory.
- 9 Daughters of kings are here,  
and your bride stands  
at your right side,  
wearing a wedding gown  
trimmed with pure gold.▷
- 10 Bride of the king,  
listen carefully to me.  
Forget your own people  
and your father's family.
- 11 The king is your husband,  
so do what he desires.
- 12 All of the richest people  
from the city of Tyre  
will try to influence you  
with precious treasures.
- 13 Your bride, my king,  
has inward beauty.▷
- and her wedding gown is woven  
with threads of gold.
- 14 Wearing the finest garments,  
she is brought to you,  
followed by her young friends,  
the bridesmaids.
- 15 Everyone is excited,  
as they follow you  
to the royal palace.
- 16 Your sons and your grandsons  
will also be kings  
as your ancestors were.  
You will make them the rulers  
everywhere on earth.
- 17 I will make your name famous  
from now on,  
and you will be praised  
forever and ever.

### Psalm 46

[A special song for the people of Korah and for  
the music leader.]

### God Is Our Mighty Fortress

- 1 God is our mighty fortress,  
always ready to help  
in times of trouble.
- 2 And so, we won't be afraid!  
Let the earth tremble  
and the mountains tumble  
into the deepest sea.
- 3 Let the ocean roar and foam,  
and its raging waves  
shake the mountains.
- 4 A river and its streams  
bring joy to the city,  
which is the sacred home  
of God Most High.
- 5 God is in that city,  
and it won't be shaken.  
He will help it at dawn.
- 6 Nations rage! Kingdoms fall!  
But at the voice of God  
the earth itself melts.
- 7 The LORD All-Powerful  
is with us.  
The God of Jacob  
is our fortress.
- 8 Come! See the fearsome things  
the LORD has done on earth.

- <sup>9</sup> God brings wars to an end  
all over the world.  
He breaks the arrows,  
shatters the spears,  
and burns the shields.▷  
<sup>10</sup> Our God says, "Calm down,  
and learn that I am God!  
All nations on earth  
will honor me."  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD All-Powerful  
is with us.  
The God of Jacob  
is our fortress.

### Psalm 47

[A psalm for the people of Korah and for the music leader.]

#### God Rules the Nations

- <sup>1</sup> All of you nations,  
clap your hands and shout  
joyful praises to God.  
<sup>2</sup> The LORD Most High is fearsome,  
the ruler of all the earth.  
<sup>3</sup> God has put every nation  
under our power,  
<sup>4</sup> and he chose for us the land  
that was the pride of Jacob,  
his favorite.  
<sup>5</sup> God goes up to his throne,  
as people shout  
and trumpets blast.  
<sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God our King,  
<sup>7</sup> the ruler of all the earth!  
Praise God with songs.  
<sup>8</sup> God rules the nations  
from his sacred throne.  
<sup>9</sup> Their leaders come together  
and are now the people  
of Abraham's God.  
All rulers on earth  
surrender their weapons,  
and God is greatly praised!

### Psalm 48

[A song and a psalm for the people of Korah.]

#### The City of God

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD God is wonderful!

- He deserves all praise  
in the city where he lives.  
His holy mountain,  
<sup>2</sup> beautiful and majestic,  
brings joy to all on earth.  
Mount Zion, truly sacred,  
is home for the Great King.  
<sup>3</sup> God is there to defend it  
and has proved to be  
its protector.  
<sup>4</sup> Kings joined forces  
to attack the city,  
<sup>5</sup> but when they saw it,  
they were terrified  
and ran away.  
<sup>6</sup> They trembled all over  
like women giving birth  
<sup>7</sup> or like seagoing ships▷  
wrecked by eastern winds.  
<sup>8</sup> We had heard about it,  
and now we have seen it  
in the city of our God,  
the LORD All-Powerful.  
This is the city that God  
will let stand forever.  
<sup>9</sup> Our God, here in your temple  
we think about your love.  
<sup>10</sup> You are famous and praised  
everywhere on earth,  
as you win victories  
with your powerful arm.  
<sup>11</sup> Mount Zion will celebrate,  
and all Judah will be glad,  
because you bring justice.  
<sup>12</sup> Let's walk around Zion  
and count its towers.  
<sup>13</sup> We will see its strong walls  
and visit each fortress.  
Then you can say  
to future generations,  
<sup>14</sup> "Our God is like this forever  
and will 'always' guide us."

### Psalm 49

[A psalm for the people of Korah and for the music leader.]

#### Don't Depend on Wealth

- <sup>1</sup> Everyone on this earth,  
now listen to what I say!

- 2 Listen, no matter who you are,  
rich or poor.
- 3 I speak words of wisdom,  
and my thoughts make sense.
- 4 I have in mind a mystery  
that I will explain  
while playing my harp.
- 5 Why should I be afraid  
in times of trouble,  
when I am surrounded  
by vicious enemies?
- 6 They trust in their riches  
and brag about  
all of their wealth.
- 7 You cannot buy back your life  
or pay off God!
- 8 It costs far too much  
to buy back your life.  
You can never pay God enough
- 9 to stay alive forever  
and safe from death.
- 10 We see that wise people die,  
and so do stupid fools.  
Then their money is left  
for someone else.
- 11 The grave<sup>▷</sup> will be their home  
forever and ever,  
although they once had land  
of their own.
- 12 Our human glory disappears,  
and, like animals, we die.
- 13 Here is what happens to fools  
and to those who trust  
the words of fools:
- 14 They are like sheep  
with death as their shepherd,  
leading them to the grave.  
In the morning God's people  
will walk all over them,  
'as their bodies lie rotting  
in their home, the grave.'
- 15 But God will rescue me  
from the power of death.
- 16 Don't let it bother you  
when others get rich  
and live in luxury.
- 17 Soon they will die  
and all of their wealth  
will be left behind.

- 18 We humans are praised  
when we do well,  
and all of us are glad  
to be alive.
- 19 But we each will go down  
to our ancestors,  
never again to see  
the light of day.
- 20 Our human glory disappears,  
and, like animals, we die.

### Psalm 50

[A psalm by Asaph.]

#### What Pleases God

- 1 From east to west,  
the powerful LORD God  
has been calling together  
everyone on earth.
- 2 God shines brightly from Zion,  
the most beautiful city.
- 3 Our God approaches,  
but not silently;  
a flaming fire comes first,  
and a storm surrounds him.
- 4 God comes to judge his people.  
He shouts to the heavens  
and to the earth,
- 5 "Call my followers together!  
They offered me a sacrifice,  
and we made an agreement."
- 6 The heavens announce,  
"God is the judge,  
and he is always honest."
- 7 My people, I am God!  
Israel, I am your God.  
Listen to my charges  
against you.
- 8 Although you offer sacrifices  
and always bring gifts,  
9 I won't accept your offerings  
of bulls and goats.
- 10 Every animal in the forest  
belongs to me,  
and so do the cattle  
on a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the birds  
in the mountains,  
and every wild creature  
is in my care.

- 12 If I were hungry,  
I wouldn't tell you,  
because I own the world  
and everything in it.
- 13 I don't eat the meat of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats.
- 14 I am God Most High!  
The only sacrifice I want  
is for you to be thankful  
and to keep your word.
- 15 Pray to me in time of trouble.  
I will rescue you,  
and you will honor me.
- 16 But to the wicked I say:  
"You don't have the right  
to mention my laws or claim  
to keep our agreement!
- 17 You refused correction  
and rejected my commands.
- 18 You made friends  
with every crook you met,  
and you liked people who break  
their wedding vows.
- 19 You talked only about violence  
and told nothing but lies;
- 20 you sat around gossiping,  
ruining the reputation  
of your own relatives."
- 21 When you did all of this,  
I didn't say a word,  
and you thought,  
"God is just like us!"  
But now I will accuse you.
- 22 You have ignored me!  
So pay close attention  
or I will tear you apart,  
and no one can help you.
- 23 The sacrifice that honors me  
is a thankful heart.  
'Obey me,' and I, your God,  
will show my power to save.

### **Psalms 51**

*[For the music leader. A psalm by David when the prophet Nathan came to him after David had been with Bathsheba.]*

### **A Prayer for Forgiveness**

- <sup>1</sup> You are kind, God!  
Please have pity on me.

- You are always merciful!  
Please wipe away my sins.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me clean from all  
of my sin and guilt.
- <sup>3</sup> I know about my sins,  
and I cannot forget  
my terrible guilt.
- <sup>4</sup> You are really the one  
I have sinned against;  
I have disobeyed you  
and have done wrong.  
So it is right and fair for you  
to correct and punish me.
- <sup>5</sup> I have sinned and done wrong  
since the day I was born.
- <sup>6</sup> But you want complete honesty,  
so teach me true wisdom.
- <sup>7</sup> Wash me with hyssop  
until I am clean  
and whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me be happy and joyful!  
You crushed my bones,  
now let them celebrate.
- <sup>9</sup> Turn your eyes from my sin  
and cover my guilt.
- <sup>10</sup> Create pure thoughts in me  
and make me faithful again.
- <sup>11</sup> Don't chase me away from you  
or take your Holy Spirit  
away from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Make me as happy as you did  
when you saved me;  
make me want to obey!
- <sup>13</sup> I will teach sinners your Law,  
and they will return to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Keep me from any deadly sin.  
Only you can save me!  
Then I will shout and sing  
about your power to save.
- <sup>15</sup> Help me to speak,  
and I will praise you, Lord.
- <sup>16</sup> Offerings and sacrifices  
are not what you want.
- <sup>17</sup> The way to please you  
is to feel sorrow  
deep in our hearts.  
This is the kind of sacrifice  
you won't refuse.
- <sup>18</sup> Please be willing, Lord,  
to help the city of Zion  
and to rebuild its walls.

<sup>19</sup> Then you will be pleased  
with the proper sacrifices,  
and we will offer bulls  
on your altar once again.

### **Psalm 52**

*[A special psalm by David for the music leader. He wrote this when Doeg from Edom went to Saul and said, "David has gone to Ahimelech's house."]*

#### **God Is in Control**

- <sup>1</sup> You people may be strong  
and brag about your sins,  
but God can be trusted  
day after day.
- <sup>2</sup> You plan brutal crimes,  
and your lying words cut  
like a sharp razor.
- <sup>3</sup> You would rather do evil  
than good, and tell lies  
than speak the truth.
- <sup>4</sup> You love to say cruel things,  
and your words are a trap.
- <sup>5</sup> God will destroy you forever!  
He will grab you and drag you  
from your homes.  
You will be uprooted  
and left to die.
- <sup>6</sup> When good people see  
this fearsome sight,  
they will laugh and say,
- <sup>7</sup> "Just look at them now!  
Instead of trusting God,  
they trusted their wealth  
and their cruelty."
- <sup>8</sup> But I am like an olive tree  
growing in God's house,  
and I can count on his love  
forever and ever.
- <sup>9</sup> I will always thank God  
for what he has done;  
I will praise his good name  
when his people meet.

### **Psalm 53**

*[A special psalm by David for the music leader. To the tune "Mahalath." "D"]*

#### **No One Can Ignore God**

- <sup>1</sup> Only a fool would say,  
"There is no God!"

People like that are worthless!  
They are heartless and cruel  
and never do right.

- <sup>2</sup> From heaven God  
looks down to see  
if anyone is wise enough  
to search for him.
- <sup>3</sup> But all of them  
are crooked and corrupt.  
Not one of them does right.
- <sup>4</sup> Won't you lawbreakers learn?  
You refuse to pray,  
and you gobble down  
the people of God.
- <sup>5</sup> But you will be terrified  
worse than ever before.  
God will scatter the bones  
of his enemies,  
and you will be ashamed  
when God rejects you.
- <sup>6</sup> I long for someone from Zion  
to come and save Israel!  
Our God, when you bless  
your people again,  
Jacob's family will be glad,  
and Israel will celebrate.

### **Psalm 54**

*[For the music leader. Use with stringed instruments. A special psalm that David wrote when the people of Ziph went to Saul and said, "David is hiding here with us."]*

#### **Trusting God in Times of Trouble**

- <sup>1</sup> Save me, God, by your power  
and prove that I am right.
- <sup>2</sup> Listen to my prayer  
and hear what I say.
- <sup>3</sup> Cruel strangers have attacked  
and want me dead.  
Not one of them cares  
about you.
- <sup>4</sup> You will help me, Lord God,  
and keep me from falling;
- <sup>5</sup> you will punish my enemies  
for their evil deeds.  
Be my faithful friend  
and destroy them.

- 6 I will bring a gift  
and offer a sacrifice  
to you, LORD.  
I will praise your name  
because you are good.
- 7 You have rescued me  
from all of my troubles,  
and my own eyes have seen  
my enemies fall.

### Psalm 55

[A special psalm by David for the music leader.  
Use with stringed instruments.]

#### Betrayed by a Friend

- 1 Listen, God, to my prayer!  
Don't reject my request.
- 2 Please listen and help me.  
My thoughts are troubled,  
and I keep groaning
- 3 because my loud enemies  
shout and attack.  
They treat me terribly  
and hold angry grudges.
- 4 My heart is racing fast,  
and I am afraid of dying.
- 5 I am trembling with fear,  
completely terrified.
- 6 I wish I had wings  
like a dove,  
so I could fly far away  
and be at peace.
- 7 I would go and live  
in some distant desert.
- 8 I would quickly find shelter  
from howling winds  
and raging storms.
- 9 Confuse my enemies, Lord!  
Upset their plans.  
Cruelty and violence  
are all I see in the city,
- 10 and they are like guards  
on patrol day and night.  
The city is full of trouble,  
evil, <sup>11</sup> and corruption.  
Troublemakers and liars  
freely roam the streets.
- 12 My enemies are not the ones  
who sneer and make fun.  
I could put up with that  
or even hide from them.

- 13 But it was my closest friend,  
the one I trusted most.
- 14 We enjoyed being together,  
and we went with others  
to your house, our God.
- 15 All who hate me are controlled  
by the power of evil.  
Sentence them to death  
and send them down alive  
to the world of the dead.
- 16 I ask for your help, LORD God,  
and you will keep me safe.
- 17 Morning, noon, and night  
you hear my concerns  
and my complaints.
- 18 I am attacked from all sides,  
but you will rescue me  
unharmingly by the battle.
- 19 You have always ruled,  
and you will hear me.  
You will defeat my enemies  
because they won't turn  
and worship you.
- 20 My friend turned against me  
and broke his promise.
- 21 His words were smoother  
than butter, and softer  
than olive oil.  
But hatred filled his heart,  
and he was ready to attack  
with a sword.
- 22 Our LORD, we belong to you.  
We tell you what worries us,  
and you won't let us fall.
- 23 But what about those people  
who are cruel and brutal?  
You will throw them down  
into the deepest pit  
long before their time.  
I trust you, LORD!

### Psalm 56

[For the music leader. To the tune "A Silent Dove  
in the Distance." A special psalm by David when  
the Philistines captured him in Gath.]

#### A Prayer of Trust in God

- 1 Have pity, God Most High!  
My enemies chase me all day.

- 2 Many of them are pursuing  
and attacking me,  
3 but even when I am afraid,  
I keep on trusting you.  
4 I praise your promises!  
I trust you and am not afraid.  
No one can harm me.  
5 Enemies spend the whole day  
finding fault with me;  
all they think about  
is how to do me harm.  
6 They attack from ambush,  
watching my every step  
and hoping to kill me.  
7 'They won't get away'  
with these crimes, God,  
because when you get angry,  
you destroy people.  
8 You have kept record  
of my days of wandering.  
You have stored my tears  
in your bottle  
and counted each of them.  
9 When I pray, LORD God,  
my enemies will retreat,  
because I know for certain  
that you are with me.  
10 I praise your promises!  
11 I trust you and am not afraid.  
No one can harm me.  
12 I will keep my promises  
to you, my God,  
and bring you gifts.  
13 You protected me from death  
and kept me from stumbling,  
so that I would please you  
and follow the light  
that leads to life.

### Psalm 57

[For the music leader. To the tune "Don't Destroy."  
A special psalm by David when he was in the  
cave while running from Saul.]

#### Praise and Trust in Times of Trouble

- 1 God Most High, have pity on me!  
Have mercy. I run to you  
for safety.  
In the shadow of your wings,

- I seek protection  
till danger dies down.  
2 I pray to you, my protector.  
3 You will send help from heaven  
and save me,  
but you will bring trouble  
on my attackers.  
You are faithful,  
and you can be trusted.  
4 I live among lions,  
who gobble down people!  
They have spears and arrows  
instead of teeth,  
and they have sharp swords  
instead of tongues.  
5 May you, my God, be honored  
above the heavens;  
may your glory be seen  
everywhere on earth.  
6 Enemies set traps for my feet  
and struck me down.  
They dug a pit in my path,  
but fell in it themselves.  
7 I am faithful to you,  
and you can trust me.  
I will sing and play music  
for you, my God.  
8 I feel wide awake!  
I will wake up my harp  
and wake up the sun.  
9 I will praise you, Lord,  
for everyone to hear,  
and I will sing hymns to you  
in every nation.  
10 Your love reaches higher  
than the heavens;  
your loyalty extends  
beyond the clouds.  
11 May you, my God, be honored  
above the heavens;  
may your glory be seen  
everywhere on earth.

### Psalm 58

[A special psalm by David for the music leader. To  
the tune "Don't Destroy."]

#### A Prayer When All Goes Wrong

- 1 'Do you mighty people talk  
only to oppose justice?'  
Don't you ever judge fairly?

- <sup>2</sup>You are always planning evil,  
and you are brutal.
- <sup>3</sup>You have done wrong and lied  
from the day you were born.
- <sup>4</sup>Your words spread poison  
like the bite of a cobra
- <sup>5</sup>that refuses to listen  
to the snake charmer.
- <sup>6</sup>My enemies are fierce  
as lions, LORD God!  
Shatter their teeth.  
Snatch out their fangs.
- <sup>7</sup>Make them disappear  
like leaking water,  
and make their arrows miss.
- <sup>8</sup>Let them dry up like snails  
or be like a child that dies  
before seeing the sun.
- <sup>9</sup>Wipe them out quicker  
than a pot can be heated  
by setting thorns on fire.<sup>1</sup>
- <sup>10</sup>Good people will be glad  
when they see the wicked  
getting what they deserve,  
and they will wash their feet  
in their enemies' blood.
- <sup>11</sup>Everyone will say, "It's true!  
Good people are rewarded.  
God does rule the earth  
with justice."

### Psalm 59

*[For the music leader. To the tune "Don't Destroy." A special psalm by David when Saul had David's house watched so that he could kill him.]*

#### A Prayer for Protection

- <sup>1</sup>Save me, God! Protect me  
from enemy attacks!
- <sup>2</sup>Keep me safe from brutal people  
who want to kill me.
- <sup>3</sup>Merciless enemies, LORD,  
are hiding and plotting,  
hoping to kill me.  
I have not hurt them  
in any way at all.
- <sup>4</sup>But they are ready to attack.  
Do something! Help me!  
Look at what's happening.

- <sup>5</sup>LORD God All-Powerful,  
you are the God of Israel.  
Punish the other nations  
and don't pity those terrible  
and rebellious people.
- <sup>6</sup>My enemies return at evening,  
growling like dogs  
roaming the city.
- <sup>7</sup>They curse and their words  
cut like swords,  
as they say to themselves,  
"No one can hear us!"
- <sup>8</sup>You, LORD, laugh at them  
and sneer at the nations.
- <sup>9</sup>You are my mighty fortress,  
and I depend on you.
- <sup>10</sup>You love me and will let me  
see my enemies defeated.
- <sup>11</sup>Don't kill them,  
or everyone may forget!  
Just use your mighty power  
to make them tremble  
and fall.
- You are a shield  
for your people.
- <sup>12</sup>My enemies are liars!  
So let them be trapped  
by their boastful lies.
- <sup>13</sup>Get angry and destroy them.  
Leave them in ruin.  
Then all the nations will know  
that you rule in Israel.
- <sup>14</sup>Those liars return at evening,  
growling like dogs  
roaming the city.
- <sup>15</sup>They search for scraps of food,  
and they snarl  
until they are stuffed.
- <sup>16</sup>But I will sing about  
your strength, my God,  
and I will celebrate  
because of your love.  
You are my fortress,  
my place of protection  
in times of trouble.
- <sup>17</sup>I will sing your praises!  
You are my mighty fortress,  
and you love me.

**Psalm 60**

[For the music leader. To the tune "Lily of the Promise." A special psalm by David for teaching. He wrote it during his wars with the Arameans of northern Syria, when Joab came back and killed twelve thousand Edomites in Salt Valley.]

**You Can Depend on God**

- 1 You, God, are angry with us!  
We are rejected and crushed.  
Make us strong again!
- 2 You made the earth shake  
and split wide open;  
now heal its wounds  
and stop its trembling.
- 3 You brought hard times  
on your people,  
and you gave us wine  
that made us stagger.
- 4 You gave a signal to those  
who worship you,  
'so they could escape  
from enemy arrows.'<sup>1</sup> ▷
- 5 Answer our prayers!  
Use your powerful arm  
and give us victory.  
Then the people you love  
will be safe.
- 6 Our God, you solemnly promised,  
'I would gladly divide up  
the city of Shechem  
and give away Succoth Valley  
piece by piece.
- 7 The lands of Gilead  
and Manasseh are mine.  
Ephraim is my war helmet,  
and Judah is the symbol  
of my royal power.
- 8 Moab is merely my washbasin.  
Edom belongs to me,  
and I shout in triumph  
over the Philistines."
- 9 Our God, who will bring me  
to the fortress,  
or lead me to Edom?
- 10 Have you rejected us  
and deserted our armies?
- 11 Help us defeat our enemies!  
No one else can rescue us.
- 12 You will give us victory  
and crush our enemies.

**Psalm 61**

[A psalm by David for the music leader. Use with stringed instruments.]

**Under the Protection of God**

- 1 Please listen, God,  
and answer my prayer!
- 2 I feel hopeless,  
and I cry out to you  
from a faraway land.  
  
Lead me to the mighty rock▷  
high above me.
- 3 You are a strong tower,  
where I am safe  
from my enemies.
- 4 Let me live with you forever  
and find protection  
under your wings, my God.
- 5 You heard my promises,  
and you have blessed me,  
just as you bless everyone  
who worships you.
- 6 Let the king have a long  
and healthy life.
- 7 May he always rule  
with you, God, at his side;  
may your love and loyalty  
watch over him.
- 8 I will sing your praises  
forever and will always  
keep my promises.

**Psalm 62**

[A psalm by David for Jeduthun, the music leader.]

**God Is Powerful and Kind**

- 1 Only God can save me,  
and I calmly wait for▷ him.
- 2 God alone is the mighty rock▷  
that keeps me safe  
and the fortress  
where I am secure.
- 3 I feel like a shaky fence  
or a sagging wall.  
How long will all of you  
attack and assault me?
- 4 You want to bring me down  
from my place of honor.

- You love to tell lies,  
and when your words are kind,  
hatred hides in your heart.
- <sup>5</sup> Only God gives inward peace,  
and I depend on him.
- <sup>6</sup> God alone is the mighty rock  
that keeps me safe,  
and he is the fortress  
where I feel secure.
- <sup>7</sup> God saves me and honors me.  
He is that mighty rock  
where I find safety.
- <sup>8</sup> Trust God, my friends,  
and always tell him  
each one of your concerns.  
God is our place of safety.
- <sup>9</sup> We humans are only a breath;  
none of us are truly great.  
All of us together weigh less  
than a puff of air.
- <sup>10</sup> Don't trust in violence  
or depend on dishonesty  
or rely on great wealth.
- <sup>11</sup> I heard God say two things:  
"I am powerful,  
<sup>12</sup> and I am very kind."  
The Lord rewards each of us  
according to what we do.

### Psalm 63

[A psalm by David when he was in the desert of Judah.]

#### God's Love Means More than Life

- <sup>1</sup> You are my God. I worship you.  
In my heart, I long for you,  
as I would long for a stream  
in a scorching desert.
- <sup>2</sup> I have seen your power  
and your glory  
in the place of worship.
- <sup>3</sup> Your love means more  
than life to me,  
and I praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> As long as I live,  
I will pray to you.
- <sup>5</sup> I will sing joyful praises  
and be filled with excitement  
like a guest at a banquet.

- <sup>6</sup> I think about you  
before I go to sleep,  
and my thoughts turn to you  
during the night.
- <sup>7</sup> You have helped me,  
and I sing happy songs  
in the shadow of your wings.
- <sup>8</sup> I stay close to you,  
and your powerful arm  
supports me.
- <sup>9</sup> All who want to kill me  
will end up in the ground.
- <sup>10</sup> Swords will run them through,  
and wild dogs will eat them.
- <sup>11</sup> Because of you, our God,  
the king will celebrate  
with your faithful followers,  
but liars will be silent.

### Psalm 64

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### Celebrate because of the LORD

- <sup>1</sup> Listen to my concerns, God,  
and protect me  
from my terrible enemies.
- <sup>2</sup> Keep me safe from secret plots  
of corrupt and evil gangs.
- <sup>3</sup> Their words cut like swords,  
and their cruel remarks  
sting like sharp arrows.
- <sup>4</sup> They fearlessly ambush  
and shoot innocent people.
- <sup>5</sup> They are determined to do evil,  
and they tell themselves,  
"Let's set traps!  
No one can see us."▷
- <sup>6</sup> "They make evil plans and say,  
"We'll commit a perfect crime.  
No one knows our thoughts."<sup>a</sup>
- <sup>7</sup> But God will shoot his arrows  
and quickly wound them.
- <sup>8</sup> They will be destroyed  
by their own words,  
and everyone who sees them  
will tremble with fear.▷
- <sup>9</sup> They will be afraid and say,  
"Look at what God has done  
and keep it all in mind."

<sup>10</sup> May the LORD bless his people  
with peace and happiness  
and let them celebrate.

### Psalm 65

*[A psalm by David and a song for the music leader.]*

#### God Answers Prayer

- <sup>1</sup> Our God, you 'deserve' praise  
in Zion, where we keep  
our promises to you.
- <sup>2</sup> Everyone will come to you  
because you answer prayer.
- <sup>3</sup> Our terrible sins get us down,  
but you forgive us.
- <sup>4</sup> You bless your chosen ones,  
and you invite them  
to live near you  
in your temple.  
We will enjoy your house,  
the sacred temple.
- <sup>5</sup> Our God, you save us,  
and your fearsome deeds answer  
our prayers for justice!  
You give hope to people  
everywhere on earth,  
even those across the sea.
- <sup>6</sup> You are strong,  
and your mighty power  
put the mountains in place.
- <sup>7</sup> You silence the roaring waves  
and the noisy shouts  
of the nations.
- <sup>8</sup> People far away marvel  
at your fearsome deeds,  
and all who live under the sun  
celebrate and sing  
because of you.
- <sup>9</sup> You take care of the earth  
and send rain to help the soil  
grow all kinds of crops.  
Your rivers never run dry,  
and you prepare the earth  
to produce much grain.
- <sup>10</sup> You water all of its fields  
and level the lumpy ground.  
You send showers of rain  
to soften the soil  
and help the plants sprout.
- <sup>11</sup> Wherever your footsteps  
touch the earth,  
a rich harvest is gathered.

- <sup>12</sup> Desert pastures blossom,  
and mountains celebrate.
- <sup>13</sup> Meadows are filled  
with sheep and goats;  
valleys overflow with grain  
and echo with joyful songs.

### Psalm 66

*[A song and a psalm for the music leader.]*

#### Shout Praises to God

- <sup>1</sup> Tell everyone on this earth  
to shout praises to God!
- <sup>2</sup> Sing about his glorious name.  
Honor him with praises.
- <sup>3</sup> Say to God, 'Everything you do  
is fearsome,  
and your mighty power makes  
your enemies come crawling.'
- <sup>4</sup> You are worshiped by everyone!  
We all sing praises to you."
- <sup>5</sup> Come and see the fearsome things  
our God has done!
- <sup>6</sup> When God made the sea dry up,  
our people walked across,  
and because of him,  
we celebrated there.
- <sup>7</sup> His mighty power rules forever,  
and nothing the nations do  
can be hidden from him.  
So don't turn against God.
- <sup>8</sup> All of you people,  
come praise our God!  
Let his praises be heard.
- <sup>9</sup> God protects us from death  
and keeps us steady.
- <sup>10</sup> Our God, you tested us,  
just as silver is tested.
- <sup>11</sup> You trapped us in a net  
and gave us heavy burdens.
- <sup>12</sup> You sent war chariots  
to crush our skulls.  
We traveled through fire  
and through floods,  
but you brought us  
to a land of plenty.
- <sup>13</sup> I will bring sacrifices  
into your house, my God,  
and I will do what I promised
- <sup>14</sup> when I was in trouble.

- 15 I will sacrifice my best sheep  
and offer bulls and goats  
on your altar.
- 16 All who worship God,  
come here and listen;  
I will tell you everything  
God has done for me.
- 17 I prayed to the Lord,  
and I praised him.
- 18 If my thoughts had been sinful,  
he would have refused  
to hear me.
- 19 But God did listen  
and answered my prayer.
- 20 Let's praise God!  
He listened when I prayed,  
and he is always kind.

### Psalm 67

[A psalm and a song for the music leader. Use  
with stringed instruments.]

#### Tell the Nations To Praise God

- 1 Our God, be kind and bless us!  
Be pleased and smile.
- 2 Then everyone on earth  
will learn to follow you,  
and all nations will see  
your power to save us.
- 3 Make everyone praise you  
and shout your praises.
- 4 Let the nations celebrate  
with joyful songs,  
because you judge fairly  
and guide all nations.
- 5 Make everyone praise you  
and shout your praises.
- 6 Our God has blessed the earth  
with a wonderful harvest!
- 7 Pray for his blessings  
to continue  
and for everyone on earth  
to worship our God.

### Psalm 68

[A psalm and a song by David for the music leader.]

#### God Will Win the Battle

- 1 Do something, God!  
Scatter your hateful enemies.  
Make them turn and run.

- 2 Scatter them like smoke!  
When you come near,  
make them melt  
like wax in a fire.
- 3 But let your people be happy  
and celebrate because of you.
- 4 Our God, you are the one  
who rides on the clouds,  
and we praise you.  
Your name is the LORD,  
and we celebrate  
as we worship you.
- 5 Our God, from your sacred home  
you take care of orphans  
and protect widows.
- 6 You find families  
for those who are lonely.  
You set prisoners free  
and let them prosper,▷  
but all who rebel will live  
in a scorching desert.
- 7 You set your people free,  
and you led them  
through the desert.
- 8 God of Israel,  
the earth trembled,  
and rain poured down.  
You alone are the God  
who rules from Mount Sinai.
- 9 When your land was thirsty,  
you sent showers  
to refresh it.
- 10 Your people settled there,  
and you were generous  
to everyone in need.
- 11 You gave the command,  
and a chorus of women told  
what had happened:
- 12 "Kings and their armies  
retreated and ran,  
and everything they left  
is now being divided.
- 13 And for those who stayed back  
to guard the sheep,  
there are metal doves  
with silver-coated wings  
and shiny gold feathers."
- 14 God All-Powerful, you scattered  
the kings like snow falling  
on Mount Zalmon.

- 15 Our LORD and our God,  
Bashan is a mighty mountain  
covered with peaks.
- 16 Why is it jealous of Zion,  
the mountain you chose  
as your home forever?
- 17 When you, LORD God, appeared  
to your people▷ at Sinai,  
you came with thousands  
of mighty chariots.
- 18 When you climbed  
the high mountain,  
you took prisoners with you  
and were given gifts.  
Your enemies didn't want you  
to live there,  
but they gave you gifts.
- 19 We praise you, Lord God!  
You treat us with kindness  
day after day,  
and you rescue us.
- 20 You always protect us  
and save us from death.
- 21 Our Lord and our God,  
your terrible enemies  
are ready for war,▷  
but you will crush  
their skulls.
- 22 You promised to bring them  
from Bashan  
and from the deepest sea.
- 23 Then we could stomp  
on their blood,  
and our dogs could chew  
on their bones.
- 24 We have seen crowds marching  
to your place of worship,  
our God and King.
- 25 The singers come first,  
and then the musicians,  
surrounded by young women  
playing tambourines.
- 26 They come shouting,  
"People of Israel,  
praise the LORD God!"
- 27 The small tribe of Benjamin  
leads the way,  
followed by the leaders  
from Judah.  
Then come the leaders  
from Zebulun and Naphtali.
- 28 "Our God, show your strength!  
Show us once again.
- 29 Then kings will bring gifts  
to your temple  
in Jerusalem."
- 30 "Punish that animal  
that lives in the swamp!  
Punish that nation  
whose leaders and people  
are like wild bulls.  
Make them come crawling  
with gifts of silver.  
Scatter those nations  
that enjoy making war."
- 31 "Force the Egyptians to bring  
gifts of bronze;  
make the Ethiopians▷ hurry  
to offer presents."
- 32 Now sing praises to God!  
Every kingdom on earth,  
sing to the Lord!
- 33 Praise the one who rides  
across the ancient skies;  
listen as he speaks  
with a mighty voice.
- 34 Tell about God's power!  
He is honored in Israel,  
and he rules the skies.
- 35 The God of Israel is fearsome  
in his temple,  
and he makes us strong.  
Let's praise our God!

### Psalm 69

[By David for the music leader. To the tune "Lilies."]

#### God Can Be Trusted

- 1 Save me, God!  
I am about to drown.
- 2 I am sinking deep in the mud,  
and my feet are slipping.  
I am about to be swept under  
by a mighty flood.
- 3 I am worn out from crying,  
and my throat is dry.  
I have waited for you  
till my eyes are blurred.
- 4 There are more people  
who hate me for no reason

- than there are hairs  
on my head.  
Many terrible enemies  
want to destroy me, God.  
Am I supposed to give back  
something I didn't steal?
- <sup>5</sup> You know my foolish sins.  
Not one is hidden from you.
- <sup>6</sup> LORD God All-Powerful,  
ruler of Israel,  
don't let me embarrass anyone  
who trusts and worships you.
- <sup>7</sup> It is for your sake alone  
that I am insulted  
and blush with shame.
- <sup>8</sup> I am like a stranger  
to my relatives  
and like a foreigner  
to my own family.
- <sup>9</sup> My love for your house  
burns in me like a fire,  
and when others insulted you,  
they insulted me as well.
- <sup>10</sup> I cried and went without food,  
but they still insulted me.
- <sup>11</sup> They sneered at me  
for wearing sackcloth  
to show my sorrow.
- <sup>12</sup> Rulers and judges gossip  
about me,  
and drunkards make up songs  
to mock me.
- <sup>13</sup> But I pray to you, LORD.  
So when the time is right,  
answer me and help me  
with your wonderful love.
- <sup>14</sup> Don't let me sink in the mud,  
but save me from my enemies  
and from the deep water.
- <sup>15</sup> Don't let me be  
swept away by a flood  
or drowned in the ocean  
or swallowed by death.
- <sup>16</sup> Answer me, LORD!  
You are kind and good.  
Pay attention to me!  
You are truly merciful.
- <sup>17</sup> Don't turn away from me.  
I am your servant,  
and I am in trouble.
- Please hurry and help!  
<sup>18</sup> Come and save me  
from my enemies.
- <sup>19</sup> You know how I am insulted,  
mocked, and disgraced;  
you know every one  
of my enemies.
- <sup>20</sup> I am crushed by insults,  
and I feel sick.  
I had hoped for mercy and pity,  
but there was none.
- <sup>21</sup> Enemies poisoned my food,  
and when I was thirsty,  
they gave me vinegar.
- <sup>22</sup> Make their table a trap  
for them and their friends.
- <sup>23</sup> Blind them with darkness  
and make them tremble.
- <sup>24</sup> Show them how angry you are!  
Be furious and catch them.
- <sup>25</sup> Destroy their camp  
and don't let anyone live  
in their tents.
- <sup>26</sup> They cause trouble for people  
you have already punished;  
their gossip hurts those  
you have wounded.
- <sup>27</sup> Make them guiltier than ever  
and don't forgive them.
- <sup>28</sup> Wipe their names from the book  
of the living;  
remove them from the list  
of the innocent.
- <sup>29</sup> I am mistreated and in pain.  
Protect me, God,  
and keep me safe!
- <sup>30</sup> I will praise the LORD God  
with a song  
and a thankful heart.
- <sup>31</sup> This will please the LORD  
better than offering an ox  
or a full-grown bull.
- <sup>32</sup> When those in need see this,  
they will be happy,  
and the LORD's worshipers  
will be encouraged.
- <sup>33</sup> The LORD will listen  
when the homeless cry out,  
and he will never forget  
his people in prison.

- 34 Heaven and earth  
will praise our God,  
and so will the oceans  
and everything in them.
- 35 God will rescue Jerusalem,  
and he will rebuild  
the towns of Judah.  
His people will live there  
on their own land,
- 36 and when the time comes,  
their children will inherit  
the land.  
Then everyone who loves God  
will also settle there.

### Psalm 70

[By David for the music leader. To be used when  
an offering is made.]

#### God Is Wonderful

- 1 Save me, LORD God!  
Hurry and help.
- 2 Disappoint and confuse  
all who want to kill me.  
Turn away and disgrace  
all who want to hurt me.
- 3 Embarrass and shame those  
who say, "We told you so!"
- 4 Let your worshipers celebrate  
and be glad because of you.  
They love your saving power,  
so let them always say,  
"God is wonderful!"
- 5 I am poor and needy,  
but you, the LORD God,  
care about me.
- You are the one who saves me.  
Please hurry and help!

### Psalm 71

#### A Prayer for God's Protection

- 1 I run to you, LORD,  
for protection.  
Don't disappoint me.
- 2 You do what is right,  
so come to my rescue.  
Listen to my prayer  
and keep me safe.
- 3 Be my mighty rock,<sup>▷</sup> the place

where I can always run  
for protection.  
Save me by your command!  
You are my mighty rock  
and my fortress.

- 4 Come and save me, LORD God,  
from vicious and cruel  
and brutal enemies!
- 5 I depend on you,  
and I have trusted you  
since I was young.
- 6 I have relied on you  
from the day I was born.  
You brought me safely  
through birth,  
and I always praise you.<sup>1</sup>
- 7 Many people think of me  
as something evil.  
But you are my mighty protector,  
8 and I praise and honor you  
all day long.
- 9 Don't throw me aside  
when I am old;  
don't desert me  
when my strength is gone.
- 10 My enemies are plotting  
because they want me dead.
- 11 They say, "Now we'll catch you!  
God has deserted you,  
and no one can save you."<sup>2</sup>
- 12 Come closer, God!  
Please hurry and help.
- 13 Embarrass and destroy  
all who want me dead;  
disgrace and confuse  
all who want to hurt me.
- 14 I will never give up hope  
or stop praising you.
- 15 All day long I will tell  
the wonderful things you do  
to save your people.  
But you have done much more  
than I could possibly know.
- 16 I will praise you, LORD God,  
for your mighty deeds  
and your power to save.
- 17 You have taught me  
since I was a child,  
and I never stop telling about  
your marvelous deeds.

- 18 Don't leave me when I am old  
and my hair turns gray.  
Let me tell future generations  
about your mighty power.
- 19 Your deeds of kindness  
are known in the heavens.  
No one is like you!
- 20 You made me suffer a lot,  
but you will bring me  
back from this deep pit  
and give me new life.
- 21 You will make me truly great  
and take my sorrow away.
- 22 I will praise you, God,  
the Holy One of Israel.  
You are faithful.  
I will play the harp  
and sing your praises.
- 23 You have rescued me!  
I will celebrate and shout,  
singing praises to you  
with all my heart.
- 24 All day long I will announce  
your power to save.  
I will tell how you disgraced  
and disappointed those  
who wanted to hurt me.

### Psalm 72

[By Solomon.]

#### A Prayer for God To Guide and Help the King

- 1 Please help the king  
to be honest and fair  
just like you, our God.
- 2 Let him be honest and fair  
with all your people,  
especially the poor.
- 3 Let peace and justice rule  
every mountain and hill.
- 4 Let the king defend the poor,  
rescue the homeless, and crush  
everyone who hurts them.
- 5 Let the king live forever  
like the sun and the moon.
- 6 Let him be as helpful as rain  
that refreshes the meadows  
and the ground.
- 7 Let the king be fair  
with everyone,  
and let there be peace
- until the moon  
falls from the sky.
- 8 Let his kingdom reach  
from sea to sea,  
from the Euphrates River  
across all the earth.
- 9 Force the desert tribes  
to accept his rule,  
and make his enemies  
crawl in the dirt.
- 10 Force the rulers of Tarshish  
and of the islands  
to pay taxes to him.  
Make the kings of Sheba  
and of Seba bring gifts.
- 11 Make other rulers bow down  
and all nations serve him.
- 12 Do this because the king  
rescues the homeless  
when they cry out,  
and he helps everyone  
who is poor and in need.
- 13 The king has pity  
on the weak and the helpless  
and protects those in need.
- 14 He cares when they hurt,  
and he saves them from cruel  
and violent deaths.
- 15 Long live the king!  
Give him gold from Sheba.  
Always pray for the king  
and praise him each day.
- 16 Let cities overflow with food  
and hills be covered with grain,  
just like Mount Lebanon.  
Let the people in the cities  
prosper like wild flowers.
- 17 May the glory of the king  
shine brightly forever  
like the sun in the sky.  
Let him make nations prosper  
and learn to praise him.
- 18 LORD God of Israel,  
we praise you.  
Only you can work miracles.
- 19 We will always praise  
your glorious name.  
Let your glory be seen  
everywhere on earth.  
Amen and amen.

<sup>20</sup> This ends the prayers  
of David, the son of Jesse.

**BOOK III**  
(Psalms 73-89)

**Psalm 73**  
[A psalm by Asaph.]

**God Is Good**

<sup>1</sup> God is truly good to Israel,<sup>></sup>  
especially to everyone  
with a pure heart.  
<sup>2</sup> But I almost stumbled and fell,  
<sup>3</sup> because it made me jealous  
to see proud and evil people  
and to watch them prosper.  
<sup>4</sup> They never have to suffer,<sup>></sup>  
they stay healthy,  
<sup>5</sup> and they don't have troubles  
like everyone else.  
<sup>6</sup> Their pride is like a necklace,  
and they commit sin more often  
than they dress themselves.  
<sup>7</sup> Their eyes bulge with fat,  
and their minds are flooded  
with foolish thoughts.  
<sup>8</sup> They sneer and say cruel things,  
and because of their pride,  
they make violent threats.  
<sup>9</sup> They dare to speak against God  
and to order others around.  
<sup>10</sup> "God will bring his people back,  
and they will drink the water  
he so freely gives."<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>11</sup> Only evil people would say,  
"God Most High cannot  
know everything!"  
<sup>12</sup> Yet all goes well for them,  
and they live in peace.  
<sup>13</sup> What good did it do me  
to keep my thoughts pure  
and refuse to do wrong?  
<sup>14</sup> I am sick all day,  
and I am punished  
each morning.  
<sup>15</sup> If I had said evil things,  
I would not have been loyal  
to your people.

<sup>16</sup> It was hard for me  
to understand all this!  
<sup>17</sup> Then I went to your temple,  
and there I understood  
what will happen  
to my enemies.  
<sup>18</sup> You will make them stumble,  
never to get up again.  
<sup>19</sup> They will be terrified,  
suddenly swept away  
and no longer there.  
<sup>20</sup> They will disappear, Lord,  
despised like a bad dream  
the morning after.  
<sup>21</sup> Once I was bitter  
and brokenhearted.  
<sup>22</sup> I was stupid and ignorant,  
and I treated you  
as a wild animal would.  
<sup>23</sup> But I never really left you,  
and you hold my right hand.  
<sup>24</sup> Your advice has been my guide,  
and later you will welcome me  
in glory.<sup>></sup>  
<sup>25</sup> In heaven I have only you,  
and on this earth  
you are all I want.  
<sup>26</sup> My body and mind may fail,  
but you are my strength  
and my choice forever.  
<sup>27</sup> Powerful LORD God,  
all who stay far from you  
will be lost,  
and you will destroy those  
who are unfaithful.  
<sup>28</sup> It is good for me  
to be near you.  
I choose you as my protector,  
and I will tell about  
your wonderful deeds.

**Psalm 74**  
[A special psalm by Asaph.]

**A Prayer for the Nation in Times  
of Trouble**

<sup>1</sup> Our God, why have you  
completely rejected us?  
Why are you so angry  
with the ones you care for?

- 2 Remember the people  
you rescued long ago,  
the tribe you chose  
to be your very own.  
Think of Mount Zion,  
your home;
- 3 walk over to the temple  
left in ruins forever  
by those who hate us.
- 4 Your enemies roared like lions  
in your holy temple,  
and they have placed  
their banners there.
- 5 "It looks like a forest  
chopped to pieces."
- 6 They used axes and hatchets  
to smash the carvings.
- 7 They burned down your temple  
and badly disgraced it.
- 8 They said to themselves,  
"We'll crush them!"  
Then they burned every one  
of your meeting places  
all over the country.
- 9 There are no more miracles  
and no more prophets.  
Who knows how long  
it will be like this?
- 10 Our God, how much longer  
will our enemies sneer?  
Won't they ever stop  
insulting you?
- 11 Why don't you punish them?  
Why are you holding back?
- 12 Our God and King,  
you have ruled  
since ancient times;  
you have won victories  
everywhere on this earth.
- 13 By your power you made a path  
through the sea,  
and you smashed the heads  
of sea monsters.
- 14 You crushed the heads  
of the monster Leviathan,  
then fed him to wild creatures  
in the desert.
- 15 You opened the ground  
for streams and springs  
and dried up mighty rivers.
- 16 You rule the day and the night,  
and you put the moon  
and the sun in place.
- 17 You made summer and winter  
and gave them to the earth.▷
- 18 Remember your enemies, LORD!  
They foolishly sneer  
and won't respect you.
- 19 You treat us like pet doves,  
but they mistreat us.  
Don't keep forgetting us  
and letting us be fed  
to those wild animals.
- 20 Remember the agreement  
you made with us.  
Violent enemies are hiding  
in every dark corner  
of the earth.
- 21 Don't disappoint those in need  
or make them turn from you,  
but help the poor and homeless  
to shout your praises.
- 22 Do something, God!  
Defend yourself.  
Remember how those fools  
sneer at you all day long.
- 23 Don't forget the loud shouts  
of your enemies.

### Psalm 75

[A psalm and a song by Asaph for the music leader. To the tune "Don't Destroy."]

### Praise God for All He Has Done

- 1 Our God, we thank you  
for being so near to us!  
Everyone celebrates  
your wonderful deeds.
- 2 You have set a time  
to judge with fairness.
- 3 The earth trembles,  
and its people shake;  
you alone keep  
its foundations firm.
- 4 You tell every bragger,  
"Stop bragging!"  
And to the wicked you say,  
"Don't boast of your power!"
- 5 Stop bragging! Quit telling me  
how great you are."

- 6 Our LORD and our God,  
victory doesn't come  
from the east or the west  
or from the desert.
- 7 You are the one who judges.  
You can take away power  
and give it to others.
- 8 You hold in your hand  
a cup filled with wine,  
strong and foaming.  
You will pour out some  
for every sinful person  
on this earth,  
and they will have to drink  
until it is gone.
- 9 But I will always tell about  
you, the God of Jacob,  
and I will sing your praise.
- 10 Our Lord, you will destroy  
the power of evil people,  
but you will give strength  
to those who are good.

### Psalm 76

[A song and a psalm for the music leader. Use  
stringed instruments.]

#### God Always Wins

- 1 You, our God,  
are famous in Judah  
and honored in Israel.
- 2 Your home is on Mount Zion  
in the city of peace.
- 3 There you destroyed  
fiery arrows, shields, swords,  
and all the other weapons.
- 4 You are more glorious than  
the eternal mountains.▷
- 5 Brave warriors were robbed  
of what they had taken,  
and now they lie dead,  
unable to lift an arm.
- 6 God of Jacob, when you roar,  
enemy chariots and horses  
drop dead in their tracks.
- 7 Our God, you are fearsome,  
and no one can oppose you  
when you are angry.
- 8 From heaven you announced  
your decisions as judge!

- And all who live on this earth  
were terrified and silent
- 9 when you took over as judge,  
ready to rescue  
everyone in need.
- 10 "Even the most angry people  
will praise you  
when you are furious."
- 11 Everyone, make your promises  
to the LORD your God  
and do what you promise.  
The LORD is fearsome,  
and all of his servants  
should bring him gifts.
- 12 God destroys the courage  
of rulers and kings  
and makes cowards of them.

### Psalm 77

[A psalm by Asaph for Jeduthun, the music  
leader.]

#### In Times of Trouble God Is with His People

- 1 I pray to you, Lord God,  
and I beg you to listen.
- 2 In days filled with trouble,  
I search for you.  
And at night I tirelessly  
lift my hands in prayer,  
refusing comfort.
- 3 When I think of you,  
I feel restless and weak.
- 4 Because of you, Lord God,  
I can't sleep.  
I am restless  
and can't even talk.
- 5 I think of times gone by,  
of those years long ago.
- 6 Each night my mind  
is flooded with questions:▷
- 7 "Have you rejected me forever?  
Won't you be kind again?"
- 8 Is this the end of your love  
and your promises?
- 9 Have you forgotten  
how to have pity?  
Do you refuse to show mercy  
because of your anger?"
- 10 Then I said, "God Most High,  
what hurts me most  
is that you no longer help us  
with your mighty arm."

- 11 Our LORD, I will remember  
the things you have done,  
your miracles of long ago.
- 12 I will think about each one  
of your mighty deeds.
- 13 Everything you do is right,  
and no other god  
compares with you.
- 14 You alone work miracles,  
and you have let nations  
see your mighty power.
- 15 With your own arm you rescued  
your people, the descendants  
of Jacob and Joseph.
- 16 The ocean looked at you, God,  
and it trembled deep down  
with fear.
- 17 Water flowed from the clouds.  
Thunder was heard above  
as your arrows of lightning  
flashed about.
- 18 Your thunder roared  
like chariot wheels.  
The world was made bright  
by lightning,  
and all the earth trembled.
- 19 You walked through the water  
of the mighty sea,  
but your footprints  
were never seen.
- 20 You guided your people  
like a flock of sheep,  
and you chose Moses and Aaron  
to be their leaders.

### Psalm 78

[A special psalm by Asaph.]

#### What God Has Done for His People

- 1 My friends, I beg you  
to listen as I teach.
- 2 I will give instruction  
and explain the mystery  
of what happened long ago.
- 3 These are things we learned  
from our ancestors,
- 4 and we will tell them  
to the next generation.  
We won't keep secret  
the glorious deeds

and the mighty miracles  
of the LORD.

- 5 God gave his Law  
to Jacob's descendants,  
the people of Israel.  
And he told our ancestors  
to teach their children,
- 6 so that each new generation  
would know his Law  
and tell it to the next.
- 7 Then they would trust God  
and obey his teachings,  
without forgetting anything  
God had done.
- 8 They would be different  
from their ancestors,  
who were stubborn, rebellious,  
and unfaithful to God.
- 9 The warriors from Ephraim  
were armed with arrows,  
but they ran away  
when the battle began.
- 10 They broke their agreement  
with God,  
and they turned their backs  
on his teaching.
- 11 They forgot all he had done,  
even the mighty miracles
- 12 he did for their ancestors  
near Zoan in Egypt.
- 13 God made a path in the sea  
and piled up the water  
as he led them across.
- 14 He guided them during the day  
with a cloud,  
and each night he led them  
with a flaming fire.
- 15 God made water flow  
from rocks he split open  
in the desert,  
and his people drank freely,  
as though from a lake.
- 16 He made streams gush out  
like rivers from rocks.
- 17 But in the desert,  
the people of God Most High  
kept sinning and rebelling.
- 18 They stubbornly tested God  
and demanded from him  
what they wanted to eat.

- 19 They challenged God by saying,  
“Can God provide food  
out here in the desert?”
- 20 It’s true God struck the rock  
and water gushed out  
like a river,  
but can he give his people  
bread and meat?”
- 21 When the LORD heard this,  
he was angry and furious  
with Jacob’s descendants,  
the people of Israel.
- 22 They had refused to trust him,  
and they had doubted  
his saving power.
- 23 But God gave a command  
to the clouds,  
and he opened the doors  
in the skies.
- 24 From heaven he sent grain  
that they called manna.
- 25 He gave them more than enough,  
and each one of them ate  
this special food.
- 26 God’s mighty power  
brought a strong wind  
from the southeast,
- 27 and it brought birds  
that covered the ground,  
like sand on the beach.
- 28 Then God made the birds fall  
in the camp of his people  
near their tents.
- 29 God gave his people  
all they wanted,  
and each of them ate  
until they were full.
- 30 But before they had swallowed  
the last bite,
- 31 God became angry and killed  
the strongest and best  
from the families of Israel.
- 32 But the rest kept on sinning  
and would not trust  
God’s miracles.
- 33 So he cut their lives short  
and made them terrified.
- 34 After he killed some of them,  
the others turned to him  
with all their hearts.
- 35 They remembered God Most High,  
the mighty rock▷  
that kept them safe.
- 36 But they tried to flatter God,  
and they told him lies;
- 37 they were unfaithful  
and broke their promises.
- 38 Yet God was kind.  
He kept forgiving their sins  
and didn’t destroy them.  
He often became angry,  
but never lost his temper.
- 39 God remembered that they  
were made of flesh  
and were like a wind  
that blows once  
and then dies down.
- 40 While they were in the desert,  
they often rebelled  
and made God sad.
- 41 They kept testing him  
and caused terrible pain  
for the Holy One of Israel.
- 42 They forgot about his power  
and how he had rescued them  
from their enemies.
- 43 God showed them all kinds  
of wonderful miracles  
near Zoan in Egypt.
- 44 He turned the rivers of Egypt  
into blood,  
and no one could drink  
from the streams.
- 45 He sent swarms of flies  
to pester the Egyptians,  
and he sent frogs  
to cause them trouble.
- 46 God let worms and grasshoppers  
eat their crops.
- 47 He destroyed their grapevines  
and their fig trees  
with hail and floods.▷
- 48 Then he killed their cattle  
with hail  
and their other animals  
with lightning.
- 49 God was so angry and furious  
that he went into a rage  
and caused them great trouble  
by sending swarms  
of destroying angels.

- 50 God gave in to his anger  
and slaughtered them  
in a terrible way.
- 51 He killed the first-born son  
of each Egyptian family.
- 52 Then God led his people  
out of Egypt  
and guided them in the desert  
like a flock of sheep.
- 53 He led them safely along,  
and they were not afraid,  
but their enemies drowned  
in the sea.
- 54 God brought his people  
to the sacred mountain  
that he had taken  
by his own power.
- 55 He made nations run  
from the tribes of Israel,  
and he let the tribes  
take over their land.
- 56 But the people tested  
God Most High,  
and they refused  
to obey his laws.
- 57 They were as unfaithful  
as their ancestors,  
and they were as crooked  
as a twisted arrow.
- 58 God demanded all their love,  
but they made him angry  
by worshiping idols.
- 59 So God became furious  
and completely rejected  
the people of Israel.
- 60 Then he deserted his home  
at Shiloh, where he lived  
here on earth.
- 61 He let enemies capture  
the sacred chest<sup>1</sup>  
and let them dishonor him.
- 62 God took out his anger  
on his chosen ones  
and let them be killed  
by enemy swords.
- 63 Fire destroyed the young men,  
and the young women were left  
with no one to marry.
- 64 Priests died violent deaths,  
but their widows  
were not allowed to mourn.
- 65 Finally the Lord woke up,  
and he shouted  
like a drunken soldier.
- 66 God scattered his enemies  
and made them ashamed  
forever.
- 67 Then the Lord decided  
not to make his home  
with Joseph's descendants  
in Ephraim.
- 68 Instead he chose the tribe  
of Judah,  
and he chose Mount Zion,  
the place he loves.
- 69 There he built his temple  
as lofty as the mountains  
and as solid as the earth  
that he had made  
to last forever.
- 70 The Lord God chose David  
to be his servant and took him  
from tending sheep
- 71 and from caring for lambs.  
Then God made him the leader  
of Israel, his own nation.
- 72 David treated the people fairly  
and guided them with wisdom.

### Psalm 79

[A psalm by Asaph.]

#### Have Pity on Jerusalem

- 1 Our God, foreign nations  
have taken your land,  
disgraced your temple,  
and left Jerusalem in ruins.
- 2 They have fed the bodies  
of your servants  
to flesh-eating birds;  
your loyal people are food  
for savage animals.
- 3 All Jerusalem is covered  
with their blood,  
and there is no one left  
to bury them.
- 4 Every nation around us  
sneers and makes fun.

- 5 Our LORD, will you keep on  
being angry?  
Will your angry feelings  
keep flaming up like fire?
- 6 Get angry with those nations  
that don't know you  
and won't worship you!
- 7 They have gobbled down  
Jacob's descendants  
and left the land in ruins.
- 8 Don't make us pay for the sins  
of our ancestors.  
Have pity and come quickly!  
We are completely helpless.
- 9 Our God, you keep us safe.  
Now help us! Rescue us.  
Forgive our sins  
and bring honor to yourself.
- 10 Why should nations ask us,  
"Where is your God?"  
Let us and the other nations  
see you take revenge  
for your servants who died  
a violent death.
- 11 Listen to the prisoners groan!  
Let your mighty power save all  
who are sentenced to die.
- 12 Each of those nations sneered  
at you, our Lord.  
Now let others sneer at them,  
seven times as much.
- 13 Then we, your people,  
will always thank you.  
We are like sheep  
with you as our shepherd,  
and all generations  
will hear us praise you.

### Psalm 80

[A psalm by Asaph for the music leader. To the tune "Lilies of the Agreement."]

#### Help Our Nation

- 1 Shepherd of Israel, you lead  
the descendants of Joseph,  
and you sit on your throne  
above the winged creatures.  
Listen to our prayer  
and let your light shine
- 2 for the tribes of Ephraim,  
Benjamin, and Manasseh.  
Save us by your power.
- 3 Our God, make us strong again!  
Smile on us and save us.
- 4 LORD God All-Powerful,  
how much longer  
will the prayers of your people  
make you angry?
- 5 You gave us tears for food,  
and you made us drink them  
by the bowlful.
- 6 Because of you,  
our enemies who live nearby  
laugh and joke about us.
- 7 But if you smile on us,  
we will be saved.
- 8 We were like a grapevine  
you brought out of Egypt.  
You chased other nations away  
and planted us here.
- 9 Then you cleared the ground,  
and we put our roots deep,  
spreading over the land.
- 10 Shade from this vine covered  
the mountains.  
Its branches climbed  
the mighty cedars
- 11 and stretched to the sea;  
its new growth reached  
to the river.
- 12 Our Lord, why have you  
torn down the wall  
from around the vineyard?  
You let everyone who walks by  
pick the grapes.
- 13 Now the vine is gobbled down  
by pigs from the forest  
and other wild animals.
- 14 God All-Powerful,  
please do something!  
Look down from heaven  
and see what's happening  
to this vine.
- 15 With your own hands  
you planted its roots,  
and you raised it  
as your very own.
- 16 Enemies chopped the vine down  
and set it on fire.

- Now show your anger  
and destroy them.
- 17 But help the one who sits  
at your right side,  
the one you raised  
to be your own.
- 18 Then we will never turn away.  
Put new life into us,  
and we will worship you.
- 19 LORD God All-Powerful,  
make us strong again!  
Smile on us and save us.

### **Psalms 81**

[By Asaph for the music leader.▷]

#### **God Makes Us Strong**

- 1 Be happy and shout to God  
who makes us strong!  
Shout praises to the God  
of Jacob.
- 2 Sing as you play tambourines  
and the lovely sounding  
stringed instruments.
- 3 Sound the trumpets and start  
the New Moon Festival.  
We must also celebrate  
when the moon is full.
- 4 This is the law in Israel,  
and it was given to us  
by the God of Jacob.
- 5 The descendants of Joseph  
were told to obey it,  
when God led them out  
from the land of Egypt.
- In a language unknown to me,  
I heard someone say:
- 6 "I lifted the burden  
from your shoulder  
and took the heavy basket  
from your hands.
- 7 When you were in trouble,  
I rescued you,  
and from the thunderclouds,  
I answered your prayers.  
Later I tested you  
at Meribah Spring.
- 8 "Listen, my people,  
while I, the Lord,  
correct you!

- Israel, if you would only  
pay attention to me!
- 9 Don't worship foreign gods  
or bow down to gods  
you know nothing about.
- 10 I am the LORD your God.  
I rescued you from Egypt.  
Just ask, and I will give you  
whatever you need.
- 11 "But, my people, Israel,  
you refused to listen,  
and you would have nothing  
to do with me!
- 12 So I let you be stubborn  
and keep on following  
your own advice.
- 13 "My people, Israel,  
if only you would listen  
and do as I say!
- 14 I, the LORD, would quickly  
defeat your enemies  
with my mighty power.
- 15 Everyone who hates me  
would come crawling,  
and that would be the end  
of them.
- 16 But I would feed you  
with the finest bread  
and with the best honey▷  
until you were full."

### **Psalms 82**

[A psalm by Asaph.]

#### **Please Do Something, God!**

- 1 When all of the other gods  
have come together,  
the Lord God judges them  
and says:
- 2 "How long will you  
keep judging unfairly  
and favoring evil people?"
- 3 Be fair to the poor  
and to orphans.  
Defend the helpless  
and everyone in need.
- 4 Rescue the weak and homeless  
from the powerful hands  
of heartless people.
- 5 "None of you know  
or understand a thing.

You live in darkness,  
while the foundations  
of the earth tremble.

<sup>6</sup> ¶, the Most High God, say  
that all of you are gods  
and also my own children.

<sup>7</sup> But you will die,  
just like everyone else,  
including powerful rulers.”

<sup>8</sup> Do something, God!  
Judge the nations of the earth;  
they belong to you.

### Psalm 83

*[A song and a psalm by Asaph.]*

#### God Rules All the Earth

<sup>1</sup> Our God, don't just sit there,  
silently doing nothing!

<sup>2</sup> Your hateful enemies  
are turning against you  
and rebelling.

<sup>3</sup> They are sly, and they plot  
against those you treasure.

<sup>4</sup> They say, "Let's wipe out  
the nation of Israel  
and make sure that no one  
remembers its name!"

<sup>5</sup> All of them fully agree  
in their plans against you,  
and among them are

<sup>6</sup> Edom and the Ishmaelites;  
Moab and the Hagrites;

<sup>7</sup> Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek;  
Philistia and Phoenicia.▷

<sup>8</sup> Even Assyria has joined forces  
with Moab and Ammon.▷

<sup>9</sup> Our Lord, punish all of them  
as you punished Midian.

Destroy them, as you destroyed  
Sisera and Jabin

at Kishon Creek <sup>10</sup> near Endor,  
and let their bodies rot.

<sup>11</sup> Treat their leaders as you did  
Oreb and Zeeb,  
Zebah and Zalmunna.

<sup>12</sup> All of them said, "We'll take  
God's valuable land!"

<sup>13</sup> Our God, scatter them around  
like dust in a whirlwind.

<sup>14</sup> Just as flames destroy forests  
on the mountains,

<sup>15</sup> pursue and terrify them  
with storms of your own.

<sup>16</sup> Make them blush with shame,  
until they turn and worship  
you, our LORD.

<sup>17</sup> Let them be forever ashamed  
and confused.

Let them die in disgrace.

<sup>18</sup> Make them realize that you  
are the LORD Most High,  
the only ruler of earth!

### Psalm 84

*[For the music leader.▷ A psalm for the people of  
Korah.]*

#### The Joy of Worship

<sup>1</sup> LORD God All-Powerful,  
your temple is so lovely!

<sup>2</sup> Deep in my heart I long  
for your temple,  
and with all that I am  
I sing joyful songs to you.

<sup>3</sup> LORD God All-Powerful,  
my King and my God,  
sparrows find a home  
near your altars;  
swallows build nests there  
to raise their young.

<sup>4</sup> You bless everyone  
who lives in your house,  
and they sing your praises.

<sup>5</sup> You bless all who depend  
on you for their strength  
and all who deeply desire  
to visit your temple.

<sup>6</sup> When they reach Dry Valley,▷  
springs start flowing,  
'and the autumn rain fills it  
with pools of water.'

<sup>7</sup> Your people grow stronger,  
and you, the God of gods,  
will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> LORD God All-Powerful,  
the God of Jacob,  
please answer my prayer!

<sup>9</sup> You are the shield  
that protects your people,

and I am your chosen one.  
Won't you smile on me?

- <sup>10</sup> One day in your temple  
is better than a thousand  
anywhere else.  
I would rather serve  
in your house,  
than live in the homes  
of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> Our LORD and our God,  
you are like the sun  
and also like a shield.  
You treat us with kindness  
and with honor,  
never denying any good thing  
to those who live right.
- <sup>12</sup> LORD God All-Powerful,  
you bless everyone  
who trusts you.

### Psalm 85

[A psalm by the people of Korah for the music leader.]

#### A Prayer for Peace

- <sup>1</sup> Our LORD, you have blessed  
your land  
and made all go well  
for Jacob's descendants.
- <sup>2</sup> You have forgiven the sin  
and taken away the guilt  
of your people.
- <sup>3</sup> Your fierce anger is no longer  
aimed at us.
- <sup>4</sup> Our LORD and our God,  
you save us!  
Please bring us back home  
and don't be angry.
- <sup>5</sup> Will you always be angry  
with us and our families?
- <sup>6</sup> Won't you give us fresh life  
and let your people be glad  
because of you?
- <sup>7</sup> Show us your love  
and save us!
- <sup>8</sup> I will listen to you, LORD God,  
because you promise peace  
to those who are faithful  
and no longer foolish.

- <sup>9</sup> You are ready to rescue  
everyone who worships you,  
so that you will live with us  
in all of your glory.
- <sup>10</sup> Love and loyalty  
will come together;  
goodness and peace  
will unite.
- <sup>11</sup> Loyalty will sprout  
from the ground;  
justice will look down  
from the sky above.
- <sup>12</sup> Our LORD, you will bless us;  
our land will produce  
wonderful crops.
- <sup>13</sup> Justice will march in front,  
making a path  
for you to follow.

### Psalm 86

[A prayer by David.]

#### A Prayer for Help

- <sup>1</sup> Please listen, LORD,  
and answer my prayer!  
I am poor and helpless.
- <sup>2</sup> Protect me and save me  
because you are my God.  
I am your faithful servant,  
and I trust you.
- <sup>3</sup> Be kind to me!  
I pray to you all day.
- <sup>4</sup> Make my heart glad!  
I serve you,  
and my prayer is sincere.
- <sup>5</sup> You willingly forgive,  
and your love is always there  
for those who pray to you.
- <sup>6</sup> Please listen, LORD!  
Answer my prayer for help.
- <sup>7</sup> When I am in trouble, I pray,  
knowing you will listen.
- <sup>8</sup> No other gods are like you;  
only you work miracles.
- <sup>9</sup> You created each nation,  
and they will all bow down  
to worship and honor you.
- <sup>10</sup> You perform great wonders  
because you alone are God.

- 11 Teach me to follow you,  
and I will obey your truth.  
Always keep me faithful.
- 12 With all my heart I thank you.  
I praise you, LORD God.
- 13 Your love for me is so great  
that you protected me  
from death and the grave.
- 14 Proud and violent enemies,  
who don't care about you,  
have ganged up to attack  
and kill me.
- 15 But you, the Lord God,  
are kind and merciful.  
You don't easily get angry,  
and your love  
can always be trusted.
- 16 I serve you, LORD,  
and I am the child  
of one of your servants.  
Look on me with kindness.  
Make me strong and save me.
- 17 Show that you approve of me!  
Then my hateful enemies  
will feel like fools,  
because you have helped  
and comforted me.

### Psalm 87

[A psalm and a song by the people of Korah.]

#### The Glory of Mount Zion

- 1 Zion was built by the LORD  
on the holy mountain,  
2 and he loves that city  
more than any other place  
in all of Israel.
- 3 Zion, you are the city of God,  
and wonderful things  
are told about you.
- 4 Egypt,<sup>▷</sup> Babylonia, Philistia,  
Phoenicia,<sup>▷</sup> and Ethiopia<sup>▷</sup>  
are some of those nations  
that know you,  
and their people all say,  
"I was born in Zion."
- 5 God Most High will strengthen  
the city of Zion.  
Then everyone will say,  
"We were born here too."

- 6 The LORD will make a list  
of his people,  
and all who were born here  
will be included.
- 7 All who sing or dance will say,  
"I too am from Zion."

### Psalm 88

[A song and a psalm by the people of Korah for the music leader. "To the tune 'Mahalath Leannah.'"▷ A special psalm by Heman the Ezrahite.]

#### A Prayer When You Can't Find the Way

- 1 You keep me safe, LORD God.  
So when I pray at night,  
2 please listen carefully  
to each of my concerns.
- 3 I am deeply troubled  
and close to death;  
4 I am as good as dead  
and completely helpless.
- 5 I am no better off  
than those in the grave,  
those you have forgotten  
and no longer help.
- 6 You have put me in the deepest  
and darkest grave;  
7 your anger rolls over me  
like ocean waves.
- 8 You have made my friends turn  
in horror from me.  
I am a prisoner  
who cannot escape,  
9 and I am almost blind  
because of my sorrow.
- Each day I lift my hands  
in prayer to you, LORD.
- 10 Do you work miracles  
for the dead?  
Do they stand up  
and praise you?
- 11 Are your love and loyalty  
announced in the world  
of the dead?
- 12 Do they know of your miracles  
or your saving power  
in the dark world below  
where all is forgotten?

- 13 Each morning I pray  
to you, LORD.
- 14 Why do you reject me?  
Why do you turn from me?
- 15 Ever since I was a child,  
I have been sick  
and close to death.  
You have terrified me  
'and made me helpless.'
- 16 Your anger is like a flood!  
And I am shattered  
by your furious attacks
- 17 that strike each day  
and from every side.
- 18 My friends and neighbors  
have turned against me  
because of you,  
and now darkness  
is my only companion.

### Psalm 89

[A special psalm by Ethan the Ezrahite.]

#### The LORD's Agreement with David

- 1 Our LORD, I will sing  
of your love forever.  
Everyone yet to be born  
will hear me praise  
your faithfulness.
- 2 I will tell them, "God's love  
can always be trusted,  
and his faithfulness lasts  
as long as the heavens."
- 3 You said, "David, my servant,  
is my chosen one,  
and this is the agreement  
I made with him:
- 4 David, one of your descendants  
will always be king."
- 5 Our LORD, let the heavens  
now praise your miracles,  
and let all of your angels  
praise your faithfulness.
- 6 None who live in the heavens  
can compare with you.
- 7 You are the most fearsome  
of all who live in heaven;  
all the others fear  
and greatly honor you.
- 8 You are LORD God All-Powerful!  
No one is as loving  
and faithful as you are.
- 9 You rule the roaring sea  
and calm its waves.
- 10 You crushed the monster Rahab,  
and with your powerful arm  
you scattered your enemies.
- 11 The heavens and the earth  
belong to you.  
And so does the world  
with all its people  
because you created them
- 12 and everything else.▷
- Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon  
gladly praise you.
- 13 You are strong and mighty!  
14 Your kingdom is ruled  
by justice and fairness  
with love and faithfulness  
leading the way.
- 15 Our LORD, you bless those  
who join in the festival  
and walk in the brightness  
of your presence.
- 16 We are happy all day  
because of you,  
and your saving power  
brings honor to us.
- 17 Your own glorious power  
makes us strong,  
and because of your kindness,  
our strength increases.
- 18 Our LORD and our King,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
you are truly our shield.
- 19 In a vision, you once said  
to your faithful followers:  
'I have helped a mighty hero.  
I chose him from my people  
and made him famous.
- 20 David, my servant, is the one  
I chose to be king,  
21 and I will always be there  
to help and strengthen him.
- 22 'No enemy will outsmart David,  
and he won't be defeated  
by any hateful people.
- 23 I will strike down and crush  
his troublesome enemies.

- 24 He will always be able  
to depend on my love,  
and I will make him strong  
with my own power.
- 25 I will let him rule the lands  
across the rivers and seas.
- 26 He will say to me,  
'You are my Father  
and my God,  
as well as the mighty rock<sup>></sup>  
where I am safe.'
- 27 I have chosen David  
as my first-born son,  
and he will be the ruler  
of all kings on earth.
- 28 My love for him will last,  
and my agreement with him  
will never be broken.
- 29 One of David's descendants  
will always be king,  
and his family will rule  
until the sky disappears.
- 30 Suppose some of his children  
should reject my Law  
and refuse my instructions.
- 31 Or suppose they should disobey  
all of my teachings.
- 32 Then I will correct  
and punish them  
because of their sins.
- 33 But I will always love David  
and faithfully keep all  
of my promises to him.
- 34 I won't break my agreement  
or go back on my word.
- 35 I have sworn once and for all  
by my own holy name,  
and I won't lie to David.
- 36 His family will always rule.  
I will let his kingdom last  
as long as the sun<sup>37</sup> and moon  
appear in the sky."
- 38 You are now angry, God,  
and you have turned your back  
on your chosen king.
- 39 You broke off your agreement  
with your servant, the king,  
and you completely destroyed  
his kingdom.
- 40 The walls of his city  
have been broken through,

- and every fortress  
now lies in ruin.
- 41 All who pass by  
take what they want,  
and nations everywhere  
joke about the king.
- 42 You made his enemies powerful  
and let them celebrate.
- 43 But you forced him to retreat  
because you did not fight  
on his side.
- 44 You took his crown<sup>1</sup>  
and threw his throne  
in the dirt.
- 45 You made an old man of him  
and put him to shame.
- 46 How much longer, LORD?  
Will you hide forever?  
How long will your anger  
keep burning like fire?
- 47 'Remember, life is short!<sup>1</sup>  
Why did you empty our lives  
of all meaning?
- 48 No one can escape the power  
of death and the grave.
- 49 Our Lord, where is the love  
you have always shown  
and that you promised  
so faithfully to David?
- 50 Remember your servant, Lord!  
People make jokes about me,  
and I suffer many insults.
- 51 I am your chosen one,  
but your enemies chase  
and make fun of me.
- 52 Our LORD, we praise you  
forever. Amen and amen.

**BOOK IV**  
(Psalms 90-106)

**Psalms 90**

[A prayer by Moses, the man of God.]

**God Is Eternal**

- <sup>1</sup> Our Lord, in all generations  
you have been our home.
- <sup>2</sup> You have always been God—  
long before the birth  
of the mountains,

- even before you created  
the earth and the world.
- 3 At your command we die  
and turn back to dust,  
4 but a thousand years  
mean nothing to you!  
They are merely a day gone by  
or a few hours in the night.
- 5 You bring our lives to an end  
just like a dream.  
We are merely tender grass  
6 that sprouts and grows  
in the morning,  
but dries up by evening.  
7 Your furious anger frightens  
and destroys us,  
8 and you know all of our sins,  
even those we do in secret.
- 9 Your anger is a burden  
each day we live,  
then life ends like a sigh.  
10 We can expect seventy years,  
or maybe eighty,  
if we are healthy,  
but even our best years  
bring trouble and sorrow.  
Suddenly our time is up,  
and we disappear.
- 11 No one knows the full power  
of your furious anger,  
but it is as great as the fear  
that we owe to you.
- 12 Teach us to use wisely  
all the time we have.
- 13 Help us, LORD! Don't wait!  
Pity your servants.
- 14 When morning comes,  
let your love satisfy  
all our needs.  
Then we can celebrate  
and be glad for what time  
we have left.
- 15 Make us happy for as long  
as you caused us trouble  
and sorrow.
- 16 Do wonderful things for us,  
your servants,  
and show your mighty power  
to our children.

- 17 Our Lord and our God,  
treat us with kindness  
and let all go well for us.  
Please let all go well!

### Psalm 91

#### The LORD Is My Fortress

- 1 Live under the protection  
of God Most High  
and stay in the shadow  
of God All-Powerful.
- 2 Then you will say to the LORD,  
"You are my fortress,  
my place of safety;  
you are my God,  
and I trust you."
- 3 The Lord will keep you safe  
from secret traps  
and deadly diseases.
- 4 He will spread his wings  
over you  
and keep you secure.  
His faithfulness is like  
a shield or a 'city wall.'<sup>1</sup>▷
- 5 You won't need to worry  
about dangers at night  
or arrows during the day.
- 6 And you won't fear diseases  
that strike in the dark  
or sudden disaster at noon.
- 7 You will not be harmed,  
though thousands fall  
all around you.
- 8 And with your own eyes  
you will see the punishment  
of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD Most High  
is your fortress.  
Run to him for safety,  
10 and no terrible disasters  
will strike you  
or your home.
- 11 God will command his angels  
to protect you  
wherever you go.
- 12 They will carry you  
in their arms,  
and you won't hurt your feet  
on the stones.

- 13 You will overpower  
the strongest lions  
and the most deadly snakes.
- 14 The Lord says, "If you love me  
and truly know who I am,  
I will rescue you  
and keep you safe.
- 15 When you are in trouble,  
call out to me.  
I will answer and be there  
to protect and honor you.
- 16 You will live a long life  
and see my saving power."

### **Psalm 92**

[A psalm and a song for the Sabbath.]

#### **Sing Praises to the LORD**

- 1 It is wonderful to be grateful  
and to sing your praises,  
LORD Most High!
- 2 It is wonderful each morning  
to tell about your love  
and at night to announce  
how faithful you are.
- 3 I enjoy praising your name  
to the music of harps,  
4 because everything you do  
makes me happy,  
and I sing joyful songs.
- 5 You do great things, LORD.  
Your thoughts are too deep  
6 for an ignorant fool  
to know or understand.
- 7 Though the wicked sprout  
and spread like grass,  
they will be pulled up  
by their roots.
- 8 But you will rule  
over all of us forever,  
9 and your hateful enemies  
will be scattered  
and then destroyed.
- 10 You have given me  
the strength of a wild ox,  
and you have chosen me  
to be your very own.
- 11 My eyes have seen,  
and my ears have heard

the doom and destruction  
of my terrible enemies.

- 12 Good people will prosper  
like palm trees,  
and they will grow strong  
like the cedars of Lebanon.
- 13 They will take root  
in your house, LORD God,  
and they will do well.
- 14 They will be like trees  
that stay healthy and fruitful,  
even when they are old.
- 15 And they will say about you,  
"The LORD always does right!  
God is our mighty rock."▷

### **Psalm 93**

#### **The LORD Is King**

- 1 Our LORD, you are King!  
Majesty and power  
are your royal robes.  
You put the world in place,  
and it will never be moved.
- 2 You have always ruled,  
and you are eternal.
- 3 The ocean is roaring, LORD!  
The sea is pounding hard.
- 4 Its mighty waves are majestic,  
but you are more majestic,  
and you rule over all.
- 5 Your decisions are firm,  
and your temple will always  
be beautiful and holy.

### **Psalm 94**

#### **The LORD Punishes the Guilty**

- 1 LORD God, you punish  
the guilty.  
Show what you are like  
and punish them now.
- 2 You judge the earth.  
Come and help us!  
Pay back those proud people  
for what they have done.
- 3 How long will the wicked  
celebrate and be glad?
- 4 All of those cruel people  
strut and boast,

- 5 and they crush and wound  
your chosen nation, LORD.
- 6 They murder widows,  
foreigners, and orphans.
- 7 Then they say,  
"The LORD God of Jacob  
doesn't see or know."
- 8 Can't you fools see?  
Won't you ever learn?
- 9 God gave us ears and eyes!  
Can't he hear and see?
- 10 God instructs the nations  
and gives knowledge to us all.  
Won't he also correct us?
- 11 The LORD knows how useless  
our plans really are.
- 12 Our LORD, you bless everyone  
that you instruct and teach  
by using your Law.
- 13 You give them rest  
from their troubles,  
until a pit can be dug  
for the wicked.
- 14 You won't turn your back  
on your chosen nation.
- 15 Justice and fairness  
will go hand in hand,  
and all who do right  
will follow along.
- 16 Who will stand up for me  
against those cruel people?
- 17 If you had not helped me, LORD,  
I would soon have gone  
to the land of silence.
- 18 When I felt my feet slipping,  
you came with your love  
and kept me steady.
- 19 And when I was burdened  
with worries,  
you comforted me  
and made me feel secure.
- 20 But you are opposed  
to dishonest lawmakers
- 21 who gang up to murder  
innocent victims.
- 22 You, LORD God, are my fortress,  
that mighty rock<sup>></sup>  
where I am safe.
- 23 You will pay back my enemies,  
and you will wipe them out  
for the evil they did.

## Psalm 95

### Worship and Obey the LORD

- 1 Sing joyful songs to the LORD!  
Praise the mighty rock<sup>></sup>  
where we are safe.
- 2 Come to worship him  
with thankful hearts  
and songs of praise.
- 3 The LORD is the greatest God,  
king over all other gods.
- 4 He holds the deepest part  
of the earth in his hands,  
and the mountain peaks  
belong to him.
- 5 The ocean is the Lord's  
because he made it,  
and with his own hands  
he formed the dry land.
- 6 Bow down and worship  
the LORD our Creator!
- 7 The LORD is our God,  
and we are his people,  
the sheep he takes care of  
in his own pasture.
- Listen to God's voice today!
- 8 Don't be stubborn and rebel  
as your ancestors did  
at Meribah and Massah  
out in the desert.
- 9 For forty years  
they tested God and saw  
the things he did.
- 10 Then God got tired of them  
and said,  
"You never show good sense,  
and you don't understand  
what I want you to do."
- 11 In his anger, God told them,  
"You people will never enter  
my place of rest."

## Psalm 96

### Sing a New Song to the LORD

- 1 Sing a new song to the LORD!  
Everyone on this earth,  
sing praises to the LORD,  
2 sing and praise his name.
- Day after day announce,  
"The LORD has saved us!"

- 3 Tell every nation on earth,  
 "The LORD is wonderful  
 and does marvelous things!  
 4 The LORD is great and deserves  
 our greatest praise!  
 He is the only God  
 worthy of our worship.  
 5 Other nations worship idols,  
 but the LORD created  
 the heavens.  
 6 Give honor and praise  
 to the LORD,  
 whose power and beauty  
 fill his holy temple."  
 7 Tell everyone of every nation,  
 "Praise the glorious power  
 of the LORD.  
 8 He is wonderful! Praise him  
 and bring an offering  
 into his temple.  
 9 Everyone on earth, now tremble  
 and worship the LORD,  
 majestic and holy."  
 10 Announce to the nations,  
 "The LORD is King!  
 The world stands firm,  
 never to be shaken,  
 and he will judge its people  
 with fairness."  
 11 Tell the heavens and the earth  
 to be glad and celebrate!  
 Command the ocean to roar  
 with all of its creatures  
 12 and the fields to rejoice  
 with all of their crops.  
 Then every tree in the forest  
 will sing joyful songs  
 13 to the LORD.  
 He is coming to judge  
 all people on earth  
 with fairness and truth.

### Psalm 97

#### The LORD Brings Justice

- 1 The LORD is King!  
 Tell the earth to celebrate  
 and all islands to shout.  
 2 Dark clouds surround him,  
 and his throne is supported  
 by justice and fairness.

- 3 Fire leaps from his throne,  
 destroying his enemies,  
 4 and his lightning is so bright  
 that the earth sees it  
 and trembles.  
 5 Mountains melt away like wax  
 in the presence of the LORD  
 of all the earth.  
 6 The heavens announce,  
 "The LORD brings justice!"  
 Everyone sees God's glory.  
 7 Those who brag about  
 the useless idols they worship  
 are terribly ashamed,  
 and all the false gods  
 bow down to the LORD.  
 8 When the people of Zion  
 and of the towns of Judah  
 hear that God brings justice,  
 they will celebrate.  
 9 The LORD rules the whole earth,  
 and he is more glorious  
 than all the false gods.  
 10 Love the LORD  
 and hate evil!  
 God protects his loyal people  
 and rescues them  
 from violence.  
 11 If you obey and do right,  
 a light will show you the way  
 and fill you with happiness.  
 12 You are the LORD's people!  
 So celebrate and praise  
 the only God.

### Psalm 98

#### The LORD Works Miracles

- 1 Sing a new song to the LORD!  
 He has worked miracles,  
 and with his own powerful arm,  
 he has won the victory.  
 2 The LORD has shown the nations  
 that he has the power to save  
 and to bring justice.  
 3 God has been faithful  
 in his love for Israel,  
 and his saving power is seen  
 everywhere on earth.  
 4 Tell everyone on this earth

- to sing happy songs  
in praise of the LORD.
- 5 Make music for him on harps.  
Play beautiful melodies!
- 6 Sound the trumpets and horns  
and celebrate with joyful songs  
for our LORD and King!
- 7 Command the ocean to roar  
with all of its creatures,  
and the earth to shout  
with all of its people.
- 8 Order the rivers  
to clap their hands,  
and all of the hills  
to sing together.
- 9 Let them worship the LORD!  
He is coming to judge  
everyone on the earth,  
and he will be honest  
and fair.

### Psalm 99

#### Our LORD Is King

- 1 Our LORD, you are King!  
You rule from your throne  
above the winged creatures,  
as people tremble  
and the earth shakes.
- 2 You are praised in Zion,  
and you control all nations.
- 3 Only you are God!  
And your power alone,  
so great and fearsome,  
is worthy of praise.
- 4 You are our mighty King,<sup>1</sup>  
a lover of fairness,  
who sees that justice is done  
everywhere in Israel.
- 5 Our LORD and our God,  
we praise you  
and kneel down to worship you,  
the God of holiness!
- 6 Moses and Aaron were two  
of your priests.  
Samuel was also one of those  
who prayed in your name,  
and you, our LORD,  
answered their prayers.
- 7 You spoke to them  
from a thick cloud,  
and they obeyed your laws.

- 8 Our LORD and our God,  
you answered their prayers  
and forgave their sins,  
but when they did wrong,  
you punished them.
- 9 We praise you, LORD God,  
and we worship you  
at your sacred mountain.  
Only you are God!

### Psalm 100

[A psalm of praise.]

#### The LORD Is God

- 1 Shout praises to the LORD,  
everyone on this earth.
- 2 Be joyful and sing  
as you come in  
to worship the LORD!
- 3 You know the LORD is God!  
He created us,  
and we belong to him;  
we are his people,  
the sheep in his pasture.
- 4 Be thankful and praise the LORD  
as you enter his temple.
- 5 The LORD is good!  
His love and faithfulness  
will last forever.

### Psalm 101

[A psalm by David.]

#### A King and His Promises

- 1 I will sing to you, LORD!  
I will celebrate your kindness  
and your justice.
- 2 Please help me learn  
to do the right thing,  
and I will be honest and fair  
in my own kingdom.
- 3 I refuse to be corrupt  
or to take part  
in anything crooked,  
4 and I won't be dishonest  
or deceitful.
- 5 Anyone who spreads gossip  
will be silenced,  
and no one who is conceited  
will be my friend.

- 6 I will find trustworthy people  
to serve as my advisors,  
and only an honest person  
will serve as an official.
- 7 No one who cheats or lies  
will have a position  
in my royal court.
- 8 Each morning I will silence  
any lawbreakers I find  
in the countryside  
or in the city of the LORD.

### Psalm 102

*[A prayer for someone who hurts and needs to ask the LORD for help.]*

#### A Prayer in Time of Trouble

- 1 I pray to you, LORD!  
Please listen.
- 2 Don't hide from me  
in my time of trouble.  
Pay attention to my prayer  
and quickly give an answer.
- 3 My days disappear like smoke,  
and my bones are burning  
as though in a furnace.
- 4 I am wasting away like grass,  
and my appetite is gone.
- 5 My groaning never stops,  
and my bones can be seen  
through my skin.
- 6 I am like a lonely owl  
in the desert
- 7 or a restless sparrow  
alone on a roof.
- 8 My enemies insult me all day,  
and they use my name  
for a curse word.
- 9 Instead of food,  
I have ashes to eat  
and tears to drink,
- 10 because you are furious  
and have thrown me aside.
- 11 My life fades like a shadow  
at the end of day  
and withers like grass.
- 12 Our LORD, you are King forever  
and will always be famous.
- 13 You will show pity to Zion  
because the time has come.
- 14 We, your servants,  
love each stone in the city,  
and we are sad to see them  
lying in the dirt.
- 15 Our LORD, the nations  
will honor you,  
and all kings on earth  
will praise your glory.
- 16 You will rebuild  
the city of Zion.  
Your glory will be seen,
- 17 and the prayers of the homeless  
will be answered.
- 18 Future generations must also  
praise the LORD,  
so write this for them:
- 19 "From his holy temple,  
the LORD looked down  
at the earth.
- 20 He listened to the groans  
of prisoners,  
and he rescued everyone  
who was doomed to die."
- 21 All Jerusalem should praise  
you, our LORD,
- 22 when people from every nation  
meet to worship you.
- 23 I should still be strong,  
but you, LORD, have made  
an old person of me.
- 24 You will live forever!  
Years mean nothing to you.  
Don't cut my life in half!
- 25 In the beginning, LORD,  
you laid the earth's foundation  
and created the heavens.
- 26 They will all disappear  
and wear out like clothes.  
You change them,  
as you would a coat,  
but you last forever.
- 27 You are always the same.  
Years cannot change you.
- 28 Every generation of those  
who serve you  
will live in your presence.

**Psalms 103***[By David.]***The LORD's Wonderful Love**

- <sup>1</sup> With all my heart  
I praise the LORD,  
and with all that I am  
I praise his holy name!
- <sup>2</sup> With all my heart  
I praise the LORD!  
I will never forget  
how kind he has been.
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD forgives our sins,  
heals us when we are sick,  
<sup>4</sup> and protects us from death.  
His kindness and love  
are a crown on our heads.
- <sup>5</sup> 'Each day that we live,'  
he provides for our needs  
and gives us the strength  
of a young eagle.
- <sup>6</sup> For all who are mistreated,  
the LORD brings justice.
- <sup>7</sup> He taught his Law to Moses  
and showed all Israel  
what he could do.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful!  
He is kind and patient,  
and his love never fails.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD won't always be angry  
and point out our sins;  
<sup>10</sup> he doesn't punish us  
as our sins deserve.
- <sup>11</sup> How great is God's love for all  
who worship him?  
Greater than the distance  
between heaven and earth!
- <sup>12</sup> How far has the LORD taken  
our sins from us?  
Farther than the distance  
from east to west!
- <sup>13</sup> Just as parents are kind  
to their children,  
the LORD is kind  
to all who worship him,  
<sup>14</sup> because he knows  
we are made of dust.
- <sup>15</sup> We humans are like grass  
or wild flowers  
that quickly bloom.

- <sup>16</sup> But a scorching wind blows,  
and they quickly wither  
to be forever forgotten.
- <sup>17</sup> The LORD is always kind  
to those who worship him,  
and he keeps his promises  
to their descendants  
<sup>18</sup> who faithfully obey him.
- <sup>19</sup> God has set up his kingdom  
in heaven, and he rules  
the whole creation.
- <sup>20</sup> All of you mighty angels,  
who obey God's commands,  
come and praise your LORD!
- <sup>21</sup> All of you thousands  
who serve and obey God,  
come and praise your LORD!
- <sup>22</sup> All of God's creation  
and all that he rules,  
come and praise your LORD!  
With all my heart  
I praise the LORD!

**Psalms 104****The LORD Takes Care of His Creation**

- <sup>1</sup> I praise you, LORD God,  
with all my heart.  
You are glorious and majestic,  
dressed in royal robes  
<sup>2</sup> and surrounded by light.  
You spread out the sky  
like a tent,  
<sup>3</sup> and you built your home  
over the mighty ocean.  
The clouds are your chariot  
with the wind as its wings.
- <sup>4</sup> The winds are your messengers,  
and flames of fire  
are your servants.
- <sup>5</sup> You built foundations  
for the earth, and it  
will never be shaken.
- <sup>6</sup> You covered the earth  
with the ocean that rose  
above the mountains.
- <sup>7</sup> Then your voice thundered!  
And the water flowed  
<sup>8</sup> down the mountains  
and through the valleys  
to the place you prepared.

- 9 Now you have set boundaries,  
so that the water will never  
flood the earth again.
- 10 You provide streams of water  
in the hills and valleys,  
11 so that the donkeys  
and other wild animals  
can satisfy their thirst.
- 12 Birds build their nests nearby  
and sing in the trees.
- 13 From your home above  
you send rain on the hills  
and water the earth.
- 14 You let the earth produce  
grass for cattle,  
plants for our food,  
15 wine to cheer us up,  
olive oil for our skin,  
and grain for our health.
- 16 Our LORD, your trees  
always have water,  
and so do the cedars  
you planted in Lebanon.
- 17 Birds nest in those trees,  
and storks make their home  
in the fir trees.
- 18 Wild goats find a home  
in the tall mountains,  
and small animals can hide  
between the rocks.
- 19 You created the moon  
to tell us the seasons.  
The sun knows when to set,  
20 and you made the darkness,  
so the animals in the forest  
could come out at night.
- 21 Lions roar as they hunt  
for the food you provide.
- 22 But when morning comes,  
they return to their dens,  
23 then we go out to work  
until the end of day.
- 24 Our LORD, by your wisdom  
you made so many things;  
the whole earth is covered  
with your living creatures.
- 25 But what about the ocean  
so big and wide?  
It is alive with creatures,  
large and small.
- 26 And there are the ships,  
as well as Leviathan,  
the monster you created  
to splash in the sea.
- 27 All of these depend on you  
to provide them with food,  
28 and you feed each one  
with your own hand,  
until they are full.
- 29 But when you turn away,  
they are terrified;  
when you end their life,  
they die and rot.
- 30 You created all of them  
by your Spirit,  
and you give new life  
to the earth.
- 31 Our LORD, we pray  
that your glory  
will last forever  
and that you will be pleased  
with what you have done.
- 32 You look at the earth,  
and it trembles.  
You touch the mountains,  
and smoke goes up.
- 33 As long as I live,  
I will sing and praise you,  
the LORD God.
- 34 I hope my thoughts  
will please you,  
because you are the one  
who makes me glad.
- 35 Destroy all wicked sinners  
from the earth  
once and for all.  
With all my heart  
I praise you, LORD!  
I praise you!

### Psalm 105

#### The LORD Can Be Trusted

- 1 Praise the LORD  
and pray in his name!  
Tell everyone  
what he has done.
- 2 Sing praises to the LORD!  
Tell about his miracles.

- 3 Celebrate and worship  
his holy name  
with all your heart.
- 4 Trust the LORD  
and his mighty power.
- 5 Remember his miracles  
and all his wonders  
and his fair decisions.
- 6 You belong to the family  
of Abraham, his servant;  
you are his chosen ones,  
the descendants of Jacob.
- 7 The LORD is our God,  
bringing justice  
everywhere on earth.
- 8 He will never forget  
his agreement or his promises,  
not in thousands of years.
- \*9 God made an eternal promise  
10 to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
11 when he said, "I'll give you  
the land of Canaan."
- 12 At the time there were  
only a few of us,  
and we were homeless.
- 13 We wandered from nation  
to nation, from one country  
to another.
- 14 God did not let anyone  
mistreat our people.  
Instead he protected us  
by punishing rulers  
15 and telling them,  
"Don't touch my chosen leaders  
or harm my prophets!"
- 16 God kept crops from growing  
until food was scarce  
everywhere in the land.
- 17 But he had already sent Joseph,  
sold as a slave into Egypt,  
18 with chains of iron  
around his legs and neck.
- 19 Joseph remained a slave  
until his own words  
had come true,  
and the LORD had finished  
testing him.
- 20 Then the king of Egypt  
set Joseph free
- 21 and put him in charge  
of everything he owned.
- 22 Joseph was in command  
of the officials,  
and he taught the leaders  
how to use wisdom.
- 23 Jacob and his family  
came and settled in Egypt  
as foreigners.
- 24 They were the LORD's people,  
so he let them grow stronger  
than their enemies.
- 25 They served the LORD,  
and he made the Egyptians plan  
hateful things against them.
- 26 God sent his servant Moses.  
He also chose and sent Aaron  
27 to his people in Egypt,  
and they worked miracles  
and wonders there.
- 28 Moses and Aaron obeyed God,  
and he sent darkness  
to cover Egypt.
- 29 God turned their rivers  
into streams of blood,  
and the fish all died.
- 30 Frogs were everywhere,  
even in the royal palace.
- 31 When God gave the command,  
flies and gnats  
swarmed all around.
- 32 In place of rain,  
God sent hailstones  
and flashes of lightning.
- 33 He destroyed their grapevines  
and their fig trees,  
and he made splinters  
of all the other trees.
- 34 God gave the command,  
and more grasshoppers came  
than could be counted.
- 35 They ate every green plant  
and all the crops that grew  
in the land of Egypt.
- 36 Then God took the life  
of every first-born son.
- 37 When God led Israel from Egypt,  
they took silver and gold,  
and no one was left behind.
- 38 The Egyptians were afraid  
and gladly let them go.

39 God hid them under a cloud  
and guided them by fire  
during the night.

40 When they asked for food,  
he sent more birds  
than they could eat.

41 God even split open a rock,  
and streams of water  
gushed into the desert.

42 God never forgot  
his sacred promise  
to his servant Abraham.

43 When the Lord rescued  
his chosen people from Egypt,  
they celebrated with songs.

44 The Lord gave them the land  
and everything else  
the nations had worked for.

45 He did this so that his people  
would obey all of his laws.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 106

#### A Nation Asks for Forgiveness

1 We will celebrate  
and praise you, LORD!  
You are good to us,  
and your love never fails.

2 No one can praise you enough  
for all of the mighty things  
you have done.

3 You bless those people  
who are honest and fair  
in everything they do.

4 Remember me, LORD,  
when you show kindness  
by saving your people.

5 Let me prosper with the rest  
of your chosen ones,  
as they celebrate with pride  
because they belong to you.

6 We and our ancestors  
have sinned terribly.

7 When they were in Egypt,  
they paid no attention  
to your marvelous deeds  
or your wonderful love.  
And they turned against you  
at the Red Sea.▷

8 But you were true to your name,  
and you rescued them to prove  
how mighty you are.

9 You said to the Red Sea,▷  
“Dry up!”

Then you led your people across  
on land as dry as a desert.

10 You saved all of them

11 and drowned every one  
of their enemies.

12 Then your people trusted you  
and sang your praises.

13 But they soon forgot  
what you had done  
and rejected your advice.

14 They became greedy for food  
and tested you there  
in the desert.

15 So you gave them  
what they wanted,  
but later you destroyed them  
with a horrible disease.

16 Everyone in camp was jealous  
of Moses and of Aaron,  
your chosen priest.

17 Dathan and Abiram rebelled,  
and the earth opened up  
and swallowed them.

18 Then fire broke out  
and destroyed all  
of their followers.

19 At Horeb your people  
made and worshiped the statue  
20 of a bull, instead of you,  
their glorious God.

21 You worked powerful miracles  
to save them from Egypt,  
but they forgot about you  
22 and the fearsome things  
you did at the Red Sea.▷

23 You were angry and started  
to destroy them,  
but Moses, your chosen leader,  
begged you not to do it.

24 They would not trust  
you, LORD,  
and they did not like  
the promised land.

25 They would not obey you,  
and they grumbled  
in their tents.

- 26 So you threatened them  
by saying, "I'll kill you  
out here in the desert!"
- 27 I'll scatter your children  
everywhere in the world."
- 28 Your people became followers  
of a god named Baal Peor,  
and they ate sacrifices  
offered to the dead.▷
- 29 They did such terrible things  
that you punished them  
with a deadly disease.
- 30 But Phinehas helped them,  
and the sickness stopped.
- 31 Now he will always  
be highly honored.
- 32 At Meribah Spring  
they turned against you  
and made you furious.
- 33 Then Moses got into trouble  
for speaking in anger.
- 34 Our LORD, they disobeyed you  
by refusing to destroy  
the nations.
- 35 Instead they were friendly  
with those foreigners  
and followed their customs.
- 36 Then they fell into the trap  
of worshipping idols.
- 37 They sacrificed their sons  
and their daughters to demons  
and to the gods of Canaan.
- 38 Then they poured out the blood  
of these innocent children  
and made the land filthy.
- 39 By doing such gruesome things,  
they also became filthy.
- 40 Finally, LORD, you were angry  
and terribly disgusted  
with your people.
- 41 So you put them in the power  
of nations that hated them.
- 42 They were mistreated and abused  
by their enemies,
- 43 but you saved them  
time after time.  
They were determined to rebel,  
and their sins caused  
their downfall.

- 44 You answered their prayers  
when they were in trouble.
- 45 You kept your agreement  
and were so merciful  
that their enemies  
had pity on them.
- 47 Save us, LORD God!  
Bring us back  
from among the nations.  
Let us celebrate and shout  
in praise of your holy name.
- 48 LORD God of Israel,  
you deserve to be praised  
forever and ever.  
Let everyone say, "Amen!  
Shout praises to the LORD!"

**BOOK V***(Psalms 107-150)***Psalm 107****The LORD Is Good to His People**

- 1 Shout praises to the LORD!  
He is good to us,  
and his love never fails.
- 2 Everyone the LORD has rescued  
from trouble  
should praise him,  
3 everyone he has brought  
from the east and the west,  
the north and the south.▷
- 4 Some of you were lost  
in the scorching desert,  
far from a town.
- 5 You were hungry and thirsty  
and about to give up.
- 6 You were in serious trouble,  
but you prayed to the LORD,  
and he rescued you.
- 7 At once he brought you  
to a town.
- 8 You should praise the LORD  
for his love  
and for the wonderful things  
he does for all of us.
- 9 To everyone who is thirsty,  
he gives something to drink;  
to everyone who is hungry,  
he gives good things to eat.

- 10 Some of you were prisoners  
suffering in deepest darkness  
and bound by chains,  
11 because you had rebelled  
against God Most High  
and refused his advice.  
12 You were worn out  
from working like slaves,  
and no one came to help.  
13 You were in serious trouble,  
but you prayed to the LORD,  
and he rescued you.  
14 He brought you out  
of the deepest darkness  
and broke your chains.  
15 You should praise the LORD  
for his love  
and for the wonderful things  
he does for all of us.  
16 He breaks down bronze gates  
and shatters iron locks.  
17 Some of you had foolishly  
committed a lot of sins  
and were in terrible pain.  
18 The very thought of food  
was disgusting to you,  
and you were almost dead.  
19 You were in serious trouble,  
but you prayed to the LORD,  
and he rescued you.  
20 By the power of his own word,  
he healed you and saved you  
from destruction.  
21 You should praise the LORD  
for his love  
and for the wonderful things  
he does for all of us.  
22 You should celebrate  
by offering sacrifices  
and singing joyful songs  
to tell what he has done.  
23 Some of you made a living  
by sailing the mighty sea,  
24 and you saw the miracles  
the LORD performed there.  
25 At his command a storm arose,  
and waves covered the sea.  
26 You were tossed to the sky  
and to the ocean depths,  
until things looked so bad  
that you lost your courage.  
27 You staggered like drunkards  
and gave up all hope.  
28 You were in serious trouble,  
but you prayed to the LORD,  
and he rescued you.  
29 He made the storm stop  
and the sea be quiet.  
30 You were happy because of this,  
and he brought you to the port  
where you wanted to go.  
31 You should praise the LORD  
for his love  
and for the wonderful things  
he does for all of us.  
32 Honor the LORD  
when you and your leaders  
meet to worship.  
33 If you start doing wrong,  
the LORD will turn rivers  
into deserts,  
34 flowing streams  
into scorched land,  
and fruitful fields  
into beds of salt.  
35 But the LORD can also turn  
deserts into lakes  
and scorched land  
into flowing streams.  
36 If you are hungry,  
you can settle there  
and build a town.  
37 You can plant fields  
and vineyards that produce  
a good harvest.  
38 The LORD will bless you  
with many children  
and with herds of cattle.  
39 Sometimes you may be crushed  
by troubles and sorrows,  
until only a few of you  
are left to survive.  
40 But the LORD will take revenge  
on those who conquer you,  
and he will make them wander  
across desert sands.  
41 When you are suffering  
and in need,  
he will come to your rescue,

and your families will grow  
as fast as a herd of sheep.

- 42 You will see this because  
you obey the LORD,  
but everyone who is wicked  
will be silenced.
- 43 Be wise! Remember this  
and think about the kindness  
of the LORD.

### **Psalms 108**

*[A song and a psalm by David.]*

#### **With God on Our Side**

- 1 Our God, I am faithful to you  
with all my heart,  
and you can trust me.  
I will sing  
and play music for you  
with all that I am.
- 2 I will start playing my harps  
before the sun rises.
- 3 I will praise you, LORD,  
for everyone to hear;  
I will sing hymns to you  
in every nation.
- 4 Your love reaches higher  
than the heavens,  
and your loyalty extends  
beyond the clouds.
- 5 Our God, may you be honored  
above the heavens;  
may your glory be seen  
everywhere on earth.
- 6 Answer my prayers  
and use your powerful arm  
to give us victory.  
Then the people you love  
will be safe.
- 7 Our God, from your holy place  
you made this promise:  
I will gladly divide up  
the city of Shechem  
and give away Succoth Valley  
piece by piece.
- 8 The lands of Gilead  
and Manasseh are mine.  
Ephraim is my war helmet,  
and Judah is my symbol  
of royal power.

9 Moab is merely my washbasin,  
and Edom belongs to me.  
I shout with victory  
over the Philistines."

- 10 Our God, who will bring me  
to the fortress  
or lead me to Edom?  
11 Have you rejected us?  
You don't lead our armies.  
12 Help us defeat our enemies!  
No one else can rescue us.
- 13 You are the one  
who gives us victory  
and crushes our enemies.

### **Psalms 109**

*[A psalm by David for the music leader.]*

#### **A Prayer for the LORD's Help**

- 1 I praise you, God!  
Don't keep silent.
- 2 Destructive and deceitful lies  
are told about me,  
3 and hateful things are said  
for no reason.
- 4 I had pity 'and prayed'  
for my enemies,  
but their words to me  
were harsh and cruel.
- 5 For being friendly and kind,  
they paid me back  
with meanness and hatred.
- 6 My enemies said,  
'Find some worthless fools  
to accuse him of a crime.
- 7 Try him and find him guilty!  
Consider his prayers a lie.
- 8 Cut his life short  
and let someone else  
have his job.
- 9 Make orphans of his children  
and a widow of his wife;  
10 make his children beg for food  
and live in the slums.
- 11 "Let the people he owes  
take everything he owns.  
Give it all to strangers.
- 12 Don't let anyone be kind to him  
or have pity on the children  
he leaves behind.

- 13 Bring an end to his family,  
and from now on let him be  
a forgotten man.
- 14 "Don't let the LORD forgive  
the sins of his parents  
and his ancestors.
- 15 Don't let the LORD forget  
the sins of his family,  
or let anyone remember  
his family ever lived.
- 16 He was so cruel to the poor,  
homeless, and discouraged  
that they died young.
- 17 "He cursed others.  
Now place a curse on him!  
He never wished others well.  
Wish only trouble for him!
- 18 He cursed others more often  
than he dressed himself.  
Let his curses strike him deep,  
just as water and olive oil  
soak through to our bones.
- 19 Let his curses surround him,  
just like the clothes  
he wears each day."
- 20 Those are the cruel things  
my enemies wish for me.  
Let it all happen to them!
- 21 Be true to your name, LORD God!  
Show your great kindness  
and rescue me.
- 22 I am poor and helpless,  
and I have lost all hope.
- 23 I am fading away  
like an evening shadow;  
I am tossed aside  
like a crawling insect.
- 24 I have gone without eating,  
until my knees are weak,  
and my body is bony.
- 25 When my enemies see me,  
they say cruel things  
and shake their heads.
- 26 Please help me, LORD God!  
Come and save me  
because of your love.
- 27 Let others know that you alone  
have saved me.

- 28 I don't care if they curse me,  
as long as you bless me.  
You will make my enemies fail  
when they attack,  
and you will make me glad  
to be your servant.
- 29 You will cover them with shame,  
just as their bodies  
are covered with clothes.
- 30 I will sing your praises  
and thank you, LORD,  
when your people meet.
- 31 You help everyone in need,  
and you defend them  
when they are on trial.

### Psalm 110

*[A psalm by David.]*

#### The LORD Gives Victory

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD said to my Lord,  
'Sit at my right side,  
until I make your enemies  
into a footstool for you.'
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD will let your power  
reach out from Zion,  
and you will rule  
over your enemies.
- <sup>3</sup> Your glorious power  
will be seen on the day  
you begin to rule.  
'You will wear the sacred robes  
and shine like the morning sun  
in all of your strength.'
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD has made a promise  
that will never be broken:  
'You will be a priest forever,  
just like Melchizedek.'
- <sup>5</sup> My Lord is at your right side,  
and when he gets angry  
he will crush  
the other kings.
- <sup>6</sup> He will judge the nations  
and crack their skulls,  
leaving piles of dead bodies  
all over the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> He will drink from any stream  
that he chooses, while winning  
victory after victory.▷

**Psalms 111****Praise the LORD for All He Has Done**

- <sup>1</sup> Shout praises to the LORD!  
With all my heart  
I will thank the LORD  
when his people meet.
- <sup>2</sup> The LORD has done  
many wonderful things!  
Everyone who is pleased  
with God's marvelous deeds  
will keep them in mind.
- <sup>3</sup> Everything the LORD does  
is glorious and majestic,  
and his power to bring justice  
will never end.
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD God is famous  
for his wonderful deeds,  
and he is kind and merciful.
- <sup>5</sup> He gives food to his worshipers  
and always keeps his agreement  
with them.
- <sup>6</sup> He has shown his mighty power  
to his people  
and has given them the lands  
of other nations.
- <sup>7</sup> God is always honest and fair,  
and his laws can be trusted.
- <sup>8</sup> They are true and right  
and will stand forever.
- <sup>9</sup> God rescued his people,  
and he will never break  
his agreement with them.  
He is fearsome and holy.
- <sup>10</sup> Respect and obey the LORD!  
This is the first step  
to wisdom and good sense.▷  
God will always be respected.

**Psalms 112****God Blesses His Worshipers**

- <sup>1</sup> Shout praises to the LORD!  
The LORD blesses everyone  
who worships him and gladly  
obeys his teachings.
- <sup>2</sup> Their descendants will have  
great power in the land,  
because the LORD blesses  
all who do right.

- <sup>3</sup> They will get rich and prosper  
and will always be remembered  
for their fairness.
- <sup>4</sup> They will be so kind  
and merciful and good,  
that they will be a light  
in the dark for others  
who do the right thing.
- <sup>5</sup> Life will go well for those  
who freely lend  
and are honest in business.
- <sup>6</sup> They won't ever be troubled,  
and the kind things they do  
will never be forgotten.
- <sup>7</sup> Bad news won't bother them;  
they have decided  
to trust the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> They are dependable  
and not afraid,  
and they will live to see  
their enemies defeated.
- <sup>9</sup> They will always be remembered  
and greatly praised,  
because they were kind  
and freely gave to the poor.
- <sup>10</sup> When evil people see this,  
they angrily bite their tongues  
and disappear.  
They will never get  
what they really want.

**Psalms 113****The LORD Helps People in Need**

- <sup>1</sup> Shout praises to the LORD!  
Everyone who serves him,  
come and praise his name.
- <sup>2</sup> Let the name of the LORD  
be praised now and forever.
- <sup>3</sup> From dawn until sunset  
the name of the LORD  
deserves to be praised.
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD is far above  
all of the nations;  
he is more glorious  
than the heavens.
- <sup>5</sup> No one can compare  
with the LORD our God.  
His throne is high above,  
<sup>6</sup> and he looks down to see  
the heavens and the earth.

- 7 God lifts the poor and needy  
from dust and ashes,  
8 and he lets them take part  
in ruling his people.  
9 When a wife has no children,  
he blesses her with some,  
and she is happy.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 114

#### The LORD Works Wonders

- 1 God brought his people  
out of Egypt, that land  
with a strange language.  
2 He made Judah his holy place  
and ruled over Israel.  
3 When the sea looked at God,  
it ran away,  
and the Jordan River  
flowed upstream.  
4 The mountains and the hills  
skipped around like goats.  
5 Ask the sea why it ran away  
or ask the Jordan  
why it flowed upstream.  
6 Ask the mountains and the hills  
why they skipped like goats!  
7 Earth, you will tremble,  
when the Lord God of Jacob  
comes near,  
8 because he turns solid rock  
into flowing streams  
and pools of water.

### Psalm 115

#### The LORD Deserves To Be Praised

- 1 We don't deserve praise!  
The LORD alone deserves  
all of the praise,  
because of his love  
and faithfulness.  
2 Why should the nations ask,  
"Where is your God?"  
3 Our God is in the heavens,  
doing as he chooses.  
4 The idols of the nations  
are made of silver and gold.  
5 They have a mouth and eyes,  
but they can't speak or see.

- 6 Their ears can't hear,  
and their noses can't smell.  
7 Their hands have no feeling,  
their legs don't move,  
and they can't make a sound.  
8 Everyone who made the idols  
and all who trust them  
are just as helpless  
as those useless gods.  
9 People of Israel,  
you must trust the LORD  
to help and protect you.  
10 Family of Aaron the priest,  
you must trust the LORD  
to help and protect you.  
11 All of you worship the LORD,  
so you must trust him  
to help and protect you.  
12 The LORD will not forget  
to give us his blessing;  
he will bless all of Israel  
and the family of Aaron.  
13 All who worship the LORD,  
no matter who they are,  
will receive his blessing.  
14 I pray that the LORD  
will let your family  
and your descendants  
always grow strong.  
15 May the LORD who created  
the heavens and the earth  
give you his blessing.

- 16 The LORD has kept the heavens  
for himself,  
but he has given the earth  
to us humans.  
17 The dead are silent  
and cannot praise the LORD,  
18 but we will praise him  
now and forevermore.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 116

#### When the LORD Saves You from Death

- 1 I love you, LORD!  
You answered my prayers.  
2 You paid attention to me,  
and so I will pray to you  
as long as I live.

- 3 Death attacked from all sides,  
and I was captured  
by its painful chains.  
But when I was really hurting,
- 4 I prayed and said, "LORD,  
please don't let me die!"
- 5 You are kind, LORD,  
so good and merciful.
- 6 You protect ordinary people,  
and when I was helpless,  
you saved me
- 7 and treated me so kindly  
that I don't need  
to worry anymore.
- 8 You, LORD, have saved  
my life from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling.
- 9 Now I will walk at your side  
in this land of the living.
- 10 I was faithful to you  
when I was suffering,
- 11 though in my confusion I said,  
"I can't trust anyone!"
- 12 What must I give you, LORD,  
for being so good to me?
- 13 I will pour out an offering  
of wine to you,  
and I will pray in your name  
because you  
have saved me.
- 14 I will keep my promise to you  
when your people meet.
- 15 You are deeply concerned  
when one of your loyal people  
faces death.
- 16 I worship you, LORD,  
just as my mother did,  
and you have rescued me  
from the chains of death.
- 17 I will offer you a sacrifice  
to show how grateful I am,  
and I will pray.
- 18 I will keep my promise to you  
when your people  
gather at your temple  
in Jerusalem.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### **Psalms 117**

#### **Come Praise the LORD**

- 1 All of you nations,  
come praise the LORD!  
Let everyone praise him.
- 2 His love for us is wonderful;  
his faithfulness never ends.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### **Psalms 118**

#### **The LORD Is Always Merciful**

- 1 Tell the LORD  
how thankful you are,  
because he is kind  
and always merciful.
- 2 Let Israel shout,  
"God is always merciful!"
- 3 Let the family of Aaron  
the priest shout,  
"God is always merciful!"
- 4 Let every true worshiper  
of the LORD shout,  
"God is always merciful!"
- 5 When I was really hurting,  
I prayed to the LORD.  
He answered my prayer,  
and took my worries away.
- 6 The LORD is on my side,  
and I am not afraid  
of what others can do to me.
- 7 With the LORD on my side,  
I will defeat all  
of my hateful enemies.
- 8 It is better to trust the LORD  
for protection  
than to trust anyone else,  
including strong leaders.
- 9 Nations surrounded me,  
but I got rid of them  
by the power of the LORD.
- 11 They attacked from all sides,  
but I got rid of them  
by the power of the LORD.
- 12 They swarmed around like bees,  
but by the power of the LORD,  
I got rid of them  
and their fiery sting.
- 13 Their attacks were so fierce  
that I nearly fell,  
but the LORD helped me.

- 14 My power and my strength  
come from the LORD,  
and he has saved me.
- 15 From the tents of God's people  
come shouts of victory:  
"The LORD is powerful!  
The LORD is powerful!"
- 16 With his mighty arm  
the LORD wins victories!  
The LORD is powerful!"
- 17 And so my life is safe,  
and I will live to tell  
what the LORD has done.
- 18 He punished me terribly,  
but he did not let death  
lay its hands on me.
- 19 Open the gates of justice!  
I will enter and tell the LORD  
how thankful I am.
- 20 Here is the gate of the LORD!  
Everyone who does right  
may enter this gate.
- 21 I praise the LORD  
for answering my prayers  
and saving me.
- 22 The stone that the builders  
tossed aside  
has now become  
the most important stone.
- 23 The LORD has done this,  
and it is amazing to us.
- 24 This day belongs to the LORD!  
Let's celebrate  
and be glad today.
- 25 We'll ask the LORD to save us!  
We'll sincerely ask the LORD  
to let us win.
- 26 God bless the one who comes  
in the name of the LORD!  
We praise you from here  
in the house of the LORD.
- 27 The LORD is our God,  
and he has given us light!  
'Start the celebration!  
March with palm branches  
all the way to the altar.'
- 28 The LORD is my God!  
I will praise him and tell him  
how thankful I am.

- 29 Tell the LORD  
how thankful you are,  
because he is kind  
and always merciful.

### Psalm 119

#### In Praise of the Law of the LORD

- 1 Our LORD, you bless everyone  
who lives right  
and obeys your Law.
- 2 You bless all of those  
who follow your commands  
from deep in their hearts
- 3 and who never do wrong  
or turn from you.
- 4 You have ordered us always  
to obey your teachings;
- 5 I don't ever want to stray  
from your laws.
- 6 Thinking about your commands  
will keep me from doing  
some foolish thing.
- 7 I will do right and praise you  
by learning to respect  
your perfect laws.
- 8 I will obey all of them!  
Don't turn your back on me.
- 9 Young people can live  
a clean life  
by obeying your word.
- 10 I worship you  
with all my heart.  
Don't let me walk away  
from your commands.
- 11 I treasure your word  
above all else;  
it keeps me from sinning  
against you.
- 12 I praise you, LORD!  
Teach me your laws.
- 13 With my own mouth,  
I tell others the laws  
that you have spoken.
- 14 Obeying your instructions  
brings as much happiness  
as being rich.
- 15 I will study your teachings  
and follow your footsteps.
- 16 I will take pleasure  
in your laws  
and remember your words.

- 17 Treat me with kindness, LORD,  
so that I may live  
and do what you say.
- 18 Open my mind  
and let me discover  
the wonders of your Law.
- 19 I live here as a stranger.  
Don't keep me from knowing  
your commands.
- 20 What I want most of all  
and at all times  
is to honor your laws.
- 21 You punish those boastful,  
worthless nobodies who turn  
from your commands.
- 22 Don't let them sneer  
and insult me  
for following you.
- 23 I keep thinking about  
your teachings, LORD,  
even if rulers plot  
against me.
- 24 Your laws are my greatest joy!  
I follow their advice.
- 25 I am at the point of death.  
Let your teachings  
breathe new life into me.
- 26 When I told you my troubles,  
you answered my prayers.  
Now teach me your laws.
- 27 Help me to understand  
your teachings,  
and I will think about  
your marvelous deeds.
- 28 I am overcome with sorrow.  
Encourage me,  
as you have promised to do.
- 29 Keep me from being deceitful,  
and be kind enough  
to teach me your Law.
- 30 I am determined to be faithful  
and to respect your laws.
- 31 I follow your rules, LORD.  
Don't let me be ashamed.
- 32 I am eager to learn all  
that you want me to do;  
help me to understand  
more and more.
- 33 Point out your rules to me,  
and I won't disobey  
even one of them.
- 34 Help me to understand your Law;  
I promise to obey it  
with all my heart.
- 35 Direct me by your commands!  
I love to do what you say.
- 36 Make me want to obey you,  
rather than to be rich.
- 37 Take away my foolish desires,  
and let me find life  
by walking with you.
- 38 I am your servant!  
Do for me what you promised  
to those who worship you.
- 39 Your wonderful teachings  
protect me from the insults  
that I hate so much.
- 40 I long for your teachings.  
Be true to yourself  
and let me live.
- 41 Show me your love  
and save me, LORD,  
as you have promised.
- 42 Then I will have an answer  
for everyone who insults me  
for trusting your word.
- 43 I rely on your laws!  
Don't take away my chance  
to speak your truth.
- 44 I will keep obeying your Law  
forever and ever.
- 45 I have gained perfect freedom  
by following your teachings,  
46 and I trust them so much  
that I tell them to kings.
- 47 I love your commands!  
They bring me happiness.
- 48 I love and respect them  
and will keep them in mind.
- 49 Don't forget your promise  
to me, your servant.  
I depend on it.
- 50 When I am hurting,  
I find comfort in your promise  
that leads to life.
- 51 Conceited people sneer at me,  
but I obey your Law.
- 52 I find true comfort, LORD,  
because your laws have stood  
the test of time.
- 53 I get furious when evil people  
turn against your Law.

- 54 No matter where I am,  
your teachings  
fill me with songs.
- 55 Even in the night  
I think about you, LORD,  
and I obey your Law.
- 56 You have blessed me  
because I have always followed  
your teachings.
- 57 You, LORD, are my choice,  
and I will obey you.
- 58 With all my heart  
I beg you to be kind to me,  
just as you have promised.
- 59 I pay careful attention  
as you lead me,  
and I follow closely.
- 60 As soon as you command,  
I do what you say.
- 61 Evil people may set a trap,  
but I obey your Law.
- 62 Your laws are so fair  
that I wake up and praise you  
in the middle of the night.
- 63 I choose as my friends  
everyone who worships you  
and follows your teachings.
- 64 Our LORD, your love is seen  
all over the world.  
Teach me your laws.
- 65 I am your servant, LORD,  
and you have kept your promise  
to treat me with kindness.
- 66 Give me wisdom and good sense.  
I trust your commands.
- 67 Once you corrected me  
for not obeying you,  
but now I obey.
- 68 You are kindhearted,  
and you do good things,  
so teach me your laws.
- 69 My reputation is being ruined  
by conceited liars,  
but with all my heart  
I follow your teachings.
- 70 Those liars have no sense,  
but I find happiness  
in your Law.
- 71 When you corrected me,  
it did me good  
because it taught me  
to study your laws.
- 72 I would rather obey you  
than to have a thousand pieces  
of silver and gold.
- 73 You created me  
and put me together.  
Make me wise enough to learn  
what you have commanded.
- 74 Your worshipers will see me,  
and they will be glad  
that I trust your word.
- 75 Your decisions are correct,  
and you were right  
to punish me.
- 76 I serve you, LORD.  
Comfort me with your love,  
just as you have promised.
- 77 I love to obey your Law!  
Have mercy and let me live.
- 78 Put down those proud people  
who hurt me with their lies,  
because I have chosen  
to study your teachings.
- 79 Let your worshipers come to me,  
so they will learn  
to obey your rules.
- 80 Let me truly respect your laws,  
so I won't be ashamed.
- 81 I long for you to rescue me!  
Your word is my only hope.
- 82 I am worn out from waiting  
for you to keep your word.  
When will you have mercy?
- 83 My life is wasting away  
like a dried-up wineskin,▷  
but I have not forgotten  
your teachings.
- 84 I am your servant!  
How long must I suffer?  
When will you punish  
those troublemakers?
- 85 Those proud people reject  
your teachings,  
and they dig pits  
for me to fall in.
- 86 Your laws can be trusted!  
Protect me from cruel liars.
- 87 They have almost killed me,  
but I have been faithful  
to your teachings.

- 88 Show that you love me  
and let me live,  
so that I may obey all  
of your commands.
- 89 Our LORD, you are eternal!  
Your word will last as long  
as the heavens.▷
- 90 You remain faithful  
in every generation,  
and the earth you created  
will keep standing firm.
- 91 All things are your servants,  
and the laws you made  
are still in effect today.
- 92 If I had not found happiness  
in obeying your Law,  
I would have died in misery.
- 93 I won't ever forget  
your teachings,  
because you give me new life  
by following them.
- 94 I belong to you,  
and I have respected your laws,  
so keep me safe.
- 95 Brutal enemies are waiting  
to ambush and destroy me,  
but I obey your rules.
- 96 Nothing is completely perfect,  
except your teachings.
- 97 I deeply love your Law!  
I think about it all day.
- 98 Your laws never leave my mind,  
and they make me much wiser  
than my enemies.
- 99 Thinking about your teachings  
gives me better understanding  
than my teachers,
- 100 and obeying your laws  
makes me wiser than those  
who have lived a long time.
- 101 I obey your word  
instead of following a way  
that leads to trouble.
- 102 You have been my teacher,  
and I won't reject  
your instructions.
- 103 Your teachings are sweeter  
than honey.
- 104 They give me understanding  
and make me hate all lies.
- 105 Your word is a lamp  
that gives light  
wherever I walk.
- 106 Your laws are fair,  
and I have given my word  
to respect them all.
- 107 I am in terrible pain!  
Save me, LORD,  
as you said you would.
- 108 Accept my offerings of praise  
and teach me your laws.
- 109 I never forget your teachings,  
although my life is always  
in danger.
- 110 Some merciless people  
are trying to trap me,  
but I never turn my back  
on your teachings.
- 111 They will always be  
my most prized possession  
and my source of joy.
- 112 I have made up my mind  
to obey your laws forever,  
no matter what.
- 113 I hate anyone  
whose loyalty is divided,  
but I love your Law.
- 114 You are my place of safety  
and my shield.  
Your word is my only hope.
- 115 All of you worthless people,  
get away from me!  
I am determined to obey  
the commands of my God.
- 116 Be true to your word, LORD.  
Keep me alive and strong;  
don't let me be ashamed  
because of my hope.
- 117 Keep me safe and secure,  
so that I will always  
respect your laws.
- 118 You reject all deceitful liars  
because they refuse  
your teachings.
- 119 As far as you are concerned,  
all evil people are▷ garbage,  
and so I follow your rules.
- 120 I tremble all over  
when I think of you  
and the way you judge.

- 121 I did what was fair and right!  
Don't hand me over to those  
who want to mistreat me.
- 122 Take good care of me,  
your servant,  
and don't let me be harmed  
by those conceited people.
- 123 My eyes are weary from waiting  
to see you keep your promise  
to come and save me.
- 124 Show your love for me,  
your servant,  
and teach me your laws.
- 125 I serve you,  
so let me understand  
your teachings.
- 126 Do something, LORD!  
They have broken your Law.
- 127 Your laws mean more to me  
than the finest gold.
- 128 I follow all of your commands,<sup>1</sup>  
but I hate anyone  
who leads me astray.
- 129 Your teachings are wonderful,  
and I respect them all.
- 130 Understanding your word  
brings light to the minds  
of ordinary people.
- 131 I honestly want to know  
everything you teach.
- 132 Think about me and be kind,  
just as you are to everyone  
who loves your name.
- 133 Keep your promise  
and don't let me stumble  
or let sin control my life.
- 134 Protect me from abuse,  
so I can obey your laws.
- 135 Smile on me, your servant,  
and teach me your laws.
- 136 When anyone disobeys you,  
my eyes overflow with tears.
- 137 Our LORD, you always do right,  
and your decisions are fair.
- 138 All of your teachings are true  
and trustworthy.
- 139 It upsets me greatly  
when my enemies neglect  
your teachings.
- 140 Your word to me, your servant,  
is like pure gold;  
I treasure what you say.
- 141 Everyone calls me a nobody,  
but I remember your laws.
- 142 You will always do right,  
and your teachings are true.
- 143 I am in deep distress,  
but I love your teachings.
- 144 Your rules are always fair.  
Help me to understand them  
and live.
- 145 I pray to you, LORD!  
Please answer me.  
I promise to obey your laws.
- 146 I beg you to save me,  
so I can follow your rules.
- 147 Even before sunrise,  
I pray for your help,  
and I put my hope  
in what you have said.
- 148 I lie awake at night,  
thinking of your promises.
- 149 Show that you love me, LORD,  
and answer my prayer.  
Please do the right thing  
and save my life.
- 150 People who disobey your Law  
have made evil plans  
and want to hurt me,  
151 but you are with me,  
and all of your commands  
can be trusted.
- 152 From studying your laws,  
I found out long ago  
that you made them  
to last forever.
- 153 I have not forgotten your Law!  
Look at the trouble I am in,  
and rescue me.
- 154 Be my defender and protector!  
Keep your promise  
and save my life.
- 155 Evil people won't obey you,  
and so they have no hope  
of being saved.
- 156 You are merciful, LORD!  
Please do the right thing  
and save my life.
- 157 I have a lot of brutal enemies,  
but still I never turn  
from your laws.

- 158 All of those unfaithful people  
who refuse to obey you  
are disgusting to me.
- 159 Remember how I love your laws,  
and show your love for me  
by keeping me safe.
- 160 All you say can be trusted;  
your teachings are true  
and will last forever.
- 161 Rulers are cruel to me  
for no reason.  
But with all my heart  
I respect your words,  
162 because they bring happiness  
like treasures taken in war.
- 163 I can't stand liars,  
but I love your Law.
- 164 I praise you seven times a day  
because your laws are fair.
- 165 You give peace of mind  
to all who love your Law.  
Nothing can make them fall.
- 166 You are my only hope  
for being saved, LORD,  
and I do all you command.
- 167 I love and obey your laws  
with all my heart.
- 168 You know everything I do.  
You know I respect every law  
you have given.
- 169 Please, LORD, hear my prayer  
and give me the understanding  
that comes from your word.
- 170 Listen to my concerns  
and keep me safe,  
just as you have promised.
- 171 If you will teach me your laws,  
I will praise you 172 and sing  
about your promise,  
because all of your teachings  
are what they ought to be.
- 173 Be ready to protect me  
because I have chosen  
to obey your laws.
- 174 I am waiting for you  
to save me, LORD.  
Your Law makes me happy.
- 175 Keep me alive,  
so I can praise you,  
and let me find help  
in your teachings.

- 176 I am your servant,  
but I have wandered away  
like a lost sheep.  
Please come after me,  
because I have not forgotten  
your teachings.

### **Psalm 120**

*[A song for worship.]*

#### **A Prayer for the LORD's Help**

- 1 When I am in trouble, I pray,  
2 "Come and save me, LORD,  
from deceitful liars!"
- 3 What punishment is fitting  
for you deceitful liars?
- 4 Your reward should be  
sharp and flaming arrows!
- 5 But I must live as a foreigner  
among the people of Meshach  
and in the tents of Kedar.
- 6 I have spent too much time  
living among people  
who hate peace.
- 7 I am in favor of peace,  
but when I speak of it,  
all they want is war.

### **Psalm 121**

*[A song for worship.]*

#### **The LORD Will Protect His People**

- 1 I look to the hills!  
Where will I find help?
- 2 It will come from the LORD,  
who created the heavens  
and the earth.
- 3 The LORD is your protector,  
and he won't go to sleep  
or let you stumble.
- 4 The protector of Israel  
doesn't doze  
or ever get drowsy.
- 5 The LORD is your protector,  
there at your right side  
to shade you from the sun.
- 6 You won't be harmed  
by the sun during the day  
or by the moon at night.

- 7 The LORD will protect you  
and keep you safe  
from all dangers.  
8 The LORD will protect you  
now and always  
wherever you go.

### Psalm 122

[A song by David for worship.]

#### A Song of Praise

- 1 It made me glad  
to hear them say,  
"Let's go to the house  
of the LORD!"  
2 Jerusalem, we are standing  
inside your gates.  
3 Jerusalem, what a strong  
and beautiful city you are!  
4 Every tribe of the LORD  
obeys him and comes to you  
to praise his name.  
5 David's royal throne is here  
where justice rules.  
6 Jerusalem, we pray  
that you will have peace,  
and that all will go well  
for those who love you.  
7 May there be peace  
inside your city walls  
and in your palaces.  
8 Because of my friends  
and my relatives,  
I will pray for peace.  
9 And because of the house  
of the LORD our God,  
I will work for your good.

### Psalm 123

[A song for worship.]

#### A Prayer for Mercy

- 1 Our LORD and our God,  
I turn my eyes to you,  
on your throne in heaven.  
2 Servants look to their master,  
but we will look to you,  
until you have mercy on us.  
3 Please have mercy, LORD!  
We have been insulted  
more than we can stand,

- 4 and we can't take more abuse  
from those proud,  
conceited people.

### Psalm 124

[A song by David for worship.]

#### Thanking the LORD for Victory

- 1 The LORD was on our side!  
Let everyone in Israel say:  
2 "The LORD was on our side!  
Otherwise, the enemy attack  
3 would have killed us all,  
because it was furious.  
4 We would have been swept away  
in a violent flood  
5 of high and roaring waves."  
6 Let's praise the LORD!  
He protected us from enemies  
who were like wild animals,  
7 and we escaped like birds  
from a hunter's torn net.  
8 The LORD made heaven and earth,  
and he is the one  
who sends us help.

### Psalm 125

[A song for worship.]

#### The LORD's People Are Safe

- 1 Everyone who trusts the LORD  
is like Mount Zion  
that cannot be shaken  
and will stand forever.  
2 Just as Jerusalem is protected  
by mountains on every side,  
the LORD protects his people  
by holding them in his arms  
now and forever.  
3 He won't let the wicked  
rule his people  
or lead them to do wrong.  
4 Let's ask the LORD to be kind  
to everyone who is good  
and completely obeys him.  
5 When the LORD punishes  
the wicked,  
he will punish everyone else  
who lives a crooked life.  
Pray for peace in Israel!

**Psalms 126***[A song for worship.]***Celebrating the Harvest**

- <sup>1</sup> It seemed like a dream  
when the LORD brought us back  
to the city of Zion.▷
- <sup>2</sup> We celebrated with laughter  
and joyful songs.  
In foreign nations it was said,  
"The LORD has worked miracles  
for his people."
- <sup>3</sup> And so we celebrated  
because the LORD had indeed  
worked miracles for us.
- <sup>4</sup> Our LORD, we ask you to bless  
our people again,  
and let us be like streams  
in the Southern Desert.
- <sup>5</sup> We cried as we went out  
to plant our seeds.  
Now let us celebrate  
as we bring in the crops.
- <sup>6</sup> We cried on the way  
to plant our seeds,  
but we will celebrate and shout  
as we bring in the crops.

**Psalms 127***[A song by Solomon for worship.]***Only the LORD Can Bless a Home**

- <sup>1</sup> Without the help of the LORD  
it is useless to build a home  
or to guard a city.
- <sup>2</sup> It is useless to get up early  
and stay up late  
in order to earn a living.  
'God takes care of his own,  
even while they sleep.'
- <sup>3</sup> Children are a blessing  
and a gift from the LORD.
- <sup>4</sup> Having a lot of children  
to take care of you  
in your old age  
is like a warrior  
with a lot of arrows.
- <sup>5</sup> The more you have,  
the better off you will be,

because they will protect you  
when your enemies attack  
with arguments.

**Psalms 128***[A song for worship.]***The LORD Rewards His Faithful People**

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD will bless you  
if you respect him  
and obey his laws.
- <sup>2</sup> Your fields will produce,  
and you will be happy  
and all will go well.
- <sup>3</sup> Your wife will be as fruitful  
as a grapevine,  
and just as an olive tree  
is rich with olives,  
your home will be rich  
with healthy children.
- <sup>4</sup> That is how the LORD will bless  
everyone who respects him.
- <sup>5</sup> I pray that the LORD  
will bless you from Zion  
and let Jerusalem prosper  
as long as you live.
- <sup>6</sup> May you live long enough  
to see your grandchildren.  
Let's pray for peace in Israel!

**Psalms 129***[A song for worship.]***A Prayer for Protection**

- <sup>1</sup> Since the time I was young,  
enemies have often attacked!  
Let everyone in Israel say:
- <sup>2</sup> "Since the time I was young,  
enemies have often attacked!  
But they have not defeated me,  
<sup>3</sup> though my back is like a field  
that has just been plowed."
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD always does right,  
and he has set me free  
from the ropes  
of those cruel people.
- <sup>5</sup> I pray that all who hate  
the city of Zion  
will be made ashamed  
and forced to turn and run.

- 6 May they be like grass  
on the flat roof of a house,  
grass that dries up  
as soon as it sprouts.
- 7 Don't let them be like wheat  
gathered in bundles.
- 8 And don't let anyone  
who passes by say to them,  
"The LORD bless you!  
I give you my blessing  
in the name of the LORD."

### Psalm 130

[A song for worship.]

#### Trusting the LORD in Times of Trouble

- 1 From a sea of troubles  
I call out to you, LORD.
- 2 Won't you please listen  
as I beg for mercy?
- 3 If you kept record of our sins,  
no one could last long.
- 4 But you forgive us,  
and so we will worship you.
- 5 With all my heart,  
I am waiting, LORD, for you!  
I trust your promises.
- 6 I wait for you more eagerly  
than a soldier on guard duty  
waits for the dawn.  
Yes, I wait more eagerly  
than a soldier on guard duty  
waits for the dawn.
- 7 Israel, trust the LORD!  
He is always merciful,  
and he has the power  
to save you.
- 8 Israel, the LORD will save you  
from all of your sins.

### Psalm 131

[A song by David for worship.]

#### Trust the LORD!

- 1 I am not conceited, LORD,  
and I don't waste my time  
on impossible schemes.
- 2 But I have learned to feel safe  
and satisfied,

just like a young child  
on its mother's lap.

- 3 People of Israel,  
you must trust the LORD  
now and forever.

### Psalm 132

[A song for worship.]

#### The LORD Is Always with His People

- 1 Our LORD, don't forget David  
and how he suffered.
- 2 Mighty God of Jacob,  
remember how he promised:
- 3 "I won't go home  
or crawl into bed  
4 or close my eyelids,  
5 until I find a home for you,  
the mighty LORD God of Jacob."
- 6 When we were in Ephrath,  
we heard that the sacred chest  
was somewhere near Jaar.
- 7 Then we said, "Let's go  
to the throne of the LORD  
and worship at his feet."
- 8 Come to your new home, LORD,  
you and the sacred chest  
with all of its power.
- 9 Let victory be like robes  
for the priests;  
let your faithful people  
celebrate and shout.
- 10 David is your chosen one,  
so don't reject him.
- 11 You made a solemn promise  
to David, when you said,  
"I, the LORD, promise  
that someone in your family  
will always be king.
- 12 If they keep our agreement  
and follow my teachings,  
then someone in your family  
will rule forever."
- 13 You have gladly chosen Zion  
as your home, our LORD.
- 14 You said, "This is my home!  
I will live here forever.
- 15 I will bless Zion with food,  
and even the poor will eat  
until they are full.

- <sup>16</sup> Victory will be like robes  
for the priests,  
and its faithful people  
will celebrate and shout.
- <sup>17</sup> I will give mighty power  
to the kingdom of David.  
Each one of my chosen kings  
will shine like a lamp
- <sup>18</sup> and wear a sparkling crown.  
But I will disgrace  
their enemies."

### **Psalm 133**

*[A song for worship.]*

#### **Living Together in Peace**

- <sup>1</sup> It is truly wonderful  
when relatives live together  
in peace.
- <sup>2</sup> It is as beautiful as olive oil  
poured on Aaron's head  
and running down his beard  
and the collar of his robe.
- <sup>3</sup> It is like the dew  
from Mount Hermon,  
falling on Zion's mountains,  
where the LORD has promised  
to bless his people  
with life forevermore.

### **Psalm 134**

*[A song for worship.]*

#### **Praising the LORD at Night**

- <sup>1</sup> Everyone who serves the LORD,  
come and offer praises.  
Everyone who has gathered  
in his temple tonight,
- <sup>2</sup> lift your hands in prayer  
toward his holy place  
and praise the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup> The LORD is the Creator  
of heaven and earth,  
and I pray that the LORD  
will bless you from Zion.

### **Psalm 135**

#### **In Praise of the LORD's Kindness**

- <sup>1</sup> Shout praises to the LORD!  
You are his servants,  
so praise his name.

- <sup>2</sup> All who serve in the temple  
of the LORD our God,  
<sup>3</sup> come and shout praises.  
Praise the name of the LORD!  
He is kind and good.
- <sup>4</sup> He chose the family of Jacob  
and the people of Israel  
for his very own.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD is much greater  
than any other god.
- <sup>6</sup> He does as he chooses  
in heaven and on earth  
and deep in the sea.
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD makes the clouds rise  
from far across the earth,  
and he makes lightning  
to go with the rain.  
Then from his secret place  
he sends out the wind.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD killed the first-born  
of people and animals  
in the land of Egypt.
- <sup>9</sup> God used miracles and wonders  
to fight the king of Egypt  
and all of his officials.
- <sup>10</sup> He destroyed many nations  
and killed powerful kings,  
<sup>11</sup> including King Sihon  
of the Amorites  
and King Og of Bashan.  
He conquered every kingdom  
in the land of Canaan
- <sup>12</sup> and gave their property  
to his people Israel.
- <sup>13</sup> The name of the LORD  
will be remembered forever,  
and he will be famous  
for all time to come.
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD will bring justice  
and show mercy to all  
who serve him.
- <sup>15</sup> Idols of silver and gold  
are made and worshiped  
in other nations.
- <sup>16</sup> They have a mouth and eyes,  
but they can't speak or see.
- <sup>17</sup> They are completely deaf,  
and they can't breathe.
- <sup>18</sup> Everyone who makes idols  
and all who trust them

will end up as helpless  
as their idols.

- 19 Everyone in Israel,  
come praise the LORD!  
All the family of Aaron  
20 and all the tribe of Levi,  
come praise the LORD!  
All of his worshipers,  
come praise the LORD.
- 21 Praise the LORD from Zion!  
He lives here in Jerusalem.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 136

#### God's Love Never Fails

- 1 Praise the LORD! He is good.  
God's love never fails.
- 2 Praise the God of all gods.  
God's love never fails.
- 3 Praise the Lord of lords.  
God's love never fails.
- 4 Only God works great miracles.>  
God's love never fails.
- 5 With wisdom he made the sky.  
God's love never fails.
- 6 The Lord stretched the earth  
over the ocean.  
God's love never fails.
- 7 He made the bright lights  
in the sky.  
God's love never fails.
- 8 He lets the sun rule each day.  
God's love never fails.
- 9 He lets the moon and the stars  
rule each night.  
God's love never fails.
- 10 God struck down the first-born  
in every Egyptian family.  
God's love never fails.
- 11 He rescued Israel from Egypt.  
God's love never fails.
- 12 God used his great strength  
and his powerful arm.  
God's love never fails.
- 13 He split the Red Sea> apart.  
God's love never fails.

- 14 The Lord brought Israel safely  
through the sea.  
God's love never fails.
- 15 He destroyed the Egyptian king  
and his army there.  
God's love never fails.
- 16 The Lord led his people  
through the desert.  
God's love never fails.
- 17 Our God defeated mighty kings.  
God's love never fails.
- 18 And he killed famous kings.  
God's love never fails.
- 19 One of them was Sihon,  
king of the Amorites.  
God's love never fails.
- 20 Another was King Og of Bashan.  
God's love never fails.
- 21 God took away their land.  
God's love never fails.
- 22 He gave their land to Israel,  
the people who serve him.  
God's love never fails.
- 23 God saw the trouble we were in.  
God's love never fails.
- 24 He rescued us from our enemies.  
God's love never fails.
- 25 He gives food to all who live.  
God's love never fails.
- 26 Praise God in heaven!  
God's love never fails.

### Psalm 137

#### A Prayer for Revenge

- 1 Beside the rivers of Babylon  
we thought about Jerusalem,  
and we sat down and cried.
- 2 We hung our small harps  
on the willow> trees.
- 3 Our enemies had brought us here  
as their prisoners,  
and now they wanted us to sing  
and entertain them.  
They insulted us and shouted,  
"Sing about Zion!"
- 4 Here in a foreign land,  
how can we sing  
about the LORD?
- 5 Jerusalem, if I forget you,  
let my right hand go limp.
- 6 Let my tongue stick

to the roof of my mouth,  
if I don't think about you  
above all else.

<sup>7</sup> Our LORD, punish the Edomites!  
Because the day Jerusalem fell,  
they shouted,

"Completely destroy the city!  
Tear down every building!"

<sup>8</sup> Babylon, you are doomed!  
I pray the Lord's blessings  
on anyone who punishes you  
for what you did to us.

<sup>9</sup> May the Lord bless everyone  
who beats your children  
against the rocks!

### Psalm 138

[By David.]

#### Praise the LORD with All Your Heart

<sup>1</sup> With all my heart

I praise you, LORD.

In the presence of angels<sup>></sup>

I sing your praises.

<sup>2</sup> I worship at your holy temple  
and praise you for your love  
and your faithfulness.

"You were true to your word  
and made yourself more famous  
than ever before."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>3</sup> When I asked for your help,  
you answered my prayer  
'and gave me courage.'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup> All kings on this earth  
have heard your promises, LORD,  
and they will praise you.

<sup>5</sup> You are so famous  
that they will sing about  
the things you have done.

<sup>6</sup> Though you are above us all,  
you care for humble people,  
and you keep a close watch  
on everyone who is proud.

<sup>7</sup> I am surrounded by trouble,  
but you protect me  
against my angry enemies.

With your own powerful arm  
you keep me safe.

<sup>8</sup> You, LORD, will always  
treat me with kindness.  
Your love never fails.

You have made us what we are.

Don't give up on us now!<sup>></sup>

### Psalm 139

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### The LORD Is Always Near

<sup>1</sup> You have looked deep  
into my heart, LORD,  
and you know all about me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I am resting  
or when I am working,  
and from heaven  
you discover my thoughts.

<sup>3</sup> You notice everything I do  
and everywhere I go.

<sup>4</sup> Before I even speak a word,  
you know what I will say,

<sup>5</sup> and with your powerful arm  
you protect me  
from every side.

<sup>6</sup> I can't understand all of this!  
Such wonderful knowledge  
is far above me.

<sup>7</sup> Where could I go to escape  
from your Spirit  
or from your sight?

<sup>8</sup> If I were to climb up  
to the highest heavens,  
you would be there.

If I were to dig down  
to the world of the dead  
you would also be there.

<sup>9</sup> Suppose I had wings  
like the dawning day  
and flew across the ocean.

<sup>10</sup> Even then your powerful arm  
would guide and protect me.

<sup>11</sup> Or suppose I said, "I'll hide  
in the dark until night comes  
to cover me over."

<sup>12</sup> But you see in the dark  
because daylight and dark  
are all the same to you.

<sup>13</sup> You are the one  
who put me together  
inside my mother's body,

<sup>14</sup> and I praise you because of  
the wonderful way  
you created me.

Everything you do is marvelous!  
Of this I have no doubt.

- <sup>15</sup> Nothing about me  
is hidden from you!  
I was secretly woven together  
deep in the earth below,  
<sup>16</sup> but with your own eyes you saw  
my body being formed.  
Even before I was born,  
you had written in your book  
everything I would do.
- <sup>17</sup> Your thoughts are far beyond  
my understanding,  
much more than I  
could ever imagine.
- <sup>18</sup> I try to count your thoughts,  
but they outnumber the grains  
of sand on the beach.  
And when I awake,  
I will find you nearby.
- <sup>19</sup> How I wish that you would kill  
all cruel and heartless people  
and protect me from them!
- <sup>20</sup> They are always rebelling  
and speaking evil of you.<sup>1</sup>
- <sup>21</sup> You know I hate anyone  
who hates you, LORD,  
and refuses to obey.
- <sup>22</sup> They are my enemies too,  
and I truly hate them.
- <sup>23</sup> Look deep into my heart, God,  
and find out everything  
I am thinking.
- <sup>24</sup> Don't let me follow evil ways,  
but lead me in the way  
that time has proven true.

### Psalm 140

[A psalm by David for the music leader.]

#### A Prayer for the LORD's Help

- <sup>1</sup> Rescue me from cruel  
and violent enemies, LORD!  
<sup>2</sup> They think up evil plans  
and always cause trouble.  
<sup>3</sup> Their words bite deep  
like the poisonous fangs  
of a snake.

- <sup>4</sup> Protect me, LORD, from cruel  
and brutal enemies,  
who want to destroy me.  
<sup>5</sup> Those proud people have hidden  
traps and nets  
to catch me as I walk.
- <sup>6</sup> You, LORD, are my God!  
Please listen to my prayer.
- <sup>7</sup> You have the power to save me,  
and you keep me safe  
in every battle.
- <sup>8</sup> Don't let the wicked succeed  
in doing what they want,  
'or else they might never  
stop planning evil.
- <sup>9</sup> They have me surrounded,  
but make them the victims  
of their own vicious lies.<sup>1</sup>
- <sup>10</sup> Dump flaming coals on them  
and throw them into pits  
where they can't climb out.
- <sup>11</sup> Chase those cruel liars away!  
Let trouble hunt them down.
- <sup>12</sup> Our LORD, I know that you  
defend the homeless  
and see that the poor  
are given justice.
- <sup>13</sup> Your people will praise you  
and will live with you  
because they do right.

### Psalm 141

[A psalm by David.]

#### A Prayer for the LORD's Protection

- <sup>1</sup> I pray to you, LORD!  
Please listen when I pray  
and hurry to help me.
- <sup>2</sup> Think of my prayer  
as sweet-smelling incense,  
and think of my lifted hands  
as an evening sacrifice.
- <sup>3</sup> Help me to guard my words  
whenever I say something.
- <sup>4</sup> Don't let me want to do evil  
or waste my time doing wrong  
with wicked people.  
Don't let me even taste  
the good things they offer.

- 5<sup>1</sup> Let your faithful people  
correct and punish me.  
My prayers condemn the deeds  
of those who do wrong,  
so don't let me be friends  
with any of them.
- 6<sup>2</sup> Everyone will admit  
that I was right  
when their rulers are thrown  
down a rocky cliff,  
7<sup>3</sup> and their bones lie scattered  
like broken rocks  
on top of a grave.<sup>3</sup>
- 8<sup>4</sup> You are my LORD and God,  
and I look to you for safety.  
Don't let me be harmed.
- 9<sup>5</sup> Protect me from the traps  
of those violent people,  
10<sup>6</sup> and make them fall  
into their own traps  
while you help me escape.

### Psalm 142

*[A special psalm and a prayer by David when he was in the cave.]*

#### A Prayer for Help

- 1<sup>1</sup> I pray to you, LORD.  
I beg for mercy.
- 2<sup>2</sup> I tell you all of my worries  
and my troubles,  
3<sup>3</sup> and whenever I feel low,  
you are there to guide me.
- A trap has been hidden  
along my pathway.
- 4<sup>4</sup> Even if you look,  
you won't see anyone  
who cares enough  
to walk beside me.  
There is no place to hide,  
and no one who really cares.
- 5<sup>5</sup> I pray to you, LORD!  
You are my place of safety,  
and you are my choice  
in the land of the living.  
Please answer my prayer.  
I am completely helpless.
- 6<sup>6</sup> Help! They are chasing me,  
and they are too strong.

- 7<sup>7</sup> Rescue me from this prison,  
so I can praise your name.  
And when your people notice  
your wonderful kindness to me,  
they will rush to my side.

### Psalm 143

*[A psalm by David.]*

#### A Prayer in Time of Danger

- 1<sup>1</sup> Listen, LORD, as I pray!  
You are faithful and honest  
and will answer my prayer.
- 2<sup>2</sup> I am your servant.  
Don't try me in your court,  
because no one is innocent  
by your standards.
- 3<sup>3</sup> My enemies are chasing me,  
crushing me in the ground.  
I am in total darkness,  
like someone long dead.
- 4<sup>4</sup> I have given up all hope,  
and I feel numb all over.
- 5<sup>5</sup> I remember to think about  
the many things you did  
in years gone by.
- 6<sup>6</sup> Then I lift my hands in prayer,  
because my soul is a desert,  
thirsty for water from you.
- 7<sup>7</sup> Please hurry, LORD,  
and answer my prayer.  
I feel hopeless.  
Don't turn away  
and leave me here to die.
- 8<sup>8</sup> Each morning let me learn  
more about your love  
because I trust you.  
I come to you in prayer,  
asking for your guidance.
- 9<sup>9</sup> Please rescue me  
from my enemies, LORD!  
I come to you for safety.▷
- 10<sup>10</sup> You are my God. Show me  
what you want me to do,  
and let your gentle Spirit  
lead me in the right path.
- 11<sup>11</sup> Be true to your name, LORD,  
and keep my life safe.  
Use your saving power  
to protect me from trouble.

- <sup>12</sup> I am your servant.  
Show how much you love me  
by destroying my enemies.

### **Psalm 144**

*[By David.]*

#### **A Prayer for the Nation**

- <sup>1</sup> I praise you, LORD!  
You are my mighty rock,▷  
and you teach me  
how to fight my battles.
- <sup>2</sup> You are my friend,  
and you are my fortress  
where I am safe.  
You are my shield,  
and you made me the ruler  
of our people.▷
- <sup>3</sup> Why do we humans mean anything  
to you, our LORD?  
Why do you care about us?
- <sup>4</sup> We disappear like a breath;  
we last no longer  
than a faint shadow.
- <sup>5</sup> Open the heavens like a curtain  
and come down, LORD.  
Touch the mountains  
and make them send up smoke.
- <sup>6</sup> Use your lightning as arrows  
to scatter my enemies  
and make them run away.
- <sup>7</sup> Reach down from heaven  
and set me free.  
Save me from the mighty flood  
<sup>8</sup> of those lying foreigners  
who can't tell the truth.
- <sup>9</sup> In praise of you, our God,  
I will sing a new song,  
while playing my harp.
- <sup>10</sup> By your power, kings win wars,  
and your servant David is saved  
from deadly swords.
- <sup>11</sup> Won't you keep me safe  
from those lying foreigners  
who can't tell the truth?
- <sup>12</sup> Let's pray that our young sons  
will grow like strong plants  
and that our daughters  
will be as lovely as columns  
in the corner of a palace.

- <sup>13</sup> May our barns be filled  
with all kinds of crops.  
May our fields be covered  
with sheep by the thousands,  
<sup>14</sup> and every cow have calves.▷  
Don't let our city be captured  
or any of us be taken away,  
and don't let cries of sorrow  
be heard in our streets.
- <sup>15</sup> Our LORD and our God,  
you give these blessings  
to all who worship you.

### **Psalm 145**

*[By David for praise.]*

#### **The LORD Is Kind and Merciful**

- <sup>1</sup> I will praise you,  
my God and King,  
and always honor your name.
- <sup>2</sup> I will praise you each day  
and always honor your name.
- <sup>3</sup> You are wonderful, LORD,  
and you deserve all praise,  
because you are much greater  
than anyone can understand.
- <sup>4</sup> Each generation will announce  
to the next your wonderful  
and powerful deeds.
- <sup>5</sup> I will keep thinking about  
your marvelous glory  
and your mighty miracles.▷
- <sup>6</sup> Everyone will talk about  
your fearsome deeds,  
and I will tell all nations  
how great you are.
- <sup>7</sup> They will celebrate and sing  
about your matchless mercy  
and your power to save.
- <sup>8</sup> You are merciful, LORD!  
You are kind and patient  
and always loving.
- <sup>9</sup> You are good to everyone,  
and you take care  
of all your creation.
- <sup>10</sup> All creation will thank you,  
and your loyal people  
will praise you.
- <sup>11</sup> They will tell about

your marvelous kingdom  
and your power.

12 Then everyone will know about  
the mighty things you do  
and your glorious kingdom.

13 Your kingdom will never end,  
and you will rule forever.

Our LORD, you keep your word  
and do everything you say.<sup>▷</sup>

14 When someone stumbles or falls,  
you give a helping hand.

15 Everyone depends on you,  
and when the time is right,  
you provide them with food.

16 By your own hand you satisfy  
the desires of all who live.

17 Our LORD, everything you do  
is kind and thoughtful,

18 and you are near to everyone  
whose prayers are sincere.

19 You satisfy the desires  
of all your worshipers,  
and you come to save them  
when they ask for help.

20 You take care of everyone  
who loves you,  
but you destroy the wicked.

21 I will praise you, LORD,  
and everyone will respect  
your holy name forever.

### Psalm 146

#### Shout Praises to the LORD

1 Shout praises to the LORD!  
With all that I am,  
I will shout his praises.

2 I will sing and praise  
the LORD God  
for as long as I live.

3 You can't depend on anyone,  
not even a great leader.

4 Once they die and are buried,  
that will be the end  
of all their plans.

5 The LORD God of Jacob blesses  
everyone who trusts him  
and depends on him.

6 God made heaven and earth;  
he created the sea  
and everything else.

God always keeps his word.

7 He gives justice to the poor  
and food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free  
and heals blind eyes.

8 He gives a helping hand  
to everyone who falls.

The LORD loves good people  
and looks after strangers.

9 He defends the rights  
of orphans and widows,  
but destroys the wicked.

10 The LORD God of Zion  
will rule forever!  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 147

#### Sing and Praise the LORD

1 Shout praises to the LORD!  
Our God is kind,  
and it is right and good  
to sing praises to him.

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem  
and brings the people of Israel  
back home again.

3 He renews our hopes  
and heals our bodies.

4 He decided how many stars  
there would be in the sky  
and gave each one a name.

5 Our LORD is great and powerful!  
He understands everything.

6 The LORD helps the poor,  
but he smears the wicked  
in the dirt.

7 Celebrate and sing!  
Play your harps  
for the LORD our God.

8 He fills the sky with clouds  
and sends rain to the earth,  
so that the hills  
will be green with grass.

9 He provides food for cattle  
and for the young ravens,  
when they cry out.

10 The LORD doesn't care about  
the strength of horses  
or powerful armies.

11 The LORD is pleased only

with those who worship him  
and trust his love.

<sup>12</sup> Everyone in Jerusalem,  
come and praise  
the LORD your God!

<sup>13</sup> He makes your city gates strong  
and blesses your people  
by giving them children.

<sup>14</sup> God lets you live in peace,  
and he gives you  
the very best wheat.

<sup>15</sup> As soon as God speaks,  
the earth obeys.

<sup>16</sup> He covers the ground with snow  
like a blanket of wool,  
and he scatters frost  
like ashes on the ground.

<sup>17</sup> God sends down hailstones  
like chips of rocks.  
Who can stand the cold?

<sup>18</sup> At his command the ice melts,  
the wind blows,  
and streams begin to flow.

<sup>19</sup> God gave his laws and teachings  
to the descendants of Jacob,  
the nation of Israel.

<sup>20</sup> But he has not given his laws  
to any other nation.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 148

#### Come Praise the LORD

<sup>1</sup> Shout praises to the LORD!  
Shout the LORD' s praises  
in the highest heavens.

<sup>2</sup> All of you angels,  
and all who serve him above,  
come and offer praise.

<sup>3</sup> Sun and moon,  
and all of you bright stars,  
come and offer praise.

<sup>4</sup> Highest heavens, and the water  
above the highest heavens,  
come and offer praise.

<sup>5</sup> Let all things praise  
the name of the LORD,  
because they were created  
at his command.

<sup>6</sup> He made them to last forever,  
and nothing can change  
what he has done.▷

<sup>7</sup> All creatures on earth,  
you obey his commands,  
so come praise the LORD!

<sup>8</sup> Sea monsters and the deep sea,  
fire and hail, snow and frost,  
and every stormy wind,  
come praise the LORD!

<sup>9</sup> All mountains and hills,  
fruit trees and cedars,

<sup>10</sup> every wild and tame animal,  
all reptiles and birds,  
come praise the LORD!

<sup>11</sup> Every king and every ruler,  
all nations on earth,

<sup>12</sup> every man and every woman,  
young people and old,  
come praise the LORD!

<sup>13</sup> All creation, come praise  
the name of the LORD.  
Praise his name alone.  
The glory of God is greater  
than heaven and earth.

<sup>14</sup> Like a bull with mighty horns,  
the LORD protects  
his faithful nation Israel,  
because they belong to him.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 149

#### A New Song of Praise

<sup>1</sup> Shout praises to the LORD!  
Sing him a new song of praise  
when his loyal people meet.

<sup>2</sup> People of Israel, rejoice  
because of your Creator.  
People of Zion, celebrate  
because of your King.

<sup>3</sup> Praise his name by dancing  
and playing music on harps  
and tambourines.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD is pleased  
with his people,  
and he gives victory  
to those who are humble.

<sup>5</sup> All of you faithful people,  
praise our glorious Lord!  
Celebrate and worship.

- 6 Praise God with songs  
on your lips  
and a sword in your hand.  
7 Take revenge and punish  
the nations.  
8 Put chains of iron  
on their kings and rulers.  
9 Punish them as they deserve;  
this is the privilege  
of God's faithful people.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

### Psalm 150

#### The LORD Is Good to His People

- 1 Shout praises to the LORD!  
Praise God in his temple.

- Praise him in heaven,  
his mighty fortress.  
2 Praise our God!  
His deeds are wonderful,  
too marvelous to describe.  
3 Praise God with trumpets  
and all kinds of harps.  
4 Praise him with tambourines  
and dancing,  
with stringed instruments  
and woodwinds.  
5 Praise God with cymbals,  
with clashing cymbals.  
6 Let every living creature  
praise the LORD.  
Shout praises to the LORD!

#### Notes

\*An asterisk preceding a verse number in a poetic passage of this book indicates that the contents of two or more verses have been joined together and rearranged beginning with the verse so marked.

Phrases enclosed in half square superscript brackets (‘’) are those that are difficult to translate from the original Hebrew with great certainty. Consequently, the English rendering given should be understood as only one possible way of translating such texts.

- ▷ **2.1** *Why ... plot:* Or “Why are the nations restless?”  
▷ **2.1** *make useless plans:* Or “grumble uselessly.”  
▷ **4.2** *me:* Or “my God.”  
▷ **4.3** *has chosen ... very own:* Some Hebrew manuscripts have “work miracles for his faithful people.”  
▷ **5.1** *when I groan:* Or “to my thoughts” or “to my words.”  
▷ **5.3** *requests:* Or “sacrifices.”  
▷ **Psalm 6** *instruments:* The Hebrew text adds “according to the sheminith.”  
▷ **Psalm 7** *Written by David:* The Hebrew text has “a shiggaion by David.”  
▷ **7.4** *had pity on an enemy:* Or “failed to have pity on an enemy.”  
▷ **7.7** *sit ... throne:* Or “return to your place.”  
▷ **Psalm 8** *leader:* The Hebrew text adds “according to the githith.”  
▷ **8.1** *You ... seen:* Or “I will worship your glory.”  
▷ **8.5** *you yourself:* Or “the angels” or “the beings in heaven.”  
▷ **11.6** *fiery coals:* Or “trouble, fire.”  
▷ **Psalm 12** *leader:* The Hebrew text adds “according to the sheminith.”  
▷ **12.6** *in a fiery furnace:* The Hebrew text has “in a furnace to the ground.”  
▷ **16.3** *Your people ... happy:* Or “I was happy worshipping gods I thought were powerful.”  
▷ **18.2** *mighty rock:* The Hebrew text has “rock.”  
▷ **18.2** *my powerful weapon:* The Hebrew text has “the horn.”  
▷ **18.31,46; 19.14** *mighty rock:* The Hebrew text has “rock.”  
▷ **20.9** *victory ... prayers:* Or “victory. He (God or the king) answers us.”  
▷ **24.6** *worship ... Jacob:* Two ancient translations; Hebrew “worship God and serve the descendants of Jacob.”  
▷ **26.3** *I am ... to you:* Or “I trust your faithfulness.”  
▷ **27.5; 28.1** *mighty rock:* The Hebrew text has “rock.”  
▷ **29.1** *angels:* Or “supernatural beings” or “gods.”  
▷ **29.2** *most ... glorious:* Or “in his holy place” or “and wear your glorious clothes.”  
▷ **29.9** *makes ... time:* Or “twists the oak trees around.”  
▷ **31.2** *mighty rock:* The Hebrew text has “rock.”  
▷ **32.6** *whenever ... sinned:* Hebrew “at a time of finding only.”  
▷ **35.13** *I ... them:* Or “My prayer wasn’t answered, but I prayed.”  
▷ **42.9** *mighty rock:* The Hebrew text has “rock.”  
▷ **44.4** *and ... victory:* One ancient translation; Hebrew “please give victory.”  
▷ **45.6** *You ... king:* Or “God has made you king, and you will rule forever.”  
▷ **45.9** *trimmed with pure gold:* Hebrew has “with gold from Ophir.”

- ▷ **45.13** *has inward beauty*: Or "Is dressed in her room."
- ▷ **46.9** *shields*: Or "chariots."
- ▷ **48.7** *seagoing ships*: The Hebrew text has "ships of Tarshish."
- ▷ **49.11** *The grave*: Some ancient translations; Hebrew "Their inward thoughts."
- ▷ **Psalm 53** *Mahalath*: Or "For flutes."
- ▷ **58.1** *mighty people*: Or "mighty rulers" or "mighty gods."
- ▷ **60.4** *so ... arrows*: Some ancient translations.
- ▷ **61.2** *mighty rock*: The Hebrew text has "rock."
- ▷ **62.1** *calmly wait for*: Or "am at peace with."
- ▷ **62.2** *mighty rock*: The Hebrew text has "rock."
- ▷ **64.5** *us*: One ancient translation; Hebrew "them."
- ▷ **64.8** *tremble with fear*: Or "turn and run."
- ▷ **68.6** *and let them prosper*: Or "and give them a song."
- ▷ **68.17** *to your people*: Or "In all your holiness" or "In your holy place."
- ▷ **68.21** *are ready for war*: The Hebrew text has "have long hair."
- ▷ **68.31** *the Ethiopians*: The Hebrew text has "the people of Cush."
- ▷ **71.3** *mighty rock*: The Hebrew text has "rock."
- ▷ **72.5** *Let the king live*: One ancient translation; Hebrew "Let them worship you."
- ▷ **73.1** *to Israel*: Or "to those who do right."
- ▷ **73.4** *They ... suffer*: Or "They die a painless death."
- ▷ **73.24** *in glory*: Or "with honor."
- ▷ **74.17** *gave ... earth*: Or "made boundaries for the earth."
- ▷ **76.4** *the eternal mountains*: One ancient translation; Hebrew "the mountains of victims (of wild animals)."
- ▷ **77.6** *my mind ... questions*: One ancient translation; Hebrew "I remember my music."
- ▷ **78.35** *mighty rock*: The Hebrew text has "rock."
- ▷ **78.47** *floods*: Or "frost."
- ▷ **78.61** *sacred chest*: The Hebrew text has "his power."
- ▷ **Psalm 81** *leader*: The Hebrew text adds "according to the githith."
- ▷ **81.16** *the best honey*: The Hebrew text has "honey from rocks."
- ▷ **83.7** *Phoenicia*: The Hebrew text has "Tyre."
- ▷ **83.8** *Moab and Ammon*: The Hebrew text has "the descendants of Lot."
- ▷ **Psalm 84** *leader*: The Hebrew text adds "according to the githith."
- ▷ **84.6** *Dry Valley*: Or "Balsam Tree Valley."
- ▷ **87.4** *Egypt*: The Hebrew text has "Rahab."
- ▷ **87.4** *Phoenicia*: The Hebrew text has "Tyre."
- ▷ **87.4** *Ethiopia*: The Hebrew text has "Cush."
- ▷ **Psalm 88** *To ... Leannoth*: Or "For the flutes."
- ▷ **89.12** *and everything else*: The Hebrew text has "Zaphon and Yamin."
- ▷ **89.26** *mighty rock*: The Hebrew text has "rock."
- ▷ **91.4** *city wall*: This Hebrew word may possibly mean some kind of shield or weapon.
- ▷ **92.15**; **94.22**; **95.1** *mighty rock*: The Hebrew text has "rock."
- ▷ **106.7,9,22** *Red Sea*: Hebrew *yam suph* "Sea of Reeds."
- ▷ **106.28** *the dead*: Or "lifeless idols."
- ▷ **107.3** *south*: The Hebrew text has "sea."
- ▷ **110.7** *while ... victory*: Or "God will give him victory after victory."
- ▷ **111.10** *This ... sense*: Or "This is what wisdom and good sense are all about."
- ▷ **119.83** *a dried-up wineskin*: The Hebrew text has "a wineskin in the smoke."
- ▷ **119.89** *Our ... heavens*: Or "Our LORD, your word is eternal. It will last as long as the heavens."
- ▷ **119.119** *As far as ... are*: A few Hebrew manuscripts and ancient translations. Most Hebrew manuscripts have "You get rid of evil people as if they were."
- ▷ **126.1** *brought ... Zion*: Or "made the city of Zion prosperous again."
- ▷ **136.4** *great miracles*: One Hebrew manuscript and one ancient translation have "miracles."
- ▷ **136.13** *Red Sea*: Hebrew *yam suph* "Sea of Reeds."
- ▷ **137.2** *willow*: Or "poplar."
- ▷ **138.1** *angels*: Or "gods" or "supernatural beings" who worship and serve God in heaven or "rulers" or "leaders."
- ▷ **138.8** *You have ... now*: Or "Please don't desert your people."
- ▷ **143.9** *I ... safety*: Or "You are my hiding place."
- ▷ **144.1** *mighty rock*: The Hebrew text has "rock."
- ▷ **144.2** *of our people*: Some Hebrew manuscripts and ancient translations have "of the nations."
- ▷ **144.14** *have calves*: Or "grow fat."
- ▷ **145.5** *and ... miracles*: One Hebrew manuscript and two ancient translations have "as others tell about your mighty miracles."
- ▷ **145.13** *Our ... say*: These words are found in one Hebrew manuscript and two ancient translations.
- ▷ **148.6** *nothing ... done*: Or "his laws will never change."