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45 Metrical texts of Genevan Psalms

William Helder

Ps. 1 1980 / revised, 2000
Ps. 2 1980 / altered, 2000
Ps. 3 2000 / 2005 (new version)
Ps. 4 1980 / revised, 2000
Ps. 17 1980 / partly revised, 2005
Ps. 19 2002 / 2005 (new version)
Ps. 23 1980 / altered, 2004
Ps. 27 1980 / altered, 2005
Ps. 32 1980 / altered, 2004
Ps. 34 1980 / slightly altered, 2006
Ps. 38 1980 / altered, 2005
Ps. 39 1980 / altered, 2005
Ps. 47 2003 (new version)
Ps. 49 1980 (unchanged)
Ps. 51 2003 (new version); minor alteration, 2006
Ps. 60 2005 (new version)
Ps. 63 1980 / revised, 2006
Ps. 66 1980 / altered, 2006
Ps. 67 1980 / altered, 2006
Ps. 73 1972 / revised, 2006
Ps. 76 1972 / revised, 2006
Ps. 79 1972 / altered, 2006
Ps. 81 1972 / altered, 2006
Ps. 84 2003 (new version)
Ps. 85 1971 / revised, 2006
Ps. 92 1972 / revised, 2005
Ps. 96 1972 / altered, 2006
Ps. 100 1980 / very minor alteration, 2006
Ps. 101 2003 (new version)
Ps. 103 1972 / revised, 2000 / slightly altered, 2005
Ps. 101 2003 (new version)
Ps. 103 1972 / revised, 2000 / slightly altered, 2005
Ps. 108 2005 (new version)
Ps. 112 2006 (new version)
Ps. 113 1980 / minor alteration, 2006
Ps. 118 1972 / revised, 2006
Ps. 119 1972 / revised, 2005 / very slightly altered, 2006
Ps. 120 1972 / very minor alteration, 2006
Ps. 121 2000 (new version)
Ps. 122 2003 (new version)
Ps. 126 2006 (new version)
Ps. 135 1980 / altered, 2006
Ps. 138 2000 (new version)
Ps. 147 1972 / altered, 2006
Ps. 148 2006 (new version)

PSALMS

Book I: Psalms 1-41

PSALM 1 (Strasbourg, 1539 / Geneva, 1551)

1. How blest is he who shuns the path of sin
And does not heed advice of wicked men.
He will not seek the company of scoffers;
To him their sneering pride no pleasure offers.
But in the law of God is his delight;
He meditates on it both day and night.

2. Those who the precepts of the LORD obey
And from His good commandments do not stray
Are like a tree which, planted by a river,
Is lush and green: its leaves will never wither,
And it in season yields abundant fruit.
So they will thrive, whatever their pursuit.

3. Not so the wicked! For like chaff are they—
Like worthless chaff. The wind blows it away.
When judgment comes, they'll stand condemned and humbled,
Cast out from where God's people are assembled.
The LORD will guard the pathway of the just;
The way of sinners leads to death and dust.

PSALM 2 (Strasbourg, 1539 / Lyons, 1548)

1. Why do the restless heathen madly rage?
What haughty schemes are they in vain contriving?
The kings and rulers of the earth engage
In rash attempts to plot their empty striving.
They stand prepared, they all conspire together
Against the LORD and His anointed King.
“Let us,” they say, “tear loose and break their fetters,
Cast off their chains, their shackles from us fling.”

2. Though proudly now they raise their battle cry,
How vain is all their frenzied opposition!
The LORD, who sits enthroned in heaven on high,
Laughs them to scorn: He holds them in derision.
Then He will speak in wrath and indignation
And all their host will He with terror fill:
“I’ve set my King,” so runs His proclamation,
“Upon mount Zion, on My holy hill.”

3. O peoples, listen to the LORD’s decree.
I will repeat His public declaration:
“Your Father I become this very day;
You are my Son. To You I give the nations.
Ask what You will: Your heritage I’ll make them;
Their lands You will possess, both near and far,
For with a rod of iron You shall break them,
Dash them to pieces, like a potter’s jar.”

4. Take heed, O rulers of the earth, and hear.
Be wise, O kings, and let His edict warn you.
Rejoice with trembling; serve the LORD with fear.
Now kiss the Son, lest He in fury scorn you,
Lest in His wrath the LORD cause you to perish,
For quickly kindled is His anger’s blaze.
But all who trust in Him the LORD will cherish;
He will defend and bless them all their days.

PSALM 3 (Strasbourg, 1539 / Geneva, 1551)

1. How countless are my foes!
O LORD, how many those
Who rise up to accuse me,
Who point at me and shout,
“God will not help him out!”
They with their taunts abuse me.
But You, O LORD, will be
A shield to cover me
When I am faint and weary,
For when you hear me sigh,
You lift my head up high;
You are my power and glory.

2. I cry to God, and He
From Zion answers me,
Not leaving me forsaken.
In Him I put my trust:
I go to sleep, and rest
Until at dawn I waken.
By thousands I’m beset,
But God will not forget
To be my strength and tower.
Though foes in fierce array
Encircle me as prey,
I do not fear their power.

3. Arise, O God of might,
And put my foes to flight.
Let all their host be scattered!
For You uphold my cause:
You strike them on the jaws
And leave their teeth all shattered.
The LORD will ever be
The one who sets us free
When enemies oppress us.
O God in whom we trust,
In You shall we find rest.
May You forever bless us.

PSALM 4 (Strasbourg, Geneva, 1542 / Geneva, 1551)

1. O righteous God of my salvation,
Be merciful and hear my plea!
In times of trouble or oppression
You sent me help and consolation.
Be gracious now and answer me!
How long, O men, will you bring sorrow
And turn my honour into shame?
How long yet will you love and follow
Lies and illusions, vain and hollow?
How long will you revile my name?

2. Know that the LORD in His good pleasure
Has set the righteous ones apart:
He claims me as His own, His treasure.
In mercy great beyond all measure,
He takes my misery to heart.
Do not let wrath breed sin and violence.
Restrain your anger and be still;
Lie down to meditate in silence.
Place in the LORD your sole reliance.
Bring Him your offerings. Do His will.

3. So many sigh, "O who will ever
Show any good to us again?"
O LORD whose mercy fails us never,
Bestow on us Your love, Your favour,
And cause Your face on us to shine.
More joy and gladness You have sent me
Than all the joy of those who feast
On grain and wine in days of plenty.
LORD, in the safety that You grant me,
I sleep in peace, from cares released.

PSALM 17 (Geneva, 1551)

1. LORD, hear me plead a righteous cause;
With blameless lips I come before You
And with my bitter cries implore You
To rescue one who loves Your laws.
LORD, silence every accusation
Of those who in my harm delight
And fix Your eyes on what is right.
To You I look for vindication.
2. If in the night You probe my mind
And test my inner thoughts and feelings,
All that my heart may be concealing,
You will in me no evil find.
My mouth does not commit transgression.
As for the works of wicked men,
Your word has kept me far from sin,
From ways of violent oppression.
3. Your paths I took to travel by,
And never did I slip or waver.
I call on You, I seek Your favor,
For You will answer from on high.
LORD, show Your mercy never-ending
And hear my prayer from heaven above.
Display the wonders of Your love,
O shield of those on You depending.
4. LORD, as the apple of Your eye
Protect me; with Your care provide me.
Beneath Your wings, O Savior, hide me:
My deadly foes in ambush lie.
They close their hearts to all compassion
And utter boastful vanity.
They track me down, surrounding me
To make me yield to their oppression.
5. They like a lion crave their prey;
Me they are seeking to devour.
Rise up, O LORD! Show them Your power
And with Your hand snatch me away.
Save me from those whose only pleasure
Is this life's portion, nothing more.
O gorge them with the wealth they store
And let their offspring share such treasure.
7. But I, when I awake, shall see
Your face in righteousness and glory.
LORD, with Your likeness then before me,
How rich and full my joy shall be.

PSALM 19 (Geneva, 1542/1543)

1. The spacious heav'ns declare
God's glory everywhere;
The skies proclaim His might.
The knowledge they display
Day echoes forth to day
And night makes known to night.
They use no speech or word,
Yet everywhere is heard
The voice of all creation.
The truth that it expounds
Throughout the world resounds
And reaches every nation.

2. God in the firmament
Pitched for the sun a tent,
The canopy of night.
From there it like a groom
With great rejoicing comes
Arrayed in glorious light.
Like one who runs a race
With strong and eager pace,
Across the vault of heaven
The sun its path completes.
So piercing is its heat
That it leaves nothing hidden.

3. God's law is sound and whole;
It will revive the soul,
For it new strength supplies.
His testimony sure,
Trustworthy evermore,
Will make the simple wise.
His precepts plainly show
How right they are, and so
The heart they cheer and brighten.
The LORD's commandments pure
Shine forth with radiance clear
And so the eyes enlighten.

4. The fear of God is clean
And, free from sin and stain,
Forever will endure.
His judgments all express
Unfailing righteousness;
The LORD's decrees are sure.

They far exceed in worth
The finest gold on earth:
His precious testimony!
It sweeter is by far
Than all that's sweet and pure
In combs that drip with honey.

5. Your servant, who has heard
The warnings of Your word,
To them pays heed, O LORD.
Those walking in Your way,
Who Your commands obey,
Will win a great reward.
But, LORD, who can perceive
What errors one may have
Unwittingly committed?
O cleanse me! Let me be
Of secret failings free,
Of hidden faults acquitted.

6. O LORD, from wilful ways
Preserve me all my days:
The rule of sin prevent.
Then I shall blameless be,
From grave offences free,
And wholly innocent.
O hear me as I pray:
Let what my tongue may say
And what my heart may ponder
Be pleasing in Your sight,
O LORD so great in might,
My rock and my defender.

PSALM 23 (1534 / Geneva, 1551)

1. The LORD my shepherd in His love defends me;
I shall not want. In pastures green He tends me,
Makes me lie down, His care and mercy showing;
Leads me where peaceful streams are gently flowing.
He for His name's sake surely will restore me;
In paths of righteousness He goes before me.

2. Though in death's valley, lonely and forsaken,
I am by gloom and shadows overtaken,
I fear no evil, for You are beside me;
Through all the depths of sorrow You will guide me.
You comfort me, O God of my salvation;
Your rod and staff, they are my consolation.

3. Your bounteous table You prepare before me,
And all my foes look on while You restore me.
My head You have with soothing oil anointed;
My cup runs over, for You have appointed
Goodness and mercy to forsake me never,
And in Your house, LORD, I shall dwell forever.

PSALM 27 (Geneva, 1551)

1. God is my light, my refuge, my salvation.
Whom shall I fear? The LORD comes to my aid.
He is my strength in all my tribulation.
Of whom shall I then ever be afraid?
When foes who seek my life close in on me,
They all shall stumble and in anguish flee;
And though an army should in war draw near,
I will be confident; I will not fear.
2. One thing have I desired of God as favor,
That I may always in His temple dwell
To view the beauty of the LORD my Savior
And in His house to seek His holy will.
For in the day of trouble and of strife
He in His shelter will preserve my life.
Within His tent He'll keep me at His side;
High on a rock He safety will provide.
3. My head shall I lift up now with rejoicing
Above the hostile forces round about,
And in His tent, my jubilation voicing,
My sacrifice I'll bring with joyful shouts.
I will extol the steadfast love of God
And with melodious hymns His mercy laud.
LORD, hear me when I call and answer me.
Show me your favor. Listen to my plea.
4. "Come, seek My face." O LORD, so You have spoken,
And in response my heart says earnestly:
"Your count'nance I will seek in prayer unbroken."
LORD, hear me! Do not hide Your face from me,
Nor thrust Your servant angrily aside,
For You have ever been my help and guide.
Do not forsake me. Listen to my cry.
On You, O God my Savior, I rely.
5. My father and my mother may forsake me:
The LORD is faithful and His help is sure.
Teach me Your way. O LORD and Savior, take me,
Lead me on pathways level and secure,
For evildoers lie in wait for me.
Hand me not over to their tyranny.
False witnesses against me still arise;
They breathe out malice and abusive lies.

6. How I would have despaired in my affliction
If I had not believed that in this life
The LORD would show His goodness, His protection;
I would have perished in my tears and strife.
Wait for the LORD; be strong and undismayed.
The LORD is faithful. Why then be afraid?
Take courage, for His steadfast love is sure.
Wait for the LORD; His mercy shall endure.

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PSALM 32 (Strasbourg, 1539 / Geneva, 1551)

1. Blest is the man whose trespass is forgiven,
 Whose sins are covered in the sight of heaven;
 Against whom You, O LORD, will graciously
 Not count his guilt and his iniquity.
 Blest he who with a heart contrite and lowly
 Confesses all his sins, O LORD most holy;
 Who does not secretly Your laws transgress,
 Whose spirit harbors no deceitfulness.

2. When I kept silent, sinful ways condoning,
 I pined away through my incessant groaning.
 Your hand weighed down on me in my deceit;
 My strength was sapped as by the summer's heat.
 To You, O God of justice and compassion,
 I then at last acknowledged my transgression.
 I said, "My misdeeds I to You confess,"
 And You forgave my guilt and sinfulness.

3. Let all the godly when they grieve or suffer
 To You their prayers and supplications offer.
 When roaring floods of mighty waters rise,
 They shall not reach him who on You relies.
 O LORD, You are my shelter; You protect me.
 You are my shield, whatever may afflict me.
 Songs of deliv'rance echo all around;
 You cheer my spirit with their joyful sound.

4. I will instruct you, with my aid provide you,
 And in the way that you should go will guide you.
 My counsel will be ever at your side,
 And, keeping watch, I will with you abide.
 Be not a fool, who has no understanding;
 Do not behave like horse or mule, depending
 On bit and bridle to control their course;
 They disobey unless restrained by force.

5. With many woes the wicked are afflicted,
 But those who trust in God are well protected;
 Them will the LORD with steadfast love surround.
 Those who revere Him are with mercy crowned.
 Be glad, You righteous, in the LORD rejoicing;
 Exult in Him, your jubilation voicing.
 All you of upright heart, with joyful shout
 Now let the praises of the LORD ring out.

PSALM 34 (Geneva, 1551)

1. The LORD I will extol,
At all times bless His holy name.
I will not cease to sing His praise;
His goodness I proclaim.
I glory in the LORD;
Let the afflicted hear my voice.
O magnify the LORD with me!
With me in Him rejoice.

2. I sought the LORD in prayer;
He heard my plea and answered me.
From all my worries and my fears
The LORD has set me free.
Those who on Him rely
Will never hang their heads in shame.
When this poor man cried out for help,
The LORD delivered him.

3. The Angel of the LORD
Ever encamps around all those
Who fear him and exalt His name;
God saves them from their woes.
O come, then, taste and see
That He, the LORD, is good and just.
Blest is the man who turns to Him
And puts in Him his trust.

4. All you who are His saints,
Revere the LORD and worship Him,
For those who fear Him have no want;
He richly blesses them.
Though lions may grow faint
And pangs of hunger may endure,
Those seeking Him lack no good thing;
In Him they rest secure.

5. Come, children, hear my voice;
You I will teach to fear the LORD.
Who is the man desiring life,
Its pleasures and rewards?
Keep then Your tongue from wrong
And let your lips no falsehood speak.
Depart from evil and do good;
True peace and concord seek.

6. The LORD from heaven above
Regards the righteous with His eyes,
And when they call on Him, His ears
Are open to their cries.
But evildoers all
The anger of the LORD must face;
He cuts them off, and from the earth
Their name He will erase.
7. But when the righteous cry,
The LORD in mercy hears their pleas;
He graciously delivers them
From all their miseries.
The LORD is always near;
The brokenhearted He will heal.
Those crushed in spirit He will save,
To them His love reveal.
8. The righteous man may grieve;
He many troubles may endure.
The LORD will free him from them all;
His help is ever sure.
Why should he then despair?
God keeps his bones from injury;
Not one of them will come to harm,
For great and good is He!
9. Their countless evil deeds
Will slay the wicked in the end.
All those who hate the righteous ones
He'll to perdition send.
The LORD redeems the life
Of those who serve and honour Him;
All who in Him their refuge take
He never will condemn.

PSALM 38 (Strasbourg, Geneva, 1542 / Geneva, 1551)

1. LORD, rebuke me not in anger,
And no longer
Let Your wrath on me descend.
You have pierced me with Your arrows,
Brought me sorrows,
Bowed me down with Your own hand.
2. You have of all strength bereft me;
Health has left me,
And Your wrath is my despair.
My iniquities distress me
And oppress me;
They are more than I can bear.
3. All my wounds are foul and reeking;
Ever weakening,
I am utterly bowed down.
Bitter fruits of folly reaping,
I go weeping,
For my vigor is all gone.
4. I am crushed and numb with anguish
As I languish,
And in misery I groan.
LORD, to You my mournful crying
And my sighing
Are not hidden or unknown.
5. How my pounding heart is straining;
Strength is waning,
And my eyes are failing me.
I am by my friends neglected
And rejected;
Kinsmen see my plagues and flee.
6. Those who lie in wait to snare me
Will not spare me
All the mischief they devise.
Seeming deaf and dumb before them,
I ignore them
And I offer no replies.
7. You, O LORD my God, will hear me
And be near me;
You, O LORD, will heed my voice.
Though my foot may slip and waver,
Show Your favor;
Do not let my foes rejoice.

8. I am prone to fall or stumble,
And I tremble,
Thinking of my grief and pain.
I acknowledge my transgression
In confession,
Deeply troubled by my sin.
9. Countless mighty foes berate me,
Fiercely hate me;
Without cause I am oppressed.
Ill for good they always render;
Me they slander
Since I strive for what is best.
10. LORD, forsake me not but hear me
And stay near me;
Be my help and shield, I pray.
Hasten to my aid, O Savior;
Show Your favor.
O my God, do not delay.

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PSALM 39 (Geneva, 1551)

1. I said that I would closely guard my ways
And keep from sinning with my tongue,
That on my mouth a muzzle I would place
While evildoers round me throng.
When, dumb and silent, I then held my peace,
My grief and woe did but increase.
2. My heart grew hot, within me set ablaze.
I cried, "LORD, let me know my end.
Reveal to me the measure of my days,
For as mere handbreadths You extend
My span of fleeting days, so frail and light.
It is as nothing in Your sight.
3. "Surely a man is nothing but a breath;
He as a shadow goes his way.
Surely in vain he struggles till his death:
He piles up riches while he may,
Not knowing who will later gather them.
His striving will not profit him.
4. "What is it that I now shall wait for, LORD?
In You I put my hope and trust.
From all my sins deliverance afford,
And let me not by scorn be crushed.
My mouth I do not open, for I see
It is Your hand that chastens me.
5. "Remove from me the chastisement I fear,
Lest I should perish through Your wrath.
At Your rebukes, that which a man holds dear
Will fade and shrivel like a moth.
For man is merely breath and vanity;
Yes, like a puff of wind is he.
6. "LORD, hear my cry, give ear to my request;
Do not my bitter tears ignore.
For I with You am but a passing guest,
As all my fathers were before.
O turn away from me Your watchful eye
And give me joy before I die."

Book II: Psalms 42-72

PSALM 47 (Geneva, 1551)

1. Peoples of all lands, come and clap your hands!
Raise a joyful cry to the LORD Most High.
Awesome King is He, great in majesty.
Nations He brought low, humbling every foe.
By His mighty hand, He gave us our land—
Sign to Jacob of God's electing love.
2. God went up on high with a joyful cry,
And the trumpet's sound echoed all around.
Now with loud acclaim, magnify His name.
Play the harp and sing. Praise the LORD our King.
He rules all the earth: shout His glory forth.
Let your praise abound! Let the music sound!
3. Glorious is God's reign; great is His domain.
He rules all the lands, issues His commands.
Kings and princes all gather at His call;
They with gladness join those of Abr'ham's line,
For God from His throne claims them as His own.
Let Him be adored as our sovereign Lord!

PSALM 49 (Geneva, 1562)

1. Come, hear my words, you peoples everywhere,
And be attentive to what I declare.
All you who dwell throughout the earth, draw near;
Let high and low, and rich and poor, give ear.
My mouth to you great wisdom will impart,
For thoughtful and discerning is my heart.
My ear now to a parable inclining,
I with the harp will show my riddle's meaning.
2. In evil days why should my courage fail,
Though wicked men against me may prevail—
Those who in their possessions place their trust,
Who with their own great riches are impressed?
None for his brother's life can pay the price,
Nor give to God a ransom to suffice.
From death's decay man's wealth can save him never,
And it will not let him live on forever.
3. He surely sees that even wise men die,
That foolish men cannot death's power defy.
The grave's dark pit will ever be their home,
Their dwelling for all ages yet to come.
Although to great estates they give their name,
They leave their wealth for other men to claim.
For man, despite the riches he may cherish,
Cannot abide but, like the beasts, will perish.
4. Such is the fate of proud and foolish men,
The end of those who praise them for their sin.
Into Sheol like sheep they headlong run;
Their shepherd, Death, stands by to urge them on.
They all go down directly to the grave;
From death's corruption no one them can save.
But God will pay my ransom and not leave me,
For He into His glory will receive me.
5. When any man grows rich, be not afraid,
Nor let his glory render you dismayed.
He will not take it with him when he dies;
On his possessions he in vain relies.
Though he may here enjoy the praise of men,
He will not see the light of day again.
For man, despite the riches he may cherish,
Cannot abide but, like the beasts, will perish.

PSALM 51 (Strasbourg, 1539 / Geneva, 1551)

1. O gracious God, be merciful to me,
And in Your love, Your infinite compassion,
Blot out my sins, remove all my transgressions.
O God, have mercy. Listen to my plea!
From every taint of evil wash me clean,
And from my guilt and misery relieve me.
For I am deeply conscious of my sin,
And all day long my misdeeds haunt and grieve me.

2. God, You have I offended, You alone.
In mercy hear my sorrowful confession.
How evil in Your sight is my transgression!
You rightfully condemn what I have done;
Just is, O God, the sentence I received.
I have from birth been guilty, ever sinning;
In my iniquity was I conceived,
Tainted with sin right from my life's beginning.

3. You teach me all the wisdom I must know,
For You want truth to dwell and rule within me.
Purge me with hyssop. Wash and fully clean me
Till I am whiter than the whitest snow.
Let me hear shouts of happiness and joy,
And let the bones You crushed leap up in dances.
From my transgressions turn Your face away.
Blot out my guilt; erase all my offences.

4. Create in me a pure, clean heart, I pray,
And put a steadfast spirit deep within me;
Give me new life to strengthen and sustain me.
God, from Your presence cast me not away.
Show me Your mercy. Do not take from me
Your Holy Spirit. Let me, O my Savior,
Again the joy of Your salvation see,
And make me willing to obey You ever.

5. Then to transgressors I will teach Your ways,
And sinners will return to seek Your favor.
O God, from guilt of bloodshed me deliver;
Then shall my tongue Your saving justice praise.
I will aloud Your righteousness proclaim;
You are, O God, the God of my salvation.
Lord, open then my lips to praise Your name
And let me sing my songs of jubilation.

6. Lord, You do not in sacrifice delight,
Or else I would with off'rings try to please You.
How could I ever with my gifts appease You?
Burnt off'rings find no favor in Your sight.
One gift alone is pleasing in God's eyes:
The contrite heart of one who has repented.
A broken spirit You will not despise
When humbly as a sacrifice presented.
7. In Your good pleasure, bless Jerusalem;
Cause her to thrive, and shield her with Your power.
Build Zion's walls, O God. Uphold her towers;
Safeguard her citadels and strengthen them.
In sacrifices You will then delight,
In bullocks rightly offered on Your altar;
Burnt off'rings will be pleasing in Your sight.
Your love and mercy will not fail or falter.

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PSALM 60 (Geneva, 1562)

1. O God, You have rejected us
And left Your people powerless.
Too long we've seen Your anger burn.
Restore us now! To us return!
You made our land convulse and shake;
We saw it crack and split and quake.
Now cause its breaches to be mended;
No longer leave us undefended.

2. God, You have made Your people see
Times of extreme adversity.
Our life became one harsh ordeal;
You gave us wine that made us reel.
But You have raised a banner high
For those who on Your help rely.
Now show Your might and save Your nation;
To those You love, grant liberation.

3. Our mighty King, the God of grace,
Has spoken in His holy place:
"All Succoth's vale and Shechem's land
I will divide as I have planned.
All Gilead belongs to Me;
Manasseh is My property.
My helmet: Ephr'im, strong defender.
My scepter: Judah, firm commander.

4. "My foes I with My taunting sting:
At Edom I My sandal fling;
I Moab as My washbowl claim.
In Palestine I shout my fame."
God, who but You can be our guide
To Edom, so well fortified?
But You have cast us off in anger
And with our armies march no longer.

5. To us again Your favor show;
Grant us Your aid against the foe.
Uphold us as none other can,
For worthless is the help of man.
Our God will crush the enemy;
With Him, we'll gain the victory.
Our proud oppressors He will humble,
Tread on their necks and make them tremble.

PSALM 63 (Geneva, 1551)

1. You are my God; I seek Your face.
O God, for You I thirst and languish;
For You my flesh grows faint with anguish
As in a dry and weary place.
When I stood in Your sanctuary,
Where You are worshipped and adored,
I there beheld Your greatness, Lord,
And marveled at Your power and glory.

2. Your steadfast love is better far
Than life itself, O God my Savior.
Your faithfulness will never waver;
My lips Your praises will declare.
With joyful singing I will bless You
And all my life Your love proclaim.
With hands uplifted in Your name,
I will in thankful prayer address You.

3. You fill my soul with rich delight
As with the joys of lavish feasting,
And as I meditate while resting,
I think of You throughout the night.
I cling to You, my strong Deliv'rer,
And in the shadow of Your wings
My joyful praise I shout and sing,
For Your right hand upholds me ever.

4. When foes Your servant seek to slay,
Death's deep abyss will soon receive them.
The sharpened sword will sorely grieve them;
They shall become the jackal's prey.
But then the king in God shall glory
With all who swear by His great name,
For liars He will put to shame
And silence every adversary.

PSALM 66 (1543 / Geneva, 1551)

1. Let all the earth with loud rejoicing
The greatness of our God acclaim.
With shouts of praise let all adore Him,
Sing to the glory of His name.
Let all then say, "How awe-inspiring
Are all Your works, how great Your power;
Before Your strength, O God almighty,
Your enemies all cringe and cower.

2. "All peoples, bowing down before You,
Sing praises to Your glorious name;
To You, O God, they all pay homage,
With hymns of joy declare Your fame."
O come and see with reverent wonder
The awesome deeds that God has done,
His mighty works among the nations,
The victories His hand has won.

3. His strength to Israel revealing,
He turned the sea to arid land,
And they on foot passed through the river;
The waters heeded His command.
We sang His praise, in Him rejoicing
Who by His might rules without end;
His eyes keep watch on every nation.
Let rebels not His power withstand.

4. Come, bless our God with joyful voices;
All nations, let His praise resound,
For He has kept our feet from stumbling;
In Him we have a refuge found.
Your people You, O God, have tested
As ore is in the furnace tried;
We in the fire of Your refining
Have been, like silver, purified.

5. Into the net, O God, You brought us,
Laid heavy burdens on our backs.
Foes drove right over us in chariots;
You humbled us by their attacks.
We went through fire, we went through water,
But You then showed Your power and grace,
For You delivered us, Your people,
And brought us to a spacious place.

6. Your holy temple I shall enter
And there my thanks to You express,
I shall fulfil the vows I promised
In days of trouble and distress.
Burnt sacrifices I shall offer,
With choicest fatlings pay my vows,
With smoke of rams, with goats and bullocks
I shall adore You in Your house.

7. Come and be to my words attentive,
All You who the Almighty fear.
Let me declare how He has helped me,
How in my troubles He drew near.
I cried to God in my affliction,
And He in mercy heard my voice;
My tongue with songs of praise extolled Him.
In His compassion I rejoice.

8. If I had cherished any evil,
The Lord would not have heeded me.
I know that God indeed has heard me;
He has attended to my plea.
Forever blest be God my Savior,
Who has not turned away my prayer,
Nor has withheld from me His mercy,
His never-failing love and care.

PSALM 67 (1543 / Geneva, 1551)

1. May God be merciful and bless us,
 And cause His face on us to shine;
 May He to us be ever gracious,
 Illumine us with light divine.
 May He to all nations
 Show His revelation
 And His ways unfold.
 Great is God our Savior;
 May all see His favor
 And His power behold.

2. Let all the peoples come before You
 To sing their praises to Your name;
 Let all the heathen tribes adore You,
 With joy Your mighty deeds proclaim,
 For You judge the nations,
 Rule their populations,
 Leading them as guide.
 You as their defender
 To all peoples render
 Justice far and wide.

3. O God, let every tribe and nation
 Praise You with shouts of thankfulness.
 Let them all come with jubilation:
 The land has yielded its increase.
 God is good and gracious;
 He shall richly bless us—
 He, our God and King.
 Let all peoples fear Him,
 All the earth revere Him,
 Of His glory sing.

Book III: Psalms 73-89

PSALM 73 (Geneva, 1551)

1. How truly God His goodness shows,
Bestowing favor on all those
Who are in Israel pure-hearted
And have not from His ways departed.
But, as for me, I slipped almost,
For when the arrogant would boast
Of earthly wealth and luxury,
I envied their prosperity.
2. No suffering lies in store for them;
They all are sleek and sound of limb.
They do not share our pain and anguish;
No troubles ever make them languish.
Pride is their necklace, and they dare
Make violence the robe they wear.
Their hearts with follies overflow,
And in their hearts illusions grow.
3. They speak with scorn and haughtiness;
They scoff, and threaten to oppress.
Their mouth lays claim to heaven's regions;
Their tongue demands the earth's allegiance.
So people turn to praise these men,
And they can find no fault with them.
"God does not see it," they declare.
"The Most High does not know or care."
4. Such are the wicked—they're secure;
Their wealth increases evermore.
Surely in vain I've been pure-hearted
And have not from God's laws departed,
And I in vain have washed my hands
In purity and innocence.
For all day long I suffer here,
And with new grief each dawn draws near.
5. If I had spoken this way too,
I surely would have been untrue
To all the present generation,
The children of Your holy nation.
I tried to probe the mystery
But found it was too much for me
Till, entering then God's holy place,
I saw the destiny they face.

6. O Lord, You surely set them all
On slippery ground to make them fall.
You cause the arrogant to stumble;
They headlong to their ruin tumble.
How suddenly destroyed are they,
By terrors wholly swept away!
They're like a dream that, when You rise,
You as mere fantasies despise.
7. When envy caused me great distress
And filled my heart with bitterness,
I in my folly would ignore You;
I was a brutish beast before You.
In spite of my shortsightedness
I am your servant none the less.
I will be with You to the end,
For You will hold me by my hand.
8. Your counsel guides me all my days,
And You will me to glory raise.
Whom do I have in heaven, O Savior,
But You whose love endures forever?
Only Your presence I desire;
To nothing earthly I aspire.
Although my flesh and heart may fail,
God is my strength: He shall prevail.
9. Those who from You have gone astray
Shall perish in their evil way.
You will destroy all who, false-hearted,
From Your commandments have departed.
But as for me, in God I trust,
For with His nearness I am blest.
My refuge is the LORD alone;
I will proclaim all He has done.

PSALM 76 (Geneva, 1551)

1. God has in Judah spread His fame;
Great is in Israel His name.
In Salem stands His tent of praise;
In Zion is His dwelling place.
There shield and sword no longer rattle:
He broke the weapons used in battle.
2. O God, more glorious is Your might
Than awe-inspiring mountain heights.
Men bold and warlike, stripped of spoil,
Sank into sleep and ceased their toil.
None of the valiant and stouthearted
Could lift a hand; their plans were thwarted.
3. O Jacob's God, at Your rebuke
Our enemies were terror-struck;
Stunned lay both horse and charioteer.
You, You alone, evoke such fear.
Who does not stand in trepidation
Before Your wrath and indignation?
4. In fearful silence, all the earth
Heard how Your verdict thundered forth
When You, O God, in judgment rose
To save the humble from their foes.
All merely human wrath and fury
Will but increase Your praise and glory.
5. Come, honor and revere the LORD;
Make vows to God and keep your word.
Let all the nations tribute bring
And fear Him as almighty King,
For He cuts off the breath of princes
And sweeps away their proud pretences.

PSALM 79 (1543 / Geneva, 1551)

1. Your land, O God, the gentiles have invaded;
By heathen hordes Your heritage was raided.
Look how they have, without restraint or pity,
Defiled Your temple and destroyed Your city.
To carrion bird and beast
They offered as a feast
The saints whom they did slaughter;
Around Jerusalem,
With none to bury them,
Their blood was poured like water.

2. We are a taunt to those around us dwelling.
When will You come, the enemy expelling?
O hear us, LORD! Will You extinguish never
Your jealous anger? Will it burn forever?
Your wrath, O LORD, pour out
On all who Your name flout;
Consume the godless nations,
For greedily have they
Seized Jacob as their prey
And razed his habitation.

3. Remember not the misdeeds of our fathers;
Hold not their guilt against us, LORD, but rather
Show Your compassion to Your humbled nation
And come with haste, O God of our salvation!
O LORD, increase Your fame,
The glory of Your name;
Free us from all oppression.
True to Your promises,
Hear us in our distress
And pardon our transgressions.

4. Why should the heathen, Israel deriding,
Ask in contempt, "Where may their God be hiding?"
Arise, O Lord! Strike in retaliation;
The blood of saints avenge before the nations!
And may You from Your throne
Hear how the prisoners groan.
Your greatness manifesting,
Preserve us as of old;
Repay them sevenfold
Who taunt You with their jesting.

5. We shall forever joyful praises render
To You, O LORD, our shepherd and defender.
We as Your flock, Your chosen congregation,
Shall give You thanks through every generation.

PSALM 81 (Geneva, 1562)

1. Sing a psalm of joy;
Shout with holy fervour.
All your skills employ;
With your heart and soul
Jacob's God extol.
He is our preserver.
2. O all Israel,
Voice your jubilation.
Let your music swell;
Harp and timbrel play.
Show in every way
Joy and exultation.
3. With the trumpet's tune
Herald, in due season,
Feast-days of the moon:
Let its echo sound.
To let joy abound
God gives every reason.
4. Keep by God's command
Your commemoration:
When in Egypt's land
Captive Israel
Did in bondage dwell,
He gave liberation.
5. "When you served as slaves
Of the ruthless Pharaoh,
I, the God who saves,
Listened to your plea
And I set you free
From distress and sorrow.
6. "In the worst of plights
Comfort I provided.
On Mount Sinai's heights
I gave you My law.
You at Meribah
Tested were and guided.
7. O my people, hear!
Let my warnings reach you.
My commands revere.
Would you but obey,
Not to evil stray.
Listen as I teach you.

8. "Never shall you have
Gods of heathen nations.
To no idols give
What is Mine alone.
To no god of stone
Bow in adoration.
9. "I, the LORD, am He
Who from Egypt freed you.
Place your trust in Me;
Open your mouth wide;
I will food provide,
To rich pastures lead you.
10. "By their willful choice
They my love rejected;
They ignored My voice.
Israel did not
Heed what they were taught.
They My law neglected.
11. "To their stubborn way
I let them surrender.
Would they but obey
And return to Me!
O then I would be
Israel's defender!
12. "Then I would in haste
Israel deliver.
I would soon lay waste
The oppressor's land
And with mighty hand
Thwart the foe's endeavor.
13. "As their just reward,
All the hostile nations
Who despise the LORD
Would before His face
Cringe in their disgrace
And humiliation.
14. "With abundance I
Israel would nourish.
You I would supply
With the finest wheat,
Honey pure and sweet.
Israel would flourish!"

PSALM 84 (Geneva, 1562)

1. O LORD of hosts, almighty King,
The praises of Your house I sing.
How lovely is Your habitation!
Your holy courts I yearn to see;
Faint with desire, I long to be
Where pilgrims join in celebration.
My heart and flesh with joyful shout
To You, the living God, cry out.

2. The sparrow finds a place to rest;
The swallow builds herself a nest
To rear her young beside Your altar.
Your temple is their safe abode,
O LORD of hosts, my King, my God.
How blest are those who there find shelter.
Your house, O LORD, is their delight;
They sing Your praises day and night.

3. How blest are those whose strength You are,
Who seek the ways that from afar
Lead them to Zion's holy places.
As they through Baca's valley pass,
They make that barren wilderness
A place of springs, a lush oasis;
The early rain on it descends,
And pools refresh the desert sands.

4. They make their way from strength to strength
Until in Zion they at length
Appear before their God and Savior.
LORD God Almighty, hear my plea;
O God of Jacob, answer me.
Bestow on me Your grace and favor.
O God, our shield, from heaven above
Bless Your anointed with Your love.

5. LORD, one day in Your dwelling place
Is better than a thousand days
Outside the courts of Your salvation.
Yes, nothing gives me joy so great.
Only to stand there at the gate,
The entrance to Your habitation,
Is better than to dwell within
The tents of wickedness and sin.

6. The LORD His goodness has revealed:
He is to us a sun and shield.
With grace and honour He delights us.
He shows His mercy, as of old,
And no good gift will He withhold
From those whose walk is just and righteous.
O LORD whose word is firm and true,
How blest are those who trust in You.

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PSALM 85 (Geneva, 1562)

1. You showed Your favor to Your land, O LORD;
You Jacob's fortunes graciously restored.
Your people You then from their guilt set free,
For You forgave all their iniquity.
You did not let Your indignation last;
Your fury and displeasure quickly passed.
Now, God our Saviour, hear us as we pray:
Again restore us! Take Your wrath away.

2. LORD, will your blazing anger never cease?
Will it go on forever and increase?
Will You not once again our strength renew,
That all Your people may rejoice in You?
Your never-failing love and mercy show
And Your salvation, LORD, on us bestow.
To us Your constant faithfulness unfold,
Your lovingkindness as in days of old.

3. Let me now hear what God the LORD will speak,
For to His saints who Him sincerely seek
He will proclaim His peace and righteousness—
But let them not to foolish ways regress.
He surely with His saving help is near
To those who serve Him and His name revere,
That in our land His glory may prevail
And He may there among His people dwell.

4. Unfailing love meets constant faithfulness,
While righteousness and peace embrace and kiss.
Up from the ground fidelity sprouts forth;
Down from the heavens justice views the earth.
Rich blessings will the LORD on us bestow;
With plenteous crops our land will overflow.
Before Him justice will its banner sway
When for His footsteps it prepares the way.

Book IV: Psalms 90-106

PSALM 92 (Geneva, 1562)

1. It's good with jubilation to praise and glorify
Your name, O LORD Most High, and thank You for salvation,
At dawn in You rejoicing and in Your steadfast love,
At night the praises of Your boundless mercy voicing.
2. With song and music blending, let me Your praise recite;
Let harp and lute unite in harmony unending.
My thankfulness expressing, I praise Your deeds of might;
I sing of my delight, Your faithfulness confessing.
3. Your works are great and splendid. O how profound Your thought!
The senseless fool cannot begin to understand it.
Though evil men may flourish, though like the grass they sprout,
LORD, You shall root them out. They shall forever perish.
4. You are supreme forever. Doomed is Your enemy.
LORD, see the wicked flee, by none to be delivered!
With such great strength You bless me that, like the wild ox, I
Lift up my horn on high. The finest oils refresh me.
5. I have been vindicated! As my own eyes have seen,
My foes, to their chagrin, lie humbled and defeated.
The LORD is my salvation; their downfall is assured.
With my own ears I've heard their cries of desperation.
6. The just will He remember, to them His favor show:
They like the palm tree grow, like Lebanon's fine timber.
Those whom the LORD will cherish within His house He plants.
There God His blessing grants: within His courts they flourish.
7. Still fruit in old age bearing, they fresh and green remain.
Their witness makes it plain: the LORD is just and caring.
His righteousness and favor they shall proclaim in song:
"In Him there is no wrong. He is my rock forever."

PSALM 96 (Geneva, 1562)

1. Sing to the LORD with exultation.
O sing a new song, all creation.
Sing to the LORD and bless His name.
Day after day with joy proclaim
The wondrous deeds of His salvation.
2. Make known His glory to the nations;
Declare to all their populations
His marvelous works, for He, the LORD,
Is to be worshipped and adored.
Praise Him with joyful exclamations.
3. All gods revered by other nations
Are merely idols, man's creation.
Our God made all the heav'ns' extent,
And glory dwells within His tent.
Before Him kneel in adoration.
4. Glory and strength, O tribes and nations,
Ascribe to God with exultation.
His power and majesty acclaim;
Extol His great and glorious name.
Sing praise to Him with jubilation.
5. To Him, the LORD, your off'ings render
And worship Him in holy splendor.
O all you nations, far and near,
Tremble before Him, quake with fear.
Bow down to Him in awe and wonder.
6. Herald abroad as proclamation:
"The LORD is King of all creation."
The world is firmly set in place;
None can His handiwork erase.
He will with justice rule the nations.
7. Your joy display, O glorious heavens.
Let earth, be glad, to rapture driven.
Rejoice, O roaring sea's domain;
Exult, O fields of golden grain.
By rustling woods let praise be given.
8. Shout forth your gladness, all creation!
Sing to the LORD with exultation.
Behold, He comes! Your joy express!
He comes in truth and righteousness
To judge the earth and rule the nations.

PSALM 100 (Geneva, 1551)

1. You lands and peoples of the earth,
Before the LORD your joy shout forth.
Serve Him with gladness all Your days;
Come unto Him with songs of praise.
2. Know that the LORD is God alone;
He made us, and we are His own,
His people, who extol His ways,
The sheep that in His pasture graze.
3. Come, enter then His gates with praise
And in His courts your voices raise.
Give thanks to Him and bless His name;
Within His house your joy proclaim.
4. The LORD is good, and evermore
His love and mercy will endure.
All generations He will bless
In His unchanging faithfulness.

PSALM 101 (1543 / Geneva, 1551)

1. LORD, I will worship You with great rejoicing,
My praise of righteousness and mercy voicing.
Of steadfast love and justice I will sing
To You, my king.
2. The path of blameless living I will ponder.
When will You come to me, lest I should wander?
I'll walk within my house from sin apart,
With upright heart.
3. Things base and worthless I will not have near me.
The faithless and their deeds I hate sincerely.
I shun all evil. No disloyalty
Shall cling to me.
4. If one should secretly his neighbour slander,
I will not fail to silence the offender.
Proud hearts and haughty eyes I cannot bear
And will not spare.
5. Those who are faithful, without guile or malice,
I will appoint to serve me in my palace.
No liar and no scandalmonger shall
In my house dwell.
6. The wicked I will punish without pity,
Of evildoers rid God's holy city,
And each new day those who still jeer and scoff
I will cut off.

PSALM 103 (Strasbourg, 1539 / Geneva, 1551)

1. O bless the LORD, my soul, bless your preserver!
My inmost being, praise His name with fervour.
Do not forget His deeds of love and grace.
O bless the LORD, who pardons your transgressions,
Who heals your illnesses in His compassion,
And who redeems your life from death's abyss.
2. O bless the LORD, who with His mercy crowns you,
Who with His love and faithfulness surrounds you,
Who grants His bounteous gifts your whole life through.
To Him who shows His righteousness, sing praises;
From their affliction He His people raises.
Your youth He, like the eagle's, will renew.
3. To the oppressed His justice He discloses.
He long ago revealed His ways to Moses,
Made known His mighty deeds to Israel.
His love abounds; the LORD is slow to anger.
He will not let His wrath forever linger;
His chiding He'll not endlessly recall.
4. The LORD has dealt with us in great compassion,
Not punished us according to transgression.
High as the vault of heaven, without end,
So great His mercy is to those who fear Him;
He sweeps the sins of all those who revere Him
As far away as east from west extends.
5. In tender mercy, like that of a father
Who has compassion on his sons and daughters,
God looks on those who put in Him their trust.
To all who fear Him, He will show compassion,
For well He knows how we were formed and fashioned;
The LORD remembers we are only dust.
6. Life is like grass, so quick to fade and perish,
And like a flow'r that will but briefly flourish,
Only to sear and wither in the wind;
It soon is gone, not leaving any traces.
But God is ever merciful and gracious:
His love stands firm, abiding without end.
7. God's mercy, everlasting and unfailing,
His righteousness, for evermore prevailing,
Will rest on those who fear Him all their days.
God will be faithful through the generations
To children's children who with dedication
Uphold His cov'nant and His laws obey.

8. His holy throne the LORD in heav'n has founded;
From there He rules with sovereign power unbounded,
For all the universe is His domain.
Praise Him, you angels, great in might and splendour.
You loyal servants, in your awe and wonder
Shout forth the praise of His eternal reign!

9. You hosts of angels, worship and adore Him.
All you who serve and minister before Him,
His justice and His majesty extol!
Let all created things in glad communion
Exalt His name throughout His vast dominion.
Come, praise the LORD and bless Him, O my soul!

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Book V: Psalms 107-150

PSALM 108 (Geneva, 1562)

1. My heart is steadfast, O my God.
Your mercy I will ever laud;
Your name I will in song extol,
Make melody with all my soul.
Awake, O harp and lyre, awake,
For I will urge the dawn to break.
I'll sing Your glory to the nations,
Your praise among their populations.
2. Great is, O God, Your steadfast love,
Far higher than the heav'ns above.
Your faithfulness soars to the skies.
O God, above the heav'ns now rise;
Reveal Your splendour and shine forth
Your glory over all the earth.
Now show Your might and save Your nation;
To those You love, grant liberation.
3. Our mighty King, the God of grace,
Has spoken in His holy place:
"All Succoth's vale and Shechem's land
I will divide as I have planned.
All Gilead belongs to Me;
Manasseh is My property.
My helmet: Ephr'im, strong defender.
My scepter: Judah, firm commander.
4. "My foes I with My taunting sting:
At Edom I My sandal fling;
I Moab as My washbowl claim.
In Palestine I shout my fame."
God, who but You can be our guide
To Edom, so well fortified?
But You have cast us off in anger
And with our armies march no longer.

5. To us again Your favor show;
Grant us Your aid against the foe.
Uphold us as none other can,
For worthless is the help of man.
Our God will crush the enemy;
With Him, we'll gain the victory.
Our proud oppressors He will humble,
Tread on their necks and make them tremble.

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PSALM 112 (Geneva, 1562)

1. Come, praise the LORD! Let all revere Him.
How blessed is the man who fears Him,
Who in the LORD's commands takes pleasure.
His offspring, blest in equal measure,
Will be the mighty in the nation,
A truly upright generation.
2. Abundant riches fill his dwelling;
Firm stands his justice, never failing.
As after night comes morning brightness,
Light dawns for him who loves uprightness;
All gloom and darkness it displaces
For the compassionate and gracious.
- 3 All's well with him whose generous lending
Gives joy to those on him depending;
Who, his trustworthiness revealing,
Lets justice govern all his dealings.
The righteous one shall never waver;
His praises will be sung forever.
4. With steadfast heart in God confiding,
He has no fear of evil tidings;
He in the end with exultation
Will greet his foe's humiliation.
His gifts he on the poor will shower;
Great are his honour and his power.
5. The just will thrive in his endeavors;
His righteousness endures forever.
The wicked sees it with vexation;
His teeth he gnashes in frustration.
The schemes and hopes that he may cherish
Are sure to fail and doomed to perish.

PSALM 113

1. Come, praise the LORD! His might acclaim.
Let all His servants praise His name;
Both now and evermore adore Him.
From where the sun begins to rise
To where it sets in western skies,
Let all with praises come before Him.

2. God far above all nations dwells;
His glory heav'nly heights excels,
For who compares in might and splendor
With Him, the LORD, who from His throne
On earth and on the heav'ns looks down?
Let all to Him their praises render.

3. God saves the needy from disgrace
And lifts them to an honored place
Among the princes of His nation.
His favor makes the barren spouse
A joyful mother in her house.
Praised be the LORD with exultation.

PSALM 118 (1543 / Geneva, 1551)

1. Come, thank the LORD, His goodness praising;
His firm and steadfast love endures.
O Israel, O house of Aaron,
Proclaim His love forever sure.
Let all who come to Him in worship
Be in His steadfast love secure.
Come to the LORD with your thanksgiving;
For evermore His love endures.

2. To God I cried in my affliction;
He answered me and set me free.
The LORD Himself is my protection;
What can mere mortals do to me?
On all my foes I look in triumph;
With God I face them fearlessly.
I put no confidence in princes;
The LORD, He shall my refuge be.

3. I was surrounded by all nations,
But I subdued them in His name;
And though they swarmed like bees around me,
I beat them down like thorns aflame.
I nearly fell when they attacked me;
To my support the LORD then came.
He is my song and my salvation;
His strength is evermore the same.

4. Hear in the dwellings of the righteous
Their shouts of joy and victory:
“The LORD’s right hand is strong and mighty;
He lifts it up triumphantly.”
I shall not die, but live and praise Him;
In song His deeds my theme shall be.
He, though He punished me severely,
Has not to death surrendered me.

5. Let me now thank the LORD my Savior;
Unlock the gates of righteousness,
For this is where the righteous enter;
The gateway to the LORD it is.
I thank You, LORD, for You have heard me
And answered me in my distress.
You are the rock of my salvation;
With all my heart Your name I bless.

6. The stone the builders had rejected
Was chosen as the cornerstone.
To us a marvel unexpected,
It is the work of God alone.
This is the day He has created;
Now let us sing with joyful tone.
Hosanna, LORD! Grant us Your blessings.
LORD, prosper those who are Your own.

7. Blest He who in the LORD's name enters;
We bless you from His dwelling place.
The LORD is God; He shines upon us
The glorious brightness of His face.
Come, join the jubilant procession;
With boughs in hand, your voices raise.
Bind festal off'rings to the altar
And worship Him with shouts of praise.

8. You are my God, and I will praise You,
My rock and refuge, firm and sure.
You are my God; I will extol You,
For in Your love I am secure.
Come to the LORD with your thanksgiving;
With joyful anthems Him adore.
O thank the LORD for all His goodness;
His love endures for evermore.

PSALM 119 (Geneva, 1551)

Aleph

1. How blessed are those upright in their way,
Who keep the LORD's decrees with dedication
And in their walk of life His law obey.
How blest are those who with determination,
Wholeheartedly, seek Him by night and day
And look to Him for guidance and salvation.
2. How blest are they who shun iniquities,
Your holy law with diligence observing.
You have laid down Your statutes and decrees,
To be obeyed in faithfulness unswerving.
O may I but submit myself to these
And so go forth, a steady course preserving.
3. I know that I shall not be put to shame
If only with attention undivided
I heed Your laws and fix my gaze on them.
I truly thank You for the grace provided
When I am taught the judgments You proclaim.
Do not forsake me, leaving me unguided.

Beth

4. How can a youth preserve his way, O LORD,
And keep it free of evil and transgression?
By living in accordance with Your word.
O let my heart be wholly Your possession.
Help me against all sin to be on guard
Let me not stray, denying my confession.
5. Your words have I laid up within my heart;
I keep Your faithful promise as my treasure,
Lest I should ever from Your ways depart.
O LORD, how blest You are beyond all measure.
Your statutes and decrees to me impart,
For in Your law I find my greatest pleasure.
6. In Your commandments I take great delight;
I turn to them in thoughtful meditation.
The path marked by Your law I keep in sight
To guard myself against all deviation.
Your statutes I will not neglect or slight;
Your word I praise with joy and exultation.

Gimel

7. Do good to me so that my life may be
Devoted to Your words in all their splendor.
Open my eyes that I may clearly see
Your perfect law and gaze upon its wonders.
Do not, O LORD, hide Your commands from me
Who here on earth but as a pilgrim wander.
8. By night and day for Your decrees I long;
My aching heart consumes itself with yearning.
The haughty You rebuke for all their wrongs—
Those cursèd ones: Your laws they keep on spurning.
LORD, set me free from their insulting tongues,
For I have kept Your law, Your will discerning.
9. Though princes may together scheme and plot,
Against me their conspiracies devising,
I contemplate the precepts You have taught;
I study them, Your testimonies prizing.
In Your instruction my delight I've sought,
And in the counsel from Your law arising.

Daleth

10. See how my soul is cleaving to the dust:
Renew my life and grant me restoration.
I told You of my ways, for You I trust;
You in Your mercy heard my supplication.
Teach me Your statutes, excellent and just;
Then shall Your wonders be my meditation.
11. My weary soul in sorrow pines away;
True to Your promise, comfort and restore me.
LORD, let me not in ways of falsehood stray
But through Your precepts of Your love assure me.
Your statutes I have chosen to obey;
Your righteous judgments I have set before me.
12. In Your decrees I place my steadfast hope;
I cling to them, on Your great love depending.
LORD, put me not to shame but lift me up,
To me in grief Your gracious hand extending.
Along the path of truth I run and leap,
For Your commands enlarge my understanding.

He

13. Teach me Your statutes, LORD, and to the end
I will obey them in complete submission.
Grant insight, that with all my heart and mind
I may observe Your laws without transgression.
Direct me in the path of Your commands,
For I delight in them as my possession.
14. To Your decrees and statutes turn my heart,
That all Your words of wisdom I may ponder.
O LORD, let me not from Your laws depart,
Nor to the love of selfish gain surrender.
Restrain me lest I wistful glances dart
At vanities and yearn for earthly splendor.
15. LORD, keep Your word! Come to Your servant's aid.
Then all will stand in fear and awe before You.
Avert from me the taunting that I dread.
Good are Your laws, acclaimed by all who fear You.
I long for them. Your justice makes me glad;
Through it revive me, LORD, for I revere You.

Waw

16. May Your unfailing mercy come to me;
As You have promised, show me Your salvation.
All those who taunt me with their mockery
I then will answer without hesitation.
LORD, I have put my trust in Your decrees,
For You have sworn to grant me liberation.
17. LORD, do not rob me of Your truthful word;
Let nothing me from Your commandments sever.
Your ordinances hope to me afford;
I vow to keep them always and forever.
Then shall I walk in liberty, O LORD:
Your laws I've sought, and they shall fail me never.
18. Undaunted I will kings and princes face
To speak of Your decrees, Your revelation,
And not be put to shame or fear disgrace:
Your laws I love and hold in veneration.
I reach out for Your statutes and rejoice
As I reflect on them in meditation.

Zayin

19. Remember in Your steadfast faithfulness
Your word of hope, once to Your servant spoken.
O LORD, in my affliction and distress
You comfort me with promises unbroken.
Through them have I gained life and happiness,
For of Your love they are a precious token.
20. Although the proud may scorn me utterly,
No path of evil have I ever taken.
When I recall Your laws, they comfort me,
For they from days of old have stood unshaken.
Hot indignation grips me when I see
How wicked men your precepts have forsaken.
21. Your statutes are the theme of all my songs
Wherever here on earth I make my dwelling.
Your name, LORD, I remember all night long;
Your precepts I obey, my vow fulfilling.
I've kept Your laws, resisting sin and wrong;
This proved to be a blessing all-excelling.

Heth

22. You are my portion, LORD whom I adore;
I have resolved to let Your words direct me.
With all my heart Your favor I implore;
O LORD, show mercy and do not reject me.
I've thought about my ways, and all the more
I turn to You to let Your laws instruct me.
23. I will make haste in doing what is right,
By Your commandments guided and instructed.
Though with their ropes the wicked bind me tight,
Your statutes I will never leave neglected.
I praise You in the middle of the night
For all the righteous laws You have enacted.
24. With all who fear You I keep company,
To those who heed Your laws my friendship showing.
Your mercy is poured forth abundantly,
And with Your love the earth is overflowing.
O LORD, reveal Your statutes all to me
And so unfold the knowledge most worth knowing.

Teth

25. To me, Your servant, You have kindness shown,
Your mercy with Your promise underpinning.
Instruct me, LORD, for it is You alone
Who are of all true knowledge the beginning.
I went astray, but as I wandered on,
You humbled me, and now I keep from sinning.
26. LORD, You are good, and what You do is good.
Teach me, and by Your truth let me be guided.
My name is smeared by false men, proud and rude,
Yet wholly with Your precepts I have sided.
They in their godless hearts are dull and crude,
But in Your law I am with joy provided.
27. How good it was for me to suffer pain
So that in all Your statutes You might school me.
The perfect law that You, O LORD, ordain
Exceeds all earthly riches. Let it rule me!
Your ordinances are my greatest gain,
For gold and silver can no longer fool me.

Yodh

28. LORD, You have fashioned me with Your own hands;
By You was I once molded and created.
Give me then insight into Your commands,
That to Your law I may be dedicated.
All those who fear You shall applaud my stand;
Since in Your word I trust, they are elated.
29. I know, O LORD, Your judgments all are just;
In faithfulness You brought me tribulation.
As You have promised—and Your word I trust—
Now let your mercy be my consolation.
In Your compassion grant me life and rest:
Your law is my delight and exultation.
30. Let proud and godless men be put to shame,
For me they have with crafty guile subverted;
But Your decrees I'll ponder and proclaim.
May by my words the faithful be supported.
May I obey Your statutes without blame,
That far from me all shame may be averted.

Kaph

31. With longing I Your saving power invoke;
Your word gives hope that nothing can extinguish.
With failing eyes I for Your promise look:
When will You comfort me and heal my anguish?
Though I'm a wineskin shriveled in the smoke,
I'll not forget Your laws as here I languish.
32. LORD, how long does Your servant have to wait?
When will I see Your punishment inflicted
On those who persecute me in their hate,
Whose wickedness seems to go undetected?
See how the proud for me their snares have set.
They flout Your law; Your word they have rejected.
33. All Your commandments shall securely stand;
LORD, help me, for by liars I am hounded.
Though they have almost swept me from the land,
I've kept Your law, in which my hope is founded.
In Your unfailing love my life defend,
That I may heed what You, LORD, have expounded.

Lamedh

34. Fixed in the heav'ns is Your eternal word;
Firm is Your promise through the generations.
The earth, by You established, has endured;
You are the faithful God of my salvation.
By Your appointment all stands firm, O LORD,
For You are served by all of Your creation.
35. If Your commands had not been my delight,
I would have perished here in my affliction.
Your precepts I will not forget or slight:
You have renewed my life by their direction.
LORD, I am Yours. Come, save me by Your might.
Your laws have I sought out for my instruction.
36. Though wicked men in ambush lie concealed
And are intent on plotting my destruction,
I will reflect on what You have revealed.
I see a limit set to all perfection;
But Your commands, which ever have prevailed,
Are boundless—without end, without restriction.

Mem

37. Oh, how I love the teachings of Your law!
I ponder them, all day in study spending.
Your precepts make me wiser than my foe,
For the support they give is never-ending.
Through them, I far more than my teachers know:
I have surpassed them all in understanding.
38. I have more insight than the old and grey,
All owing to the laws I am observing.
I keep my feet from every evil way
To honour Your commandments without swerving.
LORD, You Yourself have taught me not to stray;
So I walk on, a steady course preserving.
39. O LORD, how pleasing is Your steadfast word.
Sweet are Your promises of grace and favor;
Yes, nothing greater sweetness can afford—
Not even honey, sweet though be its savor.
Your statutes grant me wisdom as reward;
I therefore hate false ways and shun them ever.

Nun

40. Your word is as a lamp unto my feet,
A lantern shining on the path before me.
I've sworn an oath and never will forget
Your righteous laws that of Your love assure me.
I am by grief and misery beset;
True to Your promise, comfort and restore me.
41. Accept, O LORD, my offerings of praise.
And let me by Your statutes be instructed.
Though I have been in danger countless days,
Your laws I've not forgotten or rejected.
My foe for me his snares and pitfalls lays,
But Your commandments I have not neglected.
42. Your testimonies are forever mine—
My heritage and permanent possession,
The joy that I shall in my heart enshrine—
And to their praise I ever give expression.
My heart to Your commandments I incline,
Right to the end upholding my confession.

Samekh

43. I hate the fickle and divided heart;
I love Your law and praise it with elation.
You are my shield, my refuge, my support;
Your word shall be my hope and expectation.
You evildoers, all from me depart,
That I may serve the God of my salvation.
44. Uphold me, LORD, and so my life sustain;
True to Your promise, grant me preservation.
Let me not hope and trust in You in vain,
For I rely on You for liberation.
Your statutes I will evermore maintain;
I turn to them in reverent meditation.
45. All those who from Your statutes go astray
You will reject. In vain do they dissemble.
Like worthless dross You cast them all away;
The wicked You will put to shame and humble.
I fear the righteous judgments You display;
The dread of You, LORD, makes my body tremble.

Ayin

46. See how what I have done is just and right;
O LORD, to my oppressors do not leave me.
Ensure Your servant's welfare, God of might;
Let not the arrogant oppress and grieve me.
My eyes grow dim with watching day and night
For You to keep Your promise and relieve me.
47. Treat me according to Your love and grace
And guide me to the truth for which I'm yearning.
Help me gain insight into Your decrees
And teach Your servant what is most worth learning.
To let me grasp the justice of Your ways,
Open my eyes and make me more discerning.
48. It's time for You to act, LORD, and be bold;
Your holy law is being violated.
I prize it more than all the finest gold;
My love for Your commands is unabated.
In all my ways Your precepts I uphold;
The paths of falsehood I have ever hated.

Pe

49. How wonderful are Your decrees, O LORD;
I gladly keep them, for they are astounding.
As You unfold and open up Your word,
It shines Your light into my dark surroundings;
It even to the simple will award
Gifts of discernment and of understanding.
50. With open mouth I pant for Your commands
And to my deepest longing give expression.
To those who love Your name You grace extend;
Turn, then, to me as well in Your compassion.
Direct my footsteps. Help me to withstand
The power of sin and keep me from transgression.
51. Free me from man's iniquitous designs,
That I may serve You, by Your laws directed.
LORD, make Your face upon Your servant shine,
And by Your statutes let me be instructed.
While shedding streams of tears, I grieve and pine,
For Your commands are utterly neglected.

Tsadhe

52. LORD, You are upright and Your laws are just;
Your judgments You on righteousness have founded.
In Your decrees have I placed all my trust,
For they in faithfulness are firmly grounded.
My zeal consumes me, and I am distressed
When foes ignore the truth You have expounded.
53. Your promise is well tested and secure;
I cherish it as token of Your favor.
Though I'm of no account, despised and poor,
I love Your precepts and forget them never.
Your justice will eternally endure;
Your law is true and shall abide forever.
54. Though I encounter anguish and distress,
Your laws are my delight and consolation.
Ever enduring is Your righteousness,
And everlasting is Your revelation.
Your servant, LORD, with understanding bless,
That I may live, rejoicing in salvation.

Qoph

55. To You, O LORD, I cry with all my heart;
Be merciful and hear my supplication.
From Your commandments I will not depart.
I call on You and plead for preservation.
Save me, O LORD, and come to my support,
That I may keep Your laws with dedication.
56. Before the break of day I cry to You;
Your word I trust, for You are my defender.
I even lie awake the whole night through,
That I Your steadfast promises may ponder.
LORD, in Your righteousness my life renew;
Hear me and show Your love and mercy tender.
57. My foes draw near and malice they intend;
Far from Your laws are those by whom I'm hounded.
But You are near, and I on You depend,
For true are all the words You have commanded.
Long have I known that they are without end:
All Your decrees You have forever founded.

Resh

58. See my affliction, LORD, and set me free,
For Your commandments I obey and cherish.
Defend my cause and win release for me.
As You have sworn, allow my life to flourish.
But far removed shall all salvation be
From those who spurn Your statutes: they shall perish.
59. Great is, O LORD, the mercy You have shown;
Grant me the life by Your decree awarded.
Though countless foes may seek to hunt me down,
Your laws I've not forgotten or discarded.
I loathe the faithless for the wrong they've done;
Your word have they defied and disregarded.
60. See how I love and cherish Your commands;
I follow them in all that I endeavor.
Preserve my life by Your almighty hand;
O LORD, be mindful of Your love and favor.
In all Your words I see Your truth maintained;
Each one of Your decrees endures forever.

Sin and Shin

61. Though kings and princes hound me without cause,
I stand in awe before Your revelation.
LORD, I rejoice at all Your promises;
They like great spoil rouse me to jubilation.
All falsehood and deception I despise;
Your laws I love and hold in veneration.
62. O LORD, I praise You seven times a day,
For righteous are the laws You have provided.
Great peace is theirs who cherish and obey
All Your commands and by Your word are guided.
No stumbling-block or snare besets the way
Of those who in Your justice have confided.
63. For Your salvation, LORD, I hope and pray,
And Your commandments I fulfil sincerely.
I follow Your decrees and will not stray,
For all Your testimonies I love dearly.
Your precepts and Your statutes I obey,
For You know all my ways and see them clearly.

Taw

64. May all my pleading reach Your holy throne;
Remember me in pity and compassion.
Bless me with insight, for I am Your own.
Draw near, O LORD, and answer my petition.
According to the mercy You have shown,
Deliver me from evil and oppression.
65. Now let my lips run over with Your praise,
For Your decrees You have in me implanted.
My tongue shall sing, a joyful anthem raise,
For in Your statutes justice is presented.
Let Your hand help me when Your servant strays;
I've chosen, LORD, the precepts You have granted.
66. I long for Your salvation night and day,
And Your commandments my delight awaken.
O let me live, that I may praise Your ways;
Let Your decrees lend me support unshaken.
I wander like a sheep that's gone astray:
Come, seek me, LORD! Your laws I've not forsaken.

PSALM 120 (Geneva, 1551)

1. I seek the LORD in my affliction
And cry to Him for my protection:
“O save me, LORD, from lips that slander,
From tongues that will to falsehood pander.”
Deceitful tongue, what shall He grant you,
And with what more shall He present you?
Sharp arrows from a warrior’s bow
And burning charcoal’s red-hot glow!

2. Woe me! Behold my tribulation,
For Meshech is my habitation;
Near Kedar’s tents I’m forced to wander,
Where treacherous tribesmen kill and plunder.
Too long I have with those resided
Who hate all peace and who deride it.
I am for peace, which they abhor;
Thus when I speak, they are for war!

PSALM 121 (Geneva, 1551)

1. I lift my eyes unto the hills.
In all my grief and fear,
From where will help appear?
The LORD His promises fulfils—
He who made earth and heaven;
His help is freely given.
2. He will not let you slip or fall,
For He is at your side
And will support provide.
The keeper of all Israel
Will guide and guard you ever;
He'll sleep or slumber never.
3. He is your shelter on the way,
The shade at your right hand
In a forsaken land.
The moon by night, the sun by day
Will never harm or hurt you;
The LORD will not desert you.
4. All evil strikes at you in vain;
The LORD will keep your life
Secure in woes and strife.
When you go out, when you come in,
The LORD will fail you never
But keep you safe forever.

PSALM 122 (Geneva, 1551)

1. My heart exulted. I was glad
When I heard eager voices call,
“Come, let us go now, one and all,
To Zion, to the house of God.”
Our journey has been richly blest,
For, O Jerusalem, at last
Our feet within your gates are standing!
Jerusalem! We stood in awe
When we your strength and beauty saw
While to your citadels ascending.

2. Jerusalem, designed so well,
Is built as close-knit unity;
There flock together joyfully
The tribes and clans of Israel.
They to Jerusalem ascend,
According to the LORD’s command,
To thank Him with their adoration.
For there are set the royal thrones
Of David’s house, and there his sons
With righteous judgments rule the nation.

3. Pray that Jerusalem be blest:
“May peace prevail within your walls,
And safety in your citadels.
May those who love you there find rest.”
Now for the sake of friends and kin,
Jerusalem, I say again:
“May lasting peace be yours to cherish.”
And mindful that the God of grace
Has in your midst His dwelling place,
I pray that you may thrive and flourish.

PSALM 126 (Geneva, 1551)

1. When Zion was at last restored,
Brought back from exile by the LORD,
It seemed to us as if we dreamed.
How glad were those He had redeemed!
Our mouths were filled with loud rejoicing;
We laughed and cheered, our rapture voicing.
Then other nations, too, confessed,
“The LORD His own has greatly blessed.”

2. In His enduring faithfulness
The LORD did wondrous things for us.
With shouts of gladness and delight
We gloried in His deeds of might.
Again, LORD, grant us restoration,
As in the Negev’s desolation
The rain-filled streams turn arid sand
Into a green and pleasant land.

3. Let those who sow their seed in tears,
Beset by anxious cares and fears,
At harvest time no longer weep,
Rejoicing in the crops they reap.
The sower going forth in sorrow
To carry seed to field and furrow
Will with his sheaves come home again,
Exulting in the golden grain.

PSALM 135 (Geneva, 1562)

1. Hallelujah! Praise the LORD
And exalt His holy name.
You that stand within His house,
Praise His greatness, voice His fame.
You His servants, shout His laud
In the temple courts of God.
2. Praise the LORD, for He is good;
Sing your praise to Him alone.
He chose Jacob for Himself;
Israel He made His own.
Far above all gods is He,
Great in power and majesty.
3. He does all that pleases Him;
Heaven, earth, the deepest sea
Do His bidding, heed His will;
Clouds rise up at His decree.
With the rain He lightning sends;
Winds and tempests He commands.
4. Egypt's firstborn He destroyed,
Striking down both man and beast.
He His signs and wonders sent;
Egypt's kingdom He laid waste,
Showing Pharaoh and his court
That no man His will can thwart.
5. Many nations He struck down,
Kings and princes great in might:
Og, the king of Bashan's hills,
Sihon of the Amorites.
He smote Canaan's kingdoms all,
Gave their land to Israel.
6. Your exalted name, O LORD,
Will stand firm for evermore;
Your great glory and renown
Through all ages will endure.
For the LORD will vindicate
All who for his mercy wait.
7. Idols are but precious ore,
Fashioned by the hands of men.
They have eyes, but cannot see;
Nations worship them in vain.
They have mouths, but cannot speak.
Why should men their favor seek?

8. They have ears, but cannot hear;
Nothing can they understand.
In their mouths there is no breath,
And their makers, in the end,
Like their idols will become;
So will all who trust in them.

9. Come, O house of Israel,
Sing the praises of the LORD.
Come, O Aaron's priestly house,
Bless His name with one accord.
Levi's house, your voices raise.
You that fear Him, sing His praise.

10. Blest from Zion be the LORD,
Who dwells in Jerusalem.
Let His people all rejoice;
Let them praise and worship Him.
Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!
Bless His name with one accord.

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PSALM 138 (1543 / Geneva, 1551)

1. With all my heart, O LORD, I praise
Your glorious ways, Your exaltation.
Before the gods Your name I bless
In thankfulness and adoration.
I bow down toward Your holy place
And laud Your grace, Your love unfailing,
For You have shown Your word and name
To be supreme and all-excelling.

2. You answered me the day I called;
You made me bold and valiant-hearted.
You heard me in my darkest hour
And by Your power was I supported.
Let then the kings of all the earth
In awe shout forth their praise unbroken,
For peoples everywhere, O LORD,
Have heard the words that You have spoken.

3. Now let all kings with one accord
Extol the LORD in joyful chorus.
Let them all praise God's majesty,
For great is He: His ways are glorious.
Though high-enthroned, He from above
Looks down in love upon the lowly,
But from afar the proud He knows
And will expose their ways unholy.

4. LORD, You will to my rescue come
When troubles loom from all directions.
Though enemies around me swarm,
Your mighty arm is my protection.
Your pledge to me You shall fulfil;
By nothing will Your love be shaken.
You are the ever-faithful one:
Let all You've done not be forsaken!

PSALM 147 (Geneva, 1562)

1. Come, praise the LORD! It's good and pleasant
To praise His mercy ever-present.
Sing to the LORD, our God and Savior,
Who shows His steadfast love and favor.
He builds Jerusalem's foundations
And re-unites His scattered nation.
The brokenhearted He grants healing,
Binds up their wounds, His love revealing.

2. He counts the stars and knows their number;
Each one He will by name remember.
Our Lord is great, in power excelling,
His understanding past all telling.
The LORD lifts up the poor and humble
But causes wicked men to stumble.
O come in thankfulness before Him;
With harp and joyful song adore Him.

3. With clouds He covers all the heavens;
Rain for the earth by Him is given.
The LORD makes grass on hillsides flourish;
The beasts and ravens He will nourish.
In strength of steeds is not His pleasure,
Nor is men's fleetness what He treasures.
But He delights in those who fear Him,
Who for His constant love revere Him.

4. Jerusalem, now praise your Savior!
O Zion, thank Him for His favor.
Your gates He strengthens by His power;
His gifts He on your children showers.
Within your walls in peace He leads you
And with the finest wheat He feeds you.
To all the earth He issues orders
That swiftly reach its farthest borders.

5. When He the wintry cold increases,
He spreads the snow like woolly fleeces;
Like ashes He the hoarfrost scatters,
And hailstones on the earth He clatters.
Before His cold the water freezes
Till He the icy bonds releases:
He sends His word, and winds start blowing;
He melts the ice, and streams are flowing!

6. By Him Jerusalem is guided;
The LORD His statutes has provided,
His steadfast love to Jacob showing,
His word on Israel bestowing.
He dealt thus with no other nation;
They do not know His revelation.
Come, praise the LORD, your gladness voicing
And in His steadfast love rejoicing.

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PSALM 148 (Geneva, 1562)

1. O praise the LORD! His name exalt!
Praise Him from highest heaven's vault.
You angels, from your lofty post
Praise Him with all the heavenly host.
You sun and moon, you constellations,
Shine forth your light in adoration;
Join with the clouds as they ascend
In praise and worship without end.

2. Let them extol the LORD, for He
Created them by His decree,
And by a law that will endure
He fixed their bounds for evermore.
Let earth as well show Him devotion:
Praise Him, you monsters in the oceans,
You frost and snow, you fire and hail;
Praise Him, you storms that do His will.

3. Praise Him, you hills and mountains all,
You fruit trees and you cedars tall;
Wild beasts and cattle, creeping things,
Praise Him with every bird that sings.
You kings and princes, all the nations,
You rulers of their populations,
Young men and maidens, old and young,
Come, praise the LORD with joyful song.

4. Let all creation praise His name,
Extol His all-surpassing fame.
His glory covers earth and sky.
He raised His people's horn on high;
His saints He blessed with praise and splendor,
Showed Israel His mercy tender.
Close to His heart He keeps His own.
O praise the LORD! Praise Him alone!