

LESSON 25

“Let Every Thing That Hath Breath Praise The Lord” Psalms

OVERVIEW:

Prophecies of the life and mission of Jesus Christ. “The Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee” (Psalm 116:7). “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?” (Psalm 116:12) “Trust in the Lord.” (Psalm 4:5)

The book of Psalms is quoted more often by New Testament writers than any other Old Testament book – over 115 times.

Luke 24:44. And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be ^afulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in the psalms*, concerning me.

BIBLE DICTIONARY PSALMS

The Psalms collectively are called in Hebrew *Tehillim* or “Praises,” but the word *mizmor*, which denotes a composition set to music, is found in the titles of many of them. The book is the first in order of the “Scriptures” (*Kethubim*) or Hagiographa, which with the Law and the Prophets make up the Hebrew O.T. See *Bible*.

No book of the Old Testament is more Christian in its inner sense or more fully attested as such by the use made of it than the Psalms. Out of a total of 283 direct citations from the Old Testament in the New, 116 have been counted from this one book. Much of Christianity by its preference for the Psalms reverses the custom of the Synagogue, which judged the psalmists’ inspiration inferior to that of the prophets, and set Moses on high above them all, so that no prophet might teach any new thing but only what was implicitly contained in the law.

Titles are added to some of the Psalms, but it is open to question whether these are as old as the words to which they are attached. They mainly refer to the manner in which the words were to be sung or accompanied. Some Psalms were to be accompanied by stringed instruments (*Neginah, Neginoth* Pss. 4, 54 - 55, 61, 67, 76, and Hab. 3: 19), others by wind instruments (*Nehiloth* Ps. 5); while such titles as “Set to *Alamoth*” (Ps. 46) = maidens, or “Set to *Sheminith*” (Pss. 6, 12) = the octave, seem to imply that there was singing in parts. Some of the titles appear to be intended to indicate the character of the Psalm, as *Maschil* = giving instruction (Pss. 32, 42, 44-45, 52 - 55, 74, 78, 78, 88 - 89, and 112), *Michtam*, rendered by some *Golden Psalm* (Pss. 16, 56 - 60); while *Shiggaion* (Ps. 7) with *Shigionoth* (Hab. 3: 1) may refer to the irregular erratic style of the compositions, and *Gittith* = belonging to Gath (Pss. 8, 81, 84) may relate either to the melody or to the instrument used in the performance. The other titles are all probably names of tunes, well known at the time, to which the Psalms were appointed to be sung.

Seventy-three of the psalms are ascribed to David, and so it was natural that the whole collection should be referred to as his, and that this convenient way of speaking should give rise in time to the popular belief that “the sweet psalmist of Israel” himself wrote all the so-called Psalms of David. Sacred psalmody is ascribed to him in general terms in 1 and 2 Chr., the accompanying instruments also being called “instruments of David,” as in Neh. 12: 36 and Amos 6: 5. In some cases in which a psalm is

ascribed to David in the Hebrew, it is certain that he could not have written it, and it has been concluded that the Hebrew titles are sometimes inaccurate.

SCRIPTURES:

Prophecies of the life and mission of Jesus Christ:

Prophecy	Fulfillment	
<p>107:23-30: 23 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; 24 These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. 25 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. 26 They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. 27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken ^aman, and are at their wits' end. 28 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. 29 He ^amaketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. 30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.</p>	<p>Matthew: 8:23-27: 23 ¶ And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed (came unto) him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great ^atempest[*] in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came (un)to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: (else) we perish. 26 And he said^(d)th unto them, Why are ye ^afearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and ^brebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the ^asea obey him!</p>	<p>Jesus calmed the winds and the waves.</p>
<p>69:8: I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.</p>	<p>John 1:11; He came unto his own, and his own ^areceived him not.; 7:5: For neither did his brethren believe in him.</p>	<p>Jesus was not received by his own people.</p>
<p>41:9: Yea, mine own familiar ^afriend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his ^bheel against me. (Judas Iscariot)</p> <p>55:12-14: 12 For <i>it</i> was not an enemy <i>that</i> reproached me(, neither he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; if so,) then I could have borne <i>it</i>: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: 13 But <i>it</i> was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. 14 We took sweet counsel together, <i>and</i> walked unto</p>	<p>John 13:18, 21:18 ¶ I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. 21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall ^abetray me.</p>	<p>Jesus was betrayed by a friend.</p>

<p>the house of God in ^acompany. (or fellowship)</p>		
<p>69:20: Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of ^aheaviness: and I looked <i>for some</i> to take pity, but <i>there was</i> none; and for comforters, but I found none.</p>	<p>Mark 14:32-41: 32 ^aAnd they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith (which was a garden; and the disciples began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy, and to complain in their hearts, wondering if this be the Messiah. And Jesus knowing their hearts, said) to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. 33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and (rebuked them) began to be asore amazed, and to be bvery cheavy; 34 And sai(d)th unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful (even) unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. 35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things <i>are</i> possible unto thee; ^atake away this ^bcup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt (my will, but thine be done). 37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and sai(d)th unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one ^ahour?38 ^aWatch ye and pray, lest ye enter into ^btemptation. (And they said unto him,) The spirit truly <i>is</i> ready, but the flesh <i>is</i> weak. 39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. 40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist (knew) they what to answer him. 41 And he cometh (to them) the third time, and sai(d)th unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.</p>	<p>Jesus suffered alone in Gethsemane.</p>
<p>22:7-8: 7 All they that see me laugh me to ^ascorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, <i>saying</i>, 8 He</p>	<p>Matthew 27:39-43: 39 ¶ And they that passed by ^areviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou</p>	<p>Jesus was mocked.</p>

<p>^atrusted on the LORD <i>that</i> he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.</p>	<p>that destroyest the ^atemple, and buildest <i>it</i> (again) in three days, save thyself. If thou be the ^bSon of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He ^atrusted in God; let him ^bdeliver him now, if he will have (save) him: for he said, I am the ^cSon of God.</p>	
<p>22:16: For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the ^awicked have inclosed me: they ^bpierced my hands and my feet.</p>	<p>Mark 15:25: And it was the third hour, and (when) they crucified him.</p>	<p>Jesus was crucified.</p>
<p>22:18: They part my ^agarments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.</p>	<p>Matthew 27:35: And they ^acrucified him, and ^bparted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my ^cgarments among them, and upon (for) my vesture did they (did) cast lots.</p>	<p>The soldiers cast lots for Christ's clothes.</p>
<p>22:1: ^aMY God, my God, why hast thou ^bforsaken me? (My God, hear the words of my roaring; (my cry of distress)) why art thou so (art) far from helping me(.), and from the words of my roaring?</p>	<p>Matthew 27:46: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, ^aMy God, my God, why hast thou ^bforsaken me?</p>	<p>Jesus asked the Father why he had forsaken him.</p>
<p>69:21: They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me ^avinegar to drink.</p>	<p>John 19:28-30: 28 ¶ After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar (mingled with gall): and they filled a sponge with avinegar (it), and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is ^afinished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.</p>	<p>Jesus was given vinegar for his thirst.</p>
<p>34:20: He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is ^abroken.</p>	<p>John 19:33-36: 33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they ^abrake not his legs: 34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and</p>	<p>None of Jesus' bones was broken.</p>

	water. 35 And he that ^a saw <i>it</i> bare ^b record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. 36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A ^a bone of him shall not be broken.	
31:5: Into thine hand I commit my ^a spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.	Luke 23:46:¶ And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I ^a commend my ^b spirit: and having said thus, he ^c gave up the ^d ghost.	Jesus commended his spirit to the Father and died.
16:10: For thou wilt not ^a leave my ^b soul in ^c hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine ^d Holy One to see corruption.	Acts 2:31-32: 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God ^a raised up, whereof we all are ^b witnesses. 13:34-35:34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, <i>now</i> no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the ^a sure mercies of David. 35 Wherefore he saith also in another <i>psalm</i> , Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.	The Savior's flesh did not see corruption, being raised up in the resurrection.

The Creation of Heaven and Earth

Psalm 19:1: THE ^aheavens ^bdeclare the ^cglory of God; and the firmament sheweth his ^dhandywork.

Psalm 104:5-7. 5 *Who* laid the foundations of the earth, *that* it should not be removed for ever. 6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as *with* a garment: the ^awaters stood above the mountains. 7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. 14. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; 24 O LORD, *how* manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy ^ariches.

Psalm 136:3-9: 3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. 4 To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. 5 To him that by ^awisdom made the heavens: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. 6 To him that stretched out the ^aearth above the waters: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. 7 To him that made great lights: for his mercy *endureth* for ever: 8 The ^asun to rule by day: for his mercy *endureth* for ever: 9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

The Savior's Mercy, Forgiveness, and Love:

Psalm 23: 1 THE LORD *is* my ^ashepherd; I shall not ^bwant. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he ^aleadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of

^arighteousness for his ^bname's sake. 4 Yea, though I ^awalk through the ^bvalley of the ^cshadow of ^ddeath, I will fear no ^eevil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they ^fcomfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou ^aanointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely ^agoodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 51: 1 HAVE ^amercy upon me, O God, according to thy ^blovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies ^cblot out my ^dtransgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and ^acleanse me from my sin. 3 For I ^aacknowledge my transgressions: and my ^bsin *is* ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I ^asinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be ^bjustified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest. 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother ^aconceive me. 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with ^ahyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10 Create in me a ^aclean heart, O God; and ^brenew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy ^apresence; and take not thy ^bholy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. 13 *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be ^aconverted unto thee. 14 ^aDeliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 For thou desirest not ^asacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The ^asacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a ^bcontrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good ^apleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Psalm 59:16: But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my ^atrouble.

Psalm 78:38: But he, *being* full of compassion, forgave *their* iniquity, and destroyed *them* not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Psalm 86: 5, 13: 5 For thou, Lord, *art* good, and ready to ^aforgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. 13 For great *is* thy mercy toward me: and thou hast ^adelivered my soul from the lowest hell.

Psalm 100:4-5: 4 Enter into his gates with ^athanksgiving, *and* into his ^bcourts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. 5 For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

Psalm 103:2-4, 8-11, 17-18: 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who ^aforgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy ^bdiseases; 4 Who ^aredeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 8 The ^aLORD *is* ^bmerciful and gracious, slow to ^canger, and plenteous in mercy. 9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his* ^aanger for ever. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, *so* great *is* his mercy toward them that fear him. 17 But the ^amercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; 18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

The Scriptures:

Psalm 19:7-11: 7 The ^alaw of the LORD is ^bperfect, ^cconverting the soul: the ^dtestimony of the LORD is ^esure, making ^fwise the ^gsimple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, ^arejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is ^bpure, ^cenlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the ^ajudgments of the LORD are ^btrue and righteous altogether. 10 More to be ^adesired are they than ^bgold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant ^awarned: and in ^bkeeping of them there is great reward.

(Psalm 119 is divided into twenty-two sections corresponding to the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section is titled with the corresponding name of the Hebrew letter and its English transliteration. This designation shows that in the Hebrew the psalm forms an acrostic (a poem or work of prose in which the initial letter of each line forms its own word or a peculiar pattern). In Psalm 119 each of the twenty-two sections has eight lines. Every line in each section begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In other words, verses 1-8 all start in the original with *aleph*, verses 9-16 with *beth*, and so on. In an age when literature was often memorized and transmitted orally such devices were a valuable aid to memory. Old Testament Student Manual, p. 311)

א ALEPH

Blessed are they who keep the commandments.

Psalm 119: 1 ^aBLESSED are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.
2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that ^aseek him with the whole heart.
3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.
4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts ^adiligently.
5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!
6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.
7 I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.
8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

ב BETH

Ponder the precepts and ways of the Lord.

9 Wherewithal shall a young man ^acleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.
10 With my whole ^aheart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.
11 Thy ^aword have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
12 Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.
13 With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.
14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as *much as* in all riches.
15 I will ^ameditate ~~in~~ (upon) thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.
16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

ג GIMEL

O Lord, open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

17 Deal bountifully with thy servant, *that* I may live, and keep thy word.
 18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.
 19 I *am* a ^astranger (Heb sojourner; ie not of this world) in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.
 20 My soul (heart) breaketh for the longing that it hath unto (my soul longeth after) thy judgments at all times.
 21 Thou hast rebuked the proud (; they) ~~that~~ *are* cursed, ~~which~~ (who) do err from thy commandments.
 22 Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies.
 23 Princes also did sit *and* speak against me: *but* thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.
 24 Thy ^atestimonies also *are* my delight *and* my counsellors.

DALETH

O Lord, grant us thy law, and make us to understand thy precepts.

25 My soul cleaveth unto the ^adust: ^bquicken thou me according to thy word.
 26 I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.
 27 Make me to ^aunderstand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
 28 My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy ^aword.
 29 Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.
 30 I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid *before me*.
 31 I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.
 32 I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt ^aenlarge my ^bheart. (ie understanding)

HE

O Lord, teach us thy statutes, thy law, and thy commandments.

33 ^aTeach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it ~~unto~~ the end.
 34 Give me ^aunderstanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with *my* whole heart.
 35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I ^adelight.
 36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to ^acovetousness.
 37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding ^avanity; *and* quicken thou me in thy way.
 38 ^aStablish thy word unto thy servant, who *is devoted* to thy fear.
 39 Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy ^ajudgments *are* good.
 40 Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

VAU

O Lord, give us mercy, truth, and salvation.

41 Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, *even* thy salvation, according to thy word.
 42 So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.
 43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.
 44 So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.
 45 And I will walk at ^aliberty: for I seek thy precepts.

46 I will speak of thy testimonies also before ^akings, and will not be ^bashamed.
47 And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.
48 My ^ahands also will I ^blift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate ~~in~~
(upon) thy statutes.

†ZAIN

The Lord's statutes and judgments comfort us during our pilgrimage.

49 Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.
50 This *is* my ^acomfort in my ^baffliction: for thy word hath quickened me.
51 The proud have had me greatly in derision: *yet* have I not declined from thy law.
52 I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.
53 ^aHorror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.
54 Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my ^apilgrimage.
55 I have ^aremembered thy name, O LORD, in the ^bnight, and have kept thy law.
56 This I had, because I kept thy precepts.

‡CHETH

Make faithful people thy companions.

57 *Thou art* my ^aportion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words.
58 I intreated thy favour with *my* whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.
59 I ^athought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.
60 I made haste, and ^adelayed not to keep thy commandments.
61 The bands of the wicked have robbed me: *but* I have not forgotten thy law.
62 At ^amidnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.
63 *I am* a companion of all *them* that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.
64 The earth, O LORD, is ^afull of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

‡TETH

O Lord, teach us thy statutes.

65 Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.
66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.
67 ^aBefore I was ^bafflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.
68 Thou *art* ^agood, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.
69 The proud have forged a lie against me: *but* I will keep thy precepts with *my* whole heart.
70 Their heart is as fat as grease; *but* I delight in thy law.
71 *It is* good for me that I have been ^aafflicted; that I might ^blearn thy statutes.
72 The law of thy mouth *is* better unto me than ^athousands of ^bgold and silver. (ie thousands of pieces)

‡JOD

O Lord, let thy tender mercies come upon us.

73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments *are* right, and *that* thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

76 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law *is* my delight.

78 Let the proud be ^aashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: *but* I will meditate ~~in~~ ^b(upon) thy precepts.

79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.

80 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

▷CAPH

All the Lord's commandments are faithful.

81 My soul ^afainteth for thy salvation: *but* I hope in thy word.

82 Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

83 For I am become like a ^abottle (or waterskin) in the smoke; *yet* do I not forget thy statutes.

84 How ^amany *are* ^bthe days (ie of affliction) of thy servant? when wilt thou execute ^cjudgment on them that persecute me?

85 The proud have ^adigged pits for me, which *are* not after thy law.

86 All thy commandments *are* faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.

87 They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts.

88 Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

↳LAMED

O Lord, save us, for we have sought thy precepts.

89 For ever, O LORD, thy ^aword is settled in heaven.

90 Thy ^afaithfulness *is* unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.

91 They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all *are* thy servants.

92 Unless thy law *had been* my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

93 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

94 I *am* thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts.

95 The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: *but* I will consider thy testimonies.

96 I have seen an end of all perfection: *but* thy commandment *is* exceeding broad.

▷MEM

The Lord's law and his testimonies should be our meditation all the day.

97 O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

99 I have more ^aunderstanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my ^bmeditation.
100 I understand more than the ^aancients, because I keep thy precepts.
101 I have ^arefrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.
102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.
103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!
104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

יְנֻנ

The Lord's word is a lamp unto our feet.

105 Thy ^aword *is* a ^blamp unto my feet, and a ^clight unto my path.
106 I have sworn, and I will perform *it*, that I will keep thy righteous ^ajudgments.
107 I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.
108 Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill ^aofferings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.
109 My ^asoul *is* continually in ~~my~~ (thy) hand: ~~yet do I~~ (and I do) not forget thy law.
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.
111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they *are* the ^arejoicing of my heart.
112 I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, *even unto* the end.

וְסָמֵעַח

Depart from evildoers and keep the commandments of God.

113 I hate *vain* thoughts: but thy law do I love.
114 Thou *art* my ^ahiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.
115 ^aDepart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.
116 Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my ^ahope.
117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be ^asafe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.
118 Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit *is* falsehood.
119 Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth *like* ^adross: therefore I love thy testimonies.
120 My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

וְאִין

O Lord, we are thy servants; give us understanding.

121 I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.
122 Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.
123 Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.
124 Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.
125 I *am* thy ^aservant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.
126 ~~It is~~ (And the) time ~~for thee,~~ (O) LORD, (for me) to work (:): *for* they have made void thy law.
127 Therefore I ^alove thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.
128 Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; *and* I hate every false way.

DPE

The Lord's testimonies are wonderful.

- 129 Thy testimonies *are* wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.
130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; ~~it giveth~~ (they give) ^aunderstanding unto the simple.
131 I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.
132 Look thou upon me, and be ^amerciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.
133 ^aOrder my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have ^bdominion over me.
134 Deliver me from the ^aoppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts.
135 Make thy face to ^ashine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.
136 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

STZADDI

The Lord's law is the truth.

- 137 ^aRighteous *art* thou, O LORD, and upright *are* thy judgments.
138 Thy testimonies *that* thou hast commanded *are* ^arighteous and very faithful.
139 My ^azeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.
140 Thy word *is* very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.
141 I *am* small and despised: *yet* do not I forget thy precepts.
142 Thy righteousness *is* an everlasting righteousness, and thy law *is* the ^atruth.
143 Trouble and ^aanguish have taken hold on me: *yet* thy commandments *are* my delights.
144 The righteousness of thy testimonies *is* everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

PKOPH

O Lord, hear the voice of thy servants according to thy lovingkindness.

- 145 I cried with *my* whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.
146 I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.
147 ^aI prevented the dawning of the morning, (Heb I arose before the dawning) and cried: I hoped in thy word.
148 ^aMine eyes prevent the *night* watches, (Heb mine eyes were awake before the night watch) that I might meditate in thy word.
149 Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.
150 They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law.
151 Thou *art* ^anear, O LORD; and all thy commandments *are* truth.
152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

RESH

Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord.

153 Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.
154 Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.
155 Salvation *is* far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes.
156 Great *are* thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.
157 Many *are* my persecutors and mine enemies; *yet* do I not decline from thy testimonies.
158 I beheld the transgressors, and was ^agrieved; because they kept not thy word.
159 Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.
160 Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever.

ΨSCHIN

Those who love the Lord's law have peace.

161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.
162 I ^arejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.
163 I hate and abhor lying: *but* thy law do I love.
164 Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.
165 Great ^apeace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.
166 LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.
167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.
168 I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ^aways *are* before thee.

ⲚTAU

All the Lord's commandments are righteousness.

169 Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me ^aunderstanding according to thy word.
170 Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word.
171 My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes.
172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness.
173 Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.
174 I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law *is* my delight.
175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.
176 I have gone astray like a lost ^asheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

The Temple:

Psalm 5:7: But as for me, I will come *into* thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: *and* in ^athy fear (or reverence) will I worship toward thy holy ^btemple.

Psalm 15:1-3: 1 LORD, who shall ^aabide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy ^bhill (of Zion)? 2 He that ^awalketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. 3 *He that* ^abackbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his ^bneighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

Psalm 24:1 THE ^aearth *is* the ^bLORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. 2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. 3 **Who shall** ^aascend

into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his ^bholy place? 4 He that hath ^aclean ^bhands^{*}, and a ^cpure ^dheart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto ^evanity, nor ^fsworn ^gdeceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This *is* the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, ^aO Jacob. (or even Jacob) Selah. 7 ^aLift up your heads, O ye ~~gates~~ (generations of Jacob); and be ye lift(ed) up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this a King of glory? (And) the LORD strong and mighty; the LORD mighty in battle, who is the king of glory, shall establish you for ever. And he will roll away the heavens; and will come down to redeem his people; to make you an everlasting name; to establish you upon his everlasting rock). 9 Lift up your heads, O ye ~~gates~~ (generations of Jacob); even lift them up (your heads), ye everlasting ~~doors~~ (generations); and the (Lord of hosts, the king of kings;) King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this a King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. (Even the king of glory shall come unto you; and shall redeem his people, and shall establish them in righteousness.) Selah. (Probably *selah* was used to direct the singer to be silent, or to pause a little, while the instruments played an interlude or symphony. Old Testament Student Manual, p. 311)

Psalm 27:4: One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may ^adwell in the ^bhouse of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the ^cbeauty of the LORD, and to ^denquire (or contemplate) in his temple.

Psalm 65:4: Blessed *is the man whom* thou chooseth, and causeth to approach *unto thee*, that he may dwell in thy ^acourts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even* of thy holy temple.

Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 10-12: 1 HOW ^aamiable *are* thy tabernacles (Heb lovely is thy dwelling place), O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longeth, yea, even ^afainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. 4 Blessed *are* they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. 10 For a day in thy courts *is* better than ^aa thousand (ie a thousand elsewhere). I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God *is* a ^asun and ^bshield: the LORD will give ^cgrace and glory: no good *thing* will he ^dwithhold from them that ^cwalk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed *is* the man that trusteth in thee.

Gratitude:

Psalm 116:12 What shall I ^arender unto the LORD *for* all his benefits toward me? 13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. 16 O LORD, truly I *am* thy ^aservant; I *am* thy servant, *and* the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. 17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will ^acall upon the name of the LORD. 18 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people, 19 In the ^acourts of the LORD's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Trust in the Lord:

Psalm 4:5: Offer the ^asacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

Psalm 5:11: But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever ^ashout (Heb sing) for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Psalm 9:10: And they that know thy ^aname will put their ^btrust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psalm 18:2: The LORD *is* my ^arock, and my ^bfortress, and my deliverer; my God, my ^cstrength, in whom I will ^dtrust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

Psalm 56:11: In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Psalm 62:8: ^aTrust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God *is* a refuge for us. Selah.

Psalm 118:8-9: 8 *It is* better to ^atrust in the LORD than to put ^bconfidence in man. 9 *It is* better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

(Joseph Smith was still in his teens when he learned of the prophetic significance of the book of Psalms. We can virtually identify the very moment—it was during the night and early morning hours of the 21 and 22 September 1823, when Moroni first visited him. It was Oliver Cowdery who, after a lengthy conversation with the Prophet, preserved this knowledge for us. In the Pearl of Great Price account, Joseph Smith only tells us of a few of the passages of scripture quoted and explained by Moroni, adding that "he quoted many other passages of scripture, and offered many explanations which cannot be mentioned here" (JS-H 1:36-41). In his account of what the Prophet told him, Oliver lists more than two dozen such passages, among which are five of the Psalms. We will briefly examine each. They are Psalms 91:6; 100; 107; 144; and 146:10. Though Moroni's explanation of these passages has not been preserved for us, their interpretation in the context of Moroni's instruction to Joseph Smith will be obvious. Psalm 91:6. This is a messianic psalm, the introductory verses of which are refrains of praise and rejoicing in the protection afforded Israel through faith in God. The sixth verse speaks of pestilence and of a "destruction that wasteth at noontday." Moroni placed the passage in the same context as Joel's prophecy that the moon would turn to blood and the stars fall from heaven (see Joel 2:31), and Isaiah's prophecy of the earth reeling to and fro as a drunken man (see Isaiah 24:20). Oliver's account records, "The Lord will bring to the knowledge of his people his commandments and statutes, that they may be prepared to stand when the . . . nations tremble, and the destroying angel goes forth to waste the inhabitants at noon-day: for so great are to be the calamities which are to come upon the inhabitants of the earth, before the coming of the Son of Man the second time, that whoso is not prepared cannot abide; but such as are found faithful, and remain, shall be gathered with his people and caught up to meet the Lord in the cloud, and so shall they inherit eternal life." Moroni would obviously have emphasized to Joseph Smith his role in restoring the "commandments and statutes" of the Lord that a people might be prepared to stand when the Lord comes. Psalm 100. 1 MAKE a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with ^agladness: come before his presence with ^bsinging. 3 Know ye that the LORD *he is* God: *it is* he *that* hath ^amade us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the ^bsheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with ^athanksgiving, *and* into his ^bcourts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. 5 For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations. This Psalm begins with the announcement that all the earth must declare the Lord and serve him joyfully. It is an invitation for the worthy of all nations to "come before his presence," which is an Old Testament phrase meaning "to come to the temple." The witness of the Psalmist is that the truths taught therein endure from generation to generation, unchanged. This, we learn from Moroni, was the day for which David longed and often prayed. Further, we are told that David knew that such a day could not come "until the knowledge of the glory of God covered all lands, or all the earth." Psalm 107. 1 O GIVE thanks unto the LORD, for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so*, whom he hath ^aredeemed from the hand of the enemy; 3 And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. 4 They ^awandered in the ^bwilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. 5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. 6 Then they ^acried unto the LORD in their ^btrouble, *and* he delivered them out of

their distresses. 7 And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. 8 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men! 9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. 10 Such as sit in ^adarkness and in the shadow of death, *being* bound in affliction and iron; 11 Because they ^arebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: 12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and *there was* none to help. 13 Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saved them out of their distresses. 14 He brought them out of darkness and the ^ashadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. 15 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men! 16 For he hath ^abroken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder. 17 Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. 18 Their soul abhorreth all manner of ^ameat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. 19 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saveth them out of their distresses. 20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions. 21 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men! 22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of ^athanksgiving, and declare his works with ^brejoicing. 23 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; 24 These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. 25 For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. 26 They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. 27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken ^aman, and are at their wits' end. 28 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. 29 He ^amaketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. 30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. 31 Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men! 32 Let them exalt him also in the ^acongregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders. 33 He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; 34 A fruitful land into barrenness, for the ^awickedness of them that dwell therein. 35 He turneth the ^awilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. 36 And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; 37 And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. 38 He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease. 39 Again, they are ^aminished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. 40 He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, *where there is* no way. 41 Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh *him* families like a flock. 42 The righteous shall see *it*, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth. 43 Whoso *is* ^awise, and will observe these *things*, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD. This Psalm speaks of affliction and distress which would come upon Israel because they "rebelled against the words of God." It promised a day when they would be freed from their bondage of "darkness" and gathered from the lands of the "east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south," a time when the Lord would "send his word" and heal them, after which they would be expected to "declare" or testify of "his works with rejoicing." The Psalm also promises that for those so gathered the Lord would turn the "desert into pools of water, and parched earth into springs of water." Here the hungry, it was prophesied, would settle and establish a city to dwell in and be blessed with abundant harvests. Here they were to multiply "greatly," for the promise was that the Lord would make "him families like a flock." Commenting on this, Oliver wrote: "Most clearly was it shown to the prophet, that the righteous should be gathered from all the earth: He knew that the children of Israel were led from Egypt, by the right hand of the Lord, and permitted to possess the land of Canaan, though they were rebellious in the desert, but he further knew that they were not gathered from the east, the west, the north and the south, at that time; for it was clearly manifested that the Lord himself would prepare a habitation, even as he said, when he would lead them to a city of refuge." Psalms 144:11-12 11 Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh ^avanity, and their right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood: 12 That our

sons *may be* as plants grown up in their youth; *that* our daughters *may be* as corner stones, polished *after* the similitude of a palace: and 146:10 The LORD shall reign for ^aever, *even* thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD. Here we again find David praying for that day when Israel will be freed from the hand of foreigners that her sons might be "as plants grown up in their youth" and their daughters "as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." Only then, according to the Cowdery account of Moroni's discourse, will their sons and daughters prophesy, their old men dream dreams, and young men see visions. This was then given as the context of Psalm 146:10, which announces a day when the Lord would reign forever in Zion. Joseph F. McConkie, Joseph Smith Translation: The Restoration of Plain and Precious Things, Chapter 6.)

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