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Apocrypha

Psalms 152–155

(Syriac Psalms)

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William Wright (1887)

Credits

Date	3rd–1st century BC (152 and 153: date uncertain)
Original language	Hebrew
Version	William Wright (1887)
Edition	1.4
Translation	William Wright
Source	W. Wright, "Some Apocryphal Psalms in Syriac", PSBA 9 (1887) — transcrição de Roger Pearse (tertullian.org)
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About:

Four psalms attributed to David and to Hezekiah that did not enter the Book of Psalms. They have come down in Syriac, together with Psalm 151, in manuscripts of a treatise by the Nestorian bishop Elias of al-Anbar (10th century), and so they are also called the "Syriac Psalms".

Psalms 154 and 155 were also found in Hebrew among the Dead Sea Scrolls, in the great Psalms scroll from Qumran Cave 11 (11QPsa); scholars therefore think they were composed in Hebrew, probably between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC. Psalms 152 and 153 are known only in Syriac.

The manuscript headings read: Psalm 152, "spoken by David when he was contending with the lion and the wolf which took a sheep from his flock"; Psalm 153, "spoken by David when returning thanks to God, who had delivered him from the lion and the wolf and he had slain both of them"; Psalm 154, "the prayer of Hezekiah when enemies surrounded him"; Psalm 155, "when the people obtained permission from Cyrus to return home".

English translation by William Wright (1887), who numbered the psalms I to V in manuscript order (152 = IV, 153 = V, 154 = II, 155 = III); the parentheses and brackets

are his.

Source: http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/wright_syriac_apocryphal_psalms.htm

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PSALM 152

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1 O God, O God, come to my aid; help Thou me and save me; deliver Thou my soul from the slayer.

2 Shall I go down to Sheol by the mouth of the lion? or shall the wolf confound me?

3 Was it not enough for them that they lay in wait for my father's flock, and rent in pieces a sheep of my father's drove, but they were wishing also to destroy my soul?

4 Have pity, O Lord, and save Thy holy one from destruction; that he may rehearse Thy glories in all his times, and may praise Thy great name:

5 when Thou hast delivered him from the hands of the destroying lion and of the ravening wolf, and when Thou hast rescued my captivity from the hands of the wild beasts.

6 Quickly, O my Lord (Adonai), send from before Thee a deliverer, and draw me out of the gaping pit, which imprisons me in its depths.

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PSALM 153

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1 Praise the Lord, all ye nations; glorify Him, and bless His name:

2 Who rescued the soul of His elect from the hands of death, and delivered His holy one from destruction:

3 and saved me from the nets of Sheol, and my soul from the pit that cannot be fathomed.

4 Because, ere my deliverance could go forth from before Him, I was well nigh rent in two pieces by two wild beasts.

5 But He sent His angel, and shut up from me the gaping mouths, and rescued my life from destruction.

6 My soul shall glorify Him and exalt Him, because of all His kindnesses which He hath done and will do unto me.

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PSALM 154

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1 With a loud voice glorify ye God; in the assembly of many proclaim ye His glory.

2 Amid the multitude of the upright glorify His praise; and speak of His glory with the righteous.

3 Join yourselves (literally, your soul) to the good and to the perfect, to glorify the Most High.

4 Gather yourselves together to make known His strength; and be not slow in showing forth His deliverance [and His strength] and His glory to all babes.

5 That the honour of the Lord may be known, wisdom hath been given; and to tell of His works it hath been made known to men:

6 to make known unto babes His strength, and to make them that lack understanding (literally, heart) to comprehend His glory;

7 who are far from His entrances and distant from His gates:

8 because the Lord of Jacob is exalted, and His glory is upon all His works.

9 And a man who glorifies the Most High, in him will He take pleasure; as in one who offers fine meal, and as in one who offers he-goats and calves;

10 and as in one who makes fat the altar with a multitude of burnt offerings; and as the smell of incense from the hands of the just.

11 From thy upright gates shall be heard His voice, and from the voice of the upright admonition.

12 And in their eating shall be satisfying in truth, and in their drinking, when they share together.

13 Their dwelling is in the law of the Most High, and their speech is to make known His strength.

14 How far from the wicked is speech of Him, and from all transgressors to know Him!

15 Lo, the eye of the Lord taketh pity on the good, and unto them that glorify Him will He multiply mercy, and from the time of evil will He deliver their soul.

16 Blessed be the Lord, who hath delivered the wretched from the hand of the wicked; who raiseth up a horn out of Jacob and a judge of the nations out of Israel;

17 that He may prolong His dwelling in Zion, and may adorn our age in Jerusalem.

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PSALM 155

✦

1 O Lord, I have cried unto Thee; hearken Thou unto me.

2 I have lifted up my hands to Thy holy dwelling-place; incline Thine ear unto me.

3 And grant me my request; my prayer withhold not from me.

4 Build up my soul, and destroy it not; and lay it not bare before the wicked.

5 Them that recompense evil things turn Thou away from me, O judge of truth.

6 O Lord, judge me not according to my sins, because no flesh is innocent before Thee.

7 Make plain to me, O Lord, Thy law, and teach me Thy judgments;

8 and many shall hear of Thy works, and the nations shall praise Thine honour.

9 Remember me and forget me not; and lead me not into things that be too hard for me.

10 The sins of my youth make Thou to pass from me, and my chastisement let them not remember against me.

11 Cleanse me, O Lord, from the evil leprosy, and let it no more come unto me.

12 Dry up its roots in (literally, from) me, and let not its leaves sprout within me.

13 Great art Thou, O Lord; therefore my request shall be fulfilled from before Thee.

14 To whom shall I complain that he may give unto me? and what can the strength of men add [unto me]?

15 From before Thee, O Lord, is my confidence; I cried unto the Lord and He heard me, and healed the breaking of my heart.

16 I slumbered and slept; I dreamed and was helped, and the Lord sustained me.

17 They sorely pained my heart; I will return thanks because the Lord delivered me.

18 Now will I rejoice in their shame; I have hoped in Thee, and I shall not be ashamed.

19 Give Thou honour for ever, even for ever and ever.

20 Deliver Israel Thine elect, and them of the house of Jacob Thy proved one.

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