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Apocrypha

Psalms of Solomon

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J. Rendel Harris (1911)

Credits

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About:

Eighteen Jewish psalms written in Jerusalem in the 1st century BC, after the Roman general Pompey took the city (63 BC) and profaned the Temple.

They lament the sins of Israel's leaders, see the invasion as God's just punishment, celebrate the shameful death of the "dragon" in Egypt (Pompey) and await the Messiah son of David, who will purify Jerusalem and reign in righteousness (Psalm 17).

Written in Hebrew, they survive in Greek and Syriac. The text here follows the Syriac manuscript that also contains the Odes of Solomon, where they appear as Psalms 43 to 60; it breaks off in the middle of Psalm 17 and lacks Psalm 18.

Source: https://archive.org/details/cu31924029308677

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PSALM 1

✦

1 I cried unto the Lord, when I was in affliction at my end; and to God when sinners set upon me:

2 for suddenly there was heard before me the sound of war: for He will hear me, because I am filled with righteousness:

3 and I reckoned in my heart that I was filled with righteousness: in the day that I became rich and was with the multitude of my children.

4 Their wealth, however, has been given to the whole earth: and their glory as far as the ends of the earth.

5 They were lifted up as high as the stars: and they said,

6 speaking without knowledge. . . .

7 For their sins were in secret, and I knew them not:

8 and their wickedness exceeded that of the nations that had been before them: and they defiled the sanctuary of the Lord with pollution.

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PSALM 2

✦

1 In the insolence of the sinful man, he cast down with battering rams the strong walls and thou didst not restrain him.

2 And the Gentile foreigners went up on thy altar, and were trampling on it with their shoes in their insolence.

3 For the children of Jerusalem had polluted the Holy House of the Lord: and they were profaning the offerings to God with wickedness.

4 Wherefore He said, Remove them, cast them away from me. And He did not establish with them the beauty of His glory:

5 it was rejected before the Lord: and they were utterly torn in pieces.

6 Her sons and her daughters were in bitter captivity: and on their neck was put the sealed yoke of the Gentiles:

7 according to their sins, so He dealt with them: for He suffered them to pass into the hand of him that was stronger than they:

8 for He turned away His face from His mercy: young men and old men and their children together:

9 because they also had worked evil together, that they might not hearken unto me:

10 and the heaven was mightily angered, and the earth rejected them:

11 because none in the earth had done therein like their doings:

12 and that the earth may know all thy righteous judgments, O God.

13 They set up the sons of Jerusalem for mockery within her, in the place of harlots; and every one that transgressed was transgressing as if before the sun: while they made sport in their villainies, as they were used to do.

14 In the face of the sun they made a show of their villainies. And the daughters of Jerusalem were polluted according to thy judgments;

15 for they had polluted themselves in lustful intercourse. My belly and my bowels are pained over these things.

16 But I will justify thee, O Lord, in the uprightness of my heart; because in thy judgments is thy righteousness, O God.

17 For thou dost reward sinful men according to their deeds: and according to their wicked and bitter sins.

18 Thou didst disclose their sins, in order that thy judgment might be known:

19 and Thou didst blot out their remembrance from the earth. God is a judge and righteous, and accepteth no man's person.

20 For the Gentiles reproached Jerusalem, in their wickedness, and her beauty was cut off from the throne of His glory.

21 And she was covered with sackcloth instead of beauteous raiment: and there was a rope on her head instead of a crown.

22 She cast off from her the dazzling glory which God had put upon her:

23 and in contempt her beauty was cast away on the ground.

24 And I beheld and I besought the face of the Lord, and I said: Enough! Thou hast made thy hand heavy, O Lord, upon Israel, by the bringing in of the Gentiles:

25 for they have mocked and not pitied, in anger;

26 and in reproach they are consumed, unless thou, O Lord, shalt restrain them in thy wrath.

27 For it was not in zeal that they did [this], but in the lust of the soul:

28 that they might pour out their wrath upon us in plundering us. But thou, O Lord, delay not to recompense them upon their own heads:

29 to cast down the pride of the dragon to contempt,

30 and I delayed not until the Lord showed me his insolence smitten on the mountains of Egypt: and despised more than him that is least on land and on sea:

31 and his body coming on the waves in much contempt, and none to bury [him];

32 because He had rejected him with scorn, for he did not consider that he is a man. And the end he did not regard.

33 For he said; I will be lord of land and sea: and he knew not that the Lord is God, great and mighty and powerful,

34 and He is King over Heaven and over Earth: and He judges kingdoms and princes,

35 He who raiseth me up in glory and layeth low the proud in contempt, not temporal but eternal; because they knew Him [not].

36 And now, behold, ye great ones of the earth, the judgment of the Lord, for He is a righteous King, and judges what is under the whole heaven.

37 Bless ye the Lord, ye who fear the Lord reverently: for the mercies of the Lord are on them that fear Him with judgment,

38 to separate between the righteous and the sinful, and to reward the sinful for ever according to their deeds:

39 and to be gracious to the righteous after their oppression by sinners: and to reward the sinful for what he has done that is right:

40 because the Lord is kind to those that call upon Him in patience, to do according to His mercy to His saints: so as to stand before Him at all times in strength.

41 Blessed is the Lord for ever by His servants.

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PSALM 3

✦

1 Why sleepest thou, my soul, and dost not bless the Lord?

2 Sing a new song to God and keep vigil in His watch. For a psalm is good [to sing] to God out of a good heart.

3 The righteous will ever make mention of the Lord: in confession and in righteousness are the judgments of the Lord.

4 The righteous will never neglect, when he is chastened by the Lord: because his will is always before the Lord.

5 The righteous stumbles and justifies God: he falls and I wait what the Lord will do to him.

6 And he looks to see from whence his salvation comes.

7 The stability of the righteous is from God their Saviour: for in the house of the righteous there does not lodge sin upon sin:

8 because He always visits the house of the righteous to remove the sins of his transgressions.

9 And He delivers his soul, in whatever he has sinned without knowledge, by fasting and by humiliation:

10 and the Lord purifies every holy man and his house.

11 But the sinner stumbleth and curseth his own life, and the day in which he was born: and the birth-pangs of his mother;

12 and he adds sin upon sin to his life:

13 he falls, and because his fall is grievous, he rises not again: for the destruction of the sinner is for ever:

14 and He will not remember him when He visits the righteous:

15 this is the portion of sinners for ever.

16 But those who fear the Lord shall rise to eternal life: and their life shall be in the light of the Lord, and he will not fail any more. [Hallelujah.]

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PSALM 4

✦

1 Why sittest thou, O wicked man, in the congregation of the righteous: and thy heart is far removed from God; and by thy wickedness thou provokest to anger the God of Israel,

2 exceedingly by thy words, and exceedingly by thy [outward] signs, more than all men? He who is severe in his words in his condemnation of sinners in judgment,

3 and his hand is the first to be on him, as though [he acted] in zeal: and he is guilty himself of all kinds of sinful crimes:

4 his eyes are upon every woman immodestly: and his tongue lies when he answers with oaths.

5 In the night and in the darkness, as if he were not seen; by his eyes he talketh with every woman in the cunning of wickedness:

6 and he is quick to go into every house with joy, as if he had no wickedness.

7 God shall remove those who judge with respect of persons: but He lives with the upright, in the corruption of his body and in the poverty of his life.

8 God will disclose the deeds of those who are men-pleasers: in scorn and derision are his works:

9 and let the saints justify the judgment of their God, when the wicked shall be removed from before the righteous:

10 the accepter of persons who talks law with guile,

11 and his eyes are on a house, quietly like a serpent, to dispel the wisdom of each one by words of villainy:

12 his words are with an evil intent, with a view to the working of the lust of the wicked:

13 and he does not remove until he has scattered in bereavement, and has desolated the house because of his sinful lust.

14 And he supposes in his words that there is none that sees and judges:

15 and he is filled with this sinfulness; and his eyes are on another house to devastate it with words of prodigality: and his soul is, like Sheol, never satisfied.

16 For all these things, let [his portion], O Lord, be before thee in dishonour; let his going out be with groans and his coming in with curses:

17 in pains, and in poverty and in destitution, O Lord, let his life be: let his sleep be in anguish and his waking in vexation:

18 let sleep be removed from his eyelids by night: let him fall from every work of his hands in dishonour;

19 and let him enter his house empty-handed: and let his house be destitute of everything that can satisfy his soul:

20 and from his offspring let not one draw near unto him:

21 let the flesh of the hypocrites be scattered by wild beasts; and the bones of the wicked be before the sun in dishonour:

22 let the ravens pick out the eyes of those who are men-pleasers:

23 because they have laid waste many houses of men in dishonour: and have scattered them in lust:

24 and they remembered not God; nor feared God in all these things;

25 and they provoked God, and He was angered to destroy them from the earth; because with crafty intent they had played the hypocrite with innocent souls.

26 Blessed are they that fear the Lord in their innocency:

27 and the Lord will save them from all the cunning and wicked men; and He will redeem us from every stumbling-block of the wicked.

28 May God destroy all them that work fraud with pride: for a strong judge is the Lord our God in righteousness;

29 let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon all them that love thee.

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PSALM 5

✦

1 O Lord my God, I will praise thy name with exultation, amongst those that know thy righteous judgments.

2 For thou art gracious and merciful, and the place of refuge of the poor.

3 When I cry unto thee, be not thou silent unto me.

4 For one does not take spoil from the strong man:

5 or who shall take aught from what thou hast made, unless thou give it him?

6 Because he is man, and his portion is before thee in the balance: and he shall not add aught to better it apart from thy judgment, O God.

7 In our afflictions we call thee to our help: and thou hast not turned away our petition: for thou art our God.

8 Delay not thou thy hand from us: lest we be strengthened to sin:

9 and turn not away thy face from us, lest we remove away from thee: but to thee we will come:

10 for if I should be hungry, O Lord, unto thee will I cry, O God: and thou wilt bestow.

11 For the fowl and the fish thou dost feed. When thou givest rain in the desert to cause the grass to spring up,

12 to prepare food in the wilderness for every living thing, and if they shall be hungry, unto thee will they lift up their faces:

13 kings and rulers and peoples thou dost provide for, O God: and the hope of the poor and the miserable, who is it except thyself, O Lord?

14 and thou wilt answer him, because thou art kind and gentle: and his soul shall be satisfied when thou openest thy hand in mercy.

15 For the kindness of a man is with parsimony; to-day and to-morrow; and if it should be that he repeats his gift and does not grumble, well! that is a wonder!

16 But thy bounty is plenteous in kindness and in wealth; and there is no expectation towards thee that He will be sparing in gifts.

17 For over all the earth is thy mercy, O Lord, in kindness.

18 Blessed is the man whom the Lord shall remember in poverty: for that a man should exceed his measure means that he will sin.

19 Sufficient is a low estate with righteousness:

20 for those that fear the Lord are pleased with good things: and thy grace is on Israel in thy Kingdom:

21 blessed be the glory of the Lord, for He is our King.

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PSALM 6

✦

1 Blessed is the man whose heart is prepared to call upon the name of the Lord:

2 and when he shall remember the name of the Lord, he will be saved.

3 His ways are directed from before the Lord: and the works of his hands are preserved by his God:

4 and [in] the evil vision of the night his soul shall not be moved, because he is His:

5 and his soul shall not be affrighted in the passing through the rivers, and in the tumult of the seas.

6 He rose from his sleep and praised the name of the Lord,

7 and in the quiet of his heart he sang psalms to the name of the Lord: and he made request from the face of the Lord concerning all his house:

8 and the Lord hears the prayer of every one that is in His fear, and every petition of the soul that trusts in Him; and the Lord fulfils it.

9 Blessed is He who doeth mercy upon them that love Him in truth.

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PSALM 7

✦

1 Remove not thy tabernacle from us, Lord, lest those rise up against us who hate us without a cause:

2 for thou hast put them away, O God, that their foot may not tread the inheritance of thy sanctuary.

3 Thou in thy good pleasure chasten me and deliver us not over to the Gentiles.

4 For if thou shouldest send death, it is thou who givest it command against us;

5 for thou art the Merciful One, and wilt not be angry so as to consume us utterly.

6 For because of thy Name that encamps amongst us, mercies shall be upon us: and the Gentiles shall not be able to prevail against us,

7 for thou art our strength: and we will call upon thee and thou wilt answer us:

8 for thou wilt be gracious to the seed of Israel, for ever, and thou wilt not forget him:

9 thou wilt establish us in the time of thy help, to show favour to the house of Jacob, in the day that is prepared for them.

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PSALM 8

✦

1 Distress and the sound of war mine ears have heard, the sound of the trumpet, and the noise of slaughter and destruction:

2 the sound of much people like a mighty and frequent wind: like the tempest of fire which comes over the wilderness.

3 And I said to my heart: Where will he judge him?

4 I heard a sound in Jerusalem, the Holy City;

5 the bonds of my loins were loosed at the report: and my knees trembled,

6 and my bones were moved like flax.

7 And I said, They will make straight their paths in righteousness and I remembered the judgments of the Lord, from the creation of the heaven and the earth: and I justified God in all His judgments from the beginning.

8 But God laid bare their sins before the sun: and to all the earth was made known the righteous judgments of the Lord.

9 For in secret places of the earth were they doing evil;

10 the son had connexion with the mother and the father with the daughter:

11 and all of them committed adultery with their neighbours' wives: and they made solemn covenants amongst themselves concerning these things:

12 they were plundering the House of God's Holiness, as if there was none to inherit and to deliver.

13 And they were treading His sanctuary in all their pollutions, and in the time of their separation they polluted the sacrifices, as common meat:

14 and they left no sins which they did not commit, and even worse than the Gentiles.

15 For this cause God mingled for them a spirit of error, and caused them to drink a living cup for drunkenness:

16 He brought him from the other side of the world, the one that afflicts grievously:

17 and he decrees war against Jerusalem and against her land:

18 and the judges of the land met him with joy: and they said to him: Thy path shall be ordered, come, enter in peace.

19 They levelled the lofty paths for his entering: they opened the doors against Jerusalem; and they crowned the walls.

20 And he entered like a father into the house of his children, in peace: and he set his feet [there] in great firmness:

21 and they took possession of the towers and the walls of Jerusalem.

22 For God brought him in assurance against their error:

23 and they destroyed their princes because he was cunning in counsel: and they poured out the blood of the dwellers in Jerusalem like the water of uncleanness:

24 and he carried off their sons and daughters, who had been [born] in pollution,

25 and had wrought their pollution even as also their fathers had done.

26 And Jerusalem defiled even those things that were consecrated to the name of God:

27 and God was justified in His judgments upon the nations of the earth,

28 and the saints of God were as innocent lambs in their midst.

29 God is to be praised who judges all the earth in His righteousness.

30 Behold, O God, thou hast shown us [thy judgments] in thy righteousness,

31 and our eyes have seen thy judgments, O God: and we have justified thy name that is honoured for ever.

32 For thou art a God of righteousness: who judgest Israel with chastening.

33 Turn thy mercy towards us and be gracious to us:

34 and gather the dispersion of Israel, in mercy and in kindness:

35 for thy faithfulness is with us: and we are stiff-necked, and thou art our chastener:

36 do not desert us, O our God! lest the Gentiles should swallow us up, as though there were none to deliver:

37 and thou art our God from the beginning, and upon thee is our hope, O Lord:

38 and we will not depart from thee, for thy judgments are good;

39 upon us and upon our children is thy good will for ever, O Lord God, our Saviour, and we shall not be shaken again, for ever.

40 The Lord is to be praised for His judgments by the mouth of His saints:

41 and blessed is Israel from the Lord for evermore.

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PSALM 9

✦

1 When Israel went forth into captivity to a strange land, because they departed from the Lord their Saviour:

2 then were they cast out from the inheritance that God gave them: amongst all the Gentiles was the dispersion of Israel, according to the word of God,

3 that thou mightest be justified, O God, in thy righteousness over our wickedness:

4 for thou art a just Judge over all the peoples of the earth.

5 For there will not be hidden from thy knowledge any one who doeth wickedness:

6 and the righteousness of thy upright ones, O Lord, is before thee. And where shall a man be hidden from thy knowledge, O God?

7 For we work by free-will and the choice of our own souls to do either good or evil by the work of our hands:

8 and in thy righteousness thou dost visit the children of men.

9 For he who does righteousness lays up a treasure of life with the Lord: and he who does wickedness incurs judgment upon his soul in perdition.

10 For His judgments are in righteousness upon every man and his house.

11 For with whom wilt thou deal graciously, O God, unless with them that call upon the Lord?

12 For he purifies the sins of the soul by confession,

13 because shame is on us and our faces because of all these things.

14 For to whom will He remit sins except to those that have sinned?

15 For the righteous thou dost bless, and dost not reprove them for any of their sins; for thy grace is on those that have sinned when they have repented.

16 And, now, thou art our God: and we are thy people whom thou hast loved: behold and have mercy, O God of Israel; for thine are we: remove not thy compassions from us, lest the Gentiles should set upon us;

17 for thou hast chosen the seed of Abraham rather than all the Gentiles,

18 and thou hast put on us thy Name, O Lord: and thou wilt not remove for ever.

19 Thou didst surely covenant with our fathers concerning us: and we hope in thee, in the repentance of our souls.

20 The mercies over the house of Israel are of the Lord, now and evermore.

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PSALM 10

✦

1 Blessed is the man whom God remembers with reproof: and He has restrained him from the way of evil by stripes: so as to be purified from his sin, that he may not abound [therein].

2 For he who prepares his loins for beating shall also be purified: for He is good to those that receive His chastening.

3 For the way of the righteous is straight, and His chastisement does not turn it aside.

4 For the face of the Lord is upon them that love Him in truth, and the Lord will remember His servants in mercy.

5 For the testimony is in the law of the everlasting covenant: the testimony of the Lord is in the ways of the children of men, by [His] visitations.

6 Righteous and upright is our God in all His judgments: and Israel will praise the name of the Lord with joy.

7 And the saints shall give thanks in the congregation of the people: and on the poor the Lord will have mercy, in the gladness of Israel.

8 For God is kind and merciful for ever: and the congregations of Israel shall praise the name of the Lord:

9 for of the Lord is the salvation upon the house of Israel, unto the everlasting kingdom.

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PSALM 11

✦

1 Blow ye [the trumpet] in Zion, the certain trumpet of the saints:

2 proclaim in Jerusalem the voice of the heralds, because God is merciful to Israel in His visitation.

3 Stand up on high, Jerusalem, and behold thy children, who are all being gathered from the East and the West by the Lord:

4 and from the North they come to the joy of their God: and from the far-away islands God gathereth them.

5 Lofty mountains has He humbled and made plain before them; and the hills fled away before their entrance:

6 the cedar gave shelter to them as they passed by: and every tree of sweet odour God made to breathe upon them:

7 in order that Israel might pass by in the visitation of the glory of their God.

8 O Jerusalem, put on the garments of thy glory; and make ready thy robe of holiness. For God speaks good things to Israel, now and ever.

9 May the Lord do what He hath spoken concerning Israel: and concerning Jerusalem: may the Lord raise up Israel in the name of His glory. May the mercies of the Lord be upon Israel, now and evermore.

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PSALM 12

✦

1 O Lord, save my soul from the perverse and wicked man and from the whispering and transgressing tongue, that speaks lies and deceit.

2 For in the response of his words is the tongue of the transgressor: for he shows like one whose deeds are fair, and kindles fire among the people.

3 For his sojourning is to fill (set fire to) houses by his lying talk: for the trees of his delight he will cut down with the flame [of his tongue] that does lawlessly.

4 He has destroyed the houses of the transgressors by war: and the slandering lips God has removed from the innocent, the lips of transgressors: and the bones of the slanderer shall be scattered far from those who fear the Lord.

5 By flaming fire He will destroy the slanderous tongue from among the upright, and their houses.

6 And the Lord shall preserve the soul of the righteous who hateth them that are evil: and the Lord shall establish the man that makes peace in the house of the Lord.

7 Of the Lord is salvation upon Israel His servant for ever:

8 and the sinners shall perish together from before the face of the Lord: and the saints of the Lord shall inherit the promises of the Lord.

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PSALM 13

✦

1 The right hand of the Lord has covered us: the right hand of the Lord has spared us:

2 and the arm of the Lord has saved me from the spear that goes through and from famine and the pestilence of sinners.

3 Evil beasts ran upon them: and with their teeth were tearing their flesh; and with their jaw-teeth were breaking their bones. But us the Lord has delivered from all these things.

4 But the wicked man was troubled on account of his transgression: lest he should be broken along with the evil men.

5 Because dread is the fall of the wicked: but the righteous not one of these things shall touch.

6 For one cannot compare the chastening of the righteous who have [sinned] ignorantly with the overthrow of evil men who sin knowingly.

7 For the righteous is chastened so that the sinner will not exult over him.

8 For the righteous He will admonish as His beloved son; and his chastening is like that of the first-born:

9 for the Righteous One will spare His saints, and their transgressions He will blot out by His chastisement. For the life of the righteous is for ever.

10 But sinners shall be cast into perdition: and their memorial shall no more be found.

11 But upon the saints shall be the mercy of the Lord. He will cherish all them that fear Him.

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PSALM 14

✦

1 The Lord is faithful to them that love Him in truth: even to them that abide His chastening: to them who walk in righteousness in His commandments: He has given us the Law for our life:

2 and the saints of the Lord shall live thereby for ever. The Paradise of the Lord, the trees of life, are His saints:

3 and the planting of them is sure for ever; nor shall they be rooted up all the days of the heaven. For the portion of the Lord and His inheritance is Israel.

4 Not so are the sinners and evil men, those who have loved a day in the participation of sin: for in the brevity of wickedness is their lust;

5 and they did not remember God; that the ways of the children of men are open before Him continually: and the secrets of the heart He knoweth before they come to pass:

6 therefore their inheritance is Sheol, and Perdition and Darkness: and in the day of mercy upon the righteous they shall not be found.

7 For the saints of the Lord shall inherit life in delight.

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PSALM 15

✦

1 In my affliction I called on the name of the Lord, and for my help I called on the God of Jacob: and I was delivered,

2 because thou, O God, art the hope and the refuge of the poor.

3 For who that is strong will praise thee in truth?

4 and what is the strength of a man, except that he should praise thy name?

5 A new song with the voice in the delight of the heart: the fruit of the lips with the instrument attuned to the tongue: the firstfruit of the lips from a heart that is holy and just.

6 He that doeth these things shall never be moved by evil: the flame of fire and the anger of sinners shall not touch them,

7 when it goeth forth against the sinners from before the Most High to root up all the roots of sinners:

8 because the sign of the Lord is upon the righteous for their salvation: death and the spear and famine shall remove from the righteous;

9 for they shall flee from them, as death flees from life: but they shall pursue after the wicked and catch them: and those who do evil shall not escape from the judgment of the Lord: for they will get before them like skilled warriors:

10 for the sign of destruction is upon their faces.

11 And the inheritance of sinners is Perdition and Darkness: and their iniquity shall pursue them down to the lower hell.

12 And their inheritance shall not be found by their children:

13 for their sins shall lay waste the houses of sinners: and sinners shall perish for ever in the day of the Lord's judgment:

14 when God visits the earth with His judgment.

15 And upon those who fear the Lord there shall be mercy therein; and they shall live in the compassion of our God: and sinners shall perish unto eternity.

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PSALM 16

✦

1 When my soul declined a little from the Lord, I had almost been in the lapses of the sleep of destruction; and when I was far away from the Lord,

2 my soul had almost been poured out to death, hard by the gates of Sheol along with the sinners:

3 and when my soul declined from the God of Israel, unless the Lord had helped me by His mercy which is for ever —

4 He pricked me, like the spur of the horse, according to His watchfulness: my Saviour and Helper at all times is He: He saved me:

5 I will praise thee, O God, because thou hast helped me with thy salvation: and hast not reckoned me with sinners for destruction.

6 Withdraw not thy mercy from me, O God: and let not the remembrance of thee remove from my heart until I die:

7 save me, O Lord, from the wicked sinful woman, and from every wicked woman who sets traps for the simple:

8 and let not the beauty of a wicked woman lead me astray, nor any sin that is,

9 and establish the work of my hands before thee: and preserve my walk in the remembrance of thee.

10 My tongue and my lips in words of truth do thou establish: anger and unreasonable passion do thou remove from me:

11 grumbling and little-mindedness in affliction do thou remove from me: for if I shall sin when thou hast chastened me, it is for repentance:

12 but by thy good-will establish my soul: and when thou shalt strengthen my soul, whatever has been given shall be sufficient for me:

13 for if thou strengthenest me not, who can endure thy chastening in poverty?

14 for a soul shall be reproved in his flesh and by the affliction of poverty;

15 and when a righteous man shall endure these things, mercy shall be upon him from the Lord.

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PSALM 17

✦

1 O Lord, thou art our King, now and for ever: for in thee, O God, our soul shall glory.

2 And what is the life of man upon the earth? for according to his time, so also is his hope.

3 But we hope on God our Saviour: for the stronghold of our God is for ever according to mercy:

4 and the Kingdom of our God is over the Gentiles for ever with judgment.

5 Thou, O Lord, didst choose David for king over Israel: and thou didst swear to him concerning his seed, that their kingdom should not be removed from before thee.

6 But for our sins sinners rose up against us: and they set upon us, and removed me far away: they to whom thou gavest no command have taken by violence,

7 and have not glorified thy honourable name with praises: and they have set up a kingdom instead of that which was their pride.

8 They laid waste the throne of David in exultation of their change. But thou wilt overthrow them, and wilt remove their seed from the earth:

9 even when there shall rise up against them a man that was a stranger to our race.

10 According to their sins, thou wilt reward them, O God: and it shall befall them according to their works.

11 And thou wilt not have mercy upon them, O God. Command their seed, and do not leave a single one of them.

12 The Lord is faithful in all His judgments which He has done upon the earth.

13 The wicked man has devastated our land, so that there is none to dwell therein. They have destroyed both young and old and their children together.

14 In the splendour of his wrath he sent them away to the West, and the princes of the land to mockery without sparing.

15 In his foreign way the enemy exults, and his heart is alien from our God.

16 And Jerusalem did all things according as the Gentiles did in their cities to their gods.

17 And the children of the covenant took hold of them in the midst of the mingled Gentiles: and there was none amongst them that did mercy and truth in Jerusalem.

18 They that love the assemblies of the saints fled away from them: and they flew like sparrows who fly from their nests:

19 and they were wandering in the wilderness, in order to save their soul from evil: and precious in their eyes was the sojourning with them of any soul that was saved from them.

20 Over all the earth they were scattered by the wicked. Therefore were the heavens restrained that they should not send down rain upon the earth,

21 and the everlasting fountains were restrained, both the abysses, and from the lofty mountains: because there was none among them who did righteousness and judgment; from their ruler to the lowest of them they were sinning in everything.

22 The king was in transgression, and the judge in wrath, and the people in sin.

23 Behold, O Lord, and raise up to them their king, the Son of David, according to the time which thou seest, O God: and let Him reign over Israel thy servant,

24 and strengthen Him with power that He may humble the sinful rulers:

25 and may purify Jerusalem from the Gentiles who trample her down to destruction,

26 so as to destroy the wicked from my inheritance: and to break their pride like a potter's vessel: to break with a rod of iron all their firmness:

27 to destroy the sinful Gentiles with the word of His mouth: at His rebuke the Gentiles shall flee from before His face: and to confute sinners by the word of their heart:

28 that He may gather together a holy people that shall exult in righteousness: and may judge the tribes of the people whom the Lord His God sanctified:

29 and He shall not any more suffer sin to lodge amongst them; and no more shall dwell amongst them the man that knoweth evil.

30 For He knoweth them that they are all the children of God, and He shall divide them according to their tribes upon the earth:

31 and the sojourner and the foreigner shall not dwell with them: for He will judge the Gentiles and the peoples in the wisdom of His righteousness:

32 and He shall possess a people from among the Gentiles: and they shall serve Him under His yoke: and they shall praise the Lord openly over all the earth:

33 and He shall purify Jerusalem in holiness, as it was of old time:

34 that the Gentiles may come from the ends of the earth to behold His glory: bringing her sons with them as an honourable gift; those who were scattered from her,

35 and to see the glory of the Lord wherewith He hath glorified her: and He the righteous king, taught of God, is over them:

36 and there is no wicked person in His days amongst them, because they are all righteous, and their king is the Lord Messiah:

37 for He will not trust on horse nor on his rider; nor on the bow: nor shall He multiply to himself gold and silver for war: nor shall He rely on a multitude in the day of war:

38 for the Lord . . . (The rest is wanting.)

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