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Balmer Commentary Collection

## **The Psalms (Book 1)**

**John Brown**

Edited by Billy Balmer

**Volume One**

Psalms 1 - 41

## **John Brown (1722-1787)**

John Brown was raised in extreme poverty in Abernathy, Scotland. His father was a herdsman and a godly man who led the family in worship morning and evening. His father died when John was only eleven, and his mother followed soon after, leaving John to earn his living as a shepherd-boy in the hills around Abernethy.

From an early age it was evident that John was a believer in Jesus Christ, a very bright young boy who taught himself New Testament Greek while in the fields with his flock. John eventually became a pastor in a small Presbyterian denomination, and soon became known for his writing, especially his Self-Interpreting Bible and his devotional notes on the Psalms.

## **PREFACE**

This commentary on the Psalms by Dr. John Brown of Haddington has been prepared by Mr. Billy Balmer of Belfast.

For many years, in his home in Belfast, Billy has been labouring for the Lord, typing notes and editing and sending his work across the world through different organizations. It has been his intention to edit minimally, replacing older words with new and rephrasing difficult sentences, so that

modern readers could more easily understand, enjoy, and benefit from the text. In preparing this material for print, I have made additional edits.

This present volume is part of the **Balmer Collection** has been prepared exclusively for The Krapf Project. It is my prayer that this material will find a place in the heart of the pastors of rural Africa and that the comforts, encouragement, and lessons taught in the Psalms will greatly benefit the Church.

Aaron Dunlop  
Donemana, NI.  
October 2023

## **PSALM ONE**

Perhaps this Psalm was added by Ezra, or whoever else was the collector of the others into one book.

We have presented to us,

### **1. The character of the godly.**

(a) How holy they are – abstaining from every temptation to evil and with pleasure meditating on and endeavouring to fulfil the whole law of God, (vs.1-2).

(b) How happy planted in the nearest fellowship with Jesus, the River of life, they prosper in their lawful attempts. They never fall from their grace or profession; and they shall stand with approval at the judgment-seat of God, (vs. 3).

### **2. The sinfulness and misery of the wicked**

How different from, and contrary to, the godly, in their inclination, companions, exercises, and ends! How light and unsubstantial as chaff, and ready to be hurled by the storms of infinite wrath, into the depths of hell, as cast and condemned in the righteous judgment of God! (vs. 6).

### **3. The great reason of the happiness of saints, and of the misery of sinners.**

The Lord loves the righteous, and observes and approves their inclinations and behaviour; but as

an enemy, he brings destructive vengeance on the wicked.

## **Devotional**

Let my soul lift up her eyes to that great pattern of perfection, **Jesus**, the man of God's right hand, who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners; and who fulfilled all righteousness, magnified the law, and made it honourable for men – for **me**.

United to His Person, clothed with His righteousness, and all inflamed and alive with His redeeming love, shed abroad in my heart, let me examine myself as in His sight. Let me walk in Him as my Way and follow Him as my pattern and guide. Let me, with solemn awe, look to, and prepare for, His last, His eternal judgment!

## **PSALM TWO**

Perhaps this psalm relates partly to David's instalment on his throne, and the victories over his enemies which attended it. (Compare Psalm 18; 2 Samuel 3; 5; 8; 10; 18; 20). But the whole of it speaks of Jesus our Redeemer.

1. **Behold the opposition** which men make against the person and redemption-work of the great God

our Saviour! – Behold what ruin and woe they draw on themselves by their attempts! (vss. 1-5, 9).

2. **Behold how, despite all their raging malice and furious opposition, Jehovah installs our Redeemer King** in His church, and infallibly fixes him on His throne, affirming him his only begotten Son and gives to him the Gentiles for His people! (vss. 6-8).

3. **Behold Jehovah's demand of serious consideration**, and fear of, joy in, trust, obedience, and love, to, His exalted Son (vss. 9-12).

### **Devotional**

Let me remark the horrid nature of sin. Let me, with broken heart, bewail my neglect of, and opposition to, Jesus Christ. Let me, with wonder, bless His name, that I have not already perished in my iniquity. Let me with earnestness, accept that once debased Redeemer, as my Saviour, my Sovereign, my Owner, my God, and my all. Let me learn to know Him, rejoice in Him, and, with holy awe, commit my whole salvation, and the salvation of my country, no, of all the ends of the earth, to Him.

## PSALM THREE

Having beheld the royal dignity of my Redeemer in the previous Psalm, let me here behold the joy, the peace, the safety of the redeemed amid their many distresses. Here David, driven from his holy capital and high throne, by his rebellious son Absalom,

1. **Complains to his God** of the number and malice of his enemies (vss. 1-2).
2. **He encourages himself in his God**, as the source and subject-matter of his safety, joy, and honour (vs. 3).
3. **He recalls how, on former occasions, his troubles had driven him to his prayers.** How he had always found God ready to hear and grant his requests. How safe and easy he had lived under His protection. And how effectually He had broken the power and restrained the malice of his enemies (vss. 4-5, 7).
4. **Triumphantly trusting in God**, as the salvation and blesser of His people, silences all his fears, and pours forth his prayers for new protection and deliverance (vss. 6, 8).

## Devotional

Think, my soul, of Jesus, who, when bulls of Bashan compassed Him about, trusted in God that He would deliver Him. In all my distress, let me pour out my heart before Him, believing in Him, as God, even my God.

Let me always rejoice in the great God my Saviour. Let me always trust in Him, that as He has delivered, and does deliver, so He will deliver me.

## PSALM FOUR

This Psalm was perhaps composed on the same occasion as the previous Psalm when David fled from Absalom his son. Notice here,

**1. David, encouraged by former experience,** casts his burden on the Lord, and supplicates for a merciful deliverance (vs. 1).

**2. Addressing himself to men, particularly to his persecutors, he reproves their contempt of God** and religion; their delight in and practice of, vanity, fraud, and falsehood. He states the happiness of the saints in having God their Protector, and ready to hear their requests.

He recommends a holy loving awe of God, a careful abstinence from sin; a composed trial of,



and converse with, their own heart; together with a devoting of themselves and their conduct and substance, to the Lord (vss. 2-5).

**3. To encourage them to the study of practical religion,** he remarks that the greatest satisfaction and rest is found in familiar fellowship with God, and in a believing dependence on Him (vss. 6-8).

### **Devotional**

Let me have faith in God, as my own God in Christ. Let me abhor that levity of mind, that deceitfulness, and earthly-mindedness proper to the ungodly, and every remains of it. Let my soul pant for **Jehovah** and prefer Him to everything else. Let me, by faith, lay myself down in his arms, his bosom, as all my salvation and comfort.

### **PSALM FIVE**

A Psalm of David. Here,

**1. The man according to God's heart,** in the assured faith of God's hearing his prayers, and hating his sins, fixes a daily, an early, an earnest, a steady, a grace-founded correspondence with God, in His ordinances of meditation, prayer, praise, and so on, (vss. 1-7).

**2. Behold him humbly requesting God's special direction** in duties which his enemies had rendered difficult to perform. He supplicated the ruin of his enemies and predicting it. And in the assured faith of obtaining victory, prayed for comfort and prosperity for his fellow-saints (vss. 8-12).

### **Devotional**

Let my heart and flesh cry out, and my soul pant and wait for the Lord. In the firm faith of infinite mercy to forgive all my crimes, and wash out all my sinful stains, let me blush at, and detest my own abominations.

Let me cultivate the closest familiarity with the Lord my God. Let my prayers correspond with His promises, and with the conditions of myself or others.

### **PSALM SIX**

A Psalm of David. Observe here,

**1. David, a great saint, under grievous and manifold troubles.** Sickness of body; conscience-felt charges of guilt; vexation of mind, attended with desertion from God; and contemptuous insults from his enemies (vss. 2-3, 5-7).

**2. His supplications, with strong cries and tears,** to God for lessening of trouble, support under it, and deliverance from it, (vs. 1-4, 6).

**3. His triumphant separation of himself from the wicked,** in the full assurance of faith that God had heard, and would graciously grant his request, and would either convert or destroy his opposers (vss. 8-10).

### **Devotional**

In all my afflictions, let me believe that Jesus was afflicted for me. Let me call my sin to remembrance; spread my case before Him; fill my mouth with arguments; implore His abundant, free, and sovereign mercy, as my sole, and all-comprehensive relief.

Nor let me ever expect a comfortable answer to my prayers, while I cultivate an intimacy with profane and wicked men.

### **PSALM SEVEN**

Here, accused of treacherous conspiracy against his sovereign, by King Saul, or by Cush, one of his courtiers, David,

**1. Appeals to God concerning his innocence of that crime** (vss. 3-5).

**2.** He prays that God, as Governor of the world, and King of Israel, would protect him from danger, plead his cause, and give judgement for him (vss. 1-2, 6-9).

**3.** In the exercise of faith, he depends on God to protect and deliver him; and to avenge the injuries he had sustained, on his unrelenting adversaries (vss. 10-16).

**4.** He resolves to ascribe the gory of all his deliverances to God alone (vs. 17).

### **Devotional**

Let me contemplate the spotless innocence, the finished righteousness of my Redeemer, together with the injurious usage He received from His brethren of mankind; and the fearful ruin which has happened to or awaits His incurable foes.

Let me carefully approve myself in His sight, who searches my heart, and tries my reins, and who must quickly be my final Judge.

Let me implore the just vengeance of heaven against my spiritual enemies. And not to me, not to me, but to His name be the glory and praise of all my protection and deliverance.

## PSALM EIGHT

This Psalm contains a pleasant but solemn meditation on the glory, the greatness, and the grace of God. Let me observe,

**1. How illustrious and wide-spread are his glory and renown** (vss. 1, 3, 9).

**2. By how weak and insignificant instruments** he shows and spreads his superlative fame (vs. 2).

**3. Behold his marvellous condescension and bounty to mankind**, but chiefly to the Man Christ, in uniting His human nature to His Divine Person, and in giving him all power in heaven and earth, for the benefit of His chosen people (vss. 4-8).

### Devotional

May this Jesus, this name of God in Him, be the enthroned inhabitant, the everlasting wonder, and the superlative darling, of my heart. Let me, with the children of Jerusalem (Matthew 21), pour forth my Hosannas to Him who comes in the name of the Lord to save me, - Hosannas in the highest. Let all the works of nature lead and excite me to admire their Creator's kindness men, - towards sinful and insignificant me.

## **PSALM NINE**

This Psalm was perhaps composed on the occasion of David's son Absalom's death (2 Samuel 18), or on the occasion of the death of Goliath the champion of Gath (1 Samuel 17). We have in it,

- 1.** (a) David's hearty thanksgivings to God for His pleading of his cause against both his enemies and the enemies of his country, and for giving him a complete victory over them (vss. 1-6). (b) His stirring of others to join with him in it (vss. 11-12).
- 2.** His triumph in God as the righteous Judge of the world, protector of his people, and the destroyer of his implacable enemies (vss. 7-10, 15-18).
- 3.** His requests for further grounds of praising God as his own Deliverer, and the confounder of his enemies (vss. 13-14, 19-20).

### **Devotional**

Let me chiefly consider the blessings of redemption, the victories of my Redeemer over sin, death, and hell; and believe that I, through Him, shall be more than a conqueror. Let the ruin of transgressors effectually admonish me to stand in awe of God, and at the farthest distance from sin.

## PSALM TEN

In this Psalm of lamentation and woe we have,

**1. David's mournful complaints** of God's withdrawal of His gracious and comfortable presence (vs. 1).

**2. His mournful and shocking description of the wicked men who persecuted him during God's absence.** They proudly gloried in themselves. They counteracted the laws, and despised the judgments of God. They contradicted and defied their opposers. They were malicious, treacherous, crafty, hypocritical, and atheistic persecutors (vss. 2-11).

**3. His earnest supplications for relief to the people of God,** attended with the firm faith of obtaining it (vss. 12-18).

### Devotional

Ponder, Oh my soul, what a privilege it is to enjoy familiar fellowship with God. Ponder what abominations lie hidden in an evil heart of unbelief. Ponder what a mercy that the Lord has withheld me from that outrage in wickedness of which my corrupt nature is capable! Let all my views of sins and of judgments cause me to flee to Jesus for

relief. If He prepares my heart to pray, He will surely grant my requests

## **PSALM ELEVEN**

Behold here,

**1. David, tempted by his timorous friends to escape** to some mountain and hide himself from the fury of Saul, or of Absalom, as if that was his only safe course now, when his enemies were exerting themselves to the utmost, and all things were in disorder and confusion (vss. 1-3).

**2. David confronted the temptation by a resolute profession of his trust in God**, as the observer of all men; as the holy and righteous punisher of the wicked, and friend of the godly (vss. 1, 4-7).

### **Devotional**

Let no temptation decoy me from my duty. Let no danger deter me from it. While Jehovah, my reconciled God and Father, manages and judges the world, my safest course is to commit myself to Him in well-doing.

Let the just vengeance of God on sinners deter my heart from sinning, and His kindness to His people encourage me to holiness in all manner of conduct.



## PSALM TWELVE

In this Psalm, which was probably penned during the reign of Saul, observe,

**1. The times rendered extremely bad by the almost universal death of the godly;** the general decay of godliness and honesty; the common prevalence of hypocrisy and flattery. And by the proud and daring contempt of God, and oppression of the poor. And by the protection and encouragement of wickedness by those who bore rule in church or state (vss. 1-4, 8).

**2. Enough in God to balance the evils of the worst of times.** He is ready to help. He will in due time reckon with the wicked, and restrain their insolence. He will seasonably and effectively relieve His oppressed people. His words are pure, firm, and faithful. And He will always secure a remnant for himself (vss. 1, 5-7).

### Devotional

In evil times do you, my soul, live on your God. Walk humbly with your God. Hope continually in your God, and rejoice in His new-covenant promises to men – to me.

## PSALM THIRTEEN

Here we have the Psalmist sowing in tears, but reaping in joy. Observe,

**1. His extreme distress**, occasioned by God's apparent unkindness, and by inward anguish of soul, and insolence of enemies (vss. 1-2).

**2. His fervent supplications** that God would consider his case, strengthen his faith, direct his goings, and comfort his heart (vss. 3-4).

**3. Sudden deliverance**, flowing from a fixed trust in God, and leading to a triumphant joy in Him (vss. 5-6).

### Devotional

Think, my soul, how Divine withdrawals, sensibly perceived, sting a renewed heart!

How changeable the saints' spiritual frames are while they continue in this world. Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning. And behold, how quickly the prayers of faith are answered, and its expectations fulfilled.

## PSALM FOURTEEN

This Psalm presents the fearful sinfulness and misery of mankind, and the marvellous method of deliverance from it. Behold here,

**1. All mankind fearfully infected** with the God-dishonouring, the soul-debasing and defiling, the world-disturbing disease of sinful corruption in the heart and life (vss. 1-3).

**2. Warm protests for the conviction**, awakening, and reclaiming of wicked men (vss. 4-6).

**3. Consolations exhibited to the righteous**, from God's being among them, and being a refuge to them, and from His sending His Son to save and redeem them (vss. 1-7).

### Devotional

Let me have a deep sense of my corruption. Let me be ashamed of them before God. Let me, with a broken heart and weeping eye, confess my filthiness and crimes.

Let me groan after and flee to Jesus the Saviour, the salvation of God. Oh wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this abominable life; from this inward body of death! – Thanks to the Redeemer, who has come to Zion to turn away

ungodliness from Jacob! Let therefore Jacob rejoice, and the Gentiles sing.

## **PSALM FIFTEEN**

Here let me

**1. With wonder, observe the happy state of present fellowship** with God in His church on earth, and of everlasting fellowship with Him in the temple above; and how fixed the saints are in this their new-covenant state (vss. 1, 5).

**2. Let me, with self-examination, remark the distinguishing characters** of such as are admitted to that happy state. They are sincere, upright, and honest in all their ways. They are kind to neighbours. They esteem others in proportion to the appearance of Christ's image on them. And they prefer a good conscience to every earthly advantage (vss. 2-5).

## **Devotional**

Let me think of my perfect and all-perfecting Saviour, who is passed into the heavens - is entered for me as the Fore-runner.

And having received Him into my heart as my sanctifying Provider, let me walk in Him as my Way,

and follow Him as my Pattern; denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

Thus shall the Father and the Son come to me on earth, and take up their abode with me. And so shall I in heaven be for ever with the Lord.

## **PSALM SIXTEEN**

This Psalm is indeed a "*michtam*," a golden Psalm. Behold the man according to God's heart;

- 1.** Committing himself to God as his Preserver (vs. 1).
- 2.** Avowing his endearing love to the people, and strict adherence to the worship of God (vss. 3-4).
- 3.** With great confidence and joy claiming God for his satisfying portion (vss. 2, 5-7).
- 4.** Comforting himself in, and blessing God for, His present intimacy with him, and granting direction to him. And for his certain prospect of the eternal enjoyment of Him, (vss. 8-11).

## Devotional

But chiefly, behold here Jesus, the Man of God's right hand, surrendering himself up to His Father's service, in room of, and for the everlasting advantage of His elect! Behold Him taking out His new-covenant claim to God as His God and portion for ever, and as our God and portion in Him!

Behold how, supported by God in His holy manhood, He suffers to a tremendous death and debased burial. But being raised again, He is crowned with everlasting glory and honour! Behold how the agonies of suffering, and the pains of death, are succeeded with fullness of joy, and rivers of life and pleasures at God's right hand for evermore.

Looking to Him, let me with patience run the race that is set before me, living on and rejoicing in God as my **All** and **in all**; and looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God my Saviour.

Through Him, neither sin, nor devils, nor death, nor hell, shall be able to prevent my immediate and everlasting enjoyment of Jehovah as my infinite portion and exceeding joy.

## **PSALM SEVENTEEN**

Here, in the depth of distress,

**1.** David appeals to God concerning the uprightness of his heart, and the justice of his cause (vss. 1-4).

**2.** He prays for establishment in grace within; for tokens of Divine favour from above; and for preservation from his carnal, malicious and insolent, his restless and powerful enemies around (vss. 5-14).

**3.** He triumphs in the assured faith of his everlasting enjoyment of, and conformity to God (vs. 15).

### **Devotional**

Let me also look for Jesus, in whose heart was no deceit, and in whose mouth was no guile. Jesus, who fulfilled all righteousness for me; and who, in spite of all the rage of devils and men, has sat down at the right hand of God, crowned with glory and honour.

Let me remember that He, as the Fore-runner, is for me entered into the mansions of bliss; and has left me an example that I should follow His steps.

## PSALM EIGHTEEN

In this Psalm of thanksgiving for manifold deliverances, observe,

**1. David's burning love to God in Christ**, whom he believed to be **his own** in every gracious and saving relation; and whom he had experienced his merciful, almighty, and seasonable Deliverer from depths of trouble (vss. 1-19).

**2. His comfortable reflections on the uprightness** which the Lord had enabled him to maintain, and on the gracious kindness of God consequent on that (vss. 20-28).

**3. His thankful giving of all the glory of his noted exploits** to God as his Director and Strengtheners (vss. 29-42).

**4. His triumphant faith and hope of further assistance** and favour from God, to himself and to his seed, for evermore (vss. 43-50).

### Devotional

Let me not forget Jesus, to whom Jehovah is so closely, so marvellously, so sweetly related. Jesus, who so warmly loves His eternal Father, and for ever returns the grateful remembrance of His



kindness to Him and to His chosen seed, in delivering Him from distress; in raising Him from the dead; in rewarding His obedience to death; in giving Him glory at His own right hand; and in making all nations His obedient subjects.

Let me sing this new song in the full assurance of faith that God in Christ is my **All** and **in all**; and with a heart ravished with the comforts of Christ, and in the sweet reviews of what He has done, what He does, and what He will forever do, for my soul.

## **PSALM NINETEEN**

Now the books of God are opened, not for my trial and condemnation in the last judgement, but for my instruction. Let my soul look and read in them.

**1. The book of creation and providence**, in which all the works of God instruct mankind in general, concerning the eternal wisdom, power, and goodness of their Maker (vss. 1-6).

**2. The book of inspiration**, the sure, the right, the pure, the true, the perfect, and powerful revelations of which instruct, convert, comfort, and warn the members of the church; and in keeping of which there is an exceeding great and everlasting reward of glory obtained (vss. 7-11).

**3.** What conviction of sin! What supplication for pardon of it, and preservation from it; and for the acceptance of our duties, through Christ's blood, follows or ought to follow on a proper reading of these volumes of heaven (vss. 12-14).

### **Devotional**

Let me, conscious of my own ignorance and folly, in all things consult the mind of God.

Let me blush that my experience of the powerful influences of God's Word is so scanty, and that in me still dwell such fearful remains of sinful corruption.

Let me cry mightily to God for the subduing and destruction of them

### **PSALM TWENTY**

Probably this Psalm was composed to be a prayer for David's success in some particular war expedition. Here learn,

**1. The people pray for their king,** that God would grant him his requests; protect, assist, and strengthen him in his work; accept his offerings; and succeed his projects for the public welfare (vss. 1-4).

**2. They triumph in God** as their only strength and Deliverer, in whom they shall be more than conquerors (vss. 5-6).

**Devotional.** Let me not forget Jesus, for whom prayer is made continually; – Jesus, who shall daily be praised; and whom the Father hears always; accepts His sacrifice, and crowns Him with glory and honour.

And let no creature, but **Jehovah** as my God in Christ, be the ground and the object of all my faith and expectation.

## **PSALM TWENTY-ONE**

In this Song of Thanksgiving. Observe here,

**1.** All the joys, the honours, and happiness of King David are founded in the perfections and gracious works of God (vss. 1-6).

**2.** Full assurance of the stability of David's throne, and of the discovery and destruction of his unrelenting opposers (vss. 7-12).

**3.** Earnest supplications to God for the cheering displays of His glory and power (vs. 13).

**Devotional.** But chiefly, my soul, behold here the everlasting honours, joys, happiness, and blissful influences of your Redeemer. Behold how fixed his kingdom is and his dignity, in the infinite, everlasting, and unchangeable wisdom, power, mercy, justice, goodness, and truth of the Most High!

Behold what inexpressible vengeance is kindled on his enemies—his Jewish, heathen, Antichristian, and other incurable foes.

Rejoice, my soul, in this God your Saviour. Rejoice at the glory with which He is crowned; - at the life granted to, and lodged in Him; and in His being made blessings for evermore to men - blessings for evermore to me!

And let the ruinous overthrow of His Jewish, or other enemies, make me stand in awe to provoke Him, by daring refusals of Him, or by rebellion against Him.

## **PSALM TWENTY-TWO**

Here the debasing and exalting of David, King of Israel, points to, and is figurative of, the debasing and exalting of Jesus Christ.

First, in this deep debasing, we find

**1.** Bitter, but kindly and believing, complaints of God's withdrawal, – attended with earnest attempts of faith to quiet the complainer's soul under it, drawn from the consideration of God's holiness and highness, and His seasonable deliverance of His people in former times when they cried to Him (vss. 1-5).

**2.** Bitter complaints of men's reproaches and contemptuous derision, attended with self-encouragements drawn from former experience of God's early and seasonable care and friendship (vss. 6-10).

**3.** Bitter complaints of the number and rage of enemies, attended with intense agonies of body and mind, and mingled with earnest prayers for God's speedy support, assistance, and powerful deliverance (vss. 11-22).

**Devotional.** Let me behold the vileness, the criminality, the destructive influence of sin! Let me behold the sovereignty of God, who not only scourges every son whom He receives, but spared not His only-begotten Son, but delivered Him up for us all.

Behold how he hates! how he punishes our sin, and what manner of love he bestowed on us, that we might be called the sons of God. Behold, how He commends His love to us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!

And if Jesus with patience bore such desertion, reproach, and distress, let me, in the firm faith that He did all for me, and that God is mine, and makes all things work for my good, study an unhampered resignation to His will.

Second, by the typical exaltation of David, and the increase, happiness, honour, and duration of His kingdom, we have prefigured the glorious exaltation of our Redeemer, indicating,

That he should have a church among men; that His Father should be glorified in them, as well as in Him; - that His true subjects should abound in prayer, praise, spiritual comfort, and everlasting life; - and that His church should be enlarged with multitudes of both Jews and Gentiles; and should, to His honour, and for His worship and service, continue to all generations (vss. 22-31).

Let me trust, and rejoice in, and plead His promises relative to myself and His church.

Let me ponder whether I have heard His voice, shared His saving pity, feasted on His spiritual provision, and worshipped Him in spirit and in truth?

And whether it is the desire of my soul to cause His name to be remembered to all generations?

### **PSALM TWENTY-THREE**

Here is the children's Psalm, and which is, in very deed, a noted Song of all the children of God. Behold,

- 1.** New-covenant relation to God as a full and everlasting security against hurtful needs (vs. 1).
- 2.** Pleasant experiences of God's acting up to His new-covenant character in disposing of, directing, assisting, and feasting and comforting His people (vss. 2-3, 5).
- 3.** Well-grounded hopes of God's careful and seasonable supplies; of His comfortable presence and help amid distress and death; of the continual and everlasting showing of His mercy and grace toward us, and of our endless nearness to and immediate enjoyment of Him (vss. 1, 4-6).

**Devotional.** Let me think as before God whether I have the knowledge by experience of all these things.

Let my soul be as the daughter of the horse-leech, crying mightily, **Give, Give** what is good. And let me in all these forms, taste and see that God is good.

## **PSALM TWENTY-FOUR**

Probably this Psalm was penned for the use of the Hebrews, when David brought up the Ark of God to Jerusalem; or when Solomon brought it into the temple (2 Samuel 6; 1 Kings 8) in order to raise their hearts above their outward ceremonies to a reception of, and walking in Christ, who was by that prefigured. Observe,

- 1.** Christ's kingdom of nature, including the whole world and all the inhabitants of it (vss. 1-2).
- 2.** His kingdom of grace in the nature of it; the gracious character of its subjects; and their charter to their everlasting happiness above (vss. 3-6).
- 3.** Under the figure of a call to admit the Ark, we have a solemn summons issued forth by God, for the heavens to receive Jesus, our glorious and almighty King, into their blissful abodes in His



ascension; and for us to receive Him into our hearts and societies below (vss. 7-10).

**Devotional.** Let me be affected with the double claim the Redeemer has on me as His creature and as His ransomed one.

Let me try whether I possess the distinguishing characters of a real saint; and whether I have received an abundance of the gift of righteousness and of blessedness from the God of my salvation.

Let me charge, let me rouse up all my inward powers, to receive Jesus Christ the Lord, as made of God to me wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

## **PSALM TWENTY-FIVE**

Let me observe

**1.** What serious work prayer is, what lifting up of soul; – what directing of eyes to God, and fixing them on Him, must be in it (vss. 1-15).

**2.** What mercies ought to be prayed for:

(a) pardon of sin (vss. 6-18)

(b) direction in duty (vss. 4-5)

(c) intimacy with God (vs. 16)

- (d) deliverance from trouble (vss. 17-18)
- (e) preservation from adversaries (vss. 20-21);
- (f) safety and deliverance to the church (vs. 22).

**3.** What pleas are proper to be used in prayer, as

- (a) the trust we have placed in God (vss. 2-3, 5-21)
- (b) our own Divinely effected sincerity in the Lord's way (vs. 21)
- (c) our distress, and the malice of our enemies (vss. 2, 16-19)
- (d) But chiefly the mercy that is in God, and the glory which comes to His name from His giving of new-covenant favours (vss. 6-11).

**4.** Strong encouragements to prayer, taken from the perfections of God's nature; from His promises of instruction and direction; from the fullness and grace of His covenant; and from His delight in allowing men familiar intimacy and fellowship with Himself (vss. 8-14).

**Devotional.** Let these things, my soul, be the object of your strictest care and attention in all your addresses to God.

## PSALM TWENTY-SIX

learn here,

**1).** David solemnly appeals to God concerning his uprightness; his constant regard to Him and His grace; his regular attendance on established ordinances; and his fixed turning away from sin and sinners (vss. 1-8).

**2.** He disapproves from himself the condemnation of the wicked, and his being shut up in society with them (vss. 9-10).

**3.** Depending on the mercy of God, He resolves to hold fast his uprightness, and maintain his confident hopes of eternal life (vss. 11-12).

**Devotional.** Let the perfect God-man come into my mind. Let me wash myself in His blood, and so compass God's altar with songs of praise for His favours.

Making Jesus' example my pattern, let His ordinances be my pleasure, and His people my sole intimates and familiars on earth.

## PSALM TWENTY-SEVEN

For your instruction, my soul, behold here,

**1.** The holy courage and undaunted bravery of true faith amid manifold dangers and enemies (vss. 1-3).

**2.** What earnestness there ought to be, and what pleasure, profit, and honour there are in the study of familiar fellowship with God (vss. 4-6).

**3.** Fervent desires, with strong cries and supplications, for the gracious favour, spiritual presence, and saving direction and protection of God (vss. 7-12).

**4.** Strong and encouraging expectations of help, favour, and strength from God (vss. 10-14).

**Devotional.** Let my soul enter into the very marrow of these matters.

Let God Himself be relied on, as my trust, my Saviour, and my **all in all**. Let my heart burn with highest desires after the knowledge and enjoyment of Him. Let nothing less than the most familiar communion with Him here, and the full enjoyment of Him after this, satisfy my longings. Let me readily embrace every invitation to seek His face.

Amid enemies and distresses un-numbered, let me always believe in, wait for, and boast of God my only Lord.

## **PSALM TWENTY-EIGHT**

- 1.** David, amid great distress, earnestly supplicating deliverance from his God (vss. 1-3).
- 2.** His unrelenting enemies were doomed to the just punishment of their sin (vss. 4-5).
- 3.** Himself triumphing in God, as the hearer of his prayers, and as his protector, help, and strength (vss. 6-8).
- 4.** His solemn supplication for salvation and blessedness; – for nourishment, honour, and safety, to the people of God (vs. 9).

**Devotional.** I remember Jesus of Nazareth, whose cries in trouble were so intense; whose unrelenting enemies incur such fearful misery; and who, being exalted to the right hand of God, and made full of joy with His countenance, makes continual intercession for His chosen race.

Let my soul lift up her voice to God for rich and everlasting blessings to myself and to His church.

## **PSALM TWENTY-NINE**

This Psalm was probably composed on the occasion of a thunder-storm. It is a solemn charge from heaven to great men to worship and glorify God;

**1.** Who in His magnificence and power thunders in the most terrible, alarming, and destructive manner (vss. 1-9).

**2.** Who is supreme Governor of the world, and bestows strength and peace on His peculiar people (vss. 10-11).

**Devotional.** Let me by faith behold the glory of God in Christ, and be filled with reverent awe of His power and grace. And while I adore His perfections, admire and praise His excellences, let Jerusalem come into my mind, and let me lay hold on the promise, and pour forth a prayer for the remnant which is left.

## **PSALM THIRTY**

In this Psalm, composed for the dedication of the new palace which David had built for himself at Jerusalem, 2 Samuel 5:11; or for the dedication of it after it had been polluted by Absalom (2 Samuel 16),

**1.** He offers thanksgiving to God for the answering of his prayers – the overthrowing of his enemies – and the preserving of his life (vss. 1-3, 11-12).

**2.** He calls and charges others to praise the Lord on account of the purity of His nature, the short duration of His frowns, and the sweetness of His favours (vss. 4-5).

**3.** He remarks how his carnal security under prosperity had occasioned his sudden fall into Divine hidings and frowns (vss. 6-7).

**4.** He recollects what supplications he had made to God in his former distress (vss. 8-10).

**5.** He triumphs in the kindness of God towards him, and resolves to praise and thank Him for evermore on account of it (vss. 11-12).

**Devotional.** Let me with a grateful heart, remember the Lord's mercies. Let me remember

my own follies, and how the Lord corrected me for them. Let me look after my prayers, and wait for an answer.

And the nearer my end draws, let my heart and mouth be the more abundantly filled with the high praises of my God and my Saviour.

## **PSALM THIRTY-ONE**

Observe here

- 1.** David's solemn professions of his dependence on God, and his prayers for support and deliverance (vss. 1-8).
- 2.** His sad complaints of inward grief; bodily weakness; unkindness of friends; unjust censures of enemies; and horror of death, – attended with a solemn commitment of himself to God's mercy and care; and earnest supplication for deliverance from enemies (vss. 9-18).
- 3.** Amid admiration of God's kindness to His people, and thanksgiving for favours to himself, he encourages himself and others firmly to trust in God (vss. 19-24).



**Devotional.** Let me be deeply affected with my sores, my diseases, and troubles, and cast all my burdens on the Lord.

In the assured faith that He is God, even my God, let me admire His gracious thoughts, words, and deeds toward me, and commit myself wholly to His care and protection.

## **PSALM THIRTY-TWO**

Perhaps this Psalm was composed for the great day of the national atonement, on the tenth day of the seventh month, Leviticus 16. In it, observe

**1.** The exceeding riches of the grace of God, shown in blessing men with forgiveness of sin; and with protection amid dangers; and direction in duty (vss. 1-2, 7-8).

**2.** The indispensable duty of those who desire new-covenant blessings, namely - to acknowledge their offences to God; - to implore His favours which they need; to walk humbly and carefully before Him; and to rejoice in Him as God and their God (vss. 3-6, 9-11).

**Devotional.** While I am truly conscious of my sinfulness, and deeply affected with it, let the faith

and experience of Jesus' full pardon of my sins, and of the communications of His grace, melt my heart, and enliven me to every commanded duty.

### **PSALM THIRTY-THREE**

Contains a sweet but solemn summons to praise the Lord,

- 1.** For His justice, goodness, and truth, shown in His Word and works (vss. 1-5).
- 2.** For His power, shown in the work of creation, and in His sovereign dominion over the world (vss. 6-11, 13-17).
- 3.** For His special and new-covenant relations, and merciful kindness towards His chosen people (vss. 12, 18-22).

**Devotional.** Let me observe, let me admire, and be deeply affected with the blessings of Creation, Providence, and Redemption. And chiefly, let me remember, let me behold, let me glow with burning desire after Him, whose bones the Lord so kept, that not one of them was broken.

## **PSALM THIRTY-FOUR**

This Psalm was composed by David when Achish or Abimelech, king of Gath, drove him from his court as an idiot or madman, 1 Samuel 21:10-25. Here are

- 1.** David's high praises to God for the favours he and others had received (vss. 1-6).
- 2.** His warm invitations, and strong encouragements to others, to seek after and fear the Lord, and to trust in Him for all necessary supplies, in time or in eternity (vss. 7-10).
- 3.** Familiar advices to children and others, to abstain from every thing sinful, and make conscience of known duty, both towards God and men, as a means of present and future happiness (vss. 11-14).
- 4.** A statement
  - (a) of the misery of the wicked, in having God against them as an avenging enemy, and in having ruin before them as the just reward of their sins (vss. 16, 21)
  - (b) and of the happiness of the godly, in having God near to them in every case, ready to hear their requests, to protect them amid dangers,

and to deliver them from enemies and trouble (vss. 15, 17-20, 22).

**Devotional.** Let my heart be warmed with my subject. Come, my soul, and walk in this light, in these joys of the Lord. Come, taste and see that He is good. Praise His kindness, and trust Him in all things, and on every occasion.

## **PSALM THIRTY-FIVE**

In this Psalm

**1.** David complains of the cruelty of his enemies in striving with him, – in persecuting him, – in seeking his ruin – and in reproaching, despising, deriding, and triumphing over him (vss. 1, 3-4, 7, 11, 15-16, 20-21, 25-26).

**2.** He pleads his own innocence, that he had never given them any cause for anger; but, amid their abuse of him, had earnestly and affectionately studied to promote their welfare (vss. 7, 12-14, 19).

**3.** He supplicates that God would support his cause; protect, deliver, and comfort his soul; defeat the designs and disappoint the expectations of his enemies; – and that He would countenance and encourage his friends (vss. 1-2, 4, 17, 22-27).

**4.** He predicts the destruction of his enemies, and the abounding of his own comfort; and in the views of this, resolves to thank and praise the Lord (vss. 4-10, 18, 28).

**Devotional.** Let me, with grief and shame, call to mind the hateful opposition I and others have made to our all-compassionate Redeemer.

Let me beware of exposing myself to that vengeance which is laid up in store for His incurable enemies. Let me never avenge myself on my injurious neighbours. But amid all attacks from hell or earth, or from my own corrupt heart, let me commit all my concerns to Him who judges righteously, that He may bring them to pass.

## **PSALM THIRTY-SIX**

Observe here,

**1.** How great is the wickedness of men! They naturally despise God; flatter themselves in sin; and abandon themselves to falsehood and mischief (vss. 1-4).

**2.** How great is the excellence of God, in truth, in righteousness, and in mercy! And what a fountain of preservation, support, comfort, light, and life He is to His people (vss. 5-9).

**3.** How, from the excellence and goodness of God, the Psalmist draws encouragement to pray for himself and other saints; and to triumph in the view of his enemies' ruin (vss. 10-12).

**Devotional.** Let me review my natural hatefulness and wretchedness, and try whether the Lord has made me a new creature, created in Christ Jesus to good works; and whether He has made me taste of, admire, and trust in, the exceeding riches of His grace.

## **PSALM THIRTY-SEVEN**

This Psalm is wholly of the instructive kind. The system of Moses, and the covenant between God and Israel as His peculiar people, promised remarkable temporal happiness to such as were obedient to the law. And denounced temporal miseries against those who were ungodly and irreverent. The Psalmist here cautions against stumbling at particular providences, which might appear contrary to the character of that covenant. Here are

**1.** Plain and express warnings against fretfulness at the prosperity of the wicked in their wickedness (vss. 1, 7-8) with the arguments and reasons enforcing the same, namely,

(a) that the character of the wicked is shameful, while that of the righteous is honourable (vss. 12, 14, 21, 26, 30-32);

(b) that the wicked, in the very height of their prosperity, are near to destruction; while the righteous, even in their adversity, have special protection from God, and shall never be ruined (vss. 2, 9-10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 28, 33-40).

(c) and that God has special blessings in store for, and even in this life shows distinguished kindness to, the righteous and their seed (vss. 11, 16, 18-19, 22-25, 28-29, 37).

**2.** Here are proper and effectual remedies to prevent sinful fretting at the prosperity of the wicked, or troubles of the godly, namely,

(a) hoping in God as our Saviour (vs. 3).

(b) delighting in God as our companion, friend, and portion (vs. 4)

(c) following of Him as our Guide (vs. 5) (d)

departing from evil and doing good (vs. 27)

(e) waiting on the Lord, and keeping His way (vs. 34).

**Devotional.** Be you, my soul, an accurate observer of the matter and circumstances of every

providence. Carefully compare them one with another, and all with the perfections, covenant, and promises of God, in order that you may never be offended at them.

## **PSALM THIRTY-EIGHT**

This Psalm appears to have been penned by David under some remarkable distress, attended with a deep sense of sin as the obtaining cause of it. Here are

### **1. David's sorrowful complaints**

(a) of God's sore displeasure and of the weight of his own sins (vss. 1-5).

(b) of the sickness of his body, and distress of his mind (vss. 6-10).

(c) of the unkindness of his friends (vs. 11).

(d) and of the unprovoked injuries he received from his enemies, who were spiteful, cruel, subtle, unjust, ungrateful, ungodly, devilish, numerous and powerful (vss. 12, 16-20).

### **2. His remarkable patience and resignation under his troubles (vss. 13-15).**

### **3. His fervent supplications to God**

(a) for the lessening of his trouble (vs. 1).



(b) and for comfort and support under, and speedy deliverance from them (vss. 16, 21-22).  
(c) attended with candid and sincere acknowledgments of the sinful causes of them (vss. 3-5, 18).

**Devotional.** In all my troubles let me search out, and by faith confess and mourn over the sinful causes of them.

Let me take every distress out of God's hand, and call on Him in the time of them that He may deliver me.

## **PSALM THIRTY-NINE**

Here we have

- 1.** Violent struggling in the Psalmist's own breast between grace and corruption, between passion and patience (vss. 1-3, 11).
- 2.** Serious views of human frailty, shortness of life, and self-emptiness (vss. 5-6).
- 3.** Strong cries to God for pardon of sin, preservation from reproach, and for removal of trouble; for hearing and answering of prayer; and for lengthening out of life, until further preparation for death should be attained (vss. 7-13).

**Devotional.** Let my soul blush deep for the untenderness and lack of care in my life, and for my lack of resignation to God's disposing will. Let me be suitably affected with the shortness, vanity, and uncertainty of my temporal life.

Let me be always exercised in earnest prayer to, and believing dependence on God, as my companion and friend.

## **PSALM FORTY**

Here we have

- 1.** David's hearty acknowledgments of God's kindness in bringing him out of long and sore afflictions (vss. 1-5).
- 2.** His preferring of holy obedience to God, and fruitful publication of His truths and praises, to all ceremonial offerings (vss. 6-11).
- 3.** His use of his former deliverance as an encouragement
  - (a) to supplicate further mercy and protection;
  - (b) to confess sin, and implore the pardon of it;
  - (c) to rejoice in, and praise God, for His excellences and favours;

(d) to trust Him under affliction and to comfort himself in Him amid poverty, sinfulness, and trouble (vss. 12-17).

**Devotional.** But let me here chiefly think

**1.** of Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, who was brought again from His agonies and death, and set down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, that He might receive gifts for men, and that our faith and hope might be in God (vss. 1-5).

**2.** of the new-covenant made between Him and His eternal Father, for the redemption of sinful men; - and of His complete fulfilment of the Divine law as the condition of it (vss. 6-10).

**3.** how our iniquities were charged to His account, and punished on Him as our Surety (vss. 11-13).

**4.** how the unrelenting vengeance of almighty God overtook His Jewish betrayers and murderers; and has, or will overtake His Heathenish, Antichristian, or other unrelenting enemies. And of the joy and comfort which flows from, and through Him, to His chosen friends (vss. 14-17).

## PSALM FORTY-ONE

This Psalm contains

- 1.** A statement of the blessedness of him who wisely considers the case of the poor, and affords them relief (vss. 1-3).
- 2.** David's open acknowledgments of the justice of his affliction, and earnest supplications for a merciful deliverance (vs. 4).
- 3.** His sad complaints of the malicious, severely critical, and spiteful reflections, and of the insolent carriage of his enemies (vss. 5-9).
- 4.** His hearty committing of his case and way to God, in the assured and triumphant faith of His favour (vss. 10-13).

**Devotional.** Let my eyes be towards the Lord Jesus who thought on me in my low estate.

Let me consider Him, who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich - Jesus who had not where to lay His head! Jesus whom His own disciple betrayed; and who, through many enemies, and much tribulation, entered into the kingdom of God.