

TEN PSALMS

Translated into strong stress metric by
David Curzon

PSALM 8

- 1 For the Chief Musician; on the gittit.
A Psalm of David
- 2 Yahweh, our Lord,
whose splendour is evident in the heavens,
how glorious is Your Name in all the earth!
- 3 Out of the mouth of the suckled infant,
You founded strength to account for Your foes,
to send to rest the enemy, the avenger.
- 4 When I witness Your heavens,
the work of Your fingers,
the moon and stars
which You established,
- 5 what are mortals
that You would be mindful,
or children of dust
to win Your awareness,
- 6 and yet You made them
little less than divine,
and adorned them with
glory and honour
- 7 and gave them reign,
setting everything,
all You made,
beneath their feet,
- 8 each and all,
sheep and cattle,
the wild beasts,
birds of the skies,
fish of the sea,
whatever passes over
paths of ocean.
- 9 Lord, our Lord,
How glorious is Your Name in all the earth!

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon

PSALM 13

- 1 For the Chief Musician,
a Psalm of David.
- 2 Until when will You
forget me, Lord,
until eternity?
Until when will You
withhold Yourself,
Lord, from me?
- 3 Until when need I
consult my soul
throughout the day,
sorrow in my heart?
Until when will
my enemy exult?
- 4 Look! Answer me!
My Lord, my God,
light up my eyes
or else I'll sleep
the sleep of death,
- 5 or else my enemy
will say, 'I triumphed,
I overcame him,'
and my troublers will be
jubilant at my removal.
- 6 But I trust Your grace.
My heart will rejoice
at Your salvation
and I will sing
to the Lord since
His reward is with me.

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon

PSALM 15

1 A Psalm of David

Lord, who can be tenant in Your tent of meeting,
who can be housed on Your holy mountain?

- 2 Those who walk straight and do right,
who talk truth from their own heart,
3 who have no slander on their tongue,
who do no wrong to any colleague,
who raise no reproach against a neighbour,
4 who eye the vile and despise them,
who honour those in awe of the Lord,
who don't swerve when their word hurts them,
5 who give no gold out at interest,
who can't be corrupted to convict the innocent.
Those who act this way will not be shaken.

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon

PSALM 19

- 1 For the Chief Musician, a Psalm of David.
- 2 The heavens profess the glory of God,
the expanse proclaims what God's hands have made,
3 and day communes with day,
and night confides in night,
4 and there is no speech,
there are no words,
the voice is not heard.

- 5 Their ray goes out to all the earth,
their words to the end of the world.

God set the sun in the tent of heaven

- 6 like a bridegroom coming from under the canopy,
an athlete eager to run his race:
7 it rises from one end of heaven
and completes its course in other reaches,
with nothing hidden from its searching heat.
- 8 The Lord's Torah perfects,
restoring the soul;
the Lord's testimony attests,
filling the simple with wisdom;
9 the Lord's precepts correct,
pleasuring the heart;
the Lord's command clarifies,
enlightening the sight;
10 awe of the Lord cleanses,
preserving the eternal;
the Lord's laws verify,
confirming the righteous;
11 they are more desirable than gold,
than the most refined of golds,
sweeter than honey still in the comb,
than the gold of that thick syrup;

- 12 By them am I, Your servant, guided;
there is great compensation in keeping them.
- 13 Who can discern every error?
Clean me of faults I can't perceive!
- 14 Keep me from arrogant acts!
If they don't dominate
I will not be held
in grandiose rebellion.
- 15 May the words of my mouth
and the meditations of my heart
be deemed acceptable in Your presence,
Lord, my rock, and my redeemer.

Translated from the Hebrew by David Curzon

PSALM 49

- 1 For the Chief Musician.
 A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.
- 2 Hear this, each and every people!
 Listen, all who dwell on this world!
- 3 Yes, everyone, the ordinary and the important,
 the well-to-do and the poor as well.
- 4 My mouth will elaborate words of wisdom
 my heart meditates understanding,
5 my ear is attracted to parable,
 I'll give enigmas rhythmic settings.
- 6 Why be terrified in troubled times
 when encompassed by privileged iniquity,
7 by those who know wealth wins
 and boast of this, their great riches?
- 8 No one can redeem even a brother,
 or offer ransom to God for him
10 so that he'd always survive in life
 and never lower into the pit.
- 9 Redemption of a separate soul is beyond cost,
 one must for ever let go that hope.
- 11 But who can't see that wise men die,
 that the fool and the brutish are doomed too,
 yet pass their possessions on to others,
12 so the inward is, 'A house continues,
 what is lived in can be given to heirs,'
 and estates are treated as if people.
- 13 Mortals do not live on in pomp;
 they perish in the manner of all animals.

- 14 This is the road of fools like these
and of all after them who say the same:
Selah!
- 15 they are herded like sheep to their shearer --
their shepherd is death -- and when it dawns
the upright triumph and the grave will strip
all form from their habitation.
- 16 But Elohim will redeem my soul
from the hand of Sheol. God will gather me.
Selah!
- 17 Forget fears of one man's aggrandisement
as his family's fortune grows and grows;
18 his honour does not descend with him,
his wealth can't carry into death
19 even though, alive, he blessed his soul
by saying 'People praise when you help yourself.'
- 20 That soul will be gathered to its ancestors
who also couldn't see more light.
- 21 Mortals in pomp do not comprehend
they perish in the manner of all animals.

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon

PSALM 114

- 1 When Israel came out from Egypt,
the House of Jacob from a strange nation,
- 2 Judah became the haven of Heaven,
Israel became God's dominion.

- 3 The sea had seen it and retreated,
the course of the Jordan turned backward,
- 4 mountains danced like rams,
hills skipped like lambs.

- 5 What caused the sea to retreat?
the course of the Jordan to turn?
- 6 mountains to dance like rams?
hills to skip like lambs?

- 7 The earth trembled at God's presence,
at the presence of the Lord of Jacob,
- 8 who changed the rock to a pool of water,
the flint to a fountain.

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon

PSALM 126

1 A Song of Ascents

When God restored
the returned to Zion
we seemed then
like those who dream.

2 Our mouth then
filled with laughter,
our tongue with singing,
and among the nations
it was said then
'God has done, for them,
great things.'3 God had, for us,
done great things;
we were joyful.4 Restore our release, Lord,
like streams in the Negev!5 Those who sow with tears
will reap with joy!6 Those who go weeping
on their way bearing
seed, and sowing,
will surely come bearing
their sheaves with joy!

Translated from the Hebrew
by Ya'acov Hanoach, Gabriel Preil
and David Curzon

PSALM 131

1 A Song of Ascents, of David.

Lord, my heart
is not haughty
and my eyes are not
raised, and I
am not concerned
with greatness, with
what is beyond me.

2 I have aligned
and quieted my
desire, like
a weaned child
still with mother,
my desire is like
a weaned child.3 From now until
the end of days,
Israel, have
hope in the Lord.

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon

PSALM 133

1 A Song of Ascents, of David.

How fine, how delightful,
for kindred to
reside in unity,

2 like the precious oil
anointing the head
and running down
the beard of Aaron,
and running over
the collar of his
large garments,3 like the night dew
on Mount Hermon,
or coming down
on the mountains of Zion
where God commanded
until eternity
the blessing of life.

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon

PSALM 134

1 A Song of Ascents

Bless the Lord
all you servants of the Lord
who stand in the night
in the house of the Lord:

2 lift your hands
toward the holy
and bless the Lord.3 May the Lord,
He who made
heaven and earth,
bless you from Zion.

Translated from the Hebrew
by David Curzon