**The Psalms of Solomon**

*(Translation by G. Buchanan Gray, 1913 – with minor modernisations.)*

**Psalms of Solomon 1**

1 I cried unto the Lord when I was in distress [ ],   
Unto God when sinners assailed.

2 Suddenly the alarm of war was heard before me;   
 (I said), He will hearken to me; for, I am full of righteousness.

3 I thought in my heart that I was full of righteousness,   
Because I was well off and had become rich in children.

4 Their wealth spread to the whole earth,   
And their glory unto the end of the earth.

5 They were exalted unto the stars;   
They said they would never fall.

6 But they became insolent in their prosperity,   
and …

7 Their sins were in secret,   
And even I had no knowledge (of them).

8 Their transgressions (went) beyond those of the heathen before them;   
They utterly polluted the holy things of the Lord.

**Psalms of Solomon 2**

*A Psalm of Solomon. Concerning Jerusalem.*

1 When the sinner waxed proud, with a battering-ram he cast down fortified walls,   
And You did not restrain (him).

2 Alien nations ascended Your altar,   
They trampled (it) proudly with their sandals;

3 Because the sons of Jerusalem had defiled the holy things of the Lord,   
Had profaned with iniquities the offerings of God.

4 Therefore, He said: Cast them far from me;  
…

5 It was set at naught before God,   
It was utterly dishonoured;

6 The sons and the daughters were in grievous captivity,   
Sealed (?) (was) their neck, branded (?) (was it) among the nations.

7 According to their sins has He done unto them;   
For, He has left them in the hands of them that prevailed.

8 He has turned away His face from pitying them,   
Young and old and their children together;  
9 For, they had done evil one and all, in not hearkening.

10 And the heavens were angry,   
And the earth abhorred them;

11 For, no man upon it had done what they did,  
12 And the earth recognized all Your righteous judgments, O God.

13They set the sons of Jerusalem to be mocked at in return for (the) harlots in her;   
Every wayfarer entered in, in the full light of day.

14 They made mock with their transgressions, as they themselves were wont to do;   
In the full light of day, they revealed their iniquities.

And the daughters of Jerusalem were defiled in accordance with Your judgment,  
15 Because they had defiled themselves with unnatural intercourse.

I am pained in my bowels and my inward parts for these things.

16 (And yet) I will justify You, O God, in uprightness of heart;   
For, in Your judgments is Your righteousness (displayed), O God.

17 For, You have rendered to the sinners according to their deeds,   
Yea, according to their sins, which were very wicked.

18 You have uncovered their sins, that Your judgment might be manifest.  
19 You have wiped out their memorial from the earth.  
God is a righteous judge,   
And He is no respecter of persons.

20 For, the nations reproached Jerusalem, trampling it down;   
Her beauty was dragged down from the throne of glory.

21 She girded on sackcloth instead of comely raiment;   
A rope (was) about her head instead of a crown.

22 She put off the glorious diadem that God had set upon her,  
23 In dishonour was her beauty cast upon the ground.

24 And I saw and entreated the Lord and said,   
Long enough, O Lord, has Your hand been heavy on Israel, in bringing the nations upon (them).

25 For, they have made sport unsparingly in wrath and fierce anger.  
26 And they will make an utter end, unless You, O Lord, rebuke them in Your wrath.

27 For, they have done it not in zeal but in lust of soul,  
28 Pouring out their wrath upon us with a view to rapine.

29 Delay not, O God, to recompense them on (their) heads,   
To turn the pride of the dragon into dishonour.

30 And I had not long to wait before God showed me the insolent one   
Slain on the mountains of Egypt,   
Esteemed of less account than the least on land and sea;

31 His body (, too,) borne hither and thither on the billows with much insolence,   
With none to bury (him), because he had rejected him with dishonour.

He reflected not that he was man.  
32 And reflected not on the latter end;

33 He said: I will be lord of land and sea;   
And he recognized not that it is God who is great,   
Mighty in His great strength.

34 He is king over the heavens,   
And judges kings and kingdoms.

35 (It is he) who sets me up in glory,   
And brings down the proud to eternal destruction in dishonour,   
Because they knew Him not.

36 And now behold, you princes of the earth, the judgment of the Lord;   
For, a great king and righteous (is He), judging (all) that is under heaven.

37 Bless God, you that fear the Lord with wisdom;   
For, the mercy of the Lord will be upon them that fear him, in the Judgment;

38 So that he will distinguish between the righteous and the sinner,   
 (And) recompense the sinners for ever according to their deeds.

39 And have mercy on the righteous, (delivering him) from the affliction of the sinner,   
And recompensing the sinner for what he has done to the righteous.

40 For, the Lord is good to them that call upon Him in patience,   
Doing according to His mercy to His pious ones,   
Establishing (them) at all times before Him in strength.

41 Blessed be the Lord for ever before His servants.

**Psalms of Solomon 3**

*A Psalm of Solomon. Concerning the righteous.*

1 Why do you sleep, O my soul,   
And not bless the Lord?

2 Sing a new song,   
Unto God who is worthy to be praised.  
Sing and †be wakeful against his awaking†;   
For, good is a psalm (sung) to God from a glad heart.

3 The righteous remember the Lord at all times,   
With thanksgiving and declaration of the righteousness of the Lord’s judgments.

4 The righteous does not despise the chastening of the Lord;   
His will is always before the Lord.

5 The righteous stumbles and holds the Lord righteous:   
He falls and looks out for what God will do to him.  
6 He seeks out whence his deliverance will come.

7 The steadfastness of the righteous is from God their deliverer;   
There lodges not in the house of the righteous sin upon sin.

8 The righteous continually searches his house,   
To remove utterly (all) iniquity (done) by him in error.

9 He makes atonement for (sins of) ignorance by fasting and afflicting his soul,  
10 and the Lord counts guiltless every pious man and his house.

11 The sinner stumbles and curses his life,   
The day when he was begotten, and his mother’s travail.

12 He adds sins to sins, while he lives (?);  
13 He falls – truly grievous is his fall – and rises no more.

The destruction of the sinner is forever,  
14 and he shall not be remembered, when the righteous is visited.

15 This is the portion of sinners for ever.

16 But they that fear the Lord shall rise to life eternal,   
And their life (shall be) in the light of the Lord and shall come to an end no more.

**Psalms of Solomon 4**

*A Conversation of Solomon with the Men-pleasers.*

1 Why do you sit, O profane (man), in the council of the pious,   
Seeing that your heart is far removed from the Lord,   
Provoking with transgressions the God of Israel?

2 Extravagant in speech, extravagant in outward seeming beyond all (men),   
Is he that is severe of speech in condemning sinners in judgment.

3 And his hand is first upon him as (though he acted) in zeal,   
And (yet) he is himself guilty in respect of manifold sins and of wantonness.

4 His eyes are upon every woman without distinction;   
His tongue lies when he makes contract with an oath.

5 By night and in secret he sins as though unseen,   
With his eyes he talks to every woman of evil compacts.

6 He is swift to enter every house with cheerfulness as though guileless.

7 Let God remove those that live in hypocrisy in the company of the pious,   
(Even) the life of such a one with corruption of his flesh and penury.

8 Let God reveal the deeds of the men-pleasers,   
The deeds of such a one with laughter and derision.

9 That the pious may count righteous the judgment of their God,   
When sinners are removed from before the righteous,  
10 (Even the) man-pleaser who utters law guilefully.

11 And their eyes (are fixed) upon any man’s house that is (still) secure,   
That they may, like (the) Serpent, destroy the wisdom of … with words of transgressors,

12 His words are deceitful that (he) may accomplish (his) wicked desire.  
13 He never ceases from scattering (families) as though (they were) orphans,   
Yea, he lays waste a house on account of (his) lawless desire.

14 He deceives with words, (saying,) There is none that sees, or judges.

15 He fills one (house) with lawlessness,   
And (then) his eyes (are fixed) upon the next house,   
To destroy it with words that give wing to (desire).  
(Yet) with all these his soul, like Sheol, is not sated.

16 Let his portion, O Lord, be dishonoured before You;   
Let him go forth groaning and come home cursed.

17 Let his life be (spent) in anguish, and penury, and want, O Lord;   
Let his sleep be (beset) with pains and his awaking with perplexities.

18 Let sleep be withdrawn from his eyelids at night;   
Let him fail dishonourably in every work of his hands.

19 Let him come home empty-handed to his house,   
And his house be void of everything wherewith he could sate his appetite.

20 (Let) his old age (be spent) in childless loneliness until his removal (by death).

21 Let the flesh of the men-pleasers be rent by wild beasts,   
And (let) the bones of the lawless (lie) dishonoured in the sight of the sun.

22 Let ravens peck out the eyes of the hypocrites.

23 For, they have laid waste many houses of men, in dishonour,   
And scattered (them) in (their) lust;

24 And they have not remembered God,   
Nor feared God in all these things;  
25 But they have provoked God’s anger and vexed Him.

May He remove them from off the earth,   
Because, with deceit, they beguiled the souls of the flawless.

26 Blessed are they that fear the Lord in their flawlessness.  
27 The Lord shall deliver them from guileful men and sinners,   
And deliver us from every stumbling-block of the lawless (men).

28 Let God destroy them that insolently work all unrighteousness;   
For, a great and mighty judge is the Lord our God in righteousness.

29 Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon all those who love You.

**Psalms of Solomon 5**

*A Psalm. Of Solomon*

1 O Lord God, I will praise Your name with joy,   
In the midst of them that know Your righteous judgments.

2 For, You are good and merciful, the refuge of the poor.  
3 When I cry to you, do not silently disregard me.

4 For, no man takes spoil from a mighty man.  
5 Who, then, can take anything of all that You have made, except You Yourself gives?

6 For man and his portion (lie) before you in the balance;   
he cannot add to, so as to enlarge, what has been prescribed by you.

O God, 7 when we are in distress, we call upon You for help   
And You do not turn back our petition; for, You are our God.

8 Cause not Your hand to be heavy upon us,   
Lest through necessity we sin.

9 Even though You restore us not, we will not keep away;   
But unto You will we come.

10 For, if I hunger, unto You will I cry, O God;   
And *You* will give to me.

11 Birds and fish do You nourish,  
In that You give rain to the steppes that green grass may spring up,  
(So) to prepare fodder in the steppe for every living thing.

12 And if they hunger, unto You do they lift up their face.

13 Kings and rulers and peoples *You* do nourish, O God;   
And who is the help of the poor and needy, if not You, O Lord?

14 And You will hearken – for, who is good and gentle but You? –  
Making glad the soul of the humble by opening Your hand in mercy.

15 Man’s goodness is (bestowed) grudgingly and …,  
And if he repeats (it) without murmuring, even that is marvellous.

16 But Your gift is great in goodness and wealth,   
and he whose hope is (set) on You shall have no lack of gifts.

17 Upon the whole earth is Your mercy, O Lord, in goodness.

18 Happy is he whom God remembers in (granting to him) a due sufficiency.  
19 If a man abounds over much, he sins.

20 Sufficient are moderate means with righteousness,   
and hereby the blessing of the Lord (becomes) abundance with righteousness.

21 They that fear the Lord rejoice in good (gifts),   
and Your goodness is upon Israel in your kingdom.

Blessed is the glory of the Lord; for, He is our king.

**Psalms of Solomon 6**

*In Hope. Of Solomon.*

1 Happy is the man whose heart is fixed to call upon the name of the Lord;  
2 When he remembers the name of the Lord, he will be saved.

3 His ways are made even by the Lord,   
And the works of his hands are preserved by the Lord his God.

4 At what he sees in his bad dreams, his soul shall not be troubled;  
5 When he passes through rivers and the tossing of the seas, he shall not be dismayed.

6 He arises from his sleep and blesses the name of the Lord:  
7 When his heart is at peace, he sings to the name of his God,   
And he entreats the Lord for all his house.

8 And the Lord hears the prayer of every one that fears God,   
And every request of the soul that hopes for Him does the Lord accomplish.

9 Blessed is the Lord, who shows mercy to those who love him in sincerity.

**Psalms of Solomon 7**

*Of Solomon. Of turning.*

1 Make not Your dwelling afar from us, O God;   
Lest they assail us that hate us without cause.

2 For, You have rejected them, O God;   
Let not their foot trample upon Your holy inheritance.

3 Chasten us Yourself in Your good pleasure;   
But give (us) not up to the nations.

4 For, if You send pestilence,   
You Yourself give it charge concerning us;   
for, You are merciful,   
And will not be angry to the point of consuming us.

5 While Your name dwells in our midst, we shall find mercy;  
6 And the nations shall not prevail against us.

For, you are our shield,  
7 And, when we call upon You, You hearken to us;

8 For, You will pity the seed of Israel for ever   
And You will not reject (them);

But we (shall be) under Your yoke for ever,   
And (under) the rod of Your chastening.

9 You will establish us in the time that You help us,   
showing mercy to the house of Jacob on the day wherein You promised (to help them).

**Psalms of Solomon 8**

*Of Solomon. Of the chief Musician.*

1 Distress and the sound of war has my ear heard;   
The sound of a trumpet announcing slaughter and calamity,

2 The sound of much people as of an exceeding high wind,   
As a tempest with mighty fire sweeping through the Negeb.

3 And I said in my heart, Surely (?) God judges us.  
4 A sound I hear (moving) towards Jerusalem, the holy city.

5 My loins were broken at what I heard, my knees tottered:   
6 My heart was afraid; my bones were dismayed like flax.

7 I said: They establish their ways in righteousness.

I thought upon the judgments of God since the creation of heaven and earth;   
I held God righteous in His judgments which have been from of old.

8 God laid bare their sins in the full light of day;   
All the earth came to know the righteous judgments of God.

9 In secret places underground their iniquities (were committed) to provoke (Him) to anger;

10 They wrought confusion, son with mother and father with daughter;  
11 They committed adultery, every man with his neighbour’s wife;   
They concluded covenants with one another with an oath touching these things.  
12 They plundered the sanctuary of God, as though there was no avenger.

13 They trod the altar of the Lord, (coming straight) from all manner of uncleanness;   
And, with menstrual blood, they defiled the sacrifices, as (though these were) common flesh.

14 They left no sin undone, wherein they surpassed not the heathen.

15 Therefore, God mingled for them a spirit of wandering;   
And gave them to drink a cup of undiluted wine, that they might become drunken.

16 He brought him that is from the end of the earth, which smites mightily.  
17 He decreed (?) war against Jerusalem, and against her land.

18 The princes of the land went to meet him with joy: they said unto him:   
Blessed be your way! Come you, enter you in with peace.

19 They made the rough ways even, before his entering in;   
they opened the gates to Jerusalem, they crowned its walls.

20 As a father (enters) the house of his sons, (so) he entered (Jerusalem) in peace;   
He established his feet (there) in great safety.

21 He captured her fortresses and the wall of Jerusalem;  
22 For, God Himself led him in safety, while they wandered.

23 He destroyed their princes and everyone wise in counsel;   
He poured out the blood of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, like the water of uncleanness.

24 He led away their sons and daughters, whom they had begotten in defilement.

25 They did according to their uncleanness, even as their fathers (had done):   
26 They defiled Jerusalem and the things that had been hallowed to the name of God.

27 (But) God has shown Himself righteous in His judgments upon the nations of the earth;  
28 And the pious (servants) of God are like innocent lambs in their midst.

29 Worthy to be praised is the Lord that judges the whole earth in his righteousness.

30 Behold, now, O God, you have shown us your judgment in your righteousness;  
31 Our eyes have seen your judgments, O God.

We have justified your name that is honoured forever;  
32 For, You are the God of righteousness, judging Israel with chastening.

33 Turn, O God, Your mercy upon us, and have pity upon us.  
34 Gather together the dispersed of Israel, with mercy and goodness;  
35 For, Your faithfulness is with us.  
And (though) we have stiffened our neck, yet You are our chastener;  
36 Overlook us not, O our God, lest the nations swallow us up, as though there were none to deliver.

37 But You are our God from the beginning,   
and upon You is our hope (set), O Lord;

38 And we will not depart from You;   
For, good are Your judgments upon us.

39 Ours and our children’s be Your good pleasure for ever;   
O Lord our Saviour, we shall never more be moved.

40 The Lord is worthy to be praised for His judgments with the mouth of His pious ones;   
And blessed be Israel of the Lord forever.

**Psalms of Solomon 9**

*Of Solomon. For rebuke.*

1 When Israel was led away captive into a strange land,   
When they fell away from the Lord who redeemed them,  
2 They were cast away from the inheritance, which Lord had given them.

Among every nation (were) the dispersed of Israel according to the word of God,  
3 That You might be justified, O God, in Your righteousness by reason of our transgressions:   
4 For, You are a just judge over all the peoples of the earth.

5 For from Your knowledge none that does unjustly is hidden,  
6 And the righteous deeds of your pious ones (are) before You, O Lord,   
Where, then, can a man hide himself from Your knowledge, O God?

7 Our works are subject to our own choice and power   
To do right or wrong in the works of our hands   
8 And, in Your righteousness, You visit the sons of men.

9 He that does righteousness lays up life for himself with the Lord;   
And he that does wrongly forfeits his life to destruction;  
10 For, the judgments of the Lord are (given) in righteousness to (every) man and (his) house.

Unto whom are You good, O God, except to them that call upon the Lord?   
12 He cleanses from sins a soul when it makes confession, when it makes acknowledgement.  
13 For, shame is upon us and upon our faces on account of all these things.

14 And to whom doth He forgive sins, except to them that have sinned?   
15 You bless the righteous and do not reprove them for the sins that they have committed;   
And Your goodness is upon them that sin, when they repent.

16 And now, You are our God, and we the people whom You have loved:   
Behold and show pity, O God of Israel, for we are Yours;   
And remove not Your mercy from us, lest they assail us.

17 For, you chose the seed of Abraham before all the nations,   
and set your name upon us, O Lord,  
18 And You will not reject (us) for ever.

You made a covenant with our fathers concerning us;  
19 and we hope in You, when our soul turns (unto You).  
The mercy of the Lord be upon the house of Israel forever and ever.

**Psalms of Solomon 10**

*A Hymn of Solomon.*

1 Happy is the man whom the Lord remembers with reproving,   
And whom He restrains from the way of evil with strokes,   
That he may be cleansed from sin, that it may not be multiplied.

2 He that makes ready his back for strokes shall be cleansed;   
For, the Lord is good to them that endure chastening.

3 For, He makes straight the ways of the righteous,   
and does not pervert (them) by His chastening.

4 And the mercy of the Lord (is) upon them that love Him in truth,   
And the Lord remembers His servants in mercy.

5 For, the testimony (is) in the law of the eternal covenant,   
The testimony of the Lord (is) on the ways of men in (His) visitation.

6 Just and kind is our Lord in His judgments forever,   
And Israel shall praise the name of the Lord in gladness.

7 And the pious shall give thanks in the assembly of the people;   
and on the poor shall God have mercy in the gladness (?) of Israel;

8 For, good and merciful is God forever,   
And the assemblies of Israel shall glorify the name of the Lord.

The salvation of the Lord be upon the house of Israel unto everlasting gladness!

**Psalms of Solomon 11**

*Of Solomon. Unto expectation.*

1 Blow in Zion on the trumpet to summon (the) saints.  
2 Cause to be heard in Jerusalem the voice of him that brings good tidings;   
For, God has had pity on Israel in visiting them.

3 Stand on the height, O Jerusalem, and behold your children,   
From the East and the West, gathered together by the Lord.

4 From the North, they come in the gladness of their God,   
From the isles afar off God has gathered them.

5 High mountains has he abased into a plain for them.  
6 The hills fled at their entrance.

The woods gave them shelter as they passed by.  
7 Every sweet-smelling tree God caused to spring up for them,   
That Israel might pass by in the visitation of the glory of their God.

8 Put on, O Jerusalem, your glorious garments;   
Make ready your holy robe;   
For, God has spoken good concerning Israel, forever and ever.

9 Let the Lord do what He has spoken concerning Israel and Jerusalem;   
Let the Lord raise up Israel by His glorious name.

The mercy of the Lord be upon Israel forever and ever.

**Psalms of Solomon 12**

*Of Solomon. Against the tongue of transgressors.*

1 O Lord, deliver my soul from (the) lawless and wicked man,   
From the tongue that is lawless and slanderous, and speaks lies and deceit.

2 Manifoldly twisted (?) are the words of the tongue of the wicked man,   
Even as … a fire that burns up …

3 … to fill houses with a lying tongue,   
To cut down the trees of gladness …  
4 To involve households in warfare by means of slanderous lips.

May God remove far from the innocent the lips of transgressors by (bringing them to) want   
And may the bones of slanderers be scattered (far) away from them that fear the Lord!   
5 In flaming fire perish the slanderous tongue (far) away from the pious!

6 May the Lord preserve the quiet soul that hates the unrighteous;   
And may the Lord establish the man that follows peace at home.

7 The salvation of the Lord be upon Israel His servant forever;   
And let the sinners perish together at the presence of the Lord;   
But let the Lord’s pious ones inherit the promises of the Lord.

**Psalms of Solomon 13**

*Of Solomon. A Psalm. Comfort for the righteous.*

1 The right hand of the Lord has covered me;   
The right hand of the Lord has spared us.

2 The arm of the Lord has saved us from the sword that passed through,   
From famine and the death of sinners.

3 Noisome beasts ran upon them:   
With their teeth they tore their flesh,   
And with their molars crushed their bones.  
But from all these things the Lord delivered us.

4 The righteous was troubled on account of his errors,   
Lest he should be taken away along with the sinners;

5 For, terrible is the overthrow of the sinner;   
But not one of all these things touches the righteous.

For not alike are the chastening of the righteous (for sins done) in ignorance,   
And the overthrow of the sinners

7 Secretly (?) is the righteous chastened,   
Lest the sinner rejoice over the righteous.

8 For, He corrects the righteous as a beloved son,   
And his chastisement is as that of a firstborn.

9 For, the Lord spares His pious ones,   
And blots out their errors by his chastening.

For, the life of the righteous shall be forever.  
10 But sinners shall be taken away into destruction,   
And their memorial shall be found no more.

11 But upon the pious is the mercy of the Lord,   
And upon them that fear Him His mercy.

**Psalms of Solomon 14**

*A Hymn. Of Solomon.*

1 Faithful is the Lord to them that love Him in truth,   
To them that endure His chastening,

To them that walk in the righteousness of His commandments,   
in the law that He commanded us that we might live.

2 The pious of the Lord shall live by it forever;   
the Paradise of the Lord, the trees of life, are His pious ones.

3 Their planting is rooted forever;   
They shall not be plucked up all the days of heaven:

For, the portion and the inheritance of God is Israel.

4 But not so are the sinners and transgressors,   
Who love (the brief) day (spent) in companionship with their sin;

Their delight is in fleeting corruption,  
5 And they remember not God.

For, the ways of men are known before Him at all times,   
And he knows the secrets of the heart before they come to pass.

6 Therefore, their inheritance is Sheol and darkness and destruction,   
And they shall not be found in the day when the righteous obtain mercy;

7 But the pious of the Lord shall inherit life in gladness.

**Psalms of Solomon 15**

*A Psalm of Solomon. With a Song.*

1 When I was in distress I called upon the name of the Lord,   
I hoped for the help of the God of Jacob and was saved.  
2 For the hope and refuge of the poor are You, O God.

3 For who, O God, is strong except to give thanks unto You in truth?   
4 And wherein is a man powerful except in giving thanks to Your name?

5 A new psalm with song in gladness of heart,   
The fruit of the lips with the well-tuned instrument of the tongue,   
The first fruits of the lips from a pious and righteous heart.

6 He that offers these things shall never be shaken by evil;   
The flame of fire and the wrath against the unrighteous shall not touch him,

7 When it goes forth from the face of the Lord against sinners,   
To destroy all the substance of sinners,

8 For, the mark of God is upon the righteous that they may be saved.

Famine and sword and pestilence (shall be) far from the righteous,  
9 For, they shall flee away from the pious as men pursued in war;

But they shall pursue sinners and overtake (them),  
And they that do lawlessness shall not escape the judgment of God;

As by enemies experienced (in war) shall they be overtaken;  
10 For, the mark of destruction is upon their forehead.

11 And the inheritance of sinners is destruction and darkness,   
And their iniquities shall pursue them unto Sheol beneath.

12 Their inheritance shall not be found of their children;  
13 For, 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 But they that fear the Lord shall find mercy therein,   
And shall live by the compassion of their God;

But sinners shall perish for ever.

**Psalms of Solomon 16**

*A Hymn of Solomon. For Help to the Pious.*

1 When my soul slumbered (being afar) from the Lord, I had all but slipped down to the pit,

When (I was) far from God, 2 my soul had been well-nigh poured out unto death,   
(I had been) nigh unto the gates of Sheol with the sinner, 3 when my soul departed from the Lord God of Israel –  
Had not the Lord helped me with his everlasting mercy.

4 He pricked me, as a horse is pricked, that I might serve Him,   
My saviour and helper at all times saved me.

5 I will give thanks unto You, O God, for You have helped me to (my) salvation;  
And has not counted me with sinners to (my) destruction.

6 Remove not Your mercy from me, O God,   
nor Your memorial from my heart until I die.

7 Rule me, O God, (keeping me back) from wicked sin,   
and from every wicked woman that causes the simple to stumble.

8 And let not the beauty of a lawless woman beguile me,   
Nor any one that is subject to (?) unprofitable sin.

9 Establish the works of my hands before You,   
And preserve my goings in the remembrance of You.

10 Protect my tongue and my lips with words of truth;   
Anger and unreasoning wrath put far from me.

11 Murmuring, and impatience in affliction, remove far from me,   
When, if I sin, You chasten me that I may return (unto You).

12 But with goodwill and cheerfulness support my soul;   
When You strengthen my soul, what is given (to me) will be sufficient for me.

13 For, if *You* give not strength,   
Who can endure chastisement with poverty?

14 When a man is rebuked by means of his corruption,   
Your testing (of him) is in his flesh and in the affliction of poverty.

15 If the righteous endures in all these (trials), he shall receive mercy from the Lord.

**Psalms of Solomon 17**

*A Psalm of Solomon. With Song. Of the King.*

1 O Lord, you are our King for ever and ever;   
For in You, O God, does our soul glory.

2 How long are the days of man’s life upon the earth?   
As are his days, so is the hope (set) upon him.

3 But we hope in God, our deliverer;

For, the might of our God is for ever with mercy,  
4 And the kingdom of our God is forever over the nations in judgment.

5 You, O Lord, chose David (to be) king over Israel,   
And swore to him touching his seed that never should his kingdom fail before You.

6 But, for our sins, sinners rose up against us;   
They assailed us and thrust us out;   
What You had not promised to them, they took away (from us) with violence.

7 They in no way glorified Your honourable name;   
they set a (worldly) monarchy in place of (that which was) their excellence;  
8 They laid waste the throne of David in tumultuous arrogance.

But You, O God, cast them down and removed their seed from the earth,  
9 In that there rose up against them a man that was alien to our race.

10 According to their sins did You recompense them, O God;   
so that it befell them according to their deeds.

11 God showed them no pity;   
He sought out their seed and let not one of them go free.

12 Faithful is the Lord in all His judgments   
That he makes upon the earth.

13 The lawless one laid waste our land so that none inhabited it,   
They destroyed young and old and their children together.

14 In the heat of His anger, He sent them away even unto the west,   
and (He exposed) the rulers of the land unsparingly to derision.

15 Being an alien, the enemy acted proudly,   
And his heart was alien from our God.

16 And all … Jerusalem,   
As also the nations …

17 And the children of the covenant in the midst of the mingled peoples …  
There was not among them one that wrought in the midst of Jerusalem mercy and truth.

18 They that loved the synagogues of the pious fled from them,   
As sparrows that fly from their nest.

19 They wandered in deserts that their lives might be saved from harm,   
And precious in the eyes of them that lived abroad was any that escaped alive from them.  
20 Over the whole earth were they scattered by lawless (men).

21 For, the heavens withheld the rain from dropping upon the earth,   
Springs were stopped (that sprang) perennially out of the deeps, (that ran down) from lofty mountains.

For, there was none among them that wrought righteousness and justice;   
From the chief of them to the least (of them) all were sinful.  
22 The king was a transgressor, and the judge disobedient, and the people sinful.

23 Behold, O Lord, and raise up unto them their king, the son of David,   
At the time in which you see, O God, that he may reign over Israel your servant.

24 And gird him with strength, that he may shatter unrighteous rulers,  
25 And that he may purge Jerusalem from nations that trample (her) down to destruction.

Wisely, righteously, 26 he shall thrust out sinners from (the) inheritance,   
He shall destroy the pride of the sinner as a potter’s vessel.

With a rod of iron, he shall break in pieces all their substance,  
27 he shall destroy the godless nations with the word of his mouth;

At his rebuke, nations shall flee before him,   
And he shall reprove sinners for the thoughts of their heart.

28 And he shall gather together a holy people, whom he shall lead in righteousness,   
And he shall judge the tribes of the people that has been sanctified by the Lord his God.

29 And he shall not suffer unrighteousness to lodge any more in their midst,   
Nor shall there dwell with them any man that knows wickedness;  
30 For, he shall know them, that they are all sons of their God.

And he shall divide them according to their tribes upon the land,  
31 and neither sojourner nor alien shall sojourn with them any more.

He shall judge peoples and nations in the wisdom of his righteousness.

*Selah*

32 And he shall have the heathen nations to serve him under his yoke;   
And he shall glorify the Lord in a place to be seen of (?) all the earth;  
33 And he shall purge Jerusalem, making it holy as of old:

34 So that nations shall come from the ends of the earth to see his glory,   
Bringing as gifts her sons who had fainted,  
35 And to see the glory of the Lord, wherewith God has glorified her.

And he (shall be) a righteous king, taught of God, over them.

36 And there shall be no unrighteousness in his days in their midst;   
For, all shall be holy and their king the anointed of the Lord.

37 For, he shall not put his trust in horse and rider and bow,  
Nor shall he multiply for himself gold and silver for war,  
Nor shall he gather confidence from (?) a multitude (?) for the day of battle.

38 The Lord himself is his king, the hope of him that is mighty through (his) hope in God.  
< > All nations (shall be) in fear before him.

39 For, he will smite the earth with the word of his mouth forever.

40 He will bless the people of the Lord with wisdom and gladness,

41 And he himself (will be) pure from sin, so that he may rule a great people.  
He will rebuke rulers, and remove sinners by the might of his word;

42 And (relying) upon his God, throughout his days he will not stumble;   
For, God will make him mighty by means of (His) holy spirit,   
And wise by means of the spirit of understanding, with strength and righteousness.

43 And the blessing of the Lord (will be) with him: he will be strong and stumble not.

44 His hope (will be) in the Lord: who then can prevail against him?

(He will be) mighty in his works, and strong in the fear of God.  
45 (He will be) shepherding the flock of the Lord faithfully and righteously,   
And will suffer none among them to stumble in their pasture.

46 He will lead them all aright,   
And there will be no pride among them that any among them should be oppressed.

47 This (will be) the majesty of the king of Israel whom God knows;   
He will raise him up over the house of Israel to correct him.

48 His words (shall be) more refined than costly gold, the choicest;   
In the assemblies he will judge the peoples, the tribes of the sanctified.

49 His words (shall be) like the words of the holy ones in the midst of sanctified peoples.

50 Blessed be they that shall be in those days,   
In that they shall see the good fortune of Israel which God shall bring to pass in the gathering together of the tribes.

51 May the Lord hasten his mercy upon Israel!   
May he deliver us from the uncleanness of unholy enemies!

The Lord himself is our king for ever and ever.

**Psalms of Solomon 18**

*A Psalm of Solomon. Again of the Anointed of the Lord.*

1 Lord, Your mercy is over the works of Your hands forever;   
Your goodness is over Israel with a rich gift.

2 Your eyes look upon them, so that none of them suffers want.  
3 Your ears listen to the hopeful prayer of the poor.

Your judgments (are executed) upon the whole earth in mercy.  
4 And your love (is) toward the seed of Abraham, the children of Israel.

Your chastisement is upon us as (upon) a first-born, only begotten son,  
5 To turn back the obedient soul from folly (that is wrought) in ignorance.

6 May God cleanse Israel against the day of mercy and blessing,   
Against the day of choice when he brings back his anointed.

7 Blessed shall they be that shall be in those days,   
In that they shall see the goodness of the Lord that He shall perform for the generation that is to come,

8 Under the rod of chastening of the Lord’s anointed in the fear of his God,   
In the spirit of wisdom and righteousness and strength.

9 That he may direct (every) man in the works of righteousness by the fear of God,   
That he may establish them all before the Lord,  
10 A good generation (living) in the fear of God in the days of mercy.

*Selah*

11 Great is our God and glorious, dwelling in the highest.

12 (It is He) who has established in (their) courses the lights (of heaven) for determining seasons from year to year,   
And they have not turned aside from the way which He appointed them

13 In the fear of God, (they pursue) their path every day,   
From the day God created them and for evermore.

14 And they have erred not since the day He created them.  
Since the generations of old, they have not withdrawn from their path,   
Unless God commanded them (so to do) by the command of his servants.