Ps 72

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| Fr. Lazarus | Edited | AI | Psalter according 70 | Psalter for prayer | NETS | Brenton | OSB |
| 1 (A Psalm by Asaph) |  | N/A | Skipping for now | A Psalm for Asaph. | A Psalm. Pertaining to Asaph. | A Psalm for Asaph. | A psalm for Asaph. |
| How good God is to Israel,  to those who are pure in heart! |  |  |  | HOW good is God unto Israel, unto them of an upright heart! | How good is God to Israel,  to the upright in heart! | How good is God to Israel, to the upright in heart! | How good God is to Israel,  To the upright in heart. |
| 2 Yet my feet had almost slipped;  I had nearly lost my foothold. |  |  |  | Nevertheless, my feet were almost moved; my steps had well-nigh slipped, | But as for me, my feet were almost shaken;  my steps nearly slipped, | But my feet were almost overthrown; my goings very nearly slipped. | But as for me, my feet were almost shaken;  My steps had nearly slipped. |
| 3 For I was envious of the wicked,  when I saw the peace[[1]](#footnote-1) of sinners. |  |  |  | For I was envious of the wicked, seeing the peace of sinners, | Because I was envious of the lawless,  as I observed sinners’ peace, | For I was jealous of the transgressors, beholding the tranquility of sinners. | For I was jealous of the lawless  When I beheld the peace of sinners. |
| 4 For there is no objection[[2]](#footnote-2) in their death,  and in their scourging no severity. |  |  |  | For there is no fear in their death, and they are steadfast under the knout. | because there is nothing negative to their death  and no firmness in their scourge. | For there is no sign of reluctance in their death: and they have firmness under their affliction. | For there is no upward gaze at their death  Nor steadfastness in their chastening. |
| 5 They are not in trouble like other men,  nor like other men are they scourged. |  |  |  | They are not in the labor of other folk, neither are they plagued like other men. | They are not in trouble of human beings,  and with human beings they will not be scourged. | They are not in the troubles of other men; and they shall not be scourged with other men. | They are not in difficulties as other men,  And they shall not be chastened with other men. |
| 6 Therefore pride holds full sway over them;  they are wrapped up in their wrongdoing and wickedness. |  |  |  | Therefore hath their pride mastered them utterly; they have clothed themselves in their unrighteousness and impiety. | Therefore pride seized them;  they clothed themselves with injustice and their impiety. | Therefore pride has possessed them; they have clothed themselves with their injustice and ungodliness. | For this reason arrogance mastered them;  They clothed themselves with their wrongdoing and ungodliness; |
| 7 Their wrongdoing oozes from them like grease;  it passes into a state of heart. |  |  |  | Their injustice swelleth out like fat; they have surpassed even the lust of their heart. | Their injustice will go forth as though from fat;  they progressed according to their heart’s disposition. | Their injustice shall go forth as out of fatness: they have fulfilled their intention. | Their wrongdoing shall go forth as from fatness;  They passed through to their heart’s intent. |
| 8 They think and speak with malice wickedly,  they speak blasphemy against the Most High. |  |  |  | They have thought and spoken in craftiness; they have spoken injustice in the high place. | They schemed and spoke with malice;  injustice they spoke against the height [the sky]. | They have taken counsel and spoken in wickedness: they have uttered unrighteousness loftily. | They thought and spoke in evil;  They spoke in wrongdoing to the height. |
| 9 They poke their mouths at heaven,  but their tongues drag in the dirt. |  |  |  | They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue goeth throughout the world. | They set their mouths against heaven,  and their tongues ranged over the earth. | They have set their mouth against heaven, and their tongue has gone through upon the earth. | They set their mouth against heaven,  And their tongue passed through the earth. |
| 10 So My people will return here,  and full days will be found among them. |  |  |  | Therefore shall my people turn hither; and full days shall come to them. | Thereofre my people will return here,  and full days will be found for them. | Therefore shall my people return hither: and full days shall be found with them. | For this reason my people shall return here;  Days of fullness shall be found in them. |
| 11 And they say, ‘How can God know?’  and, ‘Is there knowledge in the Most High?’ |  |  |  | And they said, How should God see it? and, Is there knowledge in the Most High? | And they said, “How idd god know?”  and “Is there knowledge in the Most High?” | And they said, How does God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High? | They said, “How does God know?  Is there knowledge in the Most High?” |
| 12 These are the sinners, yet they are prosperous;  they are for ever amassing wealth. |  |  |  | Lo, these are the sinners and the prosperous of this age, and they have riches in possession. | Look, these are sinners and are flourishing; always did they possess wealth. | Behold, these are the sinners, and they that prosper always: they have possessed wealth. | Behold, these are sinners, and they prosper;  They possess wealth in this age. |
| 13 And I said, ‘How useless to keep my heart right  and wash my hands among the innocent, |  |  |  | And I said, Then in vain have I cleansed my heart and washed mine hands in innocency. | And I said, “So, in vain did I keep my heart just  and washed my hands in innocence. | And I said, Verily in vain have I justified my heart, and washed my hands in innocency. | And I said, “Surely in vain have I kept my heart righteous,  And washed my hands with the innocent.” |
| 14 only to be scourged all day long  and rebuked every morning!’ |  |  |  | For I have been scourged all day, and chastened every morning. | And I became scourged all day long,  and my rebuke lasted till morning.” | For I was plagued all the day, and my reproof was every morning. | For all day long I was scourged,  And my reproof persisted through the night. |
| 15 Had I said, ‘I will speak like that’,  I should have betrayed the family of Your children. |  |  |  | If I said, I will speak thus, lo, I would have been faithless to the generation of Thy children. | If I said, “I will talk in this way,”  look, I would have been faithless to the family of your sons. | If I said, I will speak thus; behold, I should have broken covenant with the generation of thy children. | If I should speak, I would describe it thus:  Behold, I am breaking covenant with the generation of your children. |
| 16 So I tried to understand it,  but it proved too hard for me, |  |  |  | And I sought to understand, but it was too hard for me, | And I thought how to understand this;  a wearisome task was before me | And I undertook to understand this, but it is too hard for me, | And I sought to understand this;  It was difficult in my sight, |
| 17 until I entered God’s sanctuary.  Then I understood their ends. |  |  |  | Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end, | until I went into the sanctuary of God,  and perceived their end. | until I go into the sanctuary of God; and so understand the latter end. | Until I came into God’s holy place  And understood their end. |
| 18 It is because of their crooked ways  that You inflict evils upon them.  You hurl them down by their exaltation. |  |  |  | Namely, that Thou hast laid evil upon them for their fraud; Thou didst cast them down, when they vaunted themselves. | But on account of deceits, you set [an obstacle] for them;  you brought them down, when they were raised up. | Surely thou hast appointed *judgments* to them because of their crafty dealings: thou hast cast them down when they were lifted up. | Surely, for their deceits You appointed deceits for them;  You cast them down in their exaltation. |
| 19 How suddenly they come to ruin![[3]](#footnote-3)  They vanish, perish in their sin. |  |  |  | Oh, such was their desolation! They were suddenly wiped out; they perished because of their lawlessness. | How they became desolate in a moment!  They failed; they perished on account of their lawlessness. | How have they become desolate! suddenly they have failed: they have perished because of their iniquity. | Oh, how they came into desolation suddenly!  They ceased to be; they perished in their lawlessness. |
| 20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord,  You will reject their phantoms in Your city. |  |  |  | Like as a dream when one awaketh, O Lord, so didst Thou make their image to vanish out of Thy city. | Like a dream when one awakes,  O Lord, in your city you will despise their phantom. | As the dream of one awakening, O Lord, in thy city thou wilt despise their image. | Like a dream to one who is awakened,  So, O Lord, You shall despise their image in Your city. |
| 21 So when my heart was burning  and my thoughts kept changing, |  |  |  | For my heart was kindled, and my insides were changed. | Because my heart was burnt up  and my kidneys were changed | For my heart has rejoiced, and my reins have been gladdened. | For my heart was kindled,  And my reins were changed, |
| 22 I was contemptible without knowing it;  I was like a beast before You. |  |  |  | And I was humbled, and did not understand; I became as a beast before Thee. | and I was of no account and ignorant,  I became beastlike in your sight. | But I was vile and knew not: I became brutish before thee. | And I was despised, and did not know;  I became like a beast before You. |
| 23 Yet I am continually with You;  You hold my right hand. |  |  |  | Nevertheless, I am always with Thee, for Thou hast holden me by my right hand, | And I am continually with you;  you seized my right hand. | Yet I am continually with thee: thou hast holden my right hand. | And I am continually with You;  You hold fast my right hand; |
| 24 You guide me in Your will,  and receive me with glory. |  |  |  | And hast guided me by Thy counsel, and with glory hast Thou received me. | With your counsel you guided me,  and with glory you received me. | Thou hast guided me by thy counsel, and thou hast taken me to thyself with glory. | With Your counsel You guide me,  And with glory You take hold of me. |
| 25 For what is there in heaven for me,  and what do I want on earth but You? |  |  |  | For what have I in heaven, and what have I desired upon earth from Thee? | For what do I have in the sky,  and from you what did I want on the earth? | For what have I in heaven but thee? and what have I desired upon the earth beside thee? | For what is there in heaven for me but You,  And what do I desire on earth besides You? |
| 26 My heart and my flesh fail;  You, O God, are the God of my heart  and my portion for ever.[[4]](#footnote-4) |  |  |  | My flesh and my heart have failed, O God of my heart, but Thou art my portion, O God, for ever. | My heart and my flesh failed;  God is the God of my heart and is my portion forever, | My heart and my flesh have failed: but God is the strength of my heart, and God is my portion for ever. | My heart and my flesh fail,  O God of my heart; and God is my portion forever. |
| 27 Those who divorce themselves from You will perish;  You destroy all who are unfaithful to You.[[5]](#footnote-5) |  |  |  | For lo, they that go far from Thee shall perish; Thou hast destroyed all them that are unfaithful against Thee. | because, look, those who distance themselves from you will perish;  you destroyed every one who whored away from you. | For, behold, they that remove themselves far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed every one that goes a whoring from thee. | For behold, those who keep themselves far away from You shall perish;  You destroy away from You all who act unfaithfully. |
| 28 But my happiness is to cling to God,[[6]](#footnote-6)  to put my trust in the Lord,  that I may declare all Your praises  in the gates of the daughter of Zion.[[7]](#footnote-7) |  |  |  | But it is good for me to cleave unto God, to put my trust in the Lord, that I may declare all Thy praises in the gates of the daughter of Zion. | But for me, to cling to God is good,  to put my hope in the Lord,  that I may tell of all your promises [praises]  [in the gates of daughter Sion]. | But it is good for me to cleave close to God, to put my trust in the Lord; that I may proclaim all thy praises in the gates of the daughter of Sion. | But as for me, it is good to cling to God,  To put my hope in the Lord,  That I may proclaim all Your praises  In the gates of the daughter of Zion. |

1. peace: Heb; *shalom* = well-being, success, prosperity, security, happiness. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. objection: They do not object to dying in sin and they offer no resistance to the devil. (*Variant reading:* revival). Hebrew of verse 4 seems to mean:

   For them there are no pains;

   fit and strong are their bodies. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The apparent success and prosperity of the godless is transitory and short-lived. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The death of the body is powerless to break the love-forged links of a soul’s union with God. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ‘unfaithful’: *or*, ‘who play the wanton from You.’ Idolatry is adultery or infidelity. Love brooks no rivals (Jas. 4:4-8; Dt. 5:9; Mt. 6:24). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Hebrew: ‘The nearness of God is my good.’ Cp. Wisdom 3:9; Ecclesiasticus 2:3. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. ‘The daughter of Zion’ is the New Jerusalem which is born of Old Zion. The Church of the New Covenant sprang from the Old Covenant Church (Gal. 4:26). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)