Ps 138

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| Fr. Lazarus | Edited | AI | Psalter according 70 | Psalter for prayer | NETS | Brenton | OSB |
| 1 (A Psalm by David) |  |  |  | Unto the end, David’s, a Psalm of Zechariah in the Dispersion. | Regarding completion. Pertaining to Dauid. A Pslam. | For the end, a Psalm of David. | For the End; a psalm by David. |
| O, Lord, You have proved me and known me, |  |  |  | O LORD, Thou hast examined me, and known me; Thou hast known my down-sitting, and mine up-rising. | O Lord, you examined me and knew me. | O Lord, thou hast proved me, and known me. | O Lord, You test me and know me; |
| 2 You know my resting and my rising;  You canst read my thoughts from afar. |  |  |  | Thou hast understood my thoughts from afar off. | It was you who knew my sitting down and my rising up;  it was you who discerned my thoughts from far away. | Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising: thou understandest my thoughts long before. | You know my sitting down and my rising up;  You understand my thoughts from afar; |
| 3 You have tracked my path and my life  and have foreseen all my ways. |  |  |  | Thou hast searched into my path and my lot, and all my ways hast Thou foreseen. | My path and my miles [i.e. the miles I travelled… 11 km] you tracked  and all my ways foresaw, | Thou hast traced my path and my bed, and hast foreseen all my ways. | You search out my path and my portion,  And You foresee all my ways. |
| 4 There is no deceiving You with my tongue, |  |  |  | For there is no guile in my tongue; Lo, O Lord, Thou hast known | because there was no word on my tongue— | For there is no unrighteous word in my tongue: behold, O Lord, thou hast known all things, | For there is not a word on my tongue, |
| 5 for You, O Lord, know everything  from beginning to end.  You have created me and laid Your hand on me. |  |  |  | All things, the last and the first; Thou hast made me and hast laid Thy hand upon me. | look, O Lord; it was you who new all things, the last and the first.  It was you who shaped me and placed your hand upon me. | the last and the first: thou hast fashioned me, and laid thine hand upon me. | But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether,  The last things and the first things;  You fashioned me, and placed Your hands on me. |
| 6 Your knowledge is too wonderful for me;  too great—I cannot attain to it. |  |  |  | Thy knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too hard, I cannot attain unto it. | Your knowledge was made wonderful from [beyond] me;  it became strong; I can never attain to it. | The knowledge of thee is too wonderful for me; it is very difficult, I cannot *attain* to it. | Your knowledge has become too wondrous for me;  It has become too overwhelming; I am unable to grasp it. |
| 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit,  and where can I escape from Your presence?[[1]](#footnote-1) |  |  |  | Whither shall I go then from Thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? | Where should I go from your spirit?  And from your face where should I flee? | Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? and whither shall I flee from my presence? | Where could I go from Your Spirit,  Or flee from Your face? |
| 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;  if I descend to hell, You are present. |  |  |  | If I climb up into heaven, Thou art there; if I go down to hell, Thou art there also. | If I ascend to the sky, you are there;  if I descend to Hades, you are present. | If I should go up to heaven, thou art there: if I should go down to hell, thou art present. | If I should ascend into heaven, You would be there;  If I should descend into Hades, You would be there; |
| 9 If I wing my flight to the sunrise  and dwell in the utmost bounds of the sea, |  |  |  | If I take up my wings early, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, | If I were to take up my wings at dawn  and make my covert at the farthest limits of the sea, | If I should spread my wings to *fly* straight forward, and sojourn at the extremity of the sea, *it would be vain,* | If I should take up my wings at dawn  And pitch camp at the furthest part of the sea, |
| 10 even there Your hand will guide me  and Your right hand will hold me. |  |  |  | Even there also shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me. | indeed, there your hand shall guide me,  and your right hand shall hold me fast. | for even there thy hand would guide me, and thy right hand would hold me. | Even there Your hand would lead me,  And Your right hand would hold me. |
| 11 And I said: ‘Surely darkness will hide me  and night be the only light in my pleasure.’ |  |  |  | And I said, Peradventure the darkness shall hide me, and the night is light in my pleasures. | And I said, “So then, darkness shall trample me,  and night be illumination in my delight,” | When I said, Surely the darkness will cover me; even the night *was* light in my luxury. | And I said, “Perhaps darkness shall cover me,”  But the night shall be light to my delight; |
| 12 But darkness is not dark to You,  and night is as light as day;  to You darkness and light are alike. |  |  |  | For the darkness shall be no darkness with Thee, and the night shall be as bright as the day, for as is the darkness thereof, even so is the light of it. | because darkness will not be made dark due to you,  and night will be illumined as day;  as its darkness, so also its light. | For darkness will not be darkness with thee; but night will be light as day: as its darkness, so shall its light *be to thee*. | For darkness shall not be dark because of You,  And the night shall be bright as day;  As its darkness, so also shall be its light. |
| 13 You have created my heart,[[2]](#footnote-2) O Lord;  You have sustained me from my mother’s womb. |  |  |  | For Thou hast made my reins; Thou didst take me from my mother’s womb. | Because it was you who procured my kidneys, o Lord,  you supported me from my mother’s womb. | For thou, O Lord, hast possessed my reins; thou hast helped me from my mother’s womb. | For You possess my heart, O Lord;  You took hold of me from my mother’s womb. |
| 14 I praise and thank You  for the dread wonder of Your presence;  wonderful are Your works too, as my soul well knows. |  |  |  | I will give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast fearfully worked wonders; marvelous are Thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well. | I will acknowledge you, because I was made awesomely wonderful.  Wonderful are your works,  and my soul knows very well. | I will give thee thanks; for thou art fearfully wondrous; wondrous are thy works; and my soul knows *it* well. | I will give thanks to You,  For I am fearfully and wondrously made;  Marvelous are Your works,  And my soul knows this very well. |
| 15 No bone of mine is hidden from You,  though made in secret with my substance  in earth’s underworld. |  |  |  | My bones are not hid from Thee, which Thou didst make in secret, and my substance in the nether regions of the earth. | My frame was not hidden from you,  which you made in secret,  and my substance in the deepest parts of the earth. | My bones, which thou madest in secret were not hidden from thee, nor my substance, in the lowest parts of the earth. | My bone you made in secret was not hidden from You.  And my substance was in the lowest parts of the earth; |
| 16 Your eyes beheld my unformed state,  and in Your book all men are written;  day by day they are formed,  when as yet there are none of them. |  |  |  | Thine eyes did see my unformed being, and in Thy book shall all be enrolled; in a day shall they be fashioned, when as yet there are none of them. | My unwrought state your eyes beheld,  and in your book all shall be written;  in a day [day by day] they will be formed and no one among them [when none of them yet existed]. | Thine eyes saw my unwrought *substance*, and all men shall be written in thy book; they shall be formed by day, though *there should for a time* be no one among them. | Your eyes saw me when I was unformed,  And all men shall be written in Your book;  They shall be formed day by day,  When as yet there were none among them. |
| 17 But to me Your friends are very precious, O God;  very strong are their principles. |  |  |  | But Thy friends have been very dear to me, O God; their powers have been greatly strengthened. | But to me your friends were very much prized, O God.  Their beginnings [authorities] were much strengthened. | But thy friends, O God, have been greatly honoured by me; their rule has been greatly strengthened. | Your friends, O God, became very honorable to me;  Their principalities became very strong; |
| 18 Should I count them, they would be more than the sand.  I rise and I am still with You. |  |  |  | I will count them, and they will be more in number than the sand; I woke up, and I am still with Thee. | I shall count them, and they will be multiplied beyond sand;  I awoke and I am still with you. | I will number them, and they shall be multiplied beyond the sand; I awake, and am still with thee. | I shall count them,  And they shall be multiplied more than the sand;  I awakened, and I am still with You. |
| 19 If only You wouldst slay sinners, O God!  Be gone from me, you men of blood, |  |  |  | Wilt Thou slay the sinners, O God? Depart from me, ye blood-thirsty men! | If you kill sinners, O God—  O men of blood, depart form me! | Oh that thou wouldest slay the wicked, O God; depart from me, ye men of blood. | If You should slay sinners, O God,  You would turn aside from me, O men of blood. |
| 20 for you are wranglers in your thoughts.  They take Your cities for vanities. |  |  |  | For Thou shalt speak against contriving; they shall take Thy cities in vain. | Because you will speak against contriving,  they will take your cities into vanity. | For thou wilt say concerning *their* thought, *that* they shall take thy cities in vain. | For You will say regarding their reasoning,  “They shall receive your cities in vain.” |
| 21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord,  and do I not burn with rage at Your enemies? |  |  |  | Have I not hated them, O Lord, that hate Thee, and pined away because of Thine enemies? | Did I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?  And at your enemies was I not wasting away? | Have I not hated them, O Lord, that hate thee? and wasted away because of thine enemies? | Have I not hated those who hate You, O Lord?  And was I not wasting away because of Your enemies? |
| 22 With perfect hatred I hate them;  I count them my own enemies. |  |  |  | With a perfect hatred have I hated them; they have been to me as enemies. | I would hate them with perfect hatred;  I counted them my enemies. | I have hated them with perfect hatred; they were counted my enemies. | I hated them with perfect hatred;  They became my enemies. |
| 23 Try me, O God, and know my heart;  examine me and know my ways. |  |  |  | Examine me, O God, and know my heart; test me, and understand my ways. | Examine me, O God, and know my heart;  test me, and know my paths. | Prove me, O God, and know my heart; examine me, and know my paths; | Test me, O God, and know my heart;  Examine me, and know my paths, |
| 24 And see if there is any wrong way in me,  and guide me in the way of life eternal. |  |  |  | And look well if there be any way of wickedness in me; and lead me unto the way everlasting. | And see if there is a way of lawlessness in me,  and guide me in a way everlasting. | and see if *there is any* way of iniquity in me, and lead me in an everlasting way. | And see if there is a lawless way in me,  And lead me in the way everlasting. |

1. The Spirit of the Lord fills the world (Wisdom 1:7). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. heart: *lit*. kidneys (seat of the affections in Hebrew thought). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)