Psalm Hymns & Devotionals

for Psalms 51 - 75 with scripture and links to recordings

Ken Bible

PsalmHymns.com

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(NASB)

Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithfulness;
 According to the greatness of Your compassion, wipe out my wrongdoings.
 Wash me thoroughly from my guilt
 And cleanse me from my sin.
 For I know my wrongdoings,
 And my sin is constantly before me.
 Against You, You only, I have sinned
 And done what is evil in Your sight,
 So that You are justified when You speak
 And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in guilt,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being,
And in secret You will make wisdom known to me.
7 Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
Cleanse me, and I will be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness,
Let the bones You have broken rejoice.
9 Hide Your face from my sins
And wipe out all my guilty deeds.

10 Create in me a clean heart, God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And sustain me with a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach wrongdoers Your ways,
And sinners will be converted to You.

14 Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.
15 Lord, open my lips, So that my mouth may declare Your praise.
16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You do not take pleasure in burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

A broken and a contrite heart, God, You will not despise.

18 By Your favor do good to Zion;Build the walls of Jerusalem.19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices,In burnt offering and whole burnt offering;Then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Forgiveness #1

Read Matthew 6:12

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (Matthew 12:6, NASB)

My Father, holy and loving, forgive me. I have been wrong in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have failed to trust You, and I've fallen short of Your perfect and wonderful will. Forgive me, Lord. Restore me. And help me forgive those who have wronged me.

If you wrote down a list of your most pressing needs, what would it include? Notice that when Jesus taught us to pray daily about our needs, two of the three petitions concern evil in our lives. He understood what was truly important in life, and He said that sin should be one of our chief daily concerns. Thus this fifth petition seeks forgiveness for the wrongs we've committed. The next one seeks to avoid them in the future.

Remember that the Lord's Prayer teaches us how to relate to a loving God who is always with us. We are weak creatures, unstable and inconsistent. If we're going to maintain a healthy, intimate, unbroken relationship with a holy God, a time of confession and forgiveness is essential.

We fail to trust Him, and thus we hinder His working in our lives. We fail to act in love. Without even thinking about it, we revert to our selfish thoughts and selfish ways. We need His forgiveness. We need His daily renewal.

The wonder is this: if we turn to God openly, in simple trust, not even our sins need keep us apart from Him. He invites us to come to Him in daily confession, assured that His boundless love will freely, gladly forgive us.

Hymn recording: Psalm 51: "Song of Confession"



Irregular

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(NASB)

Why do you boast in evil, you mighty man?
 The faithfulness of God endures all day long.
 Your tongue devises destruction,
 Like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.
 You love evil more than good,
 Lies more than speaking what is right. Selah
 You love all words that devour,
 You deceitful tongue.

5 But God will break you down forever;
He will snatch you up and tear you away from your tent,
And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah
6 The righteous will see and fear,
And they will laugh at him, saying,
7 "Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge,
But trusted in the abundance of his riches
And was strong in his evil desire."

8 But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God;I trust in the faithfulness of God forever and ever.9 I will praise You forever, because You have done it,And I will wait on Your name, for it is good, in the presence of Your godly ones.

Too often, the "mighty ones" of earth have a taste for evil. They parade their pride, brag about their brutality, plot wickedness, and devise deceit. They love and choose evil over good, personal gain over justice. But their unbelieving hearts ignore the fact that God is truly almighty, ruling all that is, and He is unfailing love constantly and forever. Those who trust

their money and themselves instead of Him are doomed to destruction. Opposing the loving God, rejecting the Source of all life, they have chosen their own fate. Like weeds, they will be suddenly uprooted, thrown away, and burned.

But those who trust God, those rooted in the Eternal One, will be green and growing, flourishing and forever fruitful in Him.



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(NASB)

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice;

There is no one who does good.

2 God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of mankind

To see if there is anyone who understands,

Who seeks after God.

3 Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt;

There is no one who does good, not even one.

4 Have the workers of injustice no knowledge,

Who eat up My people like they ate bread,

And have not called upon God?

5 They were in great fear there, where no fear had been;

For God scattered the bones of him who encamped against you;

You put them to shame, because God had rejected them.

6 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come from Zion!

When God restores the fortunes of His people,

Jacob shall rejoice, Israel shall be glad.

Psalm 53 affirms that "There is no God" is spoken from a corrupt, self-centered heart that is running from the truth. Jesus said. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed in God." (John 3:17-21, NASB) No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, come to the Light. Open your heart to the Light of God's truth. Let Him and the truth of His Word examine you.

His truth is always love, for

God is love (1 John 4:8).

So bow to the truth and humbly pray,

Search me, God, and know my heart; Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there is any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way. (Psalm 139:23-24, NASB)



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OLD 100TH L.M.

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(NASB)

Save me, God, by Your name,
 And vindicate me by Your power.
 Hear my prayer, God;
 Listen to the words of my mouth.
 For strangers have risen against me
 And violent men have sought my life;
 They have not set God before them. Selah

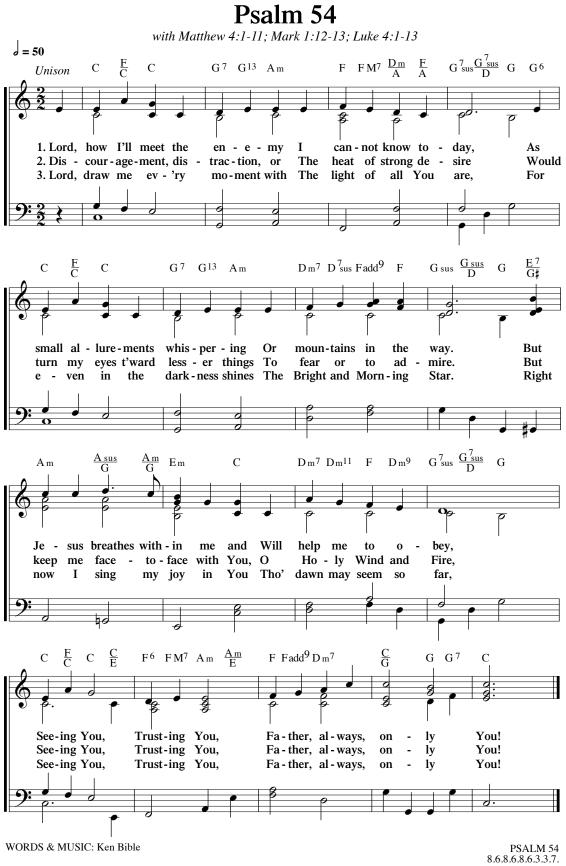
4 Behold, God is my helper;The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.5 He will pay back the evil to my enemies;Destroy them in Your faithfulness.

6 Willingly I will sacrifice to You;I will praise Your name, Lord, for it is good.7 For He has saved me from all trouble,And my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies.

Almighty God, Holy God, Father God, Your enemy is my enemy. I know that I will encounter the evil one he tempted holy Jesus, and he will tempt me. But I don't know where, or when, or how I will meet him. His tools are doubt, discouragement, distraction, and illicit desire. Sometimes he comes with a whisper and sometimes with a shout, sometimes aggressively and sometimes subtly, hoping to slip in unrecognized. But in the wilderness, Jesus showed me the way to victory over him. Satan repeatedly tried to turn His eyes away from His Father and toward His own needs and desires. Jesus continued to look to You, point to You, and trust in You, His dearly-loved, glorious, all-sufficient Father. As He did, Satan could not lure Him or frighten Him.

Father, when faced with the enemy,

no matter how he comes, help me to keep looking to You and trusting You.



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(NASB)

Listen to my prayer, God;
 And do not hide Yourself from my pleading.
 Give Your attention to me and answer me;
 I am restless in my complaint and severely distracted,
 Because of the voice of the enemy,
 Because of the pressure of the wicked;
 For they bring down trouble upon me
 And in anger they hold a grudge against me.

4 My heart is in anguish within me,
And the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
5 Fear and trembling come upon me,
And horror has overwhelmed me.
6 I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest.
7 Behold, I would flee far away,
I would spend my nights in the wilderness. Selah
8 I would hurry to my place of refuge
From the stormy wind and heavy gale."

9 Confuse them, Lord, divide their tongues,
For I have seen violence and strife in the city.
10 Day and night they go around her upon her walls,
And evil and harm are in her midst.
11 Destruction is in her midst;
Oppression and deceit do not depart from her [g]streets.

12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me, Then I could endure it;
Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him.
13 But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my confidant;
14 We who had sweet fellowship together, Walked in the house of God among the commotion.
15 May death come deceitfully upon them; May they go down alive to Sheol, For evil is in their dwelling, in their midst.

16 As for me, I shall call upon God,

And the Lord will save me.

17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and moan,

And He will hear my voice.

18 He will redeem my soul in peace from the battle which is against me,

For they are many who are aggressive toward me.

19 God will hear and humiliate them-

Even the one who sits enthroned from ancient times— Selah

With whom there is no change,

And who do not fear God.

20 He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; He has violated his covenant.

21 His speech was smoother than butter,

But his heart was war;

His words were softer than oil,

Yet they were drawn swords.

22 Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you;

He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

23 But You, God, will bring them down to the pit of destruction; Men of bloodshed and deceit will not live out half their days.

But I will trust in You.

As I read Psalm 55,

images from the suffering and death of Christ float into my mind.

The Psalm vividly expresses the feeling of being overwhelmed with sorrow:

My heart is in anguish within me;

the terrors of death have fallen on me (v.4, NIV). Is there any better description of

Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane?

The Psalmist longs

to fly away like a bird,

to escape and be at rest (Psalm 55:6-8).

Can you feel that same yearning in Jesus' prayer,

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me" (Matthew 26:39, NASB)?

And in Psalm 55:9-11, we can almost hear Jesus describing Jerusalem during His last Passover:

I have seen violence and strife in the city. Day and night they go around her upon her walls, And evil and harm are in her midst. Destruction is in her midst; Oppression and deceit do not depart from her streets. (NASB)

But of all the

physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual pain heaped on Jesus, what could be more piercing than being betrayed into an agonizing death by a dear friend? *If an enemy were insulting me,*

I could endure it;

if a foe were rising against me,

l could hide.

But it is you, a man like myself,

my companion, my close friend,

with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship (Psalm 55:12-14, NIV).

Against the attack of a close friend,

the tender heart of Christ had no protection.

As you contemplate the fierce reality of His love for you, let it sink in that you truly can

Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken (Psalm 55:22, NASB).

Jesus, by

Your Word and Your faithful Spirit, continue to burn into our hearts the depths, the intimacy, and the selflessness of Your love for us.

TUNE: Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child (alt.)



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(NASB)

1 Be gracious to me, God, for a man has trampled upon me; Fighting all day long he oppresses me. 2 My enemies have trampled upon me all day long, For they are many who fight proudly against me. 3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. 4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? 5 All day long they distort my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil. 6 They attack, they lurk, They watch my steps, As they have waited to take my life. 7 Because of their wickedness, will there be an escape for them? In anger make the peoples fall down, God! 8 You have taken account of my miseries; Put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book? 9 Then my enemies will turn back on the day when I call; This I know, that God is for me. 10 In God, whose word I praise, In the Lord, whose word I praise, 11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can mankind do to me? 12 Your vows are binding upon me, God; I will render thanksgiving offerings to You. 13 For You have saved my soul from death, Indeed my feet from stumbling, So that I may walk before God In the light of the living.

Trust Your Father

Have you ever listened to children when they're on an outing? It doesn't matter what magnificent sights they could be seeing. Their requests are, "I'm thirsty...," "Do we have to...?" "I'm tired...," "I wish we could..." They react out of temporary desires. They speak out of pain, fatigue, or false expectations. They don't know what's best for them. They can't see the whole picture.

I think about our Heavenly Father listening to our desires and requests. He's listened for thousands of years. He knows that what we want often has nothing to do with our happiness. We react out of pain or fatigue or false expectations. We don't know what's best. We can't see the whole picture.

No wonder God sometimes seems to ignore our fervent requests and desires.

Think of it this way:

If you're married, you know what it takes for two very-different people to live happily together.

So imagine what is necessary for beings like us - who are focused on the moment and on our own comfort - to have a long-term relationship with a Being like God, who sees all of time at once and is all-wise and all-loving.

For such a relationship to endure the hard times, we must keep trusting Him. We must keep our hands in His and stay committed to Him, no matter what. For it's inevitable that much of the time, we won't understand where He is leading or how He is working.

We are His children. We can't see the whole picture. We don't know what's best. We must keep trusting our Father's love.

Sometimes faith leads us to patiently stand back and let God do what only He can do.

Hymn recording: Psalm 56: "When I Am Afraid"

When I Am Afraid Psalm 56:3



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CCLI Song #3250990. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

(NASB)

 Be gracious to me, God, be gracious to me, For my soul takes refuge in You;
 And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge Until destruction passes by.
 I will cry to God Most High, To God who accomplishes all things for me.
 He will send from heaven and save me; He rebukes the one who tramples upon me. Selah God will send His favor and His truth.

4 My soul is among lions;
I must lie among those who devour,
Among sons of mankind whose teeth are spears and arrows,
And their tongue is a sharp sword.
5 Be exalted above the heavens, God;
May Your glory be above all the earth.
6 They have prepared a net for my steps;
My soul is bowed down;
They dug a pit before me;
They themselves have fallen into the midst of it. Selah

7 My heart is steadfast, God, my heart is steadfast;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!
8 Awake, my glory!
Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.
9 I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to You among the nations.
10 For Your goodness is great to the heavens

And Your truth to the clouds.

11 Be exalted above the heavens, God;

May Your glory be above all the earth.

Father, in this world I am surrounded by Your glory. Everywhere I look, I see the glow of Your presence, Your goodness, and Your greatness. As I see Your glory, it helps me trust You. When evil turns vicious and concerns encircle me, I take refuge in You. I find shelter in the shadow of Your wings. I hide myself in You, O my God. As I see Your glory, it helps me fix my heart on You. O Father, keep my heart prepared and purified, fixed and focused. turned to You alone. As I see Your glory, it prompts me to praise You! Loving Father, may I rise early to praise You! Fill all my thoughts and motives, my deeds and days. Fill them with Your praise from beginning to end! May I praise You in private. May I praise You among my friends and family. May I praise You to everyone I meet!

Almighty God, how great You are! Your glory fills the earth and heavens!





(NASB)

Do you indeed speak righteousness, you gods?
 Do you judge fairly, you sons of mankind?
 No, in heart you practice injustice;
 On earth you clear a way for the violence of your hands.
 The wicked have turned away from the womb;
 These who speak lies go astray from birth.
 They have venom like the venom of a serpent;
 Like a deaf cobra that stops up its ear,
 So that it does not hear the voice of charmers,
 Or a skillful caster of spells.

6 God, shatter their teeth in their mouth;
Break out the fangs of the young lions, Lord.
7 May they flow away like water that runs off;
When he aims his arrows, may they be as headless shafts.
8 May they be like a snail which goes along in slime,
Like the miscarriage of a woman that never sees the sun.
9 Before your pots can feel the fire of thorns
He will sweep them away with a whirlwind, the green and the burning alike.

10 The righteous will rejoice when he sees vengeance;He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.11 And people will say, "There certainly is a reward for the righteous; There certainly is a God who judges on the earth!"

It's easy to desire justice as long as the change needs to happen "out there" somewhere or at least in someone else. But the judge of all the earth wants His justice, His "rightness" to permeate, not just every society, but every person, every life, every heart. His insatiable yearning for justice extends through every level of human life. He taught that corruption starts, not outside, not in societal structures, but within, in the heart, and inevitably works its way outward (Mark 7:14-23). Do you want to rid our world of the bitter injustice that oppresses so many? Start within, and start with the God who is eager to help you think and live and be His perfect justice, His beautiful. complete rightness in this world.



6.6.6.6.w.6.6.6.Bridge

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(NASB)

1 Rescue me from my enemies, my God; Set me securely on high away from those who rise up against me. 2 Rescue me from those who practice injustice, And save me from men of bloodshed. 3 For behold, they have set an ambush for my life; Fierce men attack me, Not for my wrongdoing nor for my sin, Lord, 4 For no guilt of mine, they run and take their stand against me. Stir Yourself to help me, and see! 5 You, Lord God of armies, the God of Israel, Awake to punish all the nations; Do not be gracious to any who deal treacherously in wrongdoing. Selah 6 They return at evening, they howl like a dog, And prowl around the city. 7 Behold, they gush forth with their mouths; Swords are in their lips, For, they say, "Who hears?" 8 But You, Lord, laugh at them; You scoff at all the nations. 9 Because of his strength I will watch for You, For God is my refuge. 10 My God in His faithfulness will meet me; God will let me look triumphantly upon my enemies. 11 Do not kill them, or my people will forget; Scatter them by Your power and bring them down. Lord, our shield. 12 On account of the sin of their mouths and the words of their lips, May they even be caught in their pride, And on account of curses and lies which they tell. 13 Destroy them in wrath, destroy them so that they will no longer exist;

So that people may know that God rules in Jacob,

To the ends of the earth. Selah

14 They return at evening, they howl like a dog,

And prowl around the city.

15 They wander about for food

And murmur if they are not satisfied.

16 But as for me, I will sing of Your strength; Yes, I will joyfully sing of Your faithfulness in the morning, For You have been my refuge And a place of refuge on the day of my distress. 17 My strength, I will sing praises to You; For God is my refuge, the God who shows me favor.

We live in a fallen world where evil prowls all around like a pack of hungry dogs, sometimes growling and threatening, sometimes sneaking around in the shadows. But we live here in Jesus Christ, in peace and security, knowing that He has conquered evil completely and forever. We are safe in Him.

Evil has had its way in us. We have been wrong and done wrong. Yet by simple faith we live holy and free lives, above sin's guilt and power.

> There is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Romans 8:1-2, NASB)

We are innocent and pure in Him.

We live in the impregnable fortress of God's sovereign love. We are free to receive His love and free to give us love, without fear. He surrounds us and keep us with all He is. Praise to our God!



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Alt. Tunes: GERMANY, OLD 100TH

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(NASB)

1 God, You have rejected us. You have broken us;
You have been angry; restore us!
2 You have made the land quake, You have split it open;
Heal its cracks, for it sways.
3 You have made Your people experience hardship;
You have given us wine to drink that makes us stagger.
4 You have given a banner to those who fear You,
That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah
5 That Your beloved may be rescued,
Save us with Your right hand, and answer us!

6 God has spoken in His holiness:

"I will triumph, I will divide up Shechem, and measure out the Valley of Succoth.

7 Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;

Ephraim also is the helmet of My head;

Judah is My scepter.

8 Moab is My washbowl;

I will throw My sandal over Edom;

Shout loud, Philistia, because of Me!"

9 Who will bring me into the besieged city?

Who will lead me to Edom?

10 Have You Yourself not rejected us, God?

And will You not go out with our armies, God?

11 Oh give us help against the enemy,

For rescue by man is worthless.

12 Through God we will do valiantly,

And it is He who will trample down our enemies.

Secure

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. (Deuteronomy 33:27, NIV)

We go our own way. We make our own plans for our own reasons, pursuing our own goals. Then we build walls, protecting ourselves from every interference. We are secure. We are self-sufficient. We can handle whatever comes. But the unforeseen happens — it always does — and we discover that no walls can keep out the evil that floods this world. No matter how strong we are, we are vulnerable. No matter how watchful we are. we are insecure. We cannot control the reality that engulfs us. But when our false security is stripped away, we can rediscover the security on which creation itself reststhe security that keeps the days and seasons revolving, untouched and unthreatened by human hatred or pride. We can rediscover that no matter what knowledge we accumulate, God is our only wisdom. No matter much power we try to harness,

God is sovereign.

He is love, and we are His children.

That is the only security we will ever have and

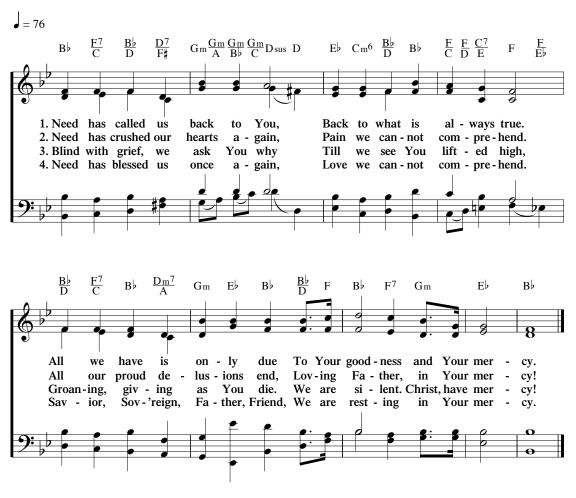
the only security we will ever need.

Father, salvation is always something You do. All I do is bow and allow God to be God in me.

Hymn recording: Psalm 60: "Back to You"

Back to You

TUNE: Hallelujah! What a Savior! Psalm 39:7; 60; 62:5-8; 123; Lamentations 3:22-23; Luke 23:33-46



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss; arr. by Ken Bible

HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR! 7.7.7.8.

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(NASB)

1 Hear my cry, God; Give Your attention to my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For You have been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy. 4 Let me dwell in Your tent forever; Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. Selah 5 For You have heard my vows, God; You have given me the inheritance of those who fear Your name. 6 You will prolong the king's life; His years will be like generations. 7 He will sit enthroned before God forever; Appoint faithfulness and truth that they may watch over him. 8 So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may pay my vows day by day.

Reflection on Psalm 61

Father, I pray desperately, pressured and pursued by an urgent need. But the more desperately I pray, the farther away You feel. I remember, Lord – I remember the times You answered me and met my need. I knew You did. I knew it was You. I remember the smile of relief and the glow of joy when I realized that You, Almighty God, had answered my little prayer. That memory reminds me to trust You now, even when I can't feel You or see You acting. It reminds me that You do not change. You are always my Father, all-knowing and all-controlling. You are always my Brother, Jesus Christ, who came from so far away to save me. You are always the Holy Spirit, the Wind of God. the Breath of God. surrounding me and filling me with all You are. O my God, even when You feel so far away, I am engulfed in You completely, every moment.

Praise to You!



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(NASB)

My soul waits in silence for God alone;
 From Him comes my salvation.
 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
 My stronghold; I will not be greatly shaken.

3 How long will you attack a man,That you may murder him, all of you,Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?4 They have planned only to thrust him down from his high position;They delight in falsehood;They bless with their mouth,But inwardly they curse. Selah

5 My soul, wait in silence for God alone,
For my hope is from Him.
6 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
My refuge; I will not be shaken.
7 My salvation and my glory rest on God;
The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.
8 Trust in Him at all times, you people;
Pour out your hearts before Him;
God is a refuge for us. Selah

9 People of low standing are only breath, and people of rank are a lie;
In the balances they go up.
Together they are lighter than breath.
10 Do not trust in oppression,
And do not vainly rely on robbery;
If wealth increases, do not set your heart on it.

11 God has spoken once;Twice I have heard this:That power belongs to God;12 And faithfulness is Yours, Lord,For You reward a person according to his work.

In the Silence

Psalm 62

Father, I live in the endless, all-enveloping noise of my plans and my desires, my success and my failures, my health and my comfort, my time and my obligations, my money and my possessions, my ambitions and my problems, my job, my relationships, and my satisfaction. All these desperately, perpetually cry for attention, shouting their empty threats and empty promises. All are too small and too shallow to harm or fulfill my life in You. Father, I turn from them and turn to You, the All-encompassing One, the All-sufficient, the All-in-all. In the quietness, I find You to be all joy, all hope, all truth, all goodness, and all peace all I could ever want or need. So in this endless, all-enveloping silence I wait and hope, I move and rest in You.



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(NASB)

 God, You are my God; I shall be watching for You; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and exhausted land where there is no water.
 So have I seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and glory.
 Because Your favor is better than life, My lips will praise You.
 So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.
 My soul is satisfied as with fat and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

6 When I remember You on my bed,I meditate on You in the night watches,7 For You have been my help,And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.8 My soul clings to You;Your right hand takes hold of me.

9 But those who seek my life to destroy it,

Will go into the depths of the earth.

10 They will be turned over to the power of the sword;

They will be a prey for foxes.

11 But the king will rejoice in God;

Everyone who swears by Him will boast,

For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.

I Hunger for You

Based on Psalm 63

My God, my Creator, my Father, You are all I hunger for. In a world full of broken cisterns and empty promises, You are the spring of living water. You are rich, eternal food for all I am, for heart and mind and spirit. You are holiness, rightness, life, joy, and constant, complete sufficiency. You are surely, eternally making me more than I ever dreamed I could be.

O God, my God,

I long for You!

Psalm 63 ALT. TUNE: "A Charge to Keep I Have" (BOYLSTON)



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(NASB)

1 Hear my voice, God, in my complaint;
Protect my life from dread of the enemy.
2 Hide me from the secret discussion of evildoers,
From the restlessness of the workers of injustice,
3 Who have sharpened their tongues like a sword.
They aimed bitter speech as their arrows,
4 To shoot from concealment at the innocent;
Suddenly they shoot at him, and do not fear.
5 They make firm for themselves an evil purpose;
They talk of setting snares secretly;
They say, "Who can see them?"
6 They devise injustices, saying,
"We are ready with a well-conceived plot";
For the inward thought and the heart of a person are deep.

7 But God will shoot an arrow at them;
Suddenly they will be wounded.
8 So they will make him stumble;
Their own tongue is against them;
All who see them will shake their heads.
9 Then all people will fear,
And they will declare the work of God,
And will consider what He has done.

10 The righteous person will be glad in the Lord and take refuge in Him; And all the upright in heart will boast.

Reflection on Psalm 64

Evil

secretly, eagerly viciously plans evil,

thinks evil, dreams evil, delights in evil.

Evil persecuted Christ.

Evil will persecute His people. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you (John15:20, NASB).

But remember His words:

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulations, but take courage; I have overcome the world (John 16:33, NASB).

You have absolutely nothing to fear! Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4, NASB).



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(NASB)

 There will be silence before You, and praise in Zion, God, And the vow will be fulfilled for You.
 You who hear prayer, To You all mankind comes.
 Wrongdoings prevail against me; As for our offenses, You forgive them.
 Blessed is the one You choose and allow to approach You; He will dwell in Your courtyards.
 We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.

5 By awesome deeds You answer us in righteousness, God of our salvation,

You who are the trust of all the ends of the earth and the farthest sea;

6 Who establishes the mountains by His strength,

Who is encircled with might;

7 Who stills the roaring of the seas,

The roaring of their waves,

And the turmoil of the nations.

8 They who dwell at the ends of the earth stand in awe of Your signs;

You make the sunrise and the sunset shout for joy.

9 You visit the earth and cause it to overflow;

You greatly enrich it;

The stream of God is full of water;

You prepare their grain, for so You prepare the earth.

10 You water its furrows abundantly,

You settle its ridges,

You soften it with showers,

You bless its growth.

11 You have crowned the year with Your goodness,

And Your paths drip with fatness.

12 The pastures of the wilderness drip,

And the hills encircle themselves with rejoicing.

13 The meadows are clothed with flocks

And the valleys are covered with grain;

They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Reflection on Psalm 65

Sovereign Creator, Universal Father, Transcendent King, Holy, Holy, Holy God, sometimes the only appropriate response to You is silence the silence of deep joy, the silence of childlike trust, the silence of humble, selfless worship. All creation models such silent worship. Without a word, it endlessly, eloquently lifts up its mighty voice to You, glorifying You for all You are. Its unsung hymns ring with wonder and joy and adoration. Its liturgies bubble over with a richness that words cannot capture. O Father, school me in such worship. Let Your creation and Your Holy Spirit teach me. Then when I do speak or sing, may it be in full. wholehearted response to You, the One. the Holy, the Living and True God.



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(NASB)

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;
 Sing the glory of His name;
 Make His praise glorious.
 Say to God, "How awesome are Your works!
 Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will pretend to obey You.
 All the earth will worship You,
 And will sing praises to You;
 They will sing praises to Your name." Selah

5 Come and see the works of God,
Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of mankind.
6 He turned the sea into dry land;
They passed through the river on foot;
Let's rejoice there, in Him!
7 He rules by His might forever;
His eyes keep watch on the nations;
The rebellious shall not exalt themselves! Selah

8 Bless our God, you peoples, And sound His praise abroad, 9 Who keeps us in life, And does not allow our feet to slip. 10 For You have put us to the test, God; You have refined us as silver is refined. 11 You brought us into the net; You laid an oppressive burden upon us. 12 You made men ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water. Yet You brought us out into a place of abundance. 13 I shall come into Your house with burnt offerings; I shall pay You my vows, 14 Which my lips uttered And my mouth spoke when I was in distress. 15 I shall offer to You burnt offerings of fat animals, With the smoke of rams: I shall make an offering of bulls with male goats. Selah 16 Come and hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.

17 I cried to Him with my mouth,

And He was exalted with my tongue. 18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear; 19 But God has heard; He has given attention to the sound of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His favor from me.

God, I Want to Know You

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. (Psalm 139:1, NIV)

God, You created this entire universe, so vast and beautiful, so mysterious and wonderful.

You also created me. You conceived me before I was born. You knit me together in my mother's womb. And You patterned me after yourself.

You love me. You know every thought before I express it, every word before I speak it. Yet You love me.

And You want me to know and love You. You want that more than anything. My Creator, I don't want to ignore such an intriguing possibility.

God, I want to know You.

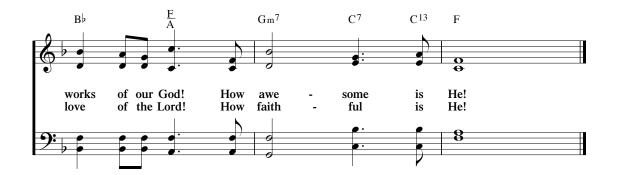
Hymn recording: Psalm 66: "Come and See the Works of Our God!"

Come and See the Works of Our God

Psalm 66







(NASB)

1 God be gracious to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us— Selah
2 That Your way may be known on the earth,
Your salvation among all nations.
3 May the peoples praise You, God;
May all the peoples praise You.
4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy;
For You will judge the peoples with fairness
And guide the nations on the earth. Selah
5 May the peoples praise You.
6 The earth has yielded its produce;
God, our God, blesses us.
7 God blesses us,
So that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

Christ in Psalm 67

Father God, we are in Christ Jesus.

We know You in Christ.

We come to You in Christ.

We praise You in Christ.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6, NASB).

Christ is the fullness of Your grace and blessings poured out on us (Psalm 67:1a). Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3, NASB).

You cause Your face to shine on us in Christ (Psalm 67:1b).

God ... has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6, NASB).

You display Your power and love

through creation and

through Your mighty acts of salvation down through history (Psalm 67:2). But You have shown Yourself fully and finally in Jesus Christ.

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature. (Hebrews 1:1-3, NASB).

The glorious vision of all the peoples coming to You and praising You (Psalm 67:3-7) will be beautifully fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

He is the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29, NASB).

He is the Light of all the nations (Isaiah 49:6).

He is the Name at which every knee will bow and

that every tongue will confess. (Philippians 2:10).

He is the culmination of all Your plans and purposes

from the foundation of the world.

Praise to You, our Father, in Jesus Christ!

Hymn recording: Christ in Psalm 67

Christ in Psalm 67

Job 26:11-14; Psalm 67; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 2:1-3, 9-10; Hebrews 2:11



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

PSALM 67 L.M.

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(NASB)

 May God arise, may His enemies be scattered, And may those who hate Him flee from His presence.
 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; As wax melts before a fire, So the wicked will perish before God.
 But the righteous will be joyful; they will rejoice before God; Yes, they will rejoice with gladness.
 Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Exalt Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the Lord, and be jubilant before Him.

5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows,

Is God in His holy dwelling.

6 God makes a home for the lonely;

He leads out the prisoners into prosperity,

Only the rebellious live in parched lands.

7 God, when You went forth before Your people,

When You marched through the desert, Selah

8 The earth quaked;

The heavens also dropped rain at the presence of God;

Sinai itself quaked at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You made plentiful rain fall, God;

You confirmed Your inheritance when it was parched.

10 Your creatures settled in it;

In Your kindness You provided for the poor, God.

11 The Lord gives the command;

The women who proclaim good news are a great army:

12 "Kings of armies flee, they flee,

And she who remains at home will divide the spoils!"

13 When you lie down among the sheepfolds,

You are like the wings of a dove covered with silver,

And its pinions with glistening gold.

14 When the Almighty scattered the kings there,

It was snowing in Zalmon.

15 The mountain of Bashan is a mountain of God;The mountain of Bashan is a mountain of many peaks.16 Why do you look with envy, you mountains of many peaks,

At the mountain God has desired as His dwelling? Indeed, the Lord will dwell there forever. 17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands; The Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness. 18 You have ascended on high, You have led captive Your captives; You have received gifts among people, Even among the rebellious as well, that the Lord God may dwell there.

19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden,

The God who is our salvation. Selah

20 God is to us a God of salvation;

And to God the Lord belong ways of escape from death.

21 God certainly will shatter the heads of His enemies,

The hairy head of one who goes about in his guilt.

22 The Lord said, "I will bring them back from Bashan.

I will bring them back from the depths of the sea,

23 So that your foot may shatter them in blood,

And the tongue of your dogs may have its portion from your enemies."

24 They have seen Your procession, God,

The procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.

25 The singers went on, the musicians after them,

In the midst of the young women beating tambourines.

26 Bless God in the congregations,

Even the Lord, you who are of the fountain of Israel.

27 Benjamin, the youngest, is there, ruling them,

The leaders of Judah in their company,

The leaders of Zebulun, the leaders of Naphtali.

28 Your God has commanded your strength;
Show Yourself strong, God, You who acted in our behalf.
29 Because of Your temple at Jerusalem
Kings will bring gifts to You.
30 Rebuke the animals in the reeds,
The herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples,
Trampling the pieces of silver;
He has scattered the peoples who delight in war.
31 Messengers will come from Egypt;
Cush will guickly stretch out her hands to God.

32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,

Sing praises to the Lord, Selah

33 To Him who rides upon the highest heavens, which are from ancient times;

Behold, He speaks with His voice, a mighty voice.34 Ascribe strength to God;His majesty is over Israel,And His strength is in the skies.35 God, You are awesome from Your sanctuary.The God of Israel Himself gives strength and power to the people.Blessed be God!

Reflection on Psalm 68

Jesus Christ, You rose up once, and when You did, You left death shattered in Your wake. Rise up again! Burst into our wicked world and, by Your blazing, holy presence burn away all the fruits of evil, all that is not of You. Rise up, Lord! Rise up! Your glorious, almighty presence is with us even now. You are marching before Your people, leading us through this barren, fruitless land, just as You led Israel through the wilderness. You are a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire in our darkness. Your presence pours down the bread of heaven, all within and all around us. You make us rich! You satisfy our hungers with Yourself! Now, Savior, we pray, finish what You have started. Turn this march through the wilderness into a grand coronation procession, enthroning You everywhere and forever as Lord of all. Rise up, Lord Jesus!

Rise up!



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(NASB)

1 Save me, God,

For the waters have threatened my life.

2 I have sunk in deep mud, and there is no foothold;

I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me.

3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched;

My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

4 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;

Those who would destroy me are powerful, those who oppose me with lies; What I did not steal, I then have to restore.

5 God, You know my foolishness,

And my guilt is not hidden from You.

6 May those who wait for You not be ashamed because of me, Lord God of armies; May those who seek You not be dishonored because of me, God of Israel,

7 Because for Your sake I have endured disgrace;

Dishonor has covered my face.

8 I have become estranged from my brothers,

And a stranger to my mother's sons.

9 For zeal for Your house has consumed me,

And the taunts of those who taunt You have fallen on me.

10 When I wept in my soul with fasting,

It became my disgrace.

11 When I made sackcloth my clothing,

I became a proverb to them.

12 Those who sit in the gate talk about me,

And songs of mockery by those habitually drunk are about me.

13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, Lord, at an acceptable time;

God, in the greatness of Your mercy,

Answer me with Your saving truth.

14 Rescue me from the mud and do not let me sink;

May I be rescued from those who hate me, and from the depths of water.

15 May theflood of water not overflow me

Nor the deep swallow me up,

Nor the pit close its mouth on me.

16 Answer me, Lord, for Your mercy is good; According to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me,

17 And do not hide Your face from Your servant,

For I am in distress; answer me quickly.

18 Come near to my soul and redeem it;Ransom me because of my enemies!19 You know my disgrace, my shame, and my dishonor;All my enemies are known to You.

20 Disgrace has broken my heart, and I am so sick.And I waited for sympathy, but there was none;And for comforters, but I found none.21 They also gave me a bitter herb in my food,And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

22 May their table before them become a snare;
And when they are at peace, may it become a trap.
23 May their eyes grow dim so that they cannot see,
And make their hips shake continually.
24 Pour out Your indignation on them,
And may Your burning anger overtake them.
25 May their camp be desolated;
May there be none living in their tents.
26 For they have persecuted him whom You Yourself struck,
And they tell of the pain of those whom You have wounded.
27 Add guilt to their guilt,
And may they not come into Your righteousness.
28 May they be wiped out of the book of life,
And may they not be recorded with the righteous.

29 But I am afflicted and in pain;

May Your salvation, God, set me safely on high.

30 I will praise the name of God with song,

And exalt Him with thanksgiving.

31 And it will please the Lord better than an ox

Or bull with horns and hoofs.

32 The humble have seen it and are glad;

You who seek God, let your heart revive.

33 For the Lord hears the needy,

And does not despise those of His who are prisoners.

34 Heaven and earth shall praise Him,
The seas and everything that moves in them.
35 For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah,
So that they may live there and possess it.
36 The descendants of His servants will inherit it,
And those who love His name will live in it.

Reflection on Psalm 69

Overwhelming suffering,

crushing sorrow, deep distress, shame, humiliation, weeping, deprivation, injustice, false accusations, misunderstanding, searing pain, rejection, utter loneliness –

all these are elements of our human experience in this fallen world. As the ultimate human being, Jesus experienced all of these to the ultimate degree.

As we deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him, we share in His sufferings, for we live His life of self-giving love in this wicked and hateful world.

But as we share in His sufferings, we share in His glory. As we share in His surrender, we share in His victory. As we share His faith in the Father we breathe His constant, comforting all-powerful presence. As we share in His self-sacrifice, We share in Him.

> Whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:7-11, NASB)



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(NASB)

God, hurry to save me;
 Lord, hurry to help me!
 May those who seek my life
 Be put to shame and humiliated;
 May those who delight in my harm
 Be turned back and dishonored.
 May those who say, "Aha, aha!" be turned back
 Because of their shame.

4 May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
And may those who love Your salvation say continually,
"May God be exalted!"
5 But I am afflicted and needy;
Hurry to me, God!
You are my help and my savior;
Lord, do not delay.

Every crisis, every fear, every challenging change, every failure, every reminder of my frailty draws me back to You.

You are power, wisdom, and love. And You are with me right now in all Your magnificence.

O Lord, my Lord, I need You!



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

PSALM 70 6.5.6.5.5.

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(NASB)

1 In You, Lord, I have taken refuge;
Let me never be put to shame.
2 In Your righteousness rescue me and save me;
Extend Your ear to me and help me.
3 Be to me a rock of dwelling to which I may continually come;
You have given the commandment to save me,
For You are my rock and my fortress.
4 Save me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
From the grasp of the wrongdoer and the ruthless,
5 For You are my hope;
Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth.
6 I have leaned on you since my birth;
You are He who took me from my mother's womb;
My praise is continually of You.

7 I have become a marvel to many,

For You are my strong refuge.

8 My mouth is filled with Your praise

And with Your glory all day long.

9 Do not cast me away at the time of my old age;

Do not abandon me when my strength fails.

10 For my enemies have spoken against me;

And those who watch for my life have consulted together,

11 Saying, "God has abandoned him;

Pursue and seize him, for there is no one to save him."

12 God, do not be far from me;

My God, hurry to my aid!

13 May those who are enemies of my soul be put to shame and consumed;

May they be covered with disgrace and dishonor, who seek to injure me.

14 But as for me, I will wait continually,

And will praise You yet more and more.

15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness

And of Your salvation all day long;

For I do not know the art of writing.

16 I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God;

I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

17 God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. 18 And even when I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation,

Your power to all who are to come.

19 For Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens,

You who have done great things;

God, who is like You?

20 You who have shown me many troubles and distresses Will revive me again,

And will bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

21 May You increase my greatness

And turn to comfort me.

22 I will also praise You with a harp,

And Your truth, my God;

I will sing praises to You with the lyre,

Holy One of Israel.

23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You;

And my soul, which You have redeemed.

24 My tongue also will tell of Your righteousness all day long;

For they are put to shame, for they are humiliated who seek my harm.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalm 90:1-2, NASB)

Sovereign God, You are without beginning and without end. from everlasting to everlasting. Unchanging fullness, unchanging perfection, You will always be who You have always been: pure love forever overflowing, forever right and good and faithful, at peace in Your perfect well-being. My brief life is framed in You and immersed in You. You knit me together in my mother's womb. You were there to deliver me at my birth. You have been with me every day, every step, through every need and every moment of my life. And now that I am aging, now that I sense weakness and physical decay dogging my steps, I am still immersed in You. You still cradle me in Your arms, vulnerable and helpless as I am. And You are still pure love, pure joy, and perfect peace. Sickness or health,

now and every moment, You are still my sure and certain hope, my deep, unfailing joy, my life, my strength, my Father, and my everlasting God.

Psalm 71



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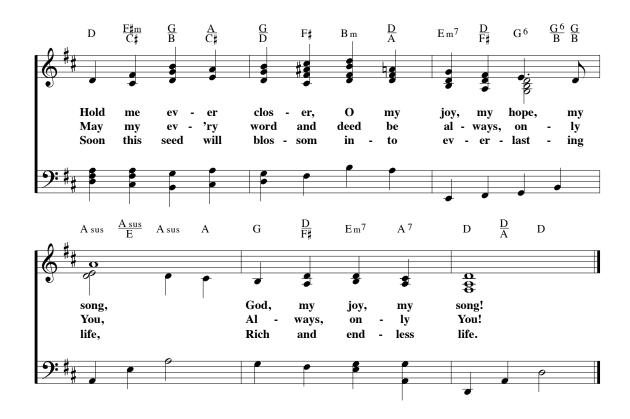
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LOVE IN EPHESIANS 5.6.13.5.6.13.5.

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(NASB)

Give the king Your judgments, God,
 And Your righteousness to the king's son.
 May he judge Your people with righteousness
 And Your afflicted with justice.
 May the mountains bring peace to the people,
 And the hills, in righteousness.
 May he vindicate the afflicted of the people,
 Save the children of the needy,
 And crush the oppressor.

5 May they fear You while the sun shines,
And as long as the moon shines, throughout all generations.
6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
Like showers that water the earth.
7 May the righteous flourish in his days,
As well as an abundance of peace, until the moon is no more.

8 May he also rule from sea to sea,
And from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.
9 May the nomads of the desert bow before him,
And his enemies lick the dust.
10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring gifts;
May the kings of Sheba and Seba offer tributes.
11 And may all kings bow down before him,
All nations serve him.

12 For he will save the needy when he cries for help,
The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.
13 He will have compassion on the poor and needy,
And he will save the lives of the needy.
14 He will rescue their life from oppression and violence,
And their blood will be precious in his sight;
15 So may he live, and may the gold of Sheba be given to him;
And they are to pray for him continually;
They are to bless him all day long.

16 May there be abundance of grain on the earth on top of the mountains;Its fruit will wave like the cedars of Lebanon;And may those from the city flourish like the vegetation of the earth.17 May his name endure forever;

May his name produce descendants as long as the sun shines; And may people wish blessings on themselves by him; May all nations call him blessed.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,Who alone works wonders.19 And blessed be His glorious name forever;And may the whole earth be filled with His glory.Amen and Amen.

20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

Father, Your Messiah reigns! He is filled with all Your justice, Your holiness, Your goodness, and Your truth, and we are complete in Him. All creation is complete in Him, re-imagined, re-made, reborn. Nothing remains that is not from Him, the holy Christ, Your Son. Death is gone, forever removed from our glorious home. Life, beauty, and fruitfulness are exploding all around us, at every level. Creation itself is singing His name! His reign is complete, filling all time and space. His character, His life, His being now reshape all reality. Need. narrowness, and sorrow are forever past. Only abundance, peace, and joy are ahead.

Blessed be You, Eternal Father, and

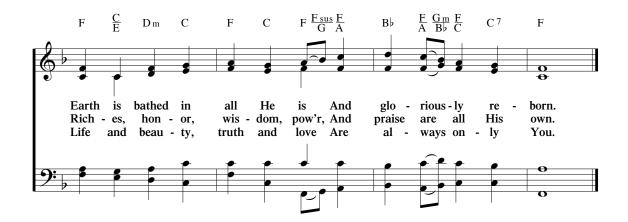
blessed be Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Brother, our King!

Psalm 72 TUNE: Celebrate Immanuel's Name (AMSTERDAM)



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Foundery Collection, 1742 AMSTERDAM 7.6.7.6.7.7.7.6.

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(NASB)

1 God certainly is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart! 2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no pains in their death, And their belly is fat. 5 They are not in trouble like other people, Nor are they tormented together with the rest of mankind. 6 Therefore arrogance is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them. 7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart overflow. 8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high. 9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return here,
And abundant waters are drunk by them.
11 They say, "How does God know?
And is there knowledge with the Most High?"
12 Behold, these are the wicked;
And always at ease, they have increased in wealth.
13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
And washed my hands in innocence;
14 For I have been stricken all day long,
And punished every morning.

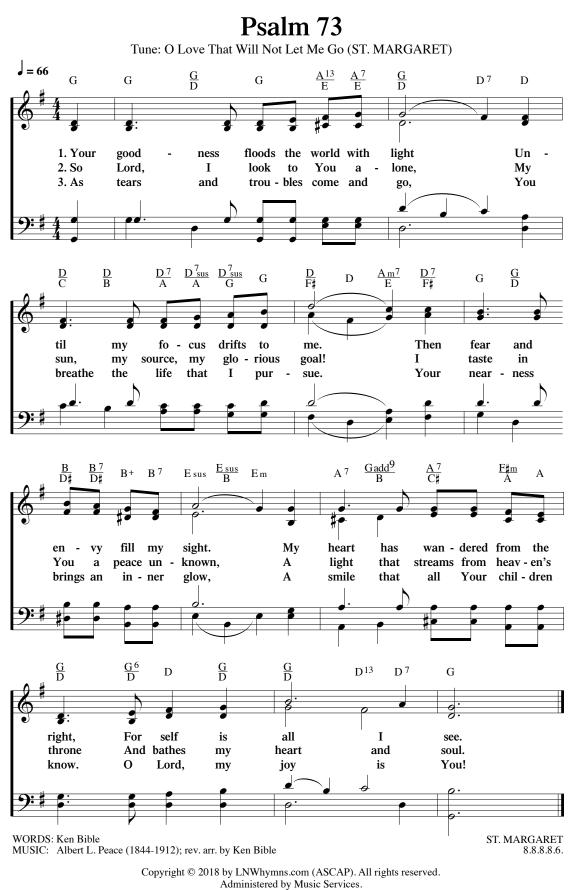
15 If I had said, "I will speak this way,"
Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.
16 When I thought of understanding this, It was troublesome in my sight
17 Until I entered the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.
18 You indeed put them on slippery ground; You dropped them into ruin.
19 How they are destroyed in a moment! They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors! 20 Like a dream when one awakes, Lord, when stirred, You will despise their image.

21 When my heart was embittered
And I was pierced within,
22 Then I was stupid and ignorant;
I was like an animal before You.
23 Nevertheless I am continually with You;
You have taken hold of my right hand.
24 You will guide me with Your plan,
And afterward receive me to glory.

25 Whom do I have in heaven but You?
And with You, I desire nothing on earth.
26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
27 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish;
You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You.
28 But as for me, the nearness of God is good for me;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
So that I may tell of all Your works.

Father, You alone are True Light. Only as we see You does the world come into focus. When we lose sight of You when our focus sinks to self all we see is distorted. The result is fear, doubt, envy, and anxious grasping. Reality now revolves around us, not You. We begin to see life through a lens of unbelief, and as we do, the unbelievers' way of life begins to make sense. We start to share their values and their desires. O Father, as I turn my eyes back to You, I see the truth in all its glorious beauty: You are the truth. I see life at its wondrous best: You are life. As I look to You, it is like looking into a mirror: my own image begins to change. I start to reflect Your love, Your peace, Your holiness, Your glory (2 Corinthians 3:18). You are pure goodness. You are life's beginning and goal and richest reward.

Your nearness is our highest good.



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(NASB)

1 God, why have You rejected us forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture? 2 Remember Your congregation, which You purchased of old, Which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance: And this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt. 3 Step toward the irreparable ruins; The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary. 4 Your adversaries have roared in the midst of Your meeting place; They have set up their own signs as signs. 5 It seems like one bringing up His axe into a forest of trees. 6 And now they break down all its carved work With axe and hammers. 7 They have burned Your sanctuary to the ground; They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name. 8 They said in their heart, "Let's completely subdue them." They have burned all the meeting places of God in the land. 9 We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet, Nor is there anyone among us who knows how long. 10 How long, God, will the enemy taunt You? Shall the enemy treat Your name disrespectfully forever? 11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? Extend it from Your chest and destroy them! 12 Yet God is my King from long ago, Who performs acts of salvation in the midst of the earth.

13 You divided the sea by Your strength;

You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters.

14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;

You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

15 You broke open springs and torrents;

You dried up ever-flowing streams.

16 Yours is the day, Yours also is the night;

You have prepared the light and the sun.

17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth;

You have created summer and winter.

18 Remember this, Lord, that the enemy has taunted You, And a foolish people has treated Your name disrespectfully. 19 Do not give the soul of Your turtledove to the wild animal;

Do not forget the life of Your afflicted forever.

20 Consider the covenant;

For the dark places of the land are full of the places of violence.

21 May the oppressed person not return dishonored;

May the afflicted and the needy praise Your name.

22 Arise, God, and plead Your own cause;

Remember how the foolish person taunts You all day long.

23 Do not forget the voice of Your adversaries,

The uproar of those who rise against You, which ascends continually.

O God, all seems lost, destroyed, and gone forever. We cry out to You in anguish and desperation, but it feels like You are angry with us or simply ignoring us. Our pain is screaming, and all we hear from heaven is silence. We see no response from You. We feel no response from You. But we look back on all You have been for us and all You have done for us. We look around at Your marvelous creation. You have always brought order out of overwhelming chaos. No power, no opposition, no problem ever stands in Your way. Nothingness blooms into a beautiful garden at Your word. All things bow to Your will. So in the grip of all this pain and

pain and loss and anxiety, We wait on You. We trust in You. Do whatever pleases You.



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(NASB)

 We give thanks to You, God, we give thanks, For Your name is near;
 People declare Your wondrous works.
 "When I select an appointed time, It is I who judge fairly.
 The earth and all who inhabit it are unsteady; It is I who have firmly set its pillars. Selah
 I said to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn;
 Do not lift up your horn on high, Do not speak with insolent pride.'"

6 For not from the east, nor from the west,

Nor from the desert comes exaltation;

7 But God is the Judge;

He puts down one and exalts another.

8 For a cup is in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams;

It is well mixed, and He pours out of this;

Certainly all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink its dregs.

9 But as for me, I will declare it forever;I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.10 And He will cut off all the horns of the wicked,But the horns of the righteous will be lifted up.

God does nothing halfway.

Look at creation. Everything is done with care, order, and incredible detail, whether it's the farthest mysteries of space or the tiniest one-celled creature. Whether you search through a telescope or a microscope, the closer you look, the more wonders you find. Examine closely enough even the finest human handiwork, and you'll find rough edges. God leaves no rough edges. I look at the way He deals with me, and I see the same meticulous attention to detail. When I was far away, when I didn't know or care about Him, He patiently drew me to Himself, despite my ignorance and self-centeredness. Down to today, He never abandons me to my own weakness. Never! He relentlessly chases down every little thing that separates me from His perfect, loving, generous will. He patiently breathes Himself into every aspect of my life and every corner of my being. Be assured that

at the right time,

He will do the same with our broken, lost, unjust world. He has promised to return and put everything exactly as it should be. He will finish all that He has started, perfectly and completely, with no rough edges. All creation, all reality will reflect Him in every detail. God does nothing halfway. He patiently, carefully,

faithfully makes everything

right.



MUSIC: African-American Spiritual and Ken Bible

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