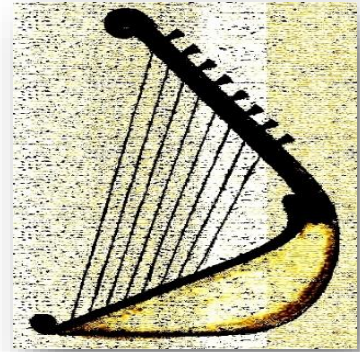


PSALM 25 vs 1

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The title: David is pictured in this Psalm as in a faithful miniature. His whole trust, his many conflicts, his great transgressions, his bitter reconsidering, and his deep distresses are all here; so that we see the very heart of “the man after God’s own heart.” This is a composition of David’s later days, as he mentions the sins of his youth, and from its references to the craft and cruelty of his many foes, it will not be too speculative to refer it to the period when Absalom headed the great rebellion against him. This has been styled the second of the seven **PENITENTIAL PSALMS**.



The twenty-two verses of this Psalm begin in the original with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet in their order. It is the first time we have an inspired acrostic. This method may have been to assist the memory.

Divisions: from its singularity of form, there are great changes of thought, but no variation of the subject. The moods of the writer’s mind are twofold – he begins with prayer (1-7); then meditation (8-10); then prayer (11); followed by meditation (12-15) ending in prayer (16-22) – Charles Spurgeon.

A Psalm of David

¹ To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, on You I lean: let me not be ashamed, let my enemies not triumph over me.

³ Yes, none who wait on You will be ashamed: those who deal deceitfully will be ashamed.

⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.

⁵ Lead me in Your truth, and teach me: for You are the God of my safety; on You I wait all the day.

⁶ Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and mercy; for they are from old.

⁷ The sins of my youth, or my stepping over the line, do not remember: but according to Your mercy remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD.

Think about it: It is not safe to be at odds with the Ancient of Days. “According to Your Mercy,” Moses was the first who brought up this happy expression; now used by David. The soul of man is endlessly pressed down with sin, and the cares of this world, which leads to the net; but those who follow the Lord are as eagles which mount upward; it should be our principal petition to the Lord that we might run to Him; that we would exalt in His truth and grace; and lift our hearts to heaven, that we may not lie still in the puddle of this earth -- Archibald Symson, 1627-1742.

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD: so upon the sinner He teaches the way.

⁹ He guides the humble in justice: and He teaches the humble His way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, to those who guard His covenant and testimonies.

Think about it: Good and upright is the Lord alone, and will He not be as gracious to His enemies as he requires us to be to ours? It is His own law. All the tracks and ruts are made by those wheels traveling over the same ground. How frequent, how deeply indented, and how multiplied are those tracks to every family and individual. Wherever we go, we see God's mercy – Adam Clarke, 1761-1832.

Mercy and truth are the paths in which God constantly walks... in reference to the children of men; and so frequently does He show them mercy, and so frequently does He fulfill His truth, that His paths are easily discerned. He is never out of the road of mercy to those who guard His ways – Nathanael Hardy, 1618-1670.

¹¹ For the sake of Your name, O LORD, pardon my crime / my perversity; for it is great.

Just pause and think about it: He does not pity sinners because they are worthy, but because they need His pity. When God forgives sin, He does it for the sake of His Name, not ours; for His honor and glory, not ours. Indeed, to run into gross sins, that God may forgive them, is an odious presumption, but to hope that those gross sins may, and will be forgiven by God to us, being truly remorseful and contrite, for the sake of His Name (not ours); is a well-grounded expectation. – Jonathan Edwards, 1703-1758.

¹² Who is the one who fears the LORD? He will teach him the way he should choose;

¹³ his soul will dwell in prosperity; and his descendants will inherit the earth.

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him; and His covenant He will show them.

¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD; for He will grab my feet out of their net.

Think about it: Walking with God is the best way to know the mind of God; friends who walk together impart their secrets one to another. "The secret of the Lord is to those who fear Him" – Thomas Watson, 1620-1686

Though we cannot see Him by reasons of our present distance and darkness; yet we must look to Him. "He will pluck my feet out of the net"... an unfortunate dove, whose feet are caught in the snare of the fowler, this little birdbrain is a fine emblem of the soul, entangled in the cares and concerns of the world. Let the question provoke self-examination. "Who fears the Lord?" Gospel privileges are not for the pretender. He who fears the Lord, has nothing else to fear. – Charles Spurgeon.

¹⁶ You turn to me and have mercy upon me; for I am alone and afflicted.

¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged: out of my distresses bring me.

¹⁸ See my affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

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¹⁹ Consider my enemies, for they are many; and with hatred and **violence** they hate me.

²⁰ **Keep** my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I run to You.

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness watch over me; for I wait on You.

²² O God redeem **Israel**, out of all their troubles.

Think about it: Consider my enemies, watch them, weigh them, check them and defeat them. The demons of hell and the evils of earth are all defeated when the Lord reveals His arm. Let no good man be surprised that this affliction is great, and to him of an unaccountable character. It has always been so with God's people. The road to heaven is soaked with the tears and blood of the saints – William S. Plumer, 1802-1880.

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