

Book III  
*Psalms 73-89*

**PSALM 73**

*A psalm of Asaph.*

Geneva, 1551

1. How *truly* God his goodness shows,  
bestowing favour *on all* those  
who *are in* Israel *pure*-hearted  
and *have not* from his ways *departed*.  
But *as for me*, I slipped almost,  
for *when the arrogant* would boast  
of *earthly wealth and* luxury,  
I *envied their* prosperity.
2. No *suffering* lies in store *for* them;  
they *all are* sleek and *sound of* limb.  
They *do not* share our *pain and* anguish;  
no *troubles* ever *make them* languish.  
Pride *is their* necklace, and they dare  
make *violence the* robe they wear.  
Their *hearts with follies* overflow,  
and *in their minds* illusions grow.
3. They *speak with* scorn and haughtiness;  
they *scoff, and* threaten *to oppress*.  
Their *mouth lays* claim to *heaven's* regions;  
their *tongue demands* the *earth's* allegiance.  
So *people turn* to praise these men,  
and *they can* find *no fault* with them.  
“God *does not see it*,” they declare.  
“The *Most High* *does not* know or care.”
4. Such *are the* wicked – they’re *secure*;  
their *wealth increases* *evermore*.  
Surely *in vain* I’ve *been* *pure*-hearted  
and *have not* from God’s *laws* *departed*,  
and *I in vain* have washed my hands  
in *purity and* innocence.  
For *all day long* I suffer here,  
and *with new grief* each dawn draws near.
5. If *I had* spoken this way too,  
I *surely* would have *been* *untrue*  
to *all the* present *generation*,  
the *children* of your *holy* nation.  
I *tried to probe* the mystery  
but *found it* was *too much* for me  
till, *entering* God’s *holy* place,  
I *saw the* destiny they face.

6. O Lord, you surely set them all  
on *slippery* ground to make them fall.  
You cause the arrogant to stumble;  
they headlong to their ruin tumble.  
How suddenly destroyed are they,  
by terrors wholly swept away!  
As one who wakes from dreams, you rise  
and them as fantasies despise.
7. When envy caused me great distress  
and filled my heart with bitterness,  
I in my folly would ignore you;  
I was a brutish beast before You.  
Yet you will hold me by my hand  
and keep me with you to the end.  
Your counsel guides me in my ways,  
and you will me to glory raise.
8. Whom do I have in heaven but you?  
You, God of grace, my faith renew:  
I seek no earthly wealth or splendour;  
to envy I will not surrender.  
Although my flesh and heart may fail,  
God is my strength: I shall prevail,  
for he whose steadfast love is sure  
will be my portion evermore.
9. Those who from you have gone astray  
shall perish in their evil way.  
You will destroy all who, false-hearted,  
from your commandments have departed.  
But as for me, in God I trust,  
for with his presence I am blest.  
My refuge is the LORD alone;  
I will proclaim all he has done.

## PSALM 74

A maskil of Asaph.

Geneva, 1562

1. O *God*, why have you cast us all away?  
O why have we forever been rejected?  
Why do you leave your sheep all unprotected  
and let your anger smoke from day to day?
2. Remember your own people, those you love,  
your heritage, your chosen congregation,  
by you redeemed and saved from condemnation  
in your good pleasure, shown from heaven above.
3. Do not forget Mount Zion, where you dwelt;  
draw near to its perpetual desolations.  
See the destruction which the hostile nations  
brought on the place where once your people knelt.
4. O *God*, your foes with loud and angry roars  
right in your temple raised their heathen banners,  
destroyed your house with hatchets and with hammers,  
and smashed the carvings that were there before.
5. They boldly set your holy house ablaze,  
defiled the dwelling of your name so glorious.  
They boasted that their might would be victorious  
and burned each place where you received our praise.
6. We see no signs; we have no prophets left,  
not even one by whom your word is spoken.  
Is then the bond with you forever broken?  
How long shall we of comfort be bereft?
7. How long, O *God*, will enemies yet scoff?  
Will the reviling of your name cease never?  
Will you hold back your strong right hand forever?  
Withdraw it from your bosom. Cut them off!
8. Yet you, O *God*, my King from days of old,  
throughout the earth worked wonders of salvation.  
The sea you split wide open for your nation  
and broke the heads of dragons fierce and bold.
9. The heads of proud Leviathan you crushed,  
its flesh as food on desert beasts bestowing.  
You, LORD, broke open fountains ever-flowing  
and dried up streams where mighty waters rushed.
10. Yours is the day, yours also is the night;  
sun, moon, and stars have you set in the heavens.  
To all the earth you boundaries have given;  
the seasons you established by your might.

11. Remember, LORD, the *scoffing of your* foes;  
hear *how your* name is *taunted by the* wicked!  
Yield *not your* dove to *beast of field and* thicket;  
do *not forget* your *children in their* woes.
12. Look to the covenant! *Hold it in* regard,  
for *terror* reigns in *all the land's* dark places.  
Let *the* downtrodden *not endure* disgraces,  
and *may the* needy *praise your* name, O LORD.
13. Rise up, O God, rise *and defend* your cause.  
Ignore *the* taunting *of your* foes no longer;  
do *not forget* their *shouts of* raging anger,  
the *uproar* which continues *without* pause.

## PSALM 75

*For the director of music. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy."  
A psalm of Asaph. A song.*

Geneva, 1562

1. We, O God, will sing your *praise*  
and our thankfulness *proclaim*.  
Near us is your holy name;  
*just and glorious are your ways*.  
People *praise you everywhere*  
and your *wondrous works declare*.
2. "When the *proper time draws near*,  
*I my judgment will reveal*.  
Then the *earth may shake and reel*  
and *all people quake with fear*,  
but its *pillars I uphold*,  
I who *fashioned it of old*.
3. "To those *filled with pride I say*,  
'*Let me no more hear your boast*.'  
I tell *them and all their host*  
*to forsake their wicked way*:  
'*Do not proudly lift your horn*;  
neither *speak with haughty scorn*.'"
4. Helpers *will not from the east*  
and *not from the west appear*  
to *exalt and to revere*  
*him whom God makes last and least*.  
He, the *Judge of great renown*,  
will *lift up and will bring down*.
5. From the *chalice in his hand*  
God himself *pours out his wrath*,  
*heady wine that foams with froth*.  
*All the wicked in the land*  
this most *bitter cup of pain*  
to the *very dregs must drain*.
6. As for *me, my praise I shout*;  
I give thanks to *Jacob's God*.  
Him I *will forever laud*;  
I *will let my joy ring out*.  
All the *wicked I will scorn*,  
but God *will exalt our horn*.

## PSALM 76

*For the director of music. With stringed instruments.  
A psalm of Asaph. A song.*

Geneva, 1551

1. God has in *Judah spread his fame*;  
great *is in Israel his name*.  
In Salem *stands his tent of praise*;  
in *Zion is his dwelling place*.  
There shield and sword *no longer rattle*:  
he broke the *weapons used in battle*.
2. O God, more *glorious is your might*  
than *awe-inspiring mountain heights*.  
Men bold and *warlike*, stripped of spoil,  
sank *into sleep* and ceased *their toil*.  
None of the *valiant and stouthearted*  
could lift a *hand*; *their plans* were *thwarted*.
3. O Jacob's *God, at your rebuke*  
our *enemies* were *terror-struck*;  
stunned lay both *horse and charioteer*.  
You, *you alone*, evoke *such fear*.  
Who does not *stand in trepidation*  
before your *wrath and indignation*?
4. In fearful *silence, all the earth*  
heard *how your verdict thundered forth*  
when you, O *God, in judgment rose*  
to *save the humble from their foes*.  
All merely *human wrath and fury*  
will but *increase your praise and glory*.
5. Come, honour *and revere the LORD*;  
make *vows to God and keep your word*.  
Let all the *nations tribute bring*  
and *fear him as almighty King*,  
for he cuts *off the breath of princes*  
and sweeps away *their proud pretences*.

## PSALM 77

*For the director of music. For Jeduthun.  
Of Asaph. A psalm.*

Geneva, 1543/1551

1. I cry out, that God may hear me  
and with *help* be ever near me.  
To the Lord I cry aloud,  
by a *weight of troubles* bowed.  
I stretch out my hand to reach him;  
day and *night* my prayers beseech him.  
To my God my grief I told;  
I refuse to be consoled.
2. I remember God with weeping.  
He has kept my eyes from sleeping,  
and my spirit is so weak  
that I'm too distraught to speak.  
Through the *night* my thoughts in sadness  
turn to former days of gladness,  
to my songs of years gone by,  
and I in my sorrow sigh:
3. "Will the Lord spurn us forever  
and withhold from us his favour?  
Will his love and mercy fail?  
Will his promise not prevail?  
Will he not forgive transgression  
but, forgetting his compassion,  
let his burning wrath replace  
His unfailing love and grace?"
4. Then I said, "This is what hurts me:  
that the Most High God deserts me,  
that I am from him estranged  
now that his right hand has changed."  
Yet I will recall and ponder  
all his awesome works of wonder,  
meditating with delight  
on his deeds so great in might.
5. All your ways, O strong Defender,  
are most holy, great in splendour.  
What god is there anywhere  
who can with our God compare?  
You worked wonders of salvation,  
showed your power among the nations.  
Your strong arm redeemed and freed  
Jacob's sons and Joseph's seed.

6.     Mighty *waters writhed and* trembled,  
for they *saw you and were* humbled;  
fear convulsed *the hidden* deep,  
made the *roaring billows* leap.  
Clouds poured *rain, with thunder* crashing,  
and your *arrows kept on* flashing.  
With the *lightning bolts you* hurled,  
you lit *up and shook* the world.
  
7.     Through the *sea, where waves were* tossing,  
you laid *bare a path for* crossing.  
Mighty *waters fled in* awe,  
yet your *footprints no man* saw.  
Your own *people you there* guided,  
shepherds *for your flock* provided.  
Moses, *Aaron, by their* hand  
led them *to the promised* land.

## PSALM 78

A maskil of Asaph.

Geneva, 1551

1. Give ear, my people, listen as I teach you  
and *let the words of my instruction reach you.*  
The *wisdom* that on *God's decrees* is founded  
will *be to you in parables expounded.*  
Their hidden *truths I will for you unfold* –  
the things our *fathers taught us* from of old.
2. These we'll pass on, *not from their children* hide them,  
that *those accounts of bygone days* may *guide* them,  
and *we will tell the coming generation*  
how *God has dealt with Israel, his nation* –  
the wondrous *works the LORD for them* has done,  
the glory *that his mighty hand* has won.
3. To Israel *he gave his revelation,*  
his *law as Jacob's ever-firm foundation,*  
and *all our fathers he, the LORD, commanded*  
to *make it known to those from them descended,*  
that also *they might pass it on in turn*  
and teach his *law to children* not yet born.
4. Then they would *put their trust in God their Saviour*  
and *not forget his deeds of love and favour,*  
nor *come to share their fathers' condemnation,*  
that *stubborn and rebellious generation*  
whose spirits *were not faithful* to the LORD,  
by whom God *was rejected* and ignored.
5. The Ephraimites *with bows for war assembled,*  
yet *they in battle all turned back and trembled.*  
They *did not keep God's covenant but denied him,*  
*despised his law and shamelessly defied him,*  
forgot what *he had done for them alone,*  
the *miracles that he to them* had shown.
6. God worked great *marvels, and their fathers* saw them;  
in *Egypt's land, in Zoän, wonders awed* them.  
There *he the waves for Israel* divided  
and *through the sea his chosen people* guided.  
He made the *water stand up* like a heap;  
his mighty *hand restrained the roaring deep.*
7. By day he *gave a cloud to lead and guide* them;  
with *fiery light* did *he all night* provide them.  
Drink *as abundant as the seas* he gave them;  
he *split the rocks, and springs welled up* to save them.  
From barren *crag* he *made fresh* fountains burst,  
and rivers *flowed to quench his people's* thirst.

8. God in the *desert gave them his protection*,  
yet *they rebelled*; his *mercy met rejection*.  
In *sin and disobedience they persisted*,  
and *God Most High they boldly tried and tested*.  
In *stubborn pride, defiantly they raved*,  
demanding *from his hand the food they craved*.
9. They slighted *God and said*, “*Will he be able to spread us in the wilderness a table?*  
He *struck the rock*, we *saw the fountains gushing*  
and *streams of water through the desert rushing*,  
but can he *also give his people bread*  
and bring us *meat so that we will be fed?*”
10. Therefore the *LORD, who heard their provocation*,  
was *full of wrath against his chosen nation*.  
His *fiery rage against all Israel* mounted;  
his *anger rose*, for *never they recounted*  
what he had *done to help them* in their plight;  
they did not *trust his saving power* and might.
11. Yet to the *skies God’s orders then were given*;  
he *opened wide the very doors of heaven*.  
God *showed his mercy, Israel sustaining*  
with *plenteous manna down upon them* raining.  
The food of *angels gave he* them for bread,  
and with the *grain of heaven* they were fed.
12. The east wind *he called up from heaven’s borders*,  
led *forth the south wind to obey his orders*,  
and *on their wings they brought what God had given*,  
for *quails, like dust that by a storm is driven*,  
rained down *upon them from the darkened sky*;  
then they had *meat in plentiful supply*.
13. They ate and *were well filled with what they wanted*;  
what *they had craved*, that *he had freely granted*.  
They *gorged themselves*, and *while they celebrated*,  
with *food still in their mouth and greed unsated*,  
God’s *anger rose against them*, and they died;  
he slew their *strongest men, their flower* and pride.
14. But still they *sinned and did not cease to grieve him*;  
*despite his wonders they would not believe him*.  
Their *days he ended, and like fog they vanished*;  
with *sudden death and terror they were punished*.  
But when he *slew them, they would once again*  
return to *him, repenting* of their sin.
15. Then they *remembered God, their Rock and Saviour*,  
the *Most High God* who *with redeeming favour*  
had *brought them from the land that had enslaved them*.  
They *flattered him, yet thought that he would save them*.  
Though with their *lips they might fine words express*,  
they scorned his *covenant in their faithlessness*.

16. Yet he in *pity and in lovingkindness*  
forgave *them* their *iniquity* and *blindness*,  
did *not* destroy them *when his wrath* was burning,  
but *he* restrained the *anger they kept* earning,  
remembering *that they were but mortal men*,  
a passing *breeze that will not* come again.
17. How often *they would all rebel and* leave him!  
How *often* they would *in the desert* grieve him!  
They *kept on* testing *him, his love* denying,  
the *Holy One of Israel* defying,  
and they forgot *the glorious* day when he  
redeemed his *people from their* enemy.
18. Through wondrous *deeds he Israel* delivered;  
he *turned to* blood all *Egypt's mighty* rivers.  
By *swarms of* flies its *people were* tormented,  
and *with a* plague of *frogs they were* confronted.  
Their crops he *to the hungry* locust gave;  
their fields were *left with nothing* they could save.
19. With hail and *sleet their vines and trees* he shattered;  
their *cattle* he with *bolts of lightning* scattered.  
He *loosed on* them his *wrath and indignation*,  
brought *them* distress and *widespread* devastation.  
Destroying *angels he* among them sent,  
who brought great *ruin everywhere* they went.
20. Free rein he *gave to his* consuming anger;  
from *death he* did not *spare them any longer*  
but *gave them* up to *plague and* devastation.  
He *in the* tents of *Ham* brought *desolation*;  
their firstborn *he struck down, and* they all died –  
their eldest *sons, all Egypt's* joy and pride.
21. Then like a *shepherd he his people* guided,  
and *in the* desert *they in him* confided.  
He *led his* flock, and *without fear* they followed,  
for *all their* foes the *raging sea* had swallowed.  
Thus to his *holy land* he brought his own,  
to hills and *dales which his right* hand had won.
22. Before them *he drove out the* heathen nations,  
apportioned to the *tribes their* habitations,  
and *in their* tents they *safely found* a dwelling.  
Yet *they, against the Most High* God rebelling,  
cast off his *laws and him* no longer served,  
and, like their *fathers, from his* ways they swerved.

23. They like a *faulty bow, all warped and twisting*,  
provoked *God's anger when, in sin persisting*,  
they *with their heathen worship made him* jealous;  
in *servicing worthless idols they were* zealous.  
Great was *God's wrath when he saw* them rebel.  
He *utterly rejected* Israel.
24. From *Shiloh's tent, his dwelling, he* departed,  
forsook *those who were faithless and false-hearted*.  
He *to the clutches of the foe* surrendered  
his *holy ark, the symbol of his splendour*.  
In *anger that his word had been* ignored,  
he gave his *people over* to the sword.
25. Their young men *were consumed as flames* drew near them;  
their *maidens* had no *wedding songs* to cheer them.  
Their *priests fell* by the *sword of heathen* nations;  
their *widows* could not *voice their lamentations*.  
The land was *ravaged by the* godless foe,  
and all *endured great misery* and woe.
26. He then turned *back to those he had* forsaken;  
as *from deep slumber did the Lord* awaken,  
just *like a warrior who with wine* is heated.  
He *struck his foes until they all* retreated,  
and as they *fled, he at their backs* took aim;  
he put them *all to everlasting* shame.
27. The tents of *Joseph's offspring* he rejected,  
nor was *his house in Ephraim* erected.  
But *he chose Judah's tribe in his* good pleasure –  
Mount *Zion, which he loved, his* pride and treasure.  
He built his *temple like the heavenly* heights,  
firm like the *earth, enduring* by his might.
28. He chose his *servant David, and he* crowned him;  
he *took him from the sheepfolds* where he found him.  
From *tending ewes and newborn lambs* he brought him;  
to *make him Jacob's shepherd, God* had sought him.  
And *David led his flock with* skilful hand;  
with *upright heart he governed* all the land.

## PSALM 79

*A psalm of Asaph.*

Geneva, 1543/1551

1. Your land, O God, the *nations have* invaded;  
by *heathen* hordes your *heritage* was raided.  
*Look how they have, without restraint or pity,*  
*defiled your temple and destroyed your city.*  
To *carrion* bird and beast  
they've *offered* as a feast  
the *saints they led to* slaughter;  
around *Jerusalem,*  
with *none to bury* them,  
their *blood was poured like* water.
2. We are a taunt to *those around us* dwelling.  
When *will you come, the enemy expelling?*  
*O hear us, LORD! Will you extinguish* never  
*your jealous anger? Will it burn forever?*  
Your *wrath, O LORD,* pour out  
on *all who* your name flout.  
Consume *the godless* nations,  
for *greedily* have they  
seized *Jacob as their* prey  
and *razed his* habitation.
3. Do not recall the *misdeeds of our* fathers,  
nor *hold their* guilt against us, *LORD,* but rather  
*show your compassion to your humbled* nation  
and *come with haste, O God of our* salvation!  
*O LORD,* increase your fame,  
the *glory* of your name;  
free *us from all* oppression.  
Have *mercy* on your own;  
for *your name's sake* alone  
forgive *us our* transgression.
4. Why should the heathen, *Israel deriding,*  
ask *in contempt, "Where may their God be hiding?"*  
*Arise, O Lord! Strike in* retaliation;  
the *blood of saints* avenge *before the* nations!  
And *may you* from your throne  
hear *how the prisoners* groan.  
Your *greatness* manifesting,  
preserve *us* as of old.  
Repay *them sevenfold*  
who *taunt you with their* jesting.
5. We shall forever *joyful praises* render  
to *you, O LORD,* our *Shepherd and* Defender.  
*We as your* flock, your *chosen congregation,*  
shall *give you* thanks through *every* generation.

## PSALM 80

*For the director of music. To the tune of "The Lilies of the Covenant."  
Of Asaph. A psalm.*

Geneva, 1562

1. *O Israel's Shepherd, hear our pleading;  
you who all Joseph's flock are leading,  
you throned above the cherubim!  
Shine forth before your Ephraim,  
show Benjamin, Manasseh light!  
Come, save us, God! Stir up your might.*
2. *How long yet in your indignation  
will you ignore our supplication?  
Tears are the bread of Israel;  
you gave us tears to drink as well.  
You made us suffer strife and scorn,  
and we our neighbours' jeers have borne.*
3. *LORD God of hosts, O come, restore us  
and cause your face to shine before us.  
From servitude in Egypt's land  
you once brought out a vine to plant,  
that it might thrive for evermore  
where other nations dwelt before.*
4. *You cleared the ground for it to flourish;  
your vine took root and did not perish  
but filled the land so that its shade  
a shelter for the mountains made  
and, covering many mighty trees,  
spread to the River and the Sea.*
5. *Why did you break its walls asunder?  
All passers-by its grapes now plunder.  
Your vine is ravaged by the boar,  
and other beasts its fruit devour.  
Return, O God, and show your grace;  
look down from heaven, your dwelling place.*
6. *O God of hosts, grant preservation  
and save your vine from devastation.  
See how they in their savage ire  
have cut it down, burned it with fire.  
O let them perish in their fear  
when you with your rebuke appear.*
7. *But let your hand, so great in power,  
your aid and favour freely shower  
upon the man at your right hand  
and let him there beside you stand.  
You raised him up, the son of man,  
to work out your salvation's plan.*

8. *O then we shall forsake you never!*  
*Revive us, and we shall forever*  
*call on your name, before you bow.*  
*LORD God of hosts, restore us now*  
*and cause your face to shine on us.*  
*LORD, save us in your faithfulness.*

## PSALM 81

*For the director of music. According to gittith. Of Asaph.*

Geneva, 1562

1. Sing a *psalm of joy*;  
shout with *holy fervour*.  
All your *skills employ*;  
*with your heart and soul*  
*Jacob's God extol*.  
*He is our preserver*.
2. O all *Israel*,  
voice your *jubilation*.  
Let your *music swell*;  
*harp and timbrel play*.  
*Show in every way*  
*joy and exultation*.
3. With the *trumpet's tune*  
herald, *in due season*,  
feast-days *of the moon*.  
*Let its echo sound*.  
*To let joy abound*  
*God gives every reason*.
4. Keep by *God's command*  
your *commemoration*.  
When in *Egypt's land*  
*captive Israel*  
*did in bondage dwell*,  
*he gave liberation*.
5. "When you *served as slaves*  
of the *ruthless Pharaoh*,  
I, the *God who saves*,  
*listened to your plea*  
*and I set you free*  
*from distress and sorrow*.
6. "In the *worst of plights*  
comfort *I provided*.  
On Mount *Sinai's heights*  
*I gave you my law*.  
*You at Meribah*  
*tested were and guided*.
7. "O my *people, hear!*  
Let my *warnings reach you*.  
My *commands revere!*  
*Would you but obey,*  
*not to evil stray*.  
*Listen as I teach you*.

8. “You shall *not bow down*  
showing *reverence*  
to mere *gods of stone*.  
*You shall hate and flee*  
*the idolatry*  
*of the heathen nations*.”
9. “I, LORD *God of truth*,  
I from *Egypt* freed you.  
Open *wide your mouth*;  
*put your trust* in me.  
*Know that I am he*  
*who will richly feed you*.”
10. “By their *wilful choice*  
they my *love rejected*;  
they *ignored my voice*.  
*Israel did not*  
*heed what they were taught*.  
*They my law neglected*.”
11. “To their *stubborn way*  
Israel *I surrendered*.  
Would they *but obey*  
*and return to me!*  
*O then I would be*  
*Israel’s defender!*”
12. “Then I *would in haste*  
*Israel deliver*.  
I would *soon lay waste*  
*the oppressor’s land*  
*and with mighty hand*  
*thwart the foe’s endeavour*.”
13. “As their *just reward*,  
all the *hostile nations*  
who *despise the LORD*  
*would before his face*  
*cringe in their disgrace*  
*and humiliation*.”
14. “With *abundance* I  
*Israel would nourish*.  
You I *would supply*  
*with the finest wheat*,  
*honey pure and sweet*.  
*Israel would flourish!*”

## PSALM 82

*A psalm of Asaph.*

Geneva, 1551

1. In solemn court the "gods" assemble;  
before the Lord they stand and tremble.  
There in their midst he takes his place  
and they his righteous judgment face:  
"You judge unjustly. How much longer  
will you with falsehood rouse my anger?  
How long yet will you partial be  
to those whose wickedness you see?"
2. "Defend the weak and the afflicted;  
ensure that orphans are protected.  
The rights of the oppressed maintain.  
Deliver them from wicked men.  
But, look, the poor are left forsaken;  
the order of the world is shaken.  
There is no justice, all are fools,  
and everywhere the darkness rules.
3. "You all are 'gods,' as I have told you;  
yes, sons of God Most High I've called you.  
But as mere mortals you will die,  
for you my just decrees defy.  
In spite of all your proud pretences,  
you'll fall like any other princes."  
O God, arise! The earth now judge:  
all nations are your heritage!

## PSALM 83

*A song. A psalm of Asaph.*

Geneva, 1562

1. God, *be not silent, nor sit still!*  
Stir up your might for Israel.  
For, look, your foes prepare for fighting;  
they raise their heads, for war uniting.  
The flames of hatred they keep fanning,  
your chosen people's downfall planning.
2. They say, "Come, let us wipe them out;  
let Israel be put to rout.  
Let all their nation be defeated,  
its name from memory deleted."  
They are with one accord conspiring,  
the fall of Israel desiring.
3. Look, Edom and the Ishmaelites,  
the Hagarenes and Moabites,  
with the Philistines and the Tyrians  
join Ammon's tribe and the Assyrians;  
Gebal combines with Agag's remnants.  
They give support to Lot's descendants.
4. Treat them as you did Midian;  
as Sisera, that warrior slain  
when in a woman's tent he sheltered;  
as those who at the Kishon faltered –  
all Jabin's men, who, stripped of splendour,  
were dung left on the fields of Endor.
5. Like Oreb and like Zeëb, LORD,  
let foes receive their due reward;  
like Zebah and Zalmunnah, humbled  
when to their downfall they both stumbled –  
those who had said, "God's own green pastures  
we will possess as lords and masters."
6. O God, make them like whirling dust,  
like chaff before a windy gust.  
As fire consumes the woods like tinder  
and turns the hills to ash and cinder,  
so with your storms, O God, subdue them;  
with frightful hurricanes pursue them.

7. LORD, *on their heads heap such great shame*  
that *they will all confess your name.*  
May *they be crushed and doomed forever;*  
in *their disgrace let them discover*  
that *you are LORD, uniquely glorious,*  
that *you are everywhere victorious.*

## PSALM 84

*For the director of music. According to gittith.  
Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.*

Geneva, 1562

1. O LORD *of hosts*, almighty King,  
the *praises of your* house I sing.  
How *lovely is your habitation!*  
Your *holy* courts I *yearn to see*;  
faint *with desire*, I *long to be*  
where *pilgrims* join in *celebration*.  
My *heart and* flesh with *joyful* shout  
to *you, the living* God, cry out.
2. The sparrow *finds a home* to rest;  
the *swallow builds herself* a nest  
to *rear her young beside your* altar.  
Your *temple* is their *safe* abode,  
O LORD *of hosts*, my *King, my* God.  
How *blest are* those who *there find* shelter.  
Your *house, O LORD*, is *their* delight;  
they *sing your praises* day and night.
3. How *blest are those whose strength* you are,  
who *seek the ways that* from afar  
lead *them to Zion's holy* places.  
As *they through* Baca's *valley* pass,  
they *make that* barren *wilderness*  
a *place of* springs, a *lush* oasis.  
The *early* rain on *it* descends,  
and *pools refresh the* desert sands.
4. They make *their way from strength* to strength  
until *in Zion* they at length  
appear *before their God and* Saviour.  
LORD *God Almighty, hear my* plea;  
O *God of* Jacob, *answer* me.  
Bestow *on me* your *grace and* favour.  
O *God, our* Shield, from *heaven* above  
bless *your anointed* with your love.
5. LORD, one *day in your dwelling* place  
is *better than a* thousand days  
outside *the courts of your* salvation.  
I would *much* rather *stand and* wait  
as *humble* servant *at your* gate,  
the *threshold* of your *habitation*,  
than, *far from* there, to  *dwell within*  
the *tents of* wickedness and sin.

6. The LORD *his goodness has* revealed:  
he *is to us a* sun and shield.  
With *grace and honour he* delights us.  
He *shows his* mercy, *as of* old,  
and *no good* gift will *he withhold*  
from *those whose* walk is *just and* righteous.  
O LORD whose word is *firm and* true,  
how *blest are those who* trust in you.

## PSALM 85

*For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.*

Geneva, 1562

1. You *showed your favour to your land*, O LORD;  
you *Jacob's fortunes graciously* restored.  
Your *people* you then *from their guilt set* free,  
for you *forgave all their iniquity*.  
You *did not* let your *indignation* last;  
your *fury* and *displeasure* quickly passed.  
Now, God our *Saviour*, *hear us* as we pray.  
*Again restore us! Take your wrath away.*
  
2. LORD, *will your blazing anger* never cease?  
*Will it go on forever* and increase?  
*Will you not* once again our strength *renew*,  
that *all your people may rejoice in* you?  
Your *never-failing love and mercy* show  
and *your salvation, LORD, on us* bestow.  
To us your *constant faithfulness* unfold,  
your *lovingkindness as in days of old.*
  
3. Let *me now* hear what *God the LORD* will speak,  
for *to his saints who him in* worship seek  
he *will proclaim his peace and righteousness* –  
but *let them* not to *foolish ways* regress.  
He *surely* with his *saving help* is near  
to *those who* serve him and *his name* revere,  
that in our *land his glory* may prevail  
and *he may* there among *his people* dwell.
  
4. *Unfailing love* meets *constant faithfulness*,  
while *righteousness and peace* embrace and kiss.  
Up *from the ground* true *loyalty sprouts* forth;  
down *from the heavens* *justice views the* earth.  
Rich *blessings* will the *LORD on us* bestow;  
with *plenteous* crops our *land will* overflow.  
Before him *justice will its* banner sway  
when *for his footsteps it* prepares the way.

## PSALM 86

*A prayer of David.*

Geneva, 1543/1551

1. Turn to *me, O LORD, and* heed me;  
see how *poor I am, how* needy.  
I who *serve you constantly*  
trust in *you to rescue* me.  
Guard my *life, show me your* favour,  
for you *are my God and* Saviour.  
Lord, your *servant's joy* renew,  
for I *lift my soul to* you.
2. You forgive *us our transgressions*  
in your *mercy and compassion*;  
you *abound in love and* grace.  
In my *woes I seek your* face.  
You, O *LORD, will hear my* pleading.  
There's no *power yours* exceeding.  
You, O *God, how great* you are,  
great your *deeds beyond* compare!
3. All the *nations will* adore you;  
they will *come and bow* before you,  
bringing *glory to your* name,  
for none *equals you in* fame.  
Lord *supreme in might and* splendour,  
glorious *are your works of* wonder;  
glorious *is your heavenly* throne.  
You are *God – yes, you* alone.
4. Teach me, *in your ways* direct me;  
in your *truth, O LORD, instruct* me.  
Let it *be my heart's one* aim  
to *revere your holy* name.  
Thankful *for your grace and* favour,  
I will *praise your name* forever.  
In your *love you came to* save  
me, your *servant, from the* grave.
5. See the *proud pursue and* hound me;  
those who *seek my life* surround me.  
They for *you have no* regard.  
But in *you I trust, O Lord*.  
You are *rich in love and* favour,  
slow to *anger, patient* ever;  
boundless *is your faithfulness*.  
Pity *me in my* distress.

6. Strengthen *me in my affliction*;  
grant your *servant your protection*.  
You whom *I rely upon*,  
rescue *me, your handmaid's son*.  
Give me *proof of your great favour*;  
show my *foes you are my Saviour*.  
Shame them *all and let them see*  
how you *help and comfort me*.

## PSALM 87

*Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. A song.*

Geneva, 1562

- 1 Our gracious *God has laid secure foundations*  
and *built his city on Mount Zion's heights*.  
He loves her *gates and he in them delights*  
more *than in all the towns of Jacob's nation*.
2. What glorious *things, O city of God's favour,*  
are *said of you, proclaimed in joyful tone:*  
"I number *Egypt, even Babylon,*  
*among all those who know me as their Saviour.*
3. "The *Cushite, the Philistine, and the Tyrian*  
I *will now in my register inscribe*  
and say of *every nation, every tribe,*  
"This *one was born within the walls of Zion.*"
4. It rightly *will be said of God's own city,*  
"This *one and that one were in Zion born,*  
and as the *LORD Most High himself has sworn,*  
he *will uphold her in his love and pity.*"
5. This will the *LORD write in the roll of nations:*  
"These, *born in Zion, all to me belong.*"  
With joyful *music they proclaim in song:*  
"In *Zion are the springs of my salvation.*"

## PSALM 88

*A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah. For the director of music.  
According to mahalath leannoth. A maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.*

Geneva, 1562

1. O LORD, the God who rescues me,  
I day and night cry out before you.  
O turn to me as I implore you  
to be attentive to my plea.  
My soul is trouble-filled and weary;  
the darkness of the grave draws near me.
2. Like those descending to the pit,  
I am among the dead forsaken.  
My strength and vigour you have taken;  
with misery I am beset.  
Cut off, as from your presence banished,  
I have from your remembrance vanished.
3. You plunged me deep into the grave,  
and in the darkest pit I languish.  
Your fury burdens me with anguish,  
and you engulf me with your waves.  
Of my close friends you have bereft me;  
they shunned me and in horror left me.
4. As in a prison put away,  
I have no prospect of escaping.  
My eyes grow dim with grief and weeping.  
Yet, LORD, to you I turn each day  
and spread my hands in supplication  
as I cry out for consolation.
5. Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Do they with praise rise up before you  
and for your steadfast love adore you?  
How can your goodness make them glad?  
Is not Abaddon, dark and sombre,  
the land where none your deeds remember?
6. But I cry out to you, O LORD;  
my prayer I offer every morning.  
O LORD, why do you keep on scorning  
my fervent pleas, as if unheard?  
Why do you cast me off and leave me?  
Why do you hide your face to grieve me?

7. From *childhood I've been* close to death,  
forlorn, afflicted, badly shaken,  
and by *your* terrors overtaken;  
my *life is but a* feeble breath.  
I am engulfed by *your great* fury;  
your *onslaughts* leave me *weak and* weary.
  
8. Your *terrors like a* mighty flood  
have *overwhelmed and almost* drowned me,  
and *all day* long they *surge* around me.  
You *bring me* bitter solitude.  
I'm *shunned by* those I *loved so* dearly;  
my *closest* friend is *darkness* dreary.

## PSALM 89

A maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.

Geneva, 1562

1. I will forever sing of your great love, O LORD,  
to ages yet to come make known your faithful word,  
for with my mouth I will to every generation  
proclaim your faithfulness in joyful adoration.  
Your covenant love stands firm; it will not wane or waver,  
for you in heaven itself established it forever.
2. You said, "I've made a covenant with my chosen one;  
to David as my servant I my love have shown;  
for I to him have sworn, 'Your offspring I will favour,  
I will establish your descendants' reign forever.  
Your kingdom will endure, for I laid its foundations,  
and I will build your throne throughout all generations.'"
3. O LORD, the heavens extol the wonders of your ways;  
the holy ones in their assembly sing your praise.  
Who in their mighty host compares with you in splendour?  
They all before your throne to you their homage render.  
O LORD, who is like you? Who else has power unbounded?  
You are the mighty God by faithfulness surrounded.
4. You rule the swelling tides, the surging of the sea,  
and on the roaring waves impose tranquillity.  
Proud Rahab you have crushed, its carcass you have shattered;  
you with your mighty arm your enemies have scattered.  
Both earth and skies are yours, for yours is all creation;  
the world with all it holds you placed on its foundation.
5. You made both north and south and every mountain height;  
Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon glory in your might.  
Your arm, your strong right hand, evokes their jubilation.  
True righteousness and justice are your throne's foundation.  
The love and faithfulness that will endure forever  
before you make their way as heralds of your favour.
6. Blest are the people who acclaim you as their King,  
who know the festal shout and of your mercy sing.  
They walk in radiant light, before your face rejoicing;  
the praises of your name they all day long keep voicing.  
Your wondrous deeds they laud, your righteousness recalling;  
they go their way with joy, your steadfast love extolling.

7. *You are our strength and glory, you exalt our horn,  
and by your favour, LORD, our enemies we scorn.  
To you belongs our shield, our king so great and glorious;  
you, LORD, came to his aid and you made him victorious.  
To you our praise we sing, to you we homage render,  
O Israel's Holy One, our powerful Defender.*
8. *Of old, you to the faithful in a vision said:  
"I have exalted him by whom you will be led;  
one of your own I have selected and appointed:  
my servant David, with my holy oil anointed.  
My arm will make him strong, my right hand will protect him.  
No foes will humble him, no wicked man afflict him.*
9. *"Before him I will go and crush his enemies.  
His horn I will exalt; my love will never cease.  
My name will be his strength; it will forsake him never,  
and I will set his hand on seas and mighty rivers.  
He will acknowledge me and cry in adoration,  
'My Father and my God, the Rock of my salvation!'*
10. *"I also will appoint him as my firstborn son,  
earth's most exalted king, in fame surpassed by none.  
My steadfast love for him I will maintain forever;  
the covenant made with him I will not break or sever.  
In keeping with my pledge, the throne to David given  
will stand forever firm, enduring like the heavens.*
11. *"But should his sons forsake and disobey my law,  
ignoring my commands, not holding them in awe,  
then I will punish them, flog them for their transgression,  
but will not take from him my love and my compassion.  
My covenant will stand firm, my vow will not be broken,  
nor will I change a word of what my lips have spoken.*
12. *"I once for all have sworn by my own holiness.  
I will not break my word, but David I will bless;  
his throne will evermore from heir to heir be handed,  
for like the sun it will endure as I commanded.  
And like the moon, the faithful witness in the heavens,  
his reign will be secure. My promise I have given."*
13. *But your anointed one you in your wrath have spurned;  
him you have now cast off, against him you have turned.  
The covenant made with him you have repudiated;  
his crown lies in the dust, defiled and violated.  
LORD, you have breached his walls, brought widespread devastation,  
reduced his citadels to scenes of desolation.*

14. See *how all passers-by* have *robbed and* plundered him;  
he is *his neighbours' scorn*, enduring bitter shame.  
The *right hand of his foes* you *have in war* exalted;  
they *cheered in triumph* when *against him* they revolted.  
His *sword* you *have turned* back, his *enemies* have felled him,  
and *in his many battles* you *have not upheld* him.
15. O LORD, you *have removed the sceptre* from his hand,  
cast *to the ground his throne*, him *from your presence* banned.  
You *have cut short his youth*, his *vigour* you *have taken*,  
enveloped him *in shame*, and *left him all forsaken*.  
How long, O LORD? How long will you *from him* be hiding?  
How long before your *blazing wrath* will be *subsiding*?
16. Remember, LORD, my life, its *brief and* fleeting span.  
O *for what vanity* have you *created* man!  
For *who can live and* see the *light of day* forever?  
Who *can outwit the grave* and *meet its terrors* never?  
Lord, *where is now your love*? Why *has it waned and* wavered?  
Where *is the faithfulness* that *once you swore to* David?
17. Remember *how I bear* within my heart, O Lord,  
the *insults and the taunts* that *I have* long endured.  
Your *servant has been* mocked and *jeered by all the* nations;  
foes *taunted your anointed* with *their provocations*.  
Yet *praise and worship* God! His *mercy will not* waver.  
Yes, Amen and Amen. Praised *be the LORD* forever!