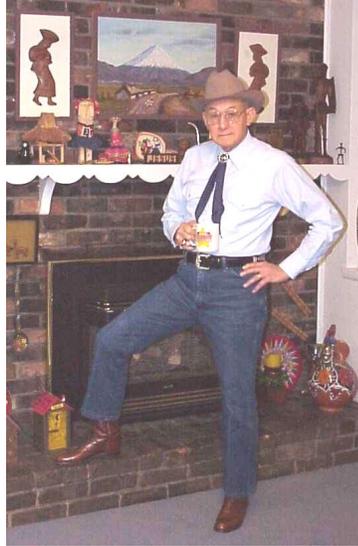


Poetic Reflections on the Psalms



Rex H. Henderson

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By
Rex H. Henderson

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Psalm I

The Good man and the Bad man

Happy is the man who obeys
The breath of God that sweeps across
The strings of Law and Prophecy
For he shall never suffer loss.

How fortunate is the one who
Lives beneath the tender graces of God,
And does not walk, stand or sit
With people disgracing God.

Hidden springs of strength are found
Through meditation of Jehovah's ways.
My love to lose, my will is His,
And by that loss I'm free to praise.

The fruitless, rootless wicked life,
The chaff which the wind blows away,
The nothingness of the wicked
Walking in darkness perish away.

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Psalm II

Who's in Charge?

The theme is God's gift to the King
Of Israel as God's representative.
But the kings of the earth revolt;
Their just rewards to receive.

Their disturbance promotes war,
Rebellion and chaos on the earth.
While God in Heaven is amused
And calm at their trifling worth.

His calmness passes into wrath
For He has set His King before
The world of rebels. His throne
Is firm, like a rock forever more.

"You are my son; today I have
Begotten you." The King living
As a man reveals the Messiah
Although David had misgivings.

The Stone cut out without hands
Has dashed against the images
Of clay and silver and gold and
Broken them all through the ages.

Now therefore O kings be wise
"Kiss the Son," worship now,
Take refuge in Jehovah.
Know His love. Make a vow.

Psalm III

A Morning Psalm

David's first waking thought of the
Morning renewed the acuteness
Of troubles. His enemies were
Taunting, the nation cared less.

But he sees God as a shield around
Him who can cheer his mind,
Restore his dignity and give
Stability amid pressures unkind.

Through experience David believes
That God will answer his prayers.
When in the jaws of calamity,
Troubles causes not faith to falter.

The man whose feet knows the road
Can find the road in the darkness.
Deliverance is in God's power.
But it requires faithfulness.

This is a prayer of a king whose
Friends had deserted him too.
A greater King prayed, "Father forgive
Them, for they know not what they do."

Psalm IV

An Evening Psalm

With an impatient, heartbroken
Plea, David declares his danger.
“God, you have delivered before,
Now, rescue me from the anger.”

You have planted me, but my
Enemies have trampled me under.
Surely, You will deliver me now.
Let me sense your awe and wonder.

But my enemies are flouting and
Mocking us with vanity and lies,
And sacrificing respect and trust
And You are no longer nigh.

But the glad heart in Jehovah
Lays itself down in peace and sleep,
Though foes stand about, David
Is safe, secure, and confident, asleep.

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Psalm V

The Presence of God

Above all desires, the Psalmist
Yearns for the presence of God
Which comes by faith, love and
Righteousness as gifts from God.

By God's love he says, "My King
And my God." While prayer passes
Into swift assurance, he speaks with
Confidence which only love surpasses.

For him God is holy and hates
The impure, foul deities
Who snuff up sensual impurities
As acceptable sacrifices.

But the fugitive who shelters in God
Is covered by realities of His grace.
By walking in faith, love and righteousness,
You walk with angels in praise.

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Psalm VI

In the Agony of Pain

In aching body and agitated mind,
David prays in anguish for his life.
Soon it will be too late. In the
Grave there is no praise or life.

How long, how long, I am withering
Like a fading flower? The words
Of the Prince of sufferers comes
To mind as we hear these words.

God heard the dripping of his tears,
And he felt God's Holy presence.
Now enemies, lest they be ashamed,
Should return to God in repentance.

From the troubled heart of the singer
God's presence turned his tears
Into rainbows, sadness into joy,
And his gloomy heart into cheer.

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Psalm VII

The Trumpet Sound of a Victor

Faith in God gives David refuge
And boldness, believing his foes
Will be judged, wrongs will purged,
And peace again shall glow.

There is no depression of spirit like some
Soft flute, but the trumpet peal
Of judgment is a note of triumph.
We are blessed when we kneel.

God is a righteous Judge, but is
Pictured as an armed and angry
Foe. He sharpens his sword making
Ready for Judgment to purify.

His bow is bent, the arrows fitted
And the tips treated with fire.
Imminent judgment is at hand.
Sin always raises holy ire.

When God is revealed as the most
High, supreme over all creatures,
Praise for God's righteousness is
Worthily hymned by voices pure.

Psalm VIII

The Splendor of His Name

Nature's signs and man's dignity
Begins and ends in God's glory.
The midnight's blazing sky crowned
With a halo reflects God's Majesty.

Only on earth is the utterance
Of His name. The prattle of childhood,
If only a cry, is more powerful
Than the starry sky in blazing hood.

Beneath these awesome suns and stars
Man is dwarfed, but God is mindful
Of him, visits him, and speaks to him,
As king of the earth he should be thankful.

The Psalm ends and begins with adoring
Wonder. Through man and nature,
God's name shines glorious through
All the earth that each heart may be pure.

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PSALM IX

Praise, Triumph and Confidence

The Psalm rushes out like a river
Through a dam in warm praises
Expressing gratitude for deliverance's,
And for God's merciful ways.

“With praises I sing unto you,
O MOST HIGH.” The nations are judged,
The enemies scattered and perished.
To your eternal reign I am pledged.

As God's creative word is all powerful
So His destructive word sweeps away.
The purpose of the Psalm is not destruction,
But to convict man of his sinful ways.

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PSALM X

Actor in World Affairs

The Psalmist cannot sit idly by
While sin is destroying a nation.
He begins at the top with God.
Why do you not give attention?

Through pride and greed of the wicked,
The poor and helpless are overrun
They sigh and cry for deliverance
But there seems to be none.

The lawless condition of violence,
Robbery, and murder where “blood
Touched blood” was prevalent.
Righteousness must be understood.

So the Psalmist prays for God’s little
Flock in the midst of wolves to be
Spared for only He can rectify,
And keep a remnant holy.

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PSALM XI

The Best Refuge

Amid the wiles of persecution,
David has found a safe asylum
From the enemies and his doubters,
And to this place they will not come.

But earthly counselors suggested
Flying to the mountain for a break,
But the enemy waits with drawn bows
Why risk life when it's at stake?

God hadn't turned aside. He was
In His holy palace scrutinizing
The works of men, and is aware
Of their schemes and uprising.

The trial between the two classes
Show that the righteous are tried,
And proved, but the wicked are
Found to be like base metal.

Their end will be fire and burning sulfur.
Unlike wrath, there is the blessed hope,
For the upright shall see God's face,
And man in trouble need not grope.

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PSALM XII

The Righteous suffer for the Healing of Society

When a soul lives close to God,
There's deep feeling and suffering,
When the ear hears the babble of
Empty speech, corrupt talking.

Faith intercedes in compassionate
Prayer for Divine intervention
Nothing less than Divine surgery
Can lift society to ascension.

Oppression of the meek, the sighing
Of the needy brings God into the field.
"Now will I arise" Faith determines
The extent of God's gift when we kneel.

The cleansing of evil society is like
Molten silver free from dross clearing
Away the impurities of men's words
Is like a silver shower with cleansing.

The only hope for society is the
Militant, prayerful Church to stand
Amidst wide-flowing evil
In evangelism to purify our land.

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PSALM XIII

The Magic of Faith

It seems like a long dry season
To the Psalmist who is weary.
He has suffered in agonizing
Prayer with no answer to his query.

The cries of the suffering people
Haven't been answered. Where's God?
Hope has turned to despair, faith to doubt.
Enemies triumph and he goes to the sod.

Our timetable is not God's. We turn
The rope and say, God you jump.
The grace of patience is incomplete.
When schemes fail, we overtrump.

In the midst of deepest distress,
The Psalmist finds confidence.
Fainting faith remembers God's
Blessings, and turns to His duress.

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PSALM XIV

A Corrupt World and a Righteous God

Only a fool in his heart declares
There is no God. The creed of the fool
Is in his heart, and the fruit of his life
Is corrupt. He is an atheist in ridicule.

The Lord makes a search for righteous
People like Diogenes with his lantern
Walking the streets in broad day light
Looking for an honest man to discern.

A deluge of evil impacts the finding,
And God finds depravity of the race
Rank and rotten like a carcass whose
Morals and smell corrupts every place.

The atheist are confused that God is
With the company of His Son whom
The humble trust for salvation
And escape from eternal doom.

“No eye has seen, nor ear has heard,
No mind conceived what God
Has prepared for those who love Him.”
And who now sleep beneath the sod.

The Ultimate Revelation

In times past God has spoken
In disclosure of Himself
Through creation, law, history, poetry
And the prophets about Himself,

Fragmented, splintered, fractional
But the message was incomplete.
God has never kept silent
Even though the message was deplete.

And God desiring to be heard,
“Has spoken to us by His Son.”
The new age of God had dawned
In Christ Jesus His beloved Son.

Speaking with authority He says,
“I am come that you might have life.”
In the fullness of time, God spoke
Through His Son for in Him was life.

Of the universe He is Creator,
“For by Him all things were created.”
The container of the contained,
The Heir of all things appointed.

Alongside the Father “He is the
The radiance of God’s glory.”
The fullness of God dwells in Him.
In flesh He shares God’s glory,

Alongside humanities He purged
Our sins providing full access
To God when accepted by faith,
Blazing the trail to holiness.

God has exalted Him above every
Name that every knee should bow,
Every tongue confess Jesus as Lord;
For man there is no greater vow.

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His Holy Feet

“Did His feet in ancient times
Once walk upon our mountains green
And was the Holy Lamb of God
On America’s pleasant pastures seen?”

Did not the revolutionary cry
Of truth, honesty and virtue
Bless our culture and mores,
Or did His presence bid adieu?

Wasn’t His presence upon our shores,
Who welcomed the Pilgrims to our site?
What about Yorktown, and the framing
Of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

Did not His Spirit give guidance
In the founding of Christian Schools?
Did not His teachings influence
Public Schools without ridicule?

Has not His Divine presence
Effected marriage and the home,
And public and private worship?
But how true is this down-home?

Has His presence been ignored?
Have we traded upon His grace?
Has man become his own god?
Will not we meet Him face to face?

Leaves and Life

Scampering, dancing, yielding
To the cadence of gently blasts
The leaves are having a jamboree
Not knowing their destiny till last.

They pile about the brush and trees
Then settle down to rest a bit
And finally enrich the soil
Leaving behind their benefits.

Our lives are about the same,
In youth we dream and dance
And flutter toward maturity
Seeking the whole world to enhance.

Then in peak of muscle and mind
We labor through time's little while
And then retire in golden age,
The sweetest journey of the mile.

Then we'll bid goodbye for a day
To those so wonderfully dear
To awaken in His Spirit
Where we will never shed a tear.

“Sweetly My Soul Shall Rest”

Like a vicious lion stalking prey
Satan buffets every passing day
The storms and pressures never cease
Weary and worn our battered race.

The centuries wreak with evil.
Across the world it takes its toll.
Creatures suffer in earthly tents
War, disease and death the goal.

Vexed, and wearily we groan.
In death no thanks or memory
Oh, that death be terminated
Come! Come! Redeeming glory.

Weary, worn and robbed by sin
Is there a final resting place
A safe haven where life begins
Free from sin and Satan’s disgrace?

Can it be that hope is vain,
To always be in restlessness?
Is there no rest for weary souls
Where immortal life would bless?

Oh, my soul! Look to Love and Grace
Look to Jesus Who prepares a place
“Come!” said He, “I’ll give you rest.”
Come, give up the earthly chase.

And at last we’ll sing:

“Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o’er shaded
Sweetly my soul shall rest.”

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Lee and family so sorry for the loss of your precious father. I know you have enjoyed many wonderful years with him. We share your grief. Hope you enjoy the poem.

The Sentence of Life

Children may play in make-believe
World. “When I was a child, I thought
As a child...as a man I put
Away childish things.” As we ought.

Jesus introduces stern realities.
Every man is under the sentence
Of life. The way of the broad gate
Is self destruction, self indulgence,

Broad to begin, but narrows to
Destruction under crushing pressure.
The narrow gate by repentance and faith,
But widens to abundant life secure.

The Pharisees refused to face reality.
They chose the broad way, indiscreet,
Given to rituals and duties. They reminded
Jesus of children playing in the street.

Like Children playing, they played at
Religion. They took the broad way
Of shifting sand where angry roars the
Storm, and the house is swept away.

Jesus calls aloud in the streets. “O heedless
Ones, how long will you choose to mock.”
Be like the wise man who built wisely
His house upon the Rock.

The Sinner's Destiny

For the souls of men the Bible
Has two destinies-heaven or hell.
Out of 264 chapters in the N. Testament
234 verses speak of eternal hell.

There are 27 Books in the N. Testament,
If life's road were 27 miles in course,
And there were 234 signs saying this road
Leads to hell, I'd change my course.

In Jeremiah, their ways shall be slippery
In the darkness. In Deut. Their feet shall
Slide in due time. In Isaiah, Hell from
Beneath will meet them as they fall.

Jesus declared, "...depart from me
You cursed, into everlasting fire...these
Shall go away into everlasting punishment."
Because sinful ways have been appeased.

But Jesus said, "He that hears and believes
On me has everlasting life and shall not
Come into condemnation, but is passed
From death unto life." In hell be not caught.

"Christ died for our sins..." "Believe on
The Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."
"To as many as received Him, to them gave
He power to become the sons of God."

I asked God to forgive and cleanse me,
To come into my heart. I promised, as shown,
To live for Him, as a Christian should,
He forgave, and claimed me as His own.