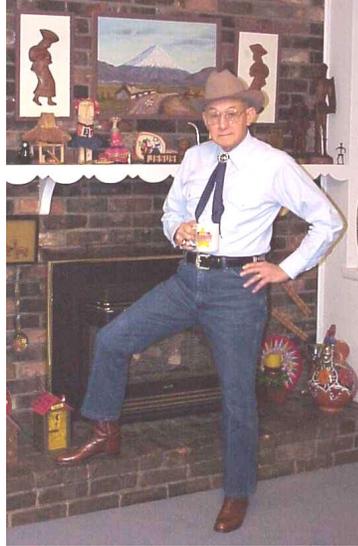


# Poetic Reflections on the Psalms



Rex H. Henderson

# Poetic Reflections on the Psalms

By

Rex H. Henderson

Psalm I.....	4
The Good man and the Bad man.....	4
Psalm II.....	5
Who's in Charge?.....	5
Psalm III.....	6
A Morning Psalm.....	6
Psalm IV.....	7
An Evening Psalm.....	7
Psalm V.....	8
The Presence of God .....	8
Psalm VI.....	9
In the Agony of Pain.....	9
Psalm VII.....	10
The Trumpet Sound of a Victor.....	10
Psalm VIII.....	11
The Splendor of His Name.....	11
PSALM IX.....	12
Praise, Triumph and Confidence.....	12
PSALM X.....	13
Actor in World Affairs.....	13
PSALM XI.....	14
The Best Refuge.....	14
PSALM XII.....	15
The Righteous suffer for the .....	15
Healing of Society.....	15
PSALM XIII.....	16
The Magic of Faith.....	16
PSALM XIV.....	17
A Corrupt World and a Righteous God.....	17
The Ultimate Revelation.....	18
His Holy Feet.....	20
Leaves and Life.....	21
“Sweetly My Soul Shall Rest”.....	22
The Sentence of Life.....	24
The Sinner's Destiny.....	25

## Poetic Reflections on the Psalms

The latest additions of *Poetic Reflections on the Psalms* can be found on the Internet at: <http://abideinchrist.com/poems/index.html>.

Poems by Rex H. Henderson (c) 2003. Anyone is free to use this material and review it, but it may not be sold under any circumstances whatsoever without the author's written consent.

## 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.

© 2003Rex Henderson

## 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

## Psalm V

### The Presence of God

Above all desires, the Psalmist  
Years 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

## **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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

## 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

## 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

# 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

# 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

## 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

## 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.

© 2003 Rex Henderson

## 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.

© 2003 Rex H. Henderson

## 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.”

© 2003 Rex Henderson

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.