

**THE PSALMS OF DAVID IN METRE:
WITH ANNOTATIONS,
EXPLAINING THE SENSE, AND
ANIMATING THE DEVOTION; PP.
1-365**

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JOHN BROWN

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THE
PSALMS OF DAVID

IN METRE:

WITH ANNOTATIONS,
EXPLAINING THE SENSE, AND ANIMATING THE DEVOTION,

BY
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THE
PSALMS OF DAVID.

PSALM I.

Perhaps this Psalm was added by Ezra, or whoever else was the collector of the others into one book. We have represented to us in it, (1.) The character of the Godly; how holy they are, abstaining from every temptation to, or appearance of, evil; and with pleasure meditating on, and endeavouring to fulfil, the whole law of God, ver. 1, 2, and how happy, planted in the nearest fellowship with Jesus, the River of life, they prosper in their lawful attempts: They never fall from their grace or profession; and they shall stand with approbation at the judgment-seat of God, ver. 3. (2.) The sinfulness and misery of the wicked: How different from, and contrary to, the godly, in their inclination, companions, exercises, and ends! How light and unsubstantial, as chaff, and ready to be hurried by the storms of infinite wrath, into the depths of hell, as cast and condemned in the righteous judgment of God! ver. 4, 5. (3.) The great reason of the happiness of saints, and of the misery of sinners. The Lord loveth the righteous, and observes and approves their inclinations and behaviour; but, as an enemy, he brings destructive vengeance upon the wicked, ver. 6. — While I sing these important lines, let my soul lift up her eyes to that great pattern of perfection, Jesus, the man of God's right hand, who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners; and who fulfilled all righteousness, magnified the law, and made it honourable for men,—for *us*. United to his person, clothed with his righteousness, and all inflamed and animated with his redeeming love, shed abroad in my heart, let me examine myself as in his sight; let me walk in him as my way, and follow him as my Pattern and Guide: Let me, with solemn awe, look to, and prepare for, his last, his eternal judgment!

- 1 **T**HAT man hath perfect blessedness
who walketh not astray
In counsel of ungodly men,
nor stands in sinners' way;
Nor sitteth in the scorner's chair;
2 But placeth his delight
Upon God's law, and meditates
on his law day and night.

- 3 He shall be like a tree that grows
 near planted by a river,
 Which in his season yields his fruit,
 and his leaf fadeth never;
 And all he doth shall prosper well.
- 4 The wicked are not so;
 But like they are unto the chaff,
 which wind drives to and fro.
- 5 In judgment therefore shall not stand
 such as ungodly are;
 Nor in th' assembly of the just
 shall wicked men appear.
- 6 For why? the way of godly men
 unto the Lord is known:
 Whereas the way of wicked men
 shall quite be overthrown.

PSALM 2.

Perhaps this Psalm relates partly to David's instalment on his throne, and the victories over his enemies which attended it. Compare Psalm xviii., 2 Sam. iii., v., viii., x., xviii., xx. But the whole of it respects Jesus our Redeemer. Behold, (1) The violent and harmonious, but unsuccessful opposition, which the Jews and Gentiles of all ranks make to the person and redemption work of the great God my Saviour. Behold what ruin and woe they draw upon themselves by their attempts! ver. 1-5, 9. (2.) Behold how, notwithstanding all their raging malice and furious opposition, JEHOVAH installs our Redeemer King in his Church, and infallibly fixeth him on his throne; avows him his only begotten Son, and gives unto him the Gentiles for his people! ver. 6-8. (3.) Behold JEHOVAH's demand of serious consideration and fear of, joy in, and trust, obedience, and love to his exalted Son, ver. 9-12.—¶ While I sing, let me remark the horrid nature of sin; let me, with broken heart, bewail my neglect of, and opposition to, Jesus Christ. Let me, with wonder, bless his name, that I have not already perished in mine iniquity. Let me, with earnestness, accept that once debased Redeemer, as my Saviour, my Sovereign, my Proprietor, my God, and my ALL. Let me learn to know him, rejoice in him, and with holy awe, commit my whole salvation, and the salvation of my country, nay, of all the ends of the earth, to him.

- 1 **W**HY rage the heathen? and vain
why do the people mind? [things
- 2 Kings of the earth do set themselves,
and princes are combin'd,
To plot against the Lord, and his
Anointed, saying thus,
- 3 Let us asunder break their bands,
and cast their cords from us.
- 4 He that in heaven sits shall laugh;
the Lord shall scorn them all.
- 5 Then shall he speak to them in wrath,
in rage he vex them shall.
- 6 Yet, notwithstanding, I have him
to be my King appointed,
And over Zion, my holy hill,
I have him King anointed.
- 7 The sure decree I will declare:
the Lord hath said to me,
Thou art mine only Son; this day
I have begotten thee.
- 8 Ask of me, and for heritage
the heathen I'll make thine;
And, for possession, I to thee
will give earth's utmost line.
- 9 Thou shalt, as with a weighty rod
of iron, break them all;
And, as a potter's sherd, thou shalt
them dash in pieces small.
- 10 Now therefore, kings, be wise; be taught,
ye judges of the earth:

- 11 Serve God in fear, and see that ye
join trembling with your mirth.
- 12 Kiss ye the Son, lest in his ire
ye perish from the way,
If once his wrath begin to burn:
bless'd all that on him stay.

PSALM 3.

Having beheld the royal dignity of my Redeemer, let me here behold the joy, the peace, the safety, of the redeemed amidst their distresses innumerable. Here David, driven from his holy capital and high throne by his rebellious son Absalom, (1.) Complains to his God of the number and malice of his enemies, ver. 1, 2. (2.) He encourageth himself in his God, as the source and subject-matter of his safety, joy, and honour, ver. 3. (3.) He recollects how, on former occasions, his troubles had driven him to his prayers; how he had always found God ready to hear and grant his requests; how safe and easy he had lived under his protection; and how effectually he had broken the power and restrained the malice of his enemies, ver. 4, 5, 7. (4.) Triumphantly trusting in God, as the salvation and blesser of his people, he silenceth all his tears, and pours forth his prayers for new protection and deliverance, ver. 6, 8.—¶ Think, my soul, of Jesus, who, when bulls of Bashan compassed him about, trusted in God, that he would deliver him. In all my distress, let me pour out my heart before him, believing in him as God, even my God. Let me always rejoice in the great God my Saviour. Let me trust in him at all times, that as he hath delivered, and doth deliver, so he will deliver me.

*A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom
his son.*

- 1 **O** LORD, how are my foes increas'd?
against me many rise.
- 2 Many say of my soul, For him
in God no succour lies.
- 3 Yet thou my shield and glory art,
th' uplifter of mine head.
- 4 I cried, and, from his holy hill,
the Lord me answer made.

- 5 I laid me down and slept, I wak'd,
for God sustained me.
- 6 I will not fear though thousands ten
set round against me be.
- 7 Arise, O Lord; save me, my God,
for thou my foes hast stroke
All on the cheek-bone, and the teeth
of wicked men hast broke.
- 8 Salvation doth appertain
unto the Lord alone:
Thy blessing, Lord, for evermore
thy people is upon.

PSALM 4.

This Psalm was perhaps composed on the same occasion as the former, when David fled from Absalom his son. Here, (1.) David, encouraged by former experience, casts his burden on the Lord, and supplicates a merciful deliverance, ver. 1. (2.) Addressing himself to men, particularly to his persecutors, he reproves their contempt of God and religion, their delight in, and practice of, vanity, fraud, and falsehood. He represents the happiness of saints in having God their protector, and ready to hear their requests. He recommends a holy filial awe of God, a careful abstinence from sin; a composed trial of, and converse with, their own heart, together with a devoting of themselves, and their conduct and substance, to the Lord, ver. 2-5. (3.) To encourage them to the study of practical religion, he remarks what superlative satisfaction and rest himself had found in familiar fellowship with God, and in a believing dependence on him, ver. 6-8.—¶ While I sing, let me have faith in God, as my own God in Christ. Let me abhor that levity of mind, that deceitfulness, that earthly-mindedness proper to the ungodly, and every remain thereof. Let my soul pant for JEHOVAH, and prefer him to every thing else. Let me, by faith, lay myself down in his arms, his bosom, as all my salvation and comfort.

To the chief Musician on Neginoth, a Psalm of David.

- 1 **G**IVE ear unto me when I call,
God of my righteousness;

- Have mercy, hear my pray'r; thou hast
enlarg'd me in distress.
- 2 O ye the sons of men! how long
will ye love vanities?
How long my glory turn to shame,
and will ye follow lies?
- 3 But know, that for himself the Lord
the godly man doth choose:
The Lord, when I on him do call,
to hear will not refuse.
- 4 Fear, and sin not; talk with your heart
on bed, and silent be.
- 5 Off'rings present of righteousness,
and in the Lord trust ye.
- 6 O who will show us any good?
is that which many say:
But of thy countenance the light,
Lord, lift on us alway.
- 7 Upon my heart, bestow'd by thee,
more gladness I have found
Than they, ev'n then, when corn and wine
did most with them abound.
- 8 I will both lay me down in peace,
and quiet sleep will take;
Because thou only me to dwell
in safety, Lord, dost make.

PSALM 5.

Here, (1.) The man according to God's heart, in the assured faith of God's hearing his prayers and hating his sins, fixeth a daily, an early, an earnest, a steady, a grace-founded correspondence with God, in his ordinances of meditation, prayer, praise, &c., ver. 1-7. (2.) Be-