# **Psalms of Christ**

Prayers, reflections, new hymns, and scripture for public worship and personal devotions

from the series:
Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

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#### Good and Evil in the Psalms

The Psalms often speak of good and evil in absolute terms that seem confusing to modern readers.

For example, the royal psalms sometimes seem to talk about a king who is perfectly good and

rules for all eternity (see Psalms 2, 21, 45, 72, 110, and others).

But these psalms were initially fulfilled in a human king whose virtues were only partial and passing.

The psalmist often claims innocence for himself

in a way that seems to deny the flaws found in even the most godly person (for example, see Psalm 17:3; 26:1; 86:2)

On the other hand,

and perhaps the most troubling,

some psalmists vehemently curse their enemies as if they were perfectly evil and eternally unredeemable (see Psalms 69, 109, and others).

Immersed in the human world around them,

the psalmists are moved by the perfect, eternal quality of absolute good and absolute evil,

even though the good and evil observed in human beings is only partial (only partly true) and passing (only temporarily true).

With the psalmists, we long

for the perfect, eternal Kingdom of God, for complete innocence, for the complete removal of all evil.

But we can only see

complete good and complete evil

through the reality of Jesus Christ.

He is the perfect, eternal King.

He is perfect innocence, and

in Him alone are we innocent.

He alone will bring ultimate destruction on the Ultimate Evil, Satan and his unrepentant followers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the psalms point us beyond our imperfections and our mortality to the ultimate good and evil, seen only as we look to the Ultimate King, the Ultimate Innocent, the Ultimate Judge, Jesus Christ.

# **His Coming**

### Psalm 98

(NASB)

O sing to the Lord a new song,
For He has done wonderful things,
His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.
The Lord has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;
Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
With the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
Shout joyfully before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar and all it contains,
The world and those who dwell in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
Let the mountains sing together for joy
Before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth;
He will judge the world with righteousness
And the peoples with equity.

### **Reflection on Psalm 98**

```
From the very beginning,
      God has longed to be
      with His people.
From the garden to the wilderness,
      from the tabernacle to the temple,
God has burned with the desire to
      live among His people and
      be their God in the fullest possible sense.
He planned it.
He promised it, and
      in His absolute sovereignty,
      He determined that it would be so.
He came once -
      to become one of us and
      to give His own life to rescue us.
And He left only
      to pour out His Spirit on us and
      to prepare for our full, eternal union with Him.
The same sovereign love that caused Him to come once
      is bringing Him back.
He has promised, and
      He yearns for us with the heart of a Father.
Nothing can keep Him away.
      Nothing.
All His people,
all the nations.
all creation,
      rejoice!
      Stay ready!
      Wait expectantly!
He
      is
             coming!
```

Hymn recording: Psalm 98

### Psalm 98

Tune: WARRENTON, alt. (Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing)



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844, and Ken Bible WARRENTON 2 8.7.8.7.w.Ref.

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## The Glory of God

#### Psalm 8

(NASB)

O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth,
Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!
From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength
Because of Your adversaries,
To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

Father, Your goodness and greatness permeate everything I know, see, and experience.

But in Your human Son, Jesus Christ,

I see You most clearly;

I experience You most completely:

I know You face-to-face.

#### O Father, in Jesus Christ

how utterly magnificent You are!

In Him, I begin to understand the rich blessings You have lavished on us since before creation.

In Him, I see more and more of Your gracious gifts

all around me

every day.

And in Him, I start to glimpse the full scope of

all You have promised to pour out on us

through our glorious, eternal, divine Brother.

We are such small creatures in every way -

so limited.

so weak,

so very brief.

But in Jesus Christ

You have exalted us to Your side in heaven itself.

You have made us Your dearly-loved children.

You have made us like Yourself.

O Father, Your goodness and

greatness and

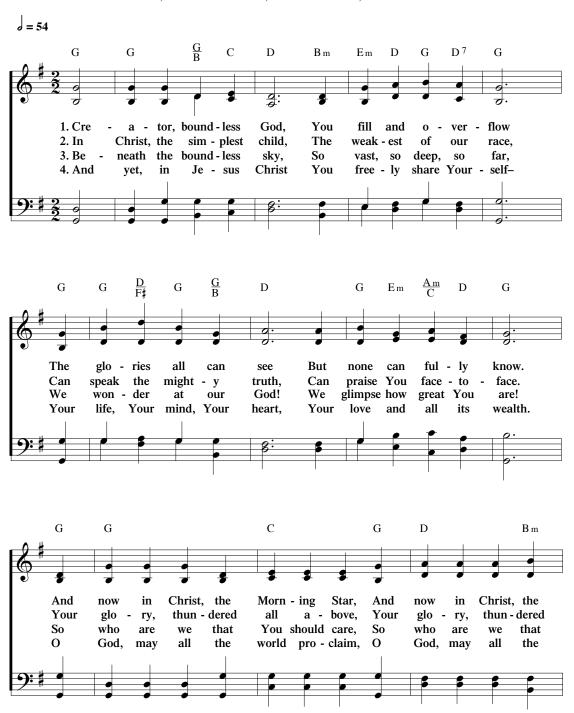
presence

permeates all that is!

Praise to You!

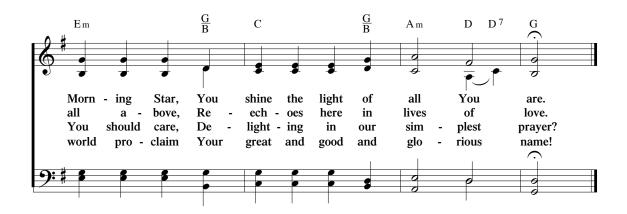
Hymn recording: Christ in Psalm 8

TUNE: Arise, My Soul, Arise (LENOX)
Psalm 8; Colossians 2:9-10; Hebrews 2:5-18; Revelation 22:16



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# In Temptation

### Psalm 3

(NASB)

O Lord, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. Many are saying of my soul, "There is no deliverance for him in God."

But You, O Lord, are a shield about me,
My glory, and the One who lifts my head.
I was crying to the Lord with my voice,
And He answered me from His holy mountain.
I lay down and slept;
I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.
I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people
Who have set themselves against me round about.

Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be upon Your people!

The Psalms often pray for deliverance from enemies. But for Christians, for followers of Christ,

who are our enemies?

Jesus faced violent opposition from birth till death, and even before He was born (Revelation 12).

Evil has always opposed Him and all those who follow Him (John 15:18-21; 17:14-18).

As a whole, the world is hostile to Christ and to all who are in Him.

What is more,

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12, NASB).

Our struggle is against an enemy that is

unseen

but very real,

an enemy that is far stronger than us.

When Jesus came to earth in our flesh and blood,

sharing our weakness,

He came equipped with the Spirit of God (Isaiah 11:2-5).

And as He sends us out in His name,

He sends us out in His Spirit,

equipped with His own life,

strength, wisdom,

holiness, and truth,

filled with His own living presence.

Though we are weak in ourselves,

we are strong in Him (Ephesians 6:10).

We are safe in Him.

We are completely secure as we trust in Him.

Hymn recording: Christ in Psalm 3

Tune: O for Heart to Praise My God (RICHMOND) Psalm 3; 110:1; Matthew 11:12; John 8:44; 10:8-10; 15:18-21; 17:14-18; Ephesians 6:10-17; Revelation 22:16



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C.M.

## **Suffering & Death**

#### Psalm 22

(NASB)

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?
Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.
O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer;
And by night, but I have no rest.
Yet You are holy,
O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
In You our fathers trusted;
They trusted and You delivered them.
To You they cried out and were delivered;
In You they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man,
A reproach of men and despised by the people.
All who see me sneer at me;
They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,
"Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him;
Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him."

Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near;
For there is none to help.
Many bulls have surrounded me;
Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.
They open wide their mouth at me,
As a ravening and roaring lion.
I am poured out like water,
And all my bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It is melted within me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And my tongue cleaves to my jaws;

And You lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs have surrounded me;

A band of evildoers has encompassed me;

They pierced my hands and feet.

I can count all my bones.

They look, they stare at me;

They divide my garments among them,

And for my clothing they cast lots.

But You, O Lord, be not far off;

O You my help, hasten to my assistance.

Deliver my soul from the sword,

My only life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth:

From the horns of the wild oxen You answer me.

I will tell of Your name to my brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

You who fear the Lord, praise Him:

All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,

And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;

Nor has He hidden His face from him;

But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

From You comes my praise in the great assembly;

I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.

The afflicted will eat and be satisfied:

Those who seek Him will praise the Lord.

Let your heart live forever!

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord,

And all the families of the nations will worship before You.

For the kingdom is the Lord's

And He rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship,

All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him,

Even he who cannot keep his soul alive.

Posterity will serve Him;

It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation.

They will come and will declare His righteousness

To a people who will be born, that He has performed it.

### Why Have You Forsaken Me?

As Jesus was dying on the cross, in the darkness and pain He cried out,

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46, NASB)

With all that He was enduring,

physically and emotionally,

His deepest sorrow was feeling separated from His Father.

But He expressed His sorrow using the opening words of Psalm 22.

That Psalm, filled with

raw honesty and

desperate cries,

is an eloquent prayer of determined faith.

Jesus was making that prayer His own.

In the grip of the very worst life can bring,

Jesus showed the way for us.

He expressed ultimate faith in

the unchanging faithfulness of

the Sovereign of the universe.

Even as Jesus felt

helpless,

utterly alone,

separated from His Father,

He turned to Him and

trusted Him.

Hymn recording: Psalm 22

## Psalm 22



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### Psalm 31

(NASB)

In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge;

Let me never be ashamed;

In Your righteousness deliver me.

Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly;

Be to me a rock of strength,

A stronghold to save me.

For You are my rock and my fortress;

For Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me.

You will pull me of the net which they have secretly laid for me,

For You are my strength.

Into Your hand I commit my spirit;

You have ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth.

I hate those who regard vain idols,

But I trust in the Lord.

I will rejoice and be glad in Your lovingkindness,

Because You have seen my affliction;

You have known the troubles of my soul,

And You have not given me over into the hand of the enemy;

You have set my feet in a large place.

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;

My eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow

And my years with sighing;

My strength has failed because of my iniquity,

And my body has wasted away.

Because of all my adversaries, I have become a reproach,

Especially to my neighbors,

And an object of dread to my acquaintances;

Those who see me in the street flee from me.

I am forgotten as a dead man, out of mind;

I am like a broken vessel.

For I have heard the slander of many,

Terror is on every side;

While they took counsel together against me,

They schemed to take away my life.

But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord,

I say, "You are my God."

My times are in Your hand;

Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me.

Make Your face to shine upon Your servant;

Save me in Your lovingkindness.

Let me not be put to shame, O Lord, for I call on You;

Let the wicked be put to shame, let them be silent in Sheol.

Let the lying lips be mute,

Which speak arrogantly against the righteous

With pride and contempt.

How great is Your goodness,

Which You have stored up for those who fear You,

Which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You,

Before the sons of men!

You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of man;

You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues.

Blessed be the Lord,

For He has made marvelous His lovingkindness to me in a besieged city.

As for me, I said in my alarm,

"I am cut off from before Your eyes";

Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications

When I cried to You.

O love the Lord, all you His godly ones!

The Lord preserves the faithful

And fully recompenses the proud doer.

Be strong and let your heart take courage,

All you who hope in the Lord.

#### **Reflection on Psalm 31**

Jesus commanded us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him.

So here, as I am crucified with Christ, I pray:

Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit. (Luke 23:46, NASB; cf Psalm 31:5)

Even when it seems that I am in the grip of trouble,

my Father,

I am still in Your grip.

In sickness, injustice, grief, and loss,

You are my God.

My times are in Your hand. (Psalm 31:14-15, NASB)

It is written of Christ that

being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously. (1 Peter 2:23, NASB)

Father, I do the same.

You are good and right, and

everything You do is good and right.

I entrust myself completely to You.

How great is Your goodness,

even in the worst of circumstances!

Even when I am

weak and

completely helpless,

I am strong in You,

I am secure in You.

My life is hidden with Christ in You. (Colossians 3:3, NASB)

**Hymn recording: Psalm 31** 

### Psalm 31

TUNE: Faith of Our Fathers (ST. CATHERINE) Luke 23:46; Colossians 3:3; 1 Peter 2:23



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### Psalm 38

(NASB)

O Lord, rebuke me not in Your wrath,

And chasten me not in Your burning anger.

For Your arrows have sunk deep into me,

And Your hand has pressed down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation;

There is no health in my bones because of my sin.

For my iniquities are gone over my head;

As a heavy burden they weigh too much for me.

My wounds grow foul and fester because of my folly.

I am bent over and greatly bowed down;

I go mourning all day long.

For my loins are filled with burning,

And there is no soundness in my flesh.

I am benumbed and badly crushed;

I groan because of the agitation of my heart.

Lord, all my desire is before You;

And my sighing is not hidden from You.

My heart throbs, my strength fails me;

And the light of my eyes, even that has gone from me.

My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague;

And my kinsmen stand afar off.

Those who seek my life lay snares for me;

And those who seek to injure me have threatened destruction,

And they devise treachery all day long.

But I, like a deaf man, do not hear;

And I am like a mute man who does not open his mouth.

Yes, I am like a man who does not hear,

And in whose mouth are no arguments.

For I hope in You, O Lord;

You will answer, O Lord my God.

For I said, "May they not rejoice over me,

Who, when my foot slips, would magnify themselves against me."

For I am ready to fall,

And my sorrow is continually before me.

For I confess my iniquity;

I am full of anxiety because of my sin.

But my enemies are vigorous and strong,

And many are those who hate me wrongfully.

And those who repay evil for good,
They oppose me, because I follow what is good.
Do not forsake me, O Lord;
O my God, do not be far from me!
Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

```
Psalm 38 eloquently expresses the agonies of one
      suffering for guilt and sin.
But has anyone suffered for sin as did
      Jesus Christ,
      the guiltless one?
He was pierced (v.2).
He was crushed (vv.4, 8).
He was wounded over and over (v.5).
He was immersed in
      sorrow (v.6) and
      pain (v.7),
      utter abandonment (v.11) and
      vicious hatred (vv.12, 19).
He was repaid
      for the ultimate good
      with the ultimate evil (v.20).
Yet He remained silent,
      unresisting,
      defenseless (vv.13-14).
His hope,
His focus,
His confidence,
the only One He wanted to please was
      His Father alone (v.15).
```

Hymn recording: Christ in Psalm 38

Tune: Beneath the Cross of Jesus (ST. CHRISTOPHER)

Psalm 38: Isaiah 53



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## **Atoning Sacrifice**

#### Psalm 7

(NASB)

O Lord my God, in You I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me, Or he will tear my soul like a lion, Dragging me away, while there is none to deliver.

O Lord my God, if I have done this,
If there is injustice in my hands,
If I have rewarded evil to my friend,
Or have plundered him who without cause was my adversary,
Let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it;
And let him trample my life down to the ground
And lay my glory in the dust.

Arise, O Lord, in Your anger;

Lift up Yourself against the rage of my adversaries,

And arouse Yourself for me; You have appointed judgment.

Let the assembly of the peoples encompass You,

And over them return on high.

The Lord judges the peoples;

Vindicate me, O Lord, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me.

O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous;

For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.

My shield is with God,

Who saves the upright in heart.

God is a righteous judge,

And a God who has indignation every day.

If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword;

He has bent His bow and made it ready.

He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons;

He makes His arrows fiery shafts.

Behold, he travails with wickedness,

And he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood.

He has dug a pit and hollowed it out,

And has fallen into the hole which he made.

His mischief will return upon his own head, And his violence will descend upon his own pate.

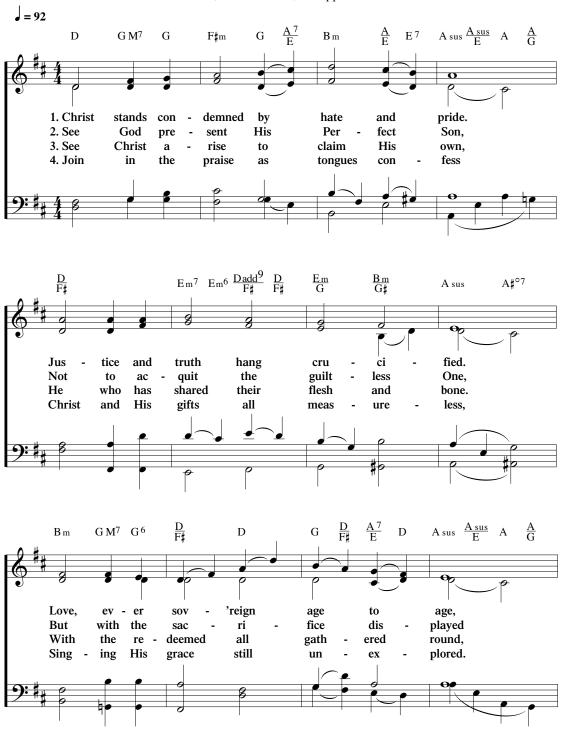
I will give thanks to the Lord according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

```
Father, I love You.
      I trust You.
My goal is to constantly,
      eagerly obey You.
But my innocence does not depend on me, but on Your
      holy,
      just,
      guiltless Son,
             Jesus.
You declare me innocent because
      I trust in Him.
I am pure only as
      I am in Him.
When we committed the ultimate injustice,
      executing the Just One
      for our own evil,
You presented Him as
      completely pure and
      innocent.
You did so
      not to secure His release,
      but ours.
You wanted all the world to know that Jesus Christ was indeed
      the pure, perfect, final sacrifice for all our sin.
And today, Your Spirit confronts us with our guilt,
      not to condemn us
      but to offer complete pardon.
      Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our
```

Hymn recording: Christ in Psalm 7

Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1, NASB)

Tune: Jesus Shall Reign (DUKE STREET) Psalm 7; John 5:21-27; Philippians 2:5-11

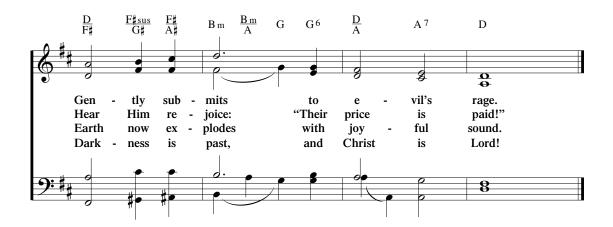


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MUSIC: John Hatton (1710-1798); arr. by Ken Bible

DUKE STREET
L.M.

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### **Savior**

### Psalm 40

(NASB)

I waited patiently for the Lord;
And He inclined to me and heard my cry.
He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay,
And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
Many will see and fear
And will trust in the Lord.

How blessed is the man who has made the Lord his trust,
And has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.
Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which You have done,
And Your thoughts toward us;
There is none to compare with You.
If I would declare and speak of them,
They would be too numerous to count.

Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O Lord, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;

I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;

I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation.

You, O Lord, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me. For evils beyond number have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see; They are more numerous than the hairs of my head, And my heart has failed me.

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;
Make haste, O Lord, to help me.
Let those be ashamed and humiliated together
Who seek my life to destroy it;
Let those be turned back and dishonored
Who delight in my hurt.
Let those be appalled because of their shame
Who say to me, "Aha, aha!"
Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
Let those who love Your salvation say continually,
"The Lord be magnified!"
Since I am afflicted and needy,
Let the Lord be mindful of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
Do not delay, O my God.

```
You deliver me from
      all that oppresses me
      or narrows the fullness of Your life in me.
You free me
      from all the guilt and power of sin,
      from all the wrongness I have ever
             been or
             done.
You remake me, both
      immediately and
      gradually, day by day.
You fill my heart with joy and
      my mouth with praise to You.
You make me a positive influence on everyone around me.
Father, in Jesus Christ You lavish on me
      uncountable blessings,
      tokens of love
             both big and small.
And in return, You don't ask for dramatic sacrifices.
You ask for simple faith,
      expressed in simple obedience.
You give me the Spirit of Christ and enable me to
      love and
      serve and
      trust You as He did.
That is my deepest desire, my Father.
I want to delight in You and
      glorify You and
      live in You
as constantly and
      completely
as did Your wonderful Son, Jesus Christ.
```

Father, as I trust in Jesus Christ,

Hymn recording: Christ in Psalm 40

## Christ in Psalm 40

Tune: Rise Up, O Church of God (FESTAL SONG)

Psalm 40; Matthew 16:24; Hebrews 10:1-25



WORDS: Ken Bible FESTAL SONG MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893); rev. arr. by Ken Bible S.M.

Alt. Tune: ST. THOMAS
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(NASB)

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Oh let Israel say,

"His lovingkindness is everlasting."

Oh let the house of Aaron say,

"His lovingkindness is everlasting."

Oh let those who fear the Lord say,

"His lovingkindness is everlasting."

From my distress I called upon the Lord;

The Lord answered me and set me in a large place.

The Lord is for me; I will not fear;

What can man do to me?

The Lord is for me among those who help me;

Therefore I will look with satisfaction on those who hate me.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord

Than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord

Than to trust in princes.

All nations surrounded me:

In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.

They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me;

In the name of the Lord I will surely cut them off.

They surrounded me like bees;

They were extinguished as a fire of thorns;

In the name of the Lorde I will surely cut them off.

You pushed me violently so that I was falling,

But the Lord helped me.

The Lord is my strength and song,

And He has become my salvation.

The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

The right hand of the Lord is exalted;

The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.

I will not die, but live,

And tell of the works of the Lord.

The Lord has disciplined me severely,

But He has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;

The righteous will enter through it.

I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me,

And You have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief corner stone.

This is the Lord's going;

It is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day which the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O Lord, do save, we beseech You;

O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;

We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and He has given us light;

Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I give thanks to You;

You are my God, I extol You.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

#### **Reflection on Psalm 118**

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See Psalm 118 in the light of Jesus Christ.
He is our reason for thanksgiving (v.1).
He is the full expression of God's
      goodness and
      unfailing love (vv.2-4).
He is our Savior, our refuge from
      every threat and
      every fear (vv.5-13).
He is our strength and
      our song (vv.14-16).
He delivers us from death (vv.17-18).
He makes us worthy to enter the gates of righteousness (vv.18-21).
He is the cornerstone of all God is doing (vv.22-24).
He is the sacrifice bound to the altar (v.27).
We join with His disciples of
      every time and
      every place,
shouting,
      "Hosanna!
      Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (vv.25-26)
Through every situation,
      in the face of every need,
we can rejoice, for
      Christ is with us!
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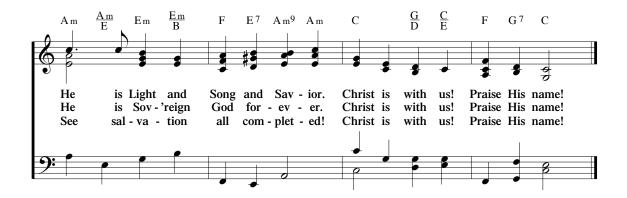
Hymn recording: Psalm 118



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

PSALM 118 8.8.8.7.8.7.8.7.

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# King & Priest

#### Psalm 2

(NASB)

Why are the nations in an uproar
And the peoples devising a vain thing?
The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,
"Let us tear their fetters apart
And cast away their cords from us!"

He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

"I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to Me, 'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron,
You shall shatter them like earthenware."

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O judges of the earth.
Worship the Lord with reverence
And rejoice with trembling.
Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

#### Son of God

Psalm 2 is another royal psalm. It was originally written about an earthly king, but its ultimate fulfillment is in the Ultimate King, Messiah.

The opening verses paint a sobering picture. Imagine all the most powerful forces on earth combining all their resources toward just one goal: destroying God's people.

Because many of us live in a stable country that guarantees religious freedom and makes reasonable efforts to protect us from violence, we sometimes have trouble identifying with psalms like Psalm 2. We are not threatened with violent persecution for our beliefs. No enemy armies are massing at our border.

But never forget that Satan is constantly, completely opposed to God, His purposes, and His people. He is especially opposed to Jesus Christ, God's Son and Anointed One. Satan enlists all those he influences in this constant, determined opposition. Sometimes his opposition is violent, either through military confrontation or through persecution. When necessary, his opposition is more subtle, taking the form of intellectual, cultural, and social pressure. But whether his methods are overt or hidden, his goal is always the same: the destruction of God's people and all His plans.

So what is God's response to the threat of Satan and all his gathered forces? He laughs! He makes fun of them! He ridicules them! He's not frightened, He's amused! Then He terrifies them by speaking in His burning fury: "I have installed MY KING on His holy throne! HE is in complete control!"

Immediately Messiah Himself speaks up, in vv.7-9, and talks about His installation by God.

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He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." (v.7)
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The King that God has enthroned is not just His Chosen One. It is His own Son.

This is not the first time God has expressed His fierce love for His own child. Earlier in the Old Testament, He spoke of the people of Israel as His firstborn son. God sent Moses, a lowly shepherd from the backside of the desert, to the most powerful ruler on earth. He came demanding that Pharaoh give up the people of Israel, his massive slave-labor force. God's instructions to Moses were this:

"Say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my **firstborn son**... Let **my son** go." (Exodus 4:22-23, NIV) Before the confrontation was over, Egypt's first-born sons all lay dead, and God's "firstborn son" was free

God's miraculous care for His first-born continued as they spent 40 years in a vast and barren desert, then faced the task of conquering occupied Canaan. Moses comforted Israel with these words:

"Do not be terrified...The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." (Deuteronomy 1:29-31, NIV)

Later, after they were settled in their own land, God gave them David as their king, a man after His own heart. Notice how God describes His love for David, even in all his frailty:

"My faithful love will be with him...

He will call out to me, 'You are my Father...'

I will appoint him my firstborn,
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.

I will maintain my love to him forever,
and my covenant with him will never fail.

I will establish his line forever,
his throne as long as the heavens endure." (Psalm 89:24, 26-29, NIV)

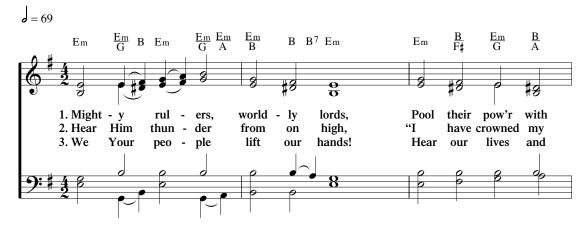
A thousand years later, Jesus Christ came, not only as the promised Son of David, but as the only-begotten Son of God. He is the King spoken of here in Psalm 2. God has appointed Him sovereign, eternal ruler of all the universe. No force in heaven or earth, seen or unseen, can challenge His power and authority.

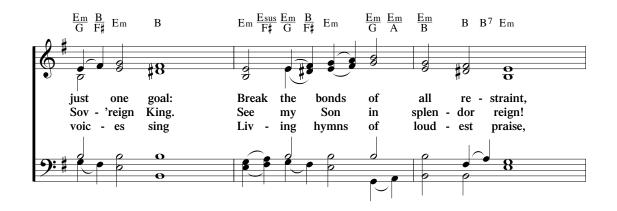
Almighty God loves Him with the burning, unquenchable love of a Father for His only child. He is our King, now and forever. In Him, we are bold, confident, and secure in the face of every threat, every hardship, and every uncertainty.

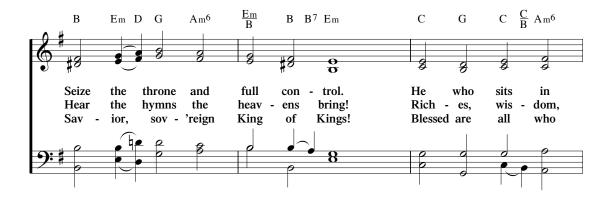
Father, You are sovereign over all reality.
You speak, and it is so.
Why do we hesitate to trust You?
Why are we ever afraid?

Hymn recording: Psalm 2

TUNE: Jesus, Lover of My Soul (ABERYSTWYTH)







WORDS: Ken Bible ABERYSTWYTH MUSIC: Joseph Parry 7.7.7.7.D.

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(NASB)

Give the king Your judgments, O God,
And Your righteousness to the king's son.
May he judge Your people with righteousness
And Your afflicted with justice.
Let the mountains bring peace to the people,
And the hills, in righteousness.
May he vindicate the afflicted of the people,
Save the children of the needy
And crush the oppressor.

Let them fear You while the sun endures,
And as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
Like showers that water the earth.
In his days may the righteous flourish,
And abundance of peace till the moon is no more.

May he also rule from sea to sea
And from the River to the ends of the earth.
Let the nomads of the desert bow before him,
And his enemies lick the dust.
Let the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring presents;
The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
And let all kings bow down before him,
All nations serve him.

For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help,
The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.
He will have compassion on the poor and needy,
And the lives of the needy he will save.
He will rescue their life from oppression and violence,
And their blood will be precious in his sight;
So may he live and may the gold of Sheba be given to him;
And let them pray for him continually;
Let them bless him all day long.

May there be abundance of grain in the earth on top of the mountains; Its fruit will wave like the cedars of Lebanon; And may those from the city flourish like vegetation of the earth. May his name endure forever;

May his name increase as long as the sun shines; And let men bless themselves by him; Let all nations call him blessed.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders. And blessed be His glorious name forever; And may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and amen.

The prayers of David, the son of Jesse are ended.

#### Reflection on Psalm 72

```
Father, Your Messiah reigns!
He is filled with all
       Your justice,
       Your holiness,
       Your goodness, and
       Your truth,
and we are complete in Him.
All creation is complete in Him,
       re-imagined,
       re-made,
       reborn.
Nothing remains that is not from
       Him,
       the holy Christ,
      Your Son.
Death is gone,
      forever removed from our glorious home.
Life,
beauty, and
fruitfulness are exploding
       all around us,
       at every level.
Creation itself is singing His name!
His reign is complete, filling all
      time and
       space.
His character,
His life,
His being
       now reshape all reality.
Need.
narrowness, and
sorrow
       are forever past.
Only abundance,
       peace, and
      joy are ahead.
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Blessed be You, Eternal Father, and

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blessed be Your Son,
Jesus Christ,
our Savior,
our Brother,
our King!
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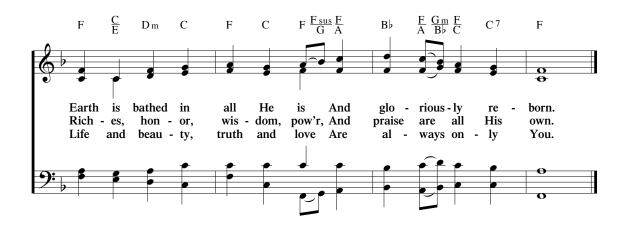
Hymn recording: Psalm 72

TUNE: Celebrate Immanuel's Name (AMSTERDAM)



WORDS: Ken Bible AMSTERDAM MUSIC: Foundery Collection, 1742 7.6.7.6.7.6.7.6.

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(NASB)

The Lord says to my Lord:

"Sit at My right hand

Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying,

"Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power;

In holy array, from the womb of the dawn,

Your youth are to You as the dew.

The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind,

"You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek."

The Lord is at Your right hand;

He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.

He will judge among the nations,

He will fill them with corpses,

He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.

He will drink from the brook by the wayside;

Therefore He will lift up His head.

#### **Reflection on Psalm 110**

```
Father, at Your right hand You have enthroned
Your Son, Jesus Christ,
       holy God and
       wholly human,
       exactly like You and
       exactly like us, but without sin.
There at the power center of the universe
forever reigns
       our elder Brother,
       our own flesh and blood.
With You, He will rule
       all reality for
       all eternity,
He rules with
       absolute, fearsome might over His enemies and
       tender, all-encompassing love for His people.
But our King is also
       our Great High Priest.
He devotes all He is to faithfully ministering
       all Your love to
       all Your people.
Not even His own life was too high a price to pay.
He forgives,
       protects,
       cleanses.
       teaches,
       intercedes, and
       blesses.
He will be entirely
       for us
      for all eternity.
Thank You, Father, for the
       immeasurable,
       inexpressible
gift of Your Son!
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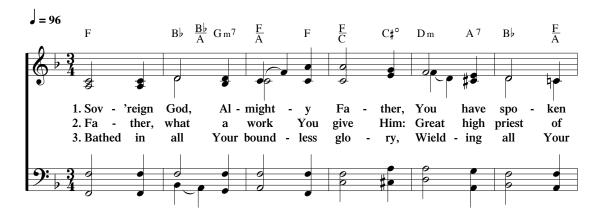
Hymn recording: Psalm 110

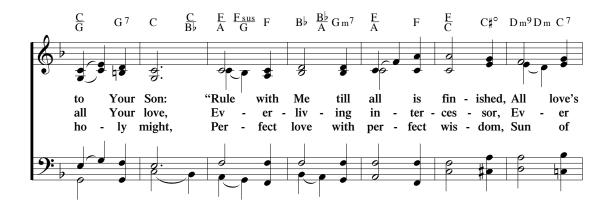
TUNE: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (BLAENWERN)

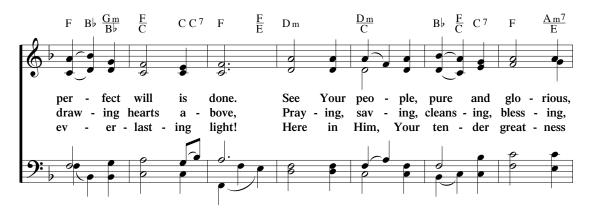
Psalm 110; Mark 12:35-37; 14:62; Acts 2:34-36; Romans 8:34;

1 Corinthians 15:25; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 1:3-4;

4:14-16; 5:10; 6:19-20; 7:1-28; 8:1-2; 10:11-13, 19-23; 12:1-2; 1 Peter 3:22

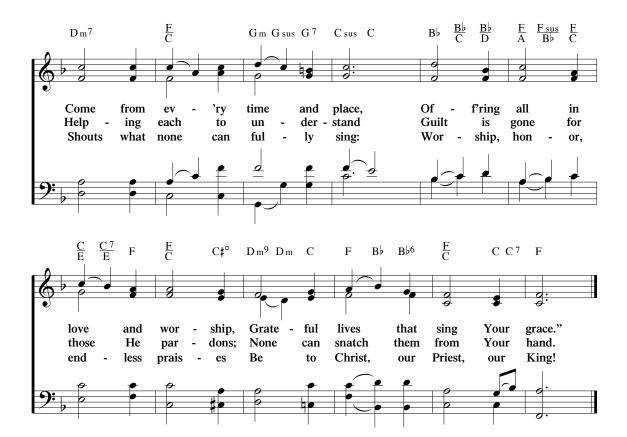






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MUSIC: William Penfro Rowlands; arr. by Ken Bible
8.7.8.7.D.

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# **Bridegroom**

#### Psalm 45

(NASB)

My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the king; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer. You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever.

Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O Mighty One, In Your splendor and Your majesty!

And in Your majesty ride on victoriously,
For the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness;
Let Your right hand teach You awesome things.
Your arrows are sharp;
The peoples fall under You;
Your arrows are in the heart of the King's enemies.

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of joy above Your fellows.
All Your garments are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia;
Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made You glad.
Kings' daughters are among Your noble ladies;
At Your right hand stands the queen in gold form Ophir.

Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father's house; Then the King will desire Your beauty.

Because He is your Lord, bow down to Him.

The daughter of Tyre will come with a gift;

The rich among the people will seek your favor.

The King's daughter is all glorious within; Her clothing is interwoven with gold.

She will be led to the King in embroidered work; The virgins, her companions who follow her, Will be brought to You. They will be led forth with gladness and rejoicing; They will enter into the King's palace.

In place of your fathers will be your sons; You shall make them princes in all the earth. I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will give You thanks forever and ever.

### **Christ Your Bridegroom**

Believers, you are engaged to Jesus Christ. He is the most beautiful person of all our race. His words are always grace, kindness, and truth. His entire life is permeated with God's richest blessings. All that He is and all that He does are filled with the the wisdom, the love, and the holy majesty of God With sovereign power He reigns in truth and rightness over all that is. He protects and defends God's people against all who would harm them. His rule is complete, universal, and forever. This One is your Bridegroom. He loves you deeply and passionately, with all His being. You are stunningly beautiful in His eyes, pure and glorious. What does your future hold? You are about to experience what it means to be the beloved bride of a Great King. You will be richly adorned in all His magnificence. A train of attendants will accompany you into His palace. Cheering crowds will surround you. His entire realm will rejoice at your wedding.

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brand new.
The love you share with Him will be
       fruitful beyond all imagination.
All will give thanks for you.
Even the rich and powerful of the universe
       will honor you because
      you are wed to the Lord of all.
Beloved bride,
      forget your past.
Put it forever behind you, and
      focus on your future.
Keep yourself pure for Him alone.
Give all you are completely to Him,
       body,
       mind, and
       spirit.
What an honor,
      what a joy,
to be the chosen bride of the King!
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Your life will be

Hymn recording: See Christ, Your Bridegroom

## See Christ, Your Bridegroom

TUNE: Thine Be the Glory (alt.)

Psalm 45; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 5:25-27



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