Psalms of Solomon 17

A Psalm of Solomon. With Song. Concerning the King

1 O Lord, You yourself are our king for ever and ever,
For in You, O God, shall our soul boast.
2 What is the span of man's life upon earth?
Yet, throughout his life his hope is set upon himself;
3 But we will hope in God our saviour,
For the power of our God is for ever with mercy,
And the kingdom of our God is over the nations in judgement.
4 You, Lord, chose David as king over Israel,
And swore to him concerning his posterity for ever,
That his dynasty would not fail before you.
5 But, for our sins, sinners rose up against us:
They set upon us and drove us out (they to whom You gave no promise);
They seized power with violence, and did not honour your glorious name.
6 They established in splendour a monarchy in their pride,
They laid waste the throne of David, in their arrogance usurping it.
7 But you, O God, will overthrow them and remove their offspring from the land,
When a man alien to our race rises up against them.
8 According to their sins You will repay them, O God,
So that what befalls them matches their deeds.
9 God will show them no pity.
He hunted down their offspring, and let not one of them escape:
10 Faithful is the Lord in all his judgements which He executes on earth.
11 The lawless one laid waste our land so that none inhabited it:
Young and old were removed, along with their children.
12 In his furious anger he banished them to the west,
And the rulers of the land he exposed to ridicule without mercy.
13 In his foreignness the enemy acted arrogantly,
And his heart was alien from our God.
14 And he did in Jerusalem all the things
The nations do for their gods in their own cities;
15 And the children of the covenant, living among a mixed multitude of gentiles, seized on these practices;
None among them in Jerusalem acted out of mercy or truth.
16 Those who loved the assemblies of the pious fled from them,
Like sparrows scattered from their nests.
17 They roamed about in deserted places to save themselves from harm;
And precious in the eyes of those who lived abroad was any who escaped alive:
18 Over the whole earth were they scattered by lawless men.

For the heavens prevented the rain from falling on the earth,
19 The perennial springs from the deeps and from the high mountains were stopped up,
For none among them behaved righteously and justly.
20 From the ruler to the lowest commoner, they were utterly sinful –
The king was a transgressor of the Law, the judge disobedient, and the people sinful.
21 See, O Lord, and raise up for them their king, the son of David,
At the time known only to you, O God, that he may reign over Israel your servant.
22 Gird him with strength, to shatter unrighteous rulers;
To purge Jerusalem of the nations that trample her down in destruction;
23 To expel, in wisdom and righteousness, sinners from the inheritance;
To smash the sinner's pride like a potter's vessel,
24 Breaking in pieces with a rod of iron all their substance;
To destroy the lawless nations by the word of his mouth,
25 So that, at his mere threat, nations flee before him;
To condemn sinners by the thoughts of their own hearts.
26 He shall gather in a holy people, whom he shall lead in righteousness,
And he shall judge the tribes of the people set apart as holy by the Lord his God.
27 He shall not allow unrighteousness to lodge in their midst,
Nor anyone who knows wickedness to dwell with them;
For he shall know them, to determine that they are all children of their God.
28 And he shall divide them up by their tribes over the land:
Neither settler nor alien shall live among them any more.
29 He shall judge peoples and nations in his righteous wisdom. *Pause*.
30 And he shall have the peoples of the nations to serve him beneath his yoke;
He shall glorify the Lord at the navel of all the earth,
And purify Jerusalem, making it holy as of old,
31 So that nations shall come from the ends of the earth to see his glory,
Bearing as gifts her children who have fainted on the way –
To see the glory of the Lord, wherewith God has glorified her.
32 He shall rule over them as a righteous king, taught by God,
And no unrighteousness shall be found in their midst in his days,
For all shall be holy, and their king the anointed of the Lord.
33 He shall not put his trust in horse and rider and bow,
Nor shall he increase his store of gold and silver for war,
Nor shall he pin his hopes on numbers in the day of battle.
34 His king shall be the Lord himself – the hope of him who is strong through faith in God;
And he shall have mercy on all the nations that stand before

him in fear,
35 For he shall smite the earth with the word of his mouth for ever.
He shall bless the Lord's people in wisdom with joy;
36 And he shall be pure from sin, so that he may rule a great people,
That he may reprove rulers, and remove sinners by the power of his word alone.
37 Trusting in his God he shall not grow weak throughout his days,
For God made him strong in the holy spirit,
And wise in prudent counsel, with strength and righteousness;
38 And the Lord's blessing shall be with him to give him strength,
And he shall not grow faint.
39 His hope shall be in the Lord: Who can prevail against him –
40 Strong in his deeds, and mighty in the fear of God,
Shepherding the Lord's flock faithfully and righteously?
41 And he shall not let any among them languish in their pasturing:
He shall lead them with equity;
And there shall be no arrogance among them, so that any of them should be oppressed.
42 This is the majesty of the king of Israel, whom God acknowledges,
To raise him up over the house of Israel, to instruct it.
43 His words shall be more refined than the best, the costliest gold:
In the assemblies he shall dispense justice to the tribes of a people set apart as holy;
His words shall be as the words of the holy ones in the midst of sanctified peoples.
44 Blessed are those who shall live to see those days,
To see the good fortune of Israel which God shall bring about when the tribes are gathered in.
45 May God bring his mercy soon upon Israel,
May He deliver us from the pollution of profane enemies.
46 The Lord himself is our king for ever and ever.