



The Heavens Declare

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PSALM 103¹

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
 And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
 And forget none of His benefits;
 Who pardons all your iniquities;
 Who heals all your diseases;
 Who redeems your life from the pit;
 Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
 Who satisfies your years with good things,
 So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.
 The LORD performs righteous deeds,
 And judgments for all who are oppressed.
 He made known His ways to Moses,
 His acts to the sons of Israel.
 The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
 Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
 He will not always strive with us;
 Nor will He keep His anger forever.
 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
 Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 So great is His lovingkindness
 toward those who fear Him.
 As far as the east is from the west,

So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
Just as a father has compassion on his children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.
For He Himself knows our frame;
He is mindful that we are but dust.
As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
When the wind has passed over it, it is no more;
And its place acknowledges it no longer.
But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting
to everlasting on those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
To those who keep His covenant,
And [who] remember His precepts to do them.
The LORD has established His throne in the heavens;
And His sovereignty rules over all.
Bless the LORD, you His angels,
Mighty in strength, who perform His word,
Obeying the voice of His word!
Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,
You who serve Him, doing His will.
Bless the LORD, all you works of His,
In all places of His dominion;
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

HIS COMPASSIONS FAIL NOT

(Lam. 3:22-23)²

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed,
because his compassions fail not.
They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

THE NAME OF THE LORD

(Prov 18:10)²

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
The righteous runneth into it and is safe.

THE TRUE VINE

(John 15:1-8)¹

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes
away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it,
that it may bear more fruit.
You are already clean because of the word
which I have spoken to you.
Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear
fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can
you, unless you abide in Me.
I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in
Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me
you can do nothing.
If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a
branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast
them into the fire, and they are burned.
If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask
whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.
By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit,
and so prove to be My disciples.

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

(Matt 28:19-20)¹

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that
I [have] commanded you; and lo, I am with you always,
even [un]to the end of the age.

WAS I NOT JOKING?

(Prov 26:18-19)¹

Like a madman who throws
Firebrands, arrows and death,
So is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, "Was I not joking?"

SLOW TO ANGER

(Prov 16:32)¹

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

FAITH IS

(Hebrews 11:1,6)²

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.
But without faith it is impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God
must believe that he is,
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek
him.

RUN THE RACE

(Hebrews 12:1-13)¹

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud
of witnesses surrounding us,
let us also lay aside every encumbrance
and the sin which so easily entangles us,
and let us run with endurance the race
that is set before us,
fixing our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of faith,
who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
For consider Him who has endured such hostility
by sinners against Himself,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood
in your striving against sin;
and you have forgotten the exhortation which is
addressed to you as sons,
"MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE
DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;
FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE
DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE
RECEIVES."

It is for discipline that you endure;
God deals with you as with sons;
for what son is there whom his father
does not discipline?
But if you are without discipline,
of which all have become partakers,
then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
Furthermore, we had earthly fathers
to discipline us, and we respected them;
shall we not much rather be subject
to the Father of spirits, and live?
For they disciplined us for a short time
as seemed best to them,
but He disciplines us for our good,
so that we may share His holiness.
All discipline for the moment
seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful;
yet to those who have been trained by it,
afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak
and the knees that are feeble,
and make straight paths for your feet,
so that the limb which is lame
may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

BRING THE TITHE
(Malachi 3:10)¹

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,
so that there may be food in My house,
and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts,
"if I will not open for you the windows of heaven,
and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

I AM PERSUADED
(Romans 8:38-39)²

For I am persuaded, that neither death,
nor life, nor angels,
nor principalities, nor powers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature,
shall be able to separate us
from the love of God,
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PSALM 19³

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language
where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,
which is like a bridegroom coming forth
from his pavilion,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is hidden from its heat.
The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.
The ordinances of the LORD are sure
and altogether righteous.
They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the comb.
By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can discern his errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.
Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then will I be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.
May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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Michael Leadbetter
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