

I M M E R S E

The Reading Bible™

An abstract watercolor splash in shades of blue, purple, and green, with a large central area of magenta. The word "POETS" is written in white, italicized, serif font across the magenta area.

POETS

*Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant, we pray,
that we might be grounded and settled
in your truth
by the coming of your Holy Spirit
into our hearts.*

*What we do not know,
reveal to us;
what is lacking within us,
make complete;
that which we do know,
confirm in us;
and keep us blameless in your service,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

I M M E R S E TM
— The Reading Bible —

POETS



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
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**INSTITUTE FOR
BIBLE READING**

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—— Welcome to ——

I M M E R S E

The Bible Reading Experience

The Bible is a great gift. The Creator of all things entered into our human story and spoke to us. He inspired people over many centuries to shape words into books that reveal his mind, bringing wisdom into our lives and light to our paths. But God's biggest intention for the Bible is to invite us into its Story. What God wants for us, more than anything else, is that we make the Bible's great drama of restoration and new life the story of our lives, too.

The appropriate way to receive a gift like this is to come to know the Bible deeply, to lose ourselves in it precisely so that we can find ourselves in it. In other words, we need to immerse ourselves in it—to read God's words at length and without distraction, to read with deeper historical and literary perspective, and to read through the Bible with friends in a regular three-year rhythm. *Immerse: The Bible Reading Experience* has been specially designed for this purpose.

Immerse: The Reading Bible presents each book of the Bible without the distractions of chapter and verse markers, subject headers, or footnotes—all later historical additions to the text. The *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, is presented in a single-column format with easy-to-read type. To provide meaningful perspective, book introductions give historical and literary context, and the books are often reordered chronologically or grouped with books that share similar ancient audiences. Every feature in this unique Bible enhances the opportunity for readers to engage with God's words in simple clarity.

A more complete explanation of this unique Bible presentation can be found in the articles that begin on page 329 at the back of this volume.

— Introduction to —

POETS

THE FIVE COVENANTS GOD MADE WITH HUMANITY—through Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus—provide the deep structure of the Bible. The vital historic context for the first four of these covenants—the Flood, the call of Abraham, the Exodus, and the establishment of Israel’s monarchy—are found in the *Beginnings* and *Kingdoms* volumes. The words and deeds of the prophets who spoke for God to the people of Israel follow in the *Prophets* volume.

As the Jewish people assembled their Scriptures over time, they included another group of books that they called the Writings. These books from the latter part of the First Testament provide us with a key link to Israel’s world during and after the nation’s seventy-year exile in Babylon. By the time these books were collected in final form, Israel’s political independence had ended and the people were living under the rule of foreign powers. While some of the Jewish people remained in their traditional homeland, many were dispersed throughout the ancient Near Eastern world.

The sages and scribes who wrote and gathered the Writings provided stories, songs, and wise words to God’s people to keep them closely tethered to their ancient identity and calling. The unique stories and historical records of the Writings can be found in the *Chronicles* volume. The poetical books from the Writings are collected here in *Poets*.

The first books in this volume (Psalms, Lamentations, and Song of Songs) are collections of song lyrics. These song collections reflect the rich reality of human life and a full range of human emotions. They are closely tied to Israel’s life and history, expressing the agony of their trials and the joy of their celebrations. Through the deep sorrow of Lamentations; the joyful exuberance of the love songs of Song of Songs; and the complaints, thanksgiving, exultation, and praise of Psalms, we enter more deeply into Israel’s story.

Israel's regular worship calendar—from weekly Sabbath observances to annual festival celebrations—formed a vital part of the nation's ongoing covenant relationship with God. Many of the songs Israel used in worship are preserved in the great collection of lyric poems known as Psalms. And through these songs, we also can learn to find our own voice for talking to God about the heights and depths in our own life journey.

These Hebrew songs are primarily expressed through parallel lines of Hebrew poetry. Most Hebrew poetry is written in groupings of parallel lines (usually two lines, though sometimes three). These lines work together in various ways, often using rich metaphors and other poetic features, to state and then revisit their points. Second and third lines can reinforce, extend, deepen, or even talk back to the opening statements.

The final books in this collection (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job) come from Israel's wisdom tradition. These books share customary features found in the wisdom writing of other ancient Near Eastern cultures, but they have the invaluable advantage of seeing life from within the context of a covenant relationship with God. They proclaim that "fear of the LORD"—Yahweh, Israel's covenant God—"is the foundation of true knowledge."

These wisdom books explore the workings of life in God's good but fractured world. Their core premise is that the Creator has embedded his wisdom into his creation, and they invite people to find and then follow that good way of life. Wisdom books commend the path of "wisdom" or "righteousness," asserting that the God who created the world is the one who can best instruct us on how to live and flourish within it.

The wisdom books are also written mostly in poetry, though in a greater variety of forms than the lyric poetry of Israel's songs. Proverbs consists almost entirely of couplets (two lines of verse), while Job mostly contains much longer poetic speeches. Ecclesiastes is a mixture of poetry and prose, though the prose receives its shape more from recurring words and imagery (as in a poem) than from the linear progression of a plot line (as in a story).

It is a tremendous gift to us that the Bible is not just a collection of lectures about God. These books of songs and wisdom literature add depth, color, and texture to the biblical narrative. Through the use of beautiful lyric poetry and striking imagery, they help us fully realize that God's truth is truth for us in our lives today. They invite us to see all the struggles, triumphs, and complications of our own lives within the bigger story of God's ongoing work to bring flourishing life and peace to the world he created.

IMMERSED IN PSALMS

THERE ARE MOMENTS in life that need to be expressed with the full strength of human emotion. And nothing serves that need better than putting words to music. So we should not be surprised that ancient Israel had a songbook, used in large gatherings at the Temple and also in smaller settings within local communities. Psalms is a book of song lyrics, and many have musical notations, instructions, and even the names of tunes still attached. The fact that our Scriptures include heartfelt expressions like these, of God's people speaking directly to him, highlights that he wants to hear from us. He wants us to express our deepest longings and feelings to him.

These songs were gathered into the large collection we have today during the time after Israel's exile to Babylon, but many are preserved from earlier times. King David is associated with seventy-three of them, nearly half of the total number. (Our collection now includes 150 psalms, though Psalms 9/10 and 42/43 were each originally written as one psalm but later divided. And one psalm is repeated twice, appearing as both Psalm 14 and Psalm 53.) Whether birthed in the spiritual journey of an individual or the experiences of the community of God's people, all these songs came to be used in the corporate worship of Israel.

But Psalms is more than a songbook. As the collection of Hebrew poems came together, it was shaped into five "books," each closing with a doxology (special words of praise to God). These five books of psalms recall the five books of Moses (the *Torah*) at the beginning of the Bible. Just as the *Torah* was used for instruction and study, Psalms came to be used the same way. In fact, Psalm 1 seems to have been placed first precisely to encourage people to meditate on Psalms as a book of instruction. This shows that these songs that were *sung* in worship could also be *read* as Scripture.

These song lyrics are written in the usual form of Hebrew poetry, with groupings of parallel lines. The second line repeats, contrasts, or intensifies the meaning of the first line. The figurative language in these poems is perfectly suited for forcefully expressing authentic human responses within God's story.

Most of the psalms in the Bible are one of three types: praise, lament, or thanksgiving. Psalms of praise call on people to worship and sing to God, honoring him for his goodness and grace. Songs of lament are prayers to God for deliverance in deeply troubled times. Laments typically begin with an urgent and emotional cry, describing the struggles that the person or community is facing, and then make a specific request for help, almost always ending with expressions of trust in God. Psalms of thanksgiving often begin by reviewing the troubles the poet was experiencing. Then the poet calls upon God and is delivered. Finally, others are invited to share in thanking and praising God.

This collection of psalms also includes some other types of songs. Royal psalms celebrate the role of Israel's king—both the human king and God as the nation's high king. Pilgrim psalms (also called psalms of ascent) were sung by pilgrims making their way up to Jerusalem for one of the great Jewish festivals. Wisdom psalms echo Israel's traditions about following God's instructions to discover the path to flourishing life.

It is important that the psalms are more than just songs of praise. The laments and cries for justice prevent the praise songs from being merely a celebration of the status quo. The life of faith includes the shattering pain of injustice and wrongdoing that calls God's power and goodness into question. In such situations, God's deliverance of his people in answer to their cries leads them to a more profound appreciation of his faithfulness and care. The enduring overall message of the book is that God welcomes the honest expressions of our hearts, reflecting all the challenges of our ongoing relationship with him.

The book of Psalms was very popular in the first century AD and is crucial for understanding the story of Jesus the Messiah. The writers of the New Testament saw the themes of Psalms continuing in the ongoing story of God's people. This can also be true for us today as we read, sing, reflect on, and enter into the same story of struggle, rescue, and restoration. Israel's songbook gives us the words for expressing our own movements through lament and praise and thanksgiving on our journey with God toward a world of justice and peace.

PSALMS



Book One

PSALMS 1-41

PSALM 1

Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the LORD,
meditating on it day and night.

They are like trees planted along the riverbank,
bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.

But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

They will be condemned at the time of judgment.

Sinners will have no place among the godly.

For the LORD watches over the path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

PSALM 2

Why are the nations so angry?

Why do they waste their time with futile plans?

The kings of the earth prepare for battle;

the rulers plot together

against the LORD

and against his anointed one.

“Let us break their chains,” they cry,

“and free ourselves from slavery to God.”

But the one who rules in heaven laughs.
 The Lord scoffs at them.
 Then in anger he rebukes them,
 terrifying them with his fierce fury.
 For the Lord declares, “I have placed my chosen king on the throne
 in Jerusalem, on my holy mountain.”

The king proclaims the LORD’s decree:
 “The LORD said to me, ‘You are my son.
 Today I have become your Father.
 Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance,
 the whole earth as your possession.
 You will break them with an iron rod
 and smash them like clay pots.’”

Now then, you kings, act wisely!
 Be warned, you rulers of the earth!
 Serve the LORD with reverent fear,
 and rejoice with trembling.
 Submit to God’s royal son, or he will become angry,
 and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities—
 for his anger flares up in an instant.
 But what joy for all who take refuge in him!

PSALM 3

A psalm of David, regarding the time David fled from his son Absalom.

O LORD, I have so many enemies;
 so many are against me.
 So many are saying,
 “God will never rescue him!” *Interlude*

But you, O LORD, are a shield around me;
 you are my glory, the one who holds my head high.
 I cried out to the LORD,
 and he answered me from his holy mountain. *Interlude*

I lay down and slept,
 yet I woke up in safety,
 for the LORD was watching over me.
 I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies
 who surround me on every side.

Arise, O LORD!
 Rescue me, my God!

Slap all my enemies in the face!
 Shatter the teeth of the wicked!
 Victory comes from you, O LORD.
 May you bless your people.

Interlude

PSALM 4

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by stringed instruments.

Answer me when I call to you,
 O God who declares me innocent.
 Free me from my troubles.
 Have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you people ruin my reputation?
 How long will you make groundless accusations?
 How long will you continue your lies?

Interlude

You can be sure of this:
 The LORD set apart the godly for himself.
 The LORD will answer when I call to him.

Don't sin by letting anger control you.
 Think about it overnight and remain silent.
 Offer sacrifices in the right spirit,
 and trust the LORD.

Interlude

Many people say, "Who will show us better times?"
 Let your face smile on us, LORD.
 You have given me greater joy
 than those who have abundant harvests of grain
 and new wine.
 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
 for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.

PSALM 5

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by the flute.

O LORD, hear me as I pray;
 pay attention to my groaning.
 Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God,
 for I pray to no one but you.
 Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD.
 Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait
 expectantly.

O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness;
 you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked.
 Therefore, the proud may not stand in your presence,
 for you hate all who do evil.
 You will destroy those who tell lies.
 The LORD detests murderers and deceivers.

Because of your unfailing love, I can enter your house;
 I will worship at your Temple with deepest awe.
 Lead me in the right path, O LORD,
 or my enemies will conquer me.
 Make your way plain for me to follow.

My enemies cannot speak a truthful word.
 Their deepest desire is to destroy others.
 Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave.
 Their tongues are filled with flattery.
 O God, declare them guilty.
 Let them be caught in their own traps.
 Drive them away because of their many sins,
 for they have rebelled against you.

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
 let them sing joyful praises forever.
 Spread your protection over them,
 that all who love your name may be filled with joy.
 For you bless the godly, O LORD;
 you surround them with your shield of love.

PSALM 6

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by an eight-stringed instrument.

O LORD, don't rebuke me in your anger
 or discipline me in your rage.
 Have compassion on me, LORD, for I am weak.
 Heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony.
 I am sick at heart.
 How long, O LORD, until you restore me?
 Return, O LORD, and rescue me.
 Save me because of your unfailing love.
 For the dead do not remember you.
 Who can praise you from the grave?

I am worn out from sobbing.
 All night I flood my bed with weeping,
 drenching it with my tears.
 My vision is blurred by grief;
 my eyes are worn out because of all my enemies.

Go away, all you who do evil,
 for the LORD has heard my weeping.
 The LORD has heard my plea;
 the LORD will answer my prayer.
 May all my enemies be disgraced and terrified.
 May they suddenly turn back in shame.

PSALM 7

A psalm of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning Cush of the tribe of Benjamin.

I come to you for protection, O LORD my God.
 Save me from my persecutors—rescue me!
 If you don't, they will maul me like a lion,
 tearing me to pieces with no one to rescue me.
 O LORD my God, if I have done wrong
 or am guilty of injustice,
 if I have betrayed a friend
 or plundered my enemy without cause,
 then let my enemies capture me.
 Let them trample me into the ground
 and drag my honor in the dust.

Interlude

Arise, O LORD, in anger!
 Stand up against the fury of my enemies!
 Wake up, my God, and bring justice!
 Gather the nations before you.
 Rule over them from on high.
 The LORD judges the nations.
 Declare me righteous, O LORD,
 for I am innocent, O Most High!
 End the evil of those who are wicked,
 and defend the righteous.
 For you look deep within the mind and heart,
 O righteous God.
 God is my shield,
 saving those whose hearts are true and right.

God is an honest judge.
 He is angry with the wicked every day.

If a person does not repent,
 God will sharpen his sword;
 he will bend and string his bow.
 He will prepare his deadly weapons
 and shoot his flaming arrows.

The wicked conceive evil;
 they are pregnant with trouble
 and give birth to lies.
 They dig a deep pit to trap others,
 then fall into it themselves.
 The trouble they make for others backfires on them.
 The violence they plan falls on their own heads.

I will thank the LORD because he is just;
 I will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

PSALM 8

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by a stringed instrument.

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!
 Your glory is higher than the heavens.
 You have taught children and infants
 to tell of your strength,
 silencing your enemies
 and all who oppose you.

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—
 the moon and the stars you set in place—
 what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
 human beings that you should care for them?
 Yet you made them only a little lower than God
 and crowned them with glory and honor.
 You gave them charge of everything you made,
 putting all things under their authority—
 the flocks and the herds
 and all the wild animals,
 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
 and everything that swims the ocean currents.

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

PSALM 9-10

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be sung to the tune "Death of the Son."

I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.
I will be filled with joy because of you.
I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.

My enemies retreated;
they staggered and died when you appeared.
For you have judged in my favor;
from your throne you have judged with fairness.
You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked;
you have erased their names forever.
The enemy is finished, in endless ruins;
the cities you uprooted are now forgotten.

But the LORD reigns forever,
executing judgment from his throne.
He will judge the world with justice
and rule the nations with fairness.
The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed,
a refuge in times of trouble.
Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you.

Sing praises to the LORD who reigns in Jerusalem.
Tell the world about his unforgettable deeds.
For he who avenges murder cares for the helpless.
He does not ignore the cries of those who suffer.

LORD, have mercy on me.
See how my enemies torment me.
Snatch me back from the jaws of death.
Save me so I can praise you publicly at Jerusalem's gates,
so I can rejoice that you have rescued me.

The nations have fallen into the pit they dug for others.
Their own feet have been caught in the trap they set.
The LORD is known for his justice.
The wicked are trapped by their own deeds.

Quiet Interlude

The wicked will go down to the grave.
This is the fate of all the nations who ignore God.
But the needy will not be ignored forever;
the hopes of the poor will not always be crushed.

Arise, O LORD!

Do not let mere mortals defy you!

Judge the nations!

Make them tremble in fear, O LORD.

Let the nations know they are merely human.

Interlude

O LORD, why do you stand so far away?

Why do you hide when I am in trouble?

The wicked arrogantly hunt down the poor.

Let them be caught in the evil they plan for others.

For they brag about their evil desires;

they praise the greedy and curse the LORD.

The wicked are too proud to seek God.

They seem to think that God is dead.

Yet they succeed in everything they do.

They do not see your punishment awaiting them.

They sneer at all their enemies.

They think, “Nothing bad will ever happen to us!

We will be free of trouble forever!”

Their mouths are full of cursing, lies, and threats.

Trouble and evil are on the tips of their tongues.

They lurk in ambush in the villages,

waiting to murder innocent people.

They are always searching for helpless victims.

Like lions crouched in hiding,

they wait to pounce on the helpless.

Like hunters they capture the helpless

and drag them away in nets.

Their helpless victims are crushed;

they fall beneath the strength of the wicked.

The wicked think, “God isn’t watching us!

He has closed his eyes and won’t even see
what we do!”

Arise, O LORD!

Punish the wicked, O God!

Do not ignore the helpless!

Why do the wicked get away with despising God?

They think, “God will never call us to account.”

But you see the trouble and grief they cause.

You take note of it and punish them.

The helpless put their trust in you.

You defend the orphans.

Break the arms of these wicked, evil people!

Go after them until the last one is destroyed.

The LORD is king forever and ever!

The godless nations will vanish from the land.

LORD, you know the hopes of the helpless.

Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them.

You will bring justice to the orphans and the oppressed,
so mere people can no longer terrify them.

PSALM 11

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

I trust in the LORD for protection.

So why do you say to me,

“Fly like a bird to the mountains for safety!

The wicked are stringing their bows

and fitting their arrows on the bowstrings.

They shoot from the shadows

at those whose hearts are right.

The foundations of law and order have collapsed.

What can the righteous do?”

But the LORD is in his holy Temple;

the LORD still rules from heaven.

He watches everyone closely,

examining every person on earth.

The LORD examines both the righteous and the wicked.

He hates those who love violence.

He will rain down blazing coals and burning sulfur

on the wicked,

punishing them with scorching winds.

For the righteous LORD loves justice.

The virtuous will see his face.

PSALM 12

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by an eight-stringed instrument.

Help, O LORD, for the godly are fast disappearing!

The faithful have vanished from the earth!

Neighbors lie to each other,
 speaking with flattering lips and deceitful hearts.
 May the LORD cut off their flattering lips
 and silence their boastful tongues.
 They say, “We will lie to our hearts’ content.
 Our lips are our own—who can stop us?”

The LORD replies, “I have seen violence done to the helpless,
 and I have heard the groans of the poor.
 Now I will rise up to rescue them,
 as they have longed for me to do.”

The LORD’s promises are pure,
 like silver refined in a furnace,
 purified seven times over.

Therefore, LORD, we know you will protect the oppressed,
 preserving them forever from this lying generation,
 even though the wicked strut about,
 and evil is praised throughout the land.

PSALM 13

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

O LORD, how long will you forget me? Forever?
 How long will you look the other way?
 How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
 with sorrow in my heart every day?
 How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

Turn and answer me, O LORD my God!
 Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.
 Don’t let my enemies gloat, saying, “We have defeated him!”
 Don’t let them rejoice at my downfall.

But I trust in your unfailing love.
 I will rejoice because you have rescued me.
 I will sing to the LORD
 because he is good to me.

PSALM 14

For the choir director: A psalm of David.

Only fools say in their hearts,
 “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, and their actions are evil;
not one of them does good!

The LORD looks down from heaven
on the entire human race;
he looks to see if anyone is truly wise,
if anyone seeks God.

But no, all have turned away;
all have become corrupt.

No one does good,
not a single one!

Will those who do evil never learn?
They eat up my people like bread
and wouldn't think of praying to the LORD.

Terror will grip them,
for God is with those who obey him.
The wicked frustrate the plans of the oppressed,
but the LORD will protect his people.

Who will come from Mount Zion to rescue
Israel?
When the LORD restores his people,
Jacob will shout with joy, and Israel will
rejoice.

PSALM 15

A psalm of David.

Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD?
Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?
Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right,
speaking the truth from sincere hearts.

Those who refuse to gossip
or harm their neighbors
or speak evil of their friends.

Those who despise flagrant sinners,
and honor the faithful followers of the LORD,
and keep their promises even when it hurts.

Those who lend money without charging interest,
and who cannot be bribed to lie about the
innocent.

Such people will stand firm forever.

PSALM 16*A psalm of David.*

Keep me safe, O God,
for I have come to you for refuge.

I said to the LORD, “You are my Master!
Every good thing I have comes from you.”

The godly people in the land
are my true heroes!

I take pleasure in them!

Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods.

I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood
or even speak the names of their gods.

LORD, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.

You guard all that is mine.

The land you have given me is a pleasant land.

What a wonderful inheritance!

I will bless the LORD who guides me;
even at night my heart instructs me.

I know the LORD is always with me.

I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.

My body rests in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.

You will show me the way of life,

granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever.

PSALM 17*A prayer of David.*

O LORD, hear my plea for justice.

Listen to my cry for help.

Pay attention to my prayer,
for it comes from honest lips.

Declare me innocent,
for you see those who do right.

You have tested my thoughts and examined my heart in the night.

You have scrutinized me and found nothing wrong.

I am determined not to sin in what I say.
I have followed your commands,
which keep me from following cruel and evil people.
My steps have stayed on your path;
I have not wavered from following you.

I am praying to you because I know you will answer,
O God.

Bend down and listen as I pray.
Show me your unfailing love in wonderful ways.

By your mighty power you rescue
those who seek refuge from their enemies.

Guard me as you would guard your own eyes.

Hide me in the shadow of your wings.
Protect me from wicked people who attack me,
from murderous enemies who surround me.

They are without pity.

Listen to their boasting!
They track me down and surround me,
watching for the chance to throw me to the ground.
They are like hungry lions, eager to tear me apart—
like young lions hiding in ambush.

Arise, O LORD!

Stand against them, and bring them to their knees!
Rescue me from the wicked with your sword!
By the power of your hand, O LORD,
destroy those who look to this world for their reward.

But satisfy the hunger of your treasured ones.

May their children have plenty,
leaving an inheritance for their descendants.

Because I am righteous, I will see you.

When I awake, I will see you face to face and be satisfied.

PSALM 18

For the choir director: A psalm of David, the servant of the LORD. He sang this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul.

He sang:

I love you, LORD;

you are my strength.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior;
my God is my rock, in whom I find protection.