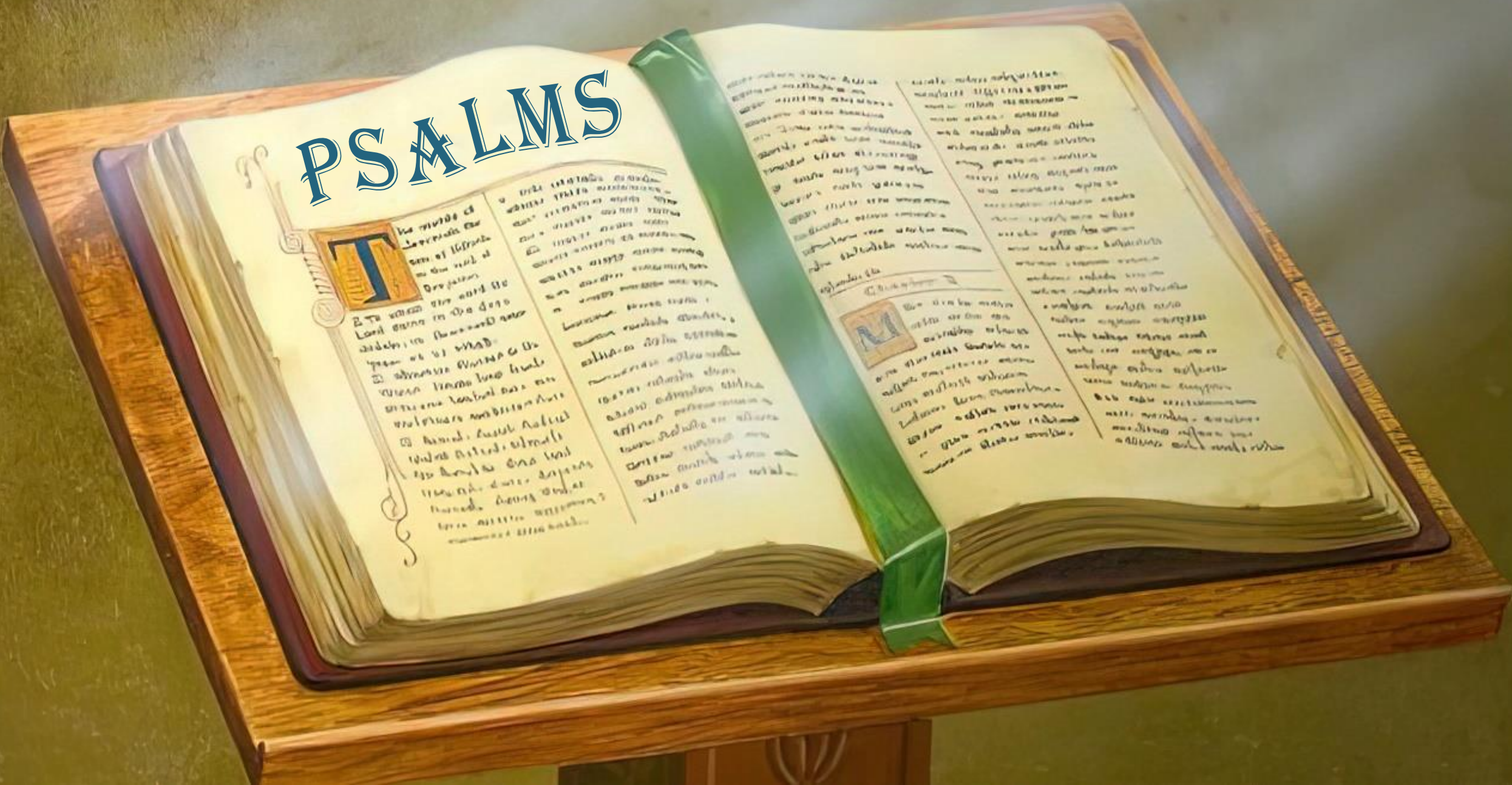


# WISDOM IN THE WISDOM BOOKS

## PSALMS





# WISDOM IN PROVERBS AND JOB

Wisdom is the knowledge that enables us to make correct decisions. In the Bible, wisdom begins with reverent fear of the Lord, and He is the one who causes us to walk with understanding (Proverbs 9:10).

Proverbs chapters 1-9 describe the value of wisdom. Starting in chapter 10 we have more than 600 proverbs with practical advice for learning and using wisdom.

What will we obtain with wisdom, according to Proverbs 8:12-14?

▶ We will hate evil ◀

▶ We will hate pride ◀

▶ We will hate arrogance ◀

▶ We will hate the evil way ◀

▶ We will hate the wicked mouth ◀

▶ We will receive sanity ◀

▶ We will receive good advice ◀

▶ We will receive good judgment ◀

▶ We will receive intelligence ◀

▶ We will receive power ◀



**"Where then does wisdom come from?**

**Where does understanding dwell?  
It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing..[...]**

**"The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding."  
(Job 28:20-21, 28)**

# WISDOM IN THE PSALETRY

## Psalm 1

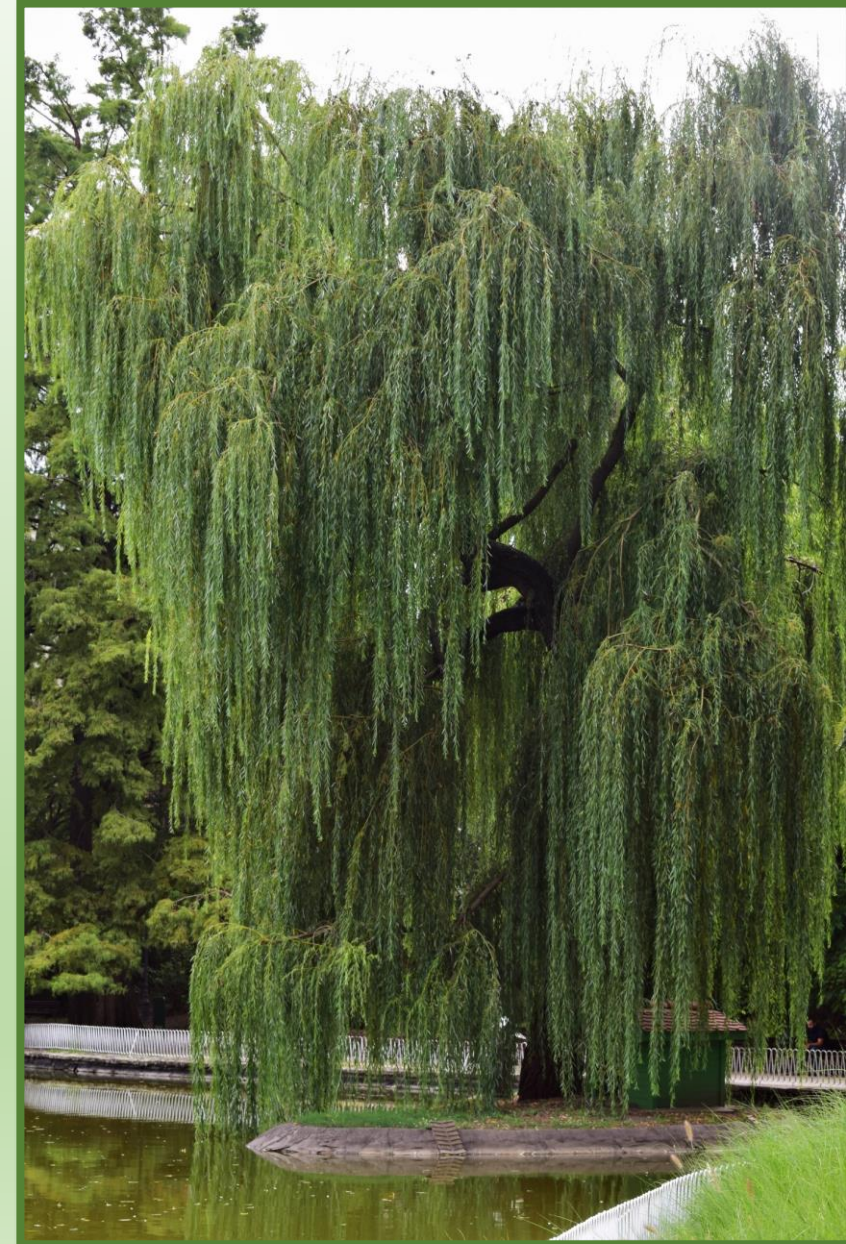
This psalm presents two ways of life: the life of righteousness (Ps. 1:2-3) and the life of wickedness (Ps. 1:4-5). The song begins with a description of how the righteous go in the opposite direction from the unrighteous (Ps. 1:1). As a result of their decisions, the wicked receive a fate very different from that of the righteous (Ps. 1:6).

**“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.**

**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.**

**Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

**For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.”**





## Psalm 19

This psalm is divided into two clear sections. The first section contains God's revelation in Creation (Ps. 19:1-6), and the second section contains his revelation in the Law (Ps. 19:7-14). These two topics are very important in order to understand and achieve biblical wisdom. Both themes are an inspiration for the believer who aspires to be “upright” and “clean from great rebellion” (Ps. 19:13).



**“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 reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, 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 deprived of its warmth. The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing 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 decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”**

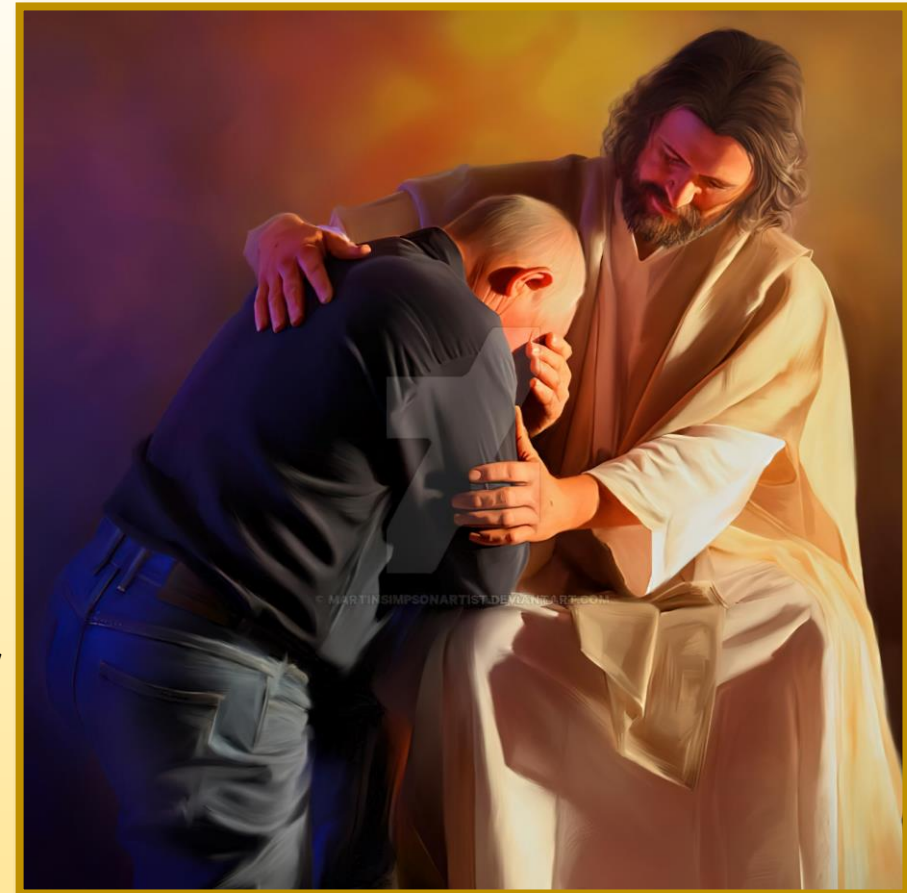
## Psalm 32

This song offers a contrast between the repentant and the wicked (Ps. 32:10, 11). It also adopts the wisdom tone of instruction and teaching (Ps. 32:8, 9), common to wisdom literature (Prov. 4:1-15; 6:20-23; 7:1-5).

**“Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

**Therefore, let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.**

**10 Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart.”**



## Psalm 34

Portions of Psalm 34 evoke the practical advice that characterizes wisdom literature, as seen in the father's tender call to his son to desire long life, pursue the fear of the Lord, and flee from sin (Ps. 34:11). -14). After offering this advice, the psalmist describes the fate of the faithful (Ps. 34:15, 16, 21). Without a doubt, the best decision we can make in life is to walk the path of wisdom.



**"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing. Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate."**



“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

## Psalm 37

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

**This psalm answers the big question: Why do the wicked prosper? Today, we ask ourselves the same question. The answer he offers is not philosophical in its analysis; rather, it is faith-based advice for righteous living. Contemplate carefully the timeless wisdom of this song!**

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotted against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The LORD shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous. The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away. The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever. The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. be found. Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.”



## Psalm 49

In the opening lines, this song states: "My mouth will speak wisdom, the thought of my heart. I will incline my ear to the proverb, I will declare my riddle with the harp" (Ps. 49:3, 4). From there, the author proceeds to describe the fate of the wicked who prosper (Ps. 49:5-20).



"Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: Both low and high, rich and poor, together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp. Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about? They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption. For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless, man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish."





## Psalm 73

The Hebrew people were trying to understand the origins of evil in this world and injustice in society. He struggled to know whether divine retribution had failed or not. This issue posed no less problems for them than it does for us today.



“Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well-nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore, pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Therefore, his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, how doth God know? and is there knowledge in the highest? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image. Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless, I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.”

## Psalm 112

This song describes the blessings of fearing the Lord (Ps. 112:1). There are 16 blessings for the righteous (Ps. 112:2-9). A careful examination of these blessings will show that to fear the Lord is to aspire to the highest spiritual attainment in our daily lives. The psalmist ends with a brief description of the terrible fate of the wicked, compared to the righteous.

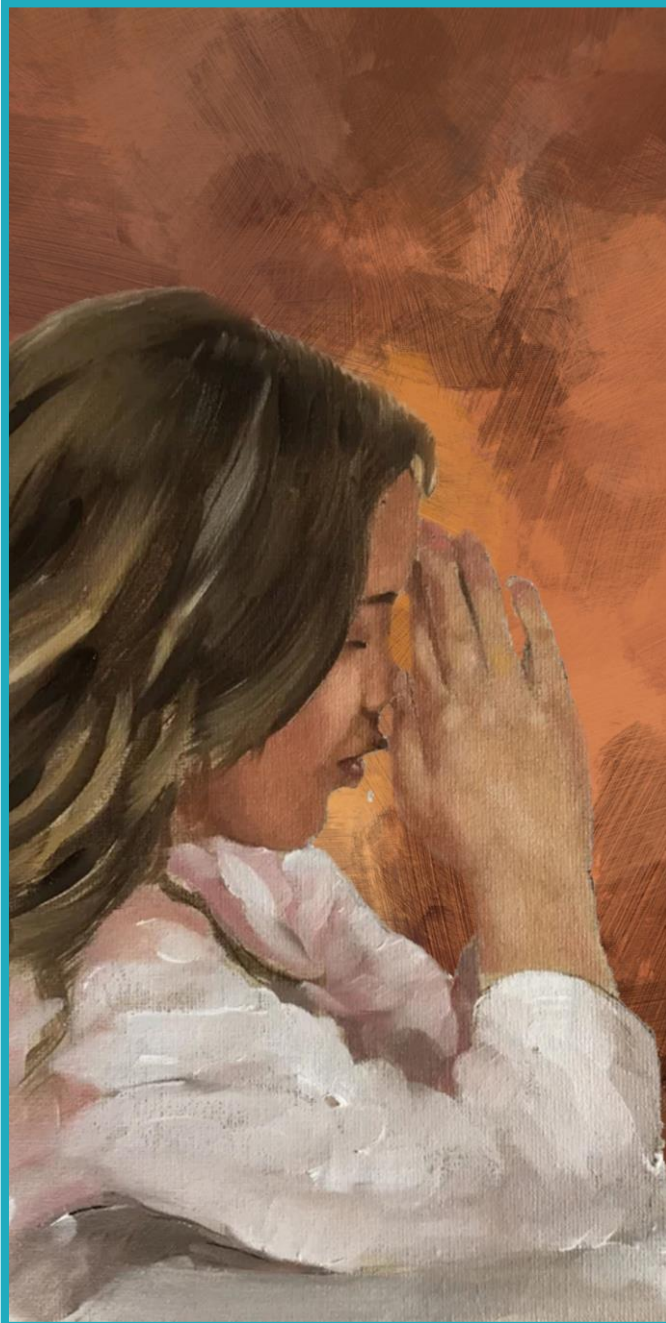
**“Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.”**





## **Psalm 119**

The longest psalm in the Psalter deals with the Torah (Law), which comprises more than just the Mosaic code. The Torah refers to the body of Scripture. It changes the lives of those who grasp the teachings of the Word of God.



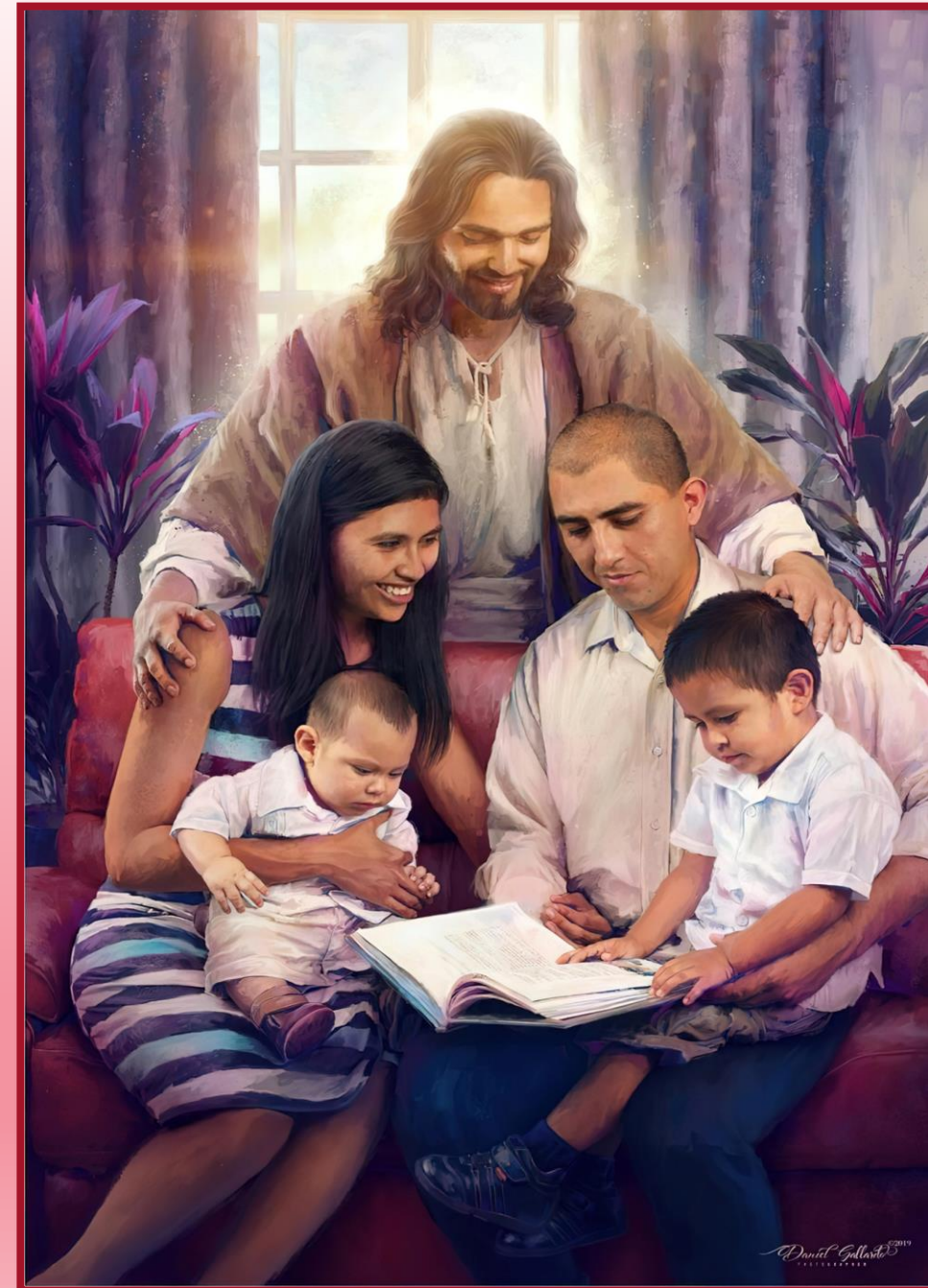
***"Aleph .*** Blessed are the perfect in their way, those who walk in the law of Jehovah. Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, and with all their hearts seek him; For those who walk in their ways do no iniquity. You commanded that your commandments be closely guarded. Would that my ways were ordered to keep your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed when I obeyed all your commandments. I will praise you with righteousness of heart when I learn your righteous judgments. I will keep your statutes; don't leave me entirely.

***Beth .*** With what will the young man cleanse his path? By keeping your word. With all my heart I have sought you; do not let me deviate from your commandments. I have kept your sayings in my heart, so as not to sin against you. Blessed are you, O Jehovah; teach me your statutes. With my lips I have told all the judgments of your mouth. Along the way I have enjoyed your testimonies more than all wealth. I will meditate on your commandments; I will consider your ways. I will rejoice in your statutes; "I will not forget your words."

## Psalm 127

In just five verses, this psalm focuses on the blessings that the Lord showers on the home and children of those who trust in the Creator. Perhaps for this reason, singing is considered a sapiential expression. Wisdom should be the foundation on which the most precious treasure we have is based: our family.

**"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."**





## Psalm 128

The six lines of this short psalm are classified among the writings of wisdom literature because they refer to God's prosperity in the home of everyone “who fears the Lord” (Ps. 128:1, 4).



**“Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.**

**Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.”**

## Psalm 133

Some may question the inclusion of this psalm in the wisdom literature of Scripture. But the expression “let the brothers dwell together in harmony” (Ps. 133:1) infuses the verse with that characteristic tinge of biblical wisdom that we have so far identified as a distinctive feature of wisdom literature. To be imbued with this spirit of brotherhood is the wish of the Almighty for us as his followers. That unity is the practical evidence of a Christian life.



“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

