

Theme: The poetical books in the Bible

Day 1^{BS} Psalm 103:1-22

A Psalm about God's benefits

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
² Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.
¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.
²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.
²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.
²² Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the LORD, my soul.

Day 2 Psalm 139:1-24

God's omniscience

¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from
your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far
side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will
shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully
made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains
of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.
¹⁹ If only you, God, would slay the wicked!
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
²² I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.
²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Day 3 Proverbs 16:1-9
God alone makes plans succeed

¹To humans belong the plans of the heart,
but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the
tongue.

²All a person's ways seem pure to them,
but motives are weighed by the LORD.

³Commit to the LORD whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.

⁴The LORD works out everything to its proper end—
even the wicked for a day of disaster.

⁵The LORD detests all the proud of heart.
Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

⁶Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for;
through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided.

⁷When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone's way,
he causes their enemies to make peace with them.

⁸Better a little with righteousness
than much gain with injustice.

⁹In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the LORD establishes their steps.

Day 4 Proverbs 26:4-12
What is wise?

⁴Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
or you yourself will be just like him.

⁵Answer a fool according to his folly,
or he will be wise in his own eyes.

⁶Sending a message by the hands of a fool
is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison.

⁷Like the useless legs of one who is lame
is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

⁸Like tying a stone in a sling
is the giving of honor to a fool.

⁹Like a thornbush in a drunkard's hand
is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

¹⁰Like an archer who wounds at random
is one who hires a fool or any passer-by.

¹¹As a dog returns to its vomit,
so fools repeat their folly.

¹²Do you see a person wise in their own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for them.

Day 5 Ecclesiastes 4:7-12
Two are better than one

⁷Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

⁸There was a man all alone;
he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil,
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.

"For whom am I toiling," he asked,
"and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?"

This too is meaningless—
a miserable business!

⁹Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:

¹⁰If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.

¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

¹²Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Day 6 Ecclesiastes 11:7 – 12:14
Remember your Creator before it is too late

⁷Light is sweet,
and it pleases the eyes to see the sun.

⁸However many years anyone may live,
let them enjoy them all.

But let them remember the days of darkness,
for there will be many.

Everything to come is meaningless.

⁹You who are young, be happy while you are young,
and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth.

Follow the ways of your heart
and whatever your eyes see,

but know that for all these things
God will bring you into judgment.

¹⁰So then, banish anxiety from your heart
and cast off the troubles of your body,
for youth and vigor are meaningless.

¹ Remember your Creator
in the days of your youth,
before the days of trouble come
and the years approach when you will say,
“I find no pleasure in them”—
² before the sun and the light
and the moon and the stars grow dark,
and the clouds return after the rain;
³ when the keepers of the house tremble,
and the strong men stoop,
when the grinders cease because they are few,
and those looking through the windows grow dim;
⁴ when the doors to the street are closed
and the sound of grinding fades;
when people rise up at the sound of birds,
but all their songs grow faint;
⁵ when people are afraid of heights
and of dangers in the streets;
when the almond tree blossoms
and the grasshopper drags itself along
and desire no longer is stirred.
Then people go to their eternal home
and mourners go about the streets.
⁶ Remember him—before the silver cord is severed,
and the golden bowl is broken;
before the pitcher is shattered at the spring,
and the wheel broken at the well,
⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
⁸ “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.
“Everything is meaningless!”
⁹ Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted
knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out
and set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Teacher searched
to find just the right words, and what he wrote was
upright and true.
¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, their collected
sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one
shepherd. ¹² Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to
them.
Of making many books there is no end, and much study
wears the body.
¹³ Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.
¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.

Day 7 Song of Songs 1:1 – 2:17 A song of a lover and his beloved

¹ Solomon’s Song of Songs.
She
² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—
for your love is more delightful than wine.
³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;
your name is like perfume poured out.
No wonder the young women love you!
⁴ Take me away with you—let us hurry!
Let the king bring me into his chambers.
Friends
We rejoice and delight in you;
we will praise your love more than wine.
She: How right they are to adore you!
⁵ Dark am I, yet lovely,
daughters of Jerusalem,
dark like the tents of Kedar,
like the tent curtains of Solomon.
⁶ Do not stare at me because I am dark,
because I am darkened by the sun.
My mother’s sons were angry with me
and made me take care of the vineyards;
my own vineyard I had to neglect.
⁷ Tell me, you whom I love,
where you graze your flock
and where you rest your sheep at midday.
Why should I be like a veiled woman
beside the flocks of your friends?
Friends
⁸ If you do not know, most beautiful of women,
follow the tracks of the sheep
and graze your young goats
by the tents of the shepherds.
He: ⁹ I liken you, my darling, to a mare
among Pharaoh’s chariot horses.
¹⁰ Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings,
your neck with strings of jewels.
¹¹ We will make you earrings of gold,
studded with silver.
She: ¹² While the king was at his table,
my perfume spread its fragrance.
¹³ My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh
resting between my breasts.
¹⁴ My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms
from the vineyards of En Gedi.
He: ¹⁵ How beautiful you are, my darling!
Oh, how beautiful!
Your eyes are doves.
She: ¹⁶ How handsome you are, my beloved!
Oh, how charming!
And our bed is verdant.
He: ¹⁷ The beams of our house are cedars;
our rafters are firs.

She: ¹ I am a rose of Sharon,
a lily of the valleys.
He: ² Like a lily among thorns
is my darling among the young women.
She: ³ Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest
is my beloved among the young men.
I delight to sit in his shade,
and his fruit is sweet to my taste.
⁴ Let him lead me to the banquet hall,
and let his banner over me be love.
⁵ Strengthen me with raisins,
refresh me with apples,
for I am faint with love.
⁶ His left arm is under my head,
and his right arm embraces me.
⁷ Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you
by the gazelles and by the does of the field:
Do not arouse or awaken love
until it so desires.
⁸ Listen! My beloved!
Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look! There he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattice.
¹⁰ My beloved spoke and said to me,
“Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me.
¹¹ See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
¹² Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.
¹³ The fig tree forms its early fruit;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling;
my beautiful one, come with me.”
He: ¹⁴ My dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the hiding places on the mountainside,
show me your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.
¹⁵ Catch for us the foxes,
the little foxes
that ruin the vineyards,
our vineyards that are in bloom.
She: ¹⁶ My beloved is mine and I am his;
he browses among the lilies.
¹⁷ Until the day breaks
and the shadows flee,
turn, my beloved,
and be like a gazelle
or like a young stag
on the rugged hills.

Day 8 Lamentations 3:1-27 Despair and hope

¹ I am the man who has seen affliction
by the rod of the LORD's wrath.
² He has driven me away and made me walk
in darkness rather than light;
³ indeed, he has turned his hand against me
again and again, all day long.
⁴ He has made my skin and my flesh grow old
and has broken my bones.
⁵ He has besieged me and surrounded me
with bitterness and hardship.
⁶ He has made me dwell in darkness
like those long dead.
⁷ He has walled me in so I cannot escape;
he has weighed me down with chains.
⁸ Even when I call out or cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer.
⁹ He has barred my way with blocks of stone;
he has made my paths crooked.
¹⁰ Like a bear lying in wait,
like a lion in hiding,
¹¹ he dragged me from the path and mangled me
and left me without help.
¹² He drew his bow
and made me the target for his arrows.
¹³ He pierced my heart
with arrows from his quiver.
¹⁴ I became the laughingstock of all my people;
they mock me in song all day long.
¹⁵ He has filled me with bitter herbs
and given me gall to drink.
¹⁶ He has broken my teeth with gravel;
he has trampled me in the dust.
¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what prosperity is.
¹⁸ So I say, “My splendor is gone
and all that I had hoped from the LORD.”
¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.
²⁰ I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.
²¹ Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.”
²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
²⁶ it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
²⁷ It is good for a man to bear the yoke
while he is young.

Day 9 Job 1:1 – 2:13

Job, who believes in God, is tested by Satan

¹In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. ²He had seven sons and three daughters, ³and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

⁴His sons used to hold feasts in their homes on their birthdays, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

⁶One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. ⁷The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

⁸Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

⁹"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹²The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

¹³One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵and the Sabaeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

²⁰At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

¹On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. ²And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

³Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

⁴"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. ⁵But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

⁶The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

⁹His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

¹⁰He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

¹¹When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him. ¹²When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. ¹³Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.

Day 10 Job 40:15 – 41:14
The Maker of the hippopotamus (behemoth)
and the crocodile (leviathan)

¹⁵“Look at Behemoth,
which I made along with you
and which feeds on grass like an ox.
¹⁶What strength it has in its loins,
what power in the muscles of its belly!
¹⁷Its tail sways like a cedar;
the sinews of its thighs are close-knit.
¹⁸Its bones are tubes of bronze,
its limbs like rods of iron.
¹⁹It ranks first among the works of God,
yet its Maker can approach it with his sword.
²⁰The hills bring it their produce,
and all the wild animals play nearby.
²¹Under the lotus plants it lies,
hidden among the reeds in the marsh.
²²The lotuses conceal it in their shadow;
the poplars by the stream surround it.
²³A raging river does not alarm it;
it is secure, though the Jordan should surge against its
mouth.
²⁴Can anyone capture it by the eyes,
or trap it and pierce its nose?

¹“Can you pull in Leviathan with a fishhook
or tie down its tongue with a rope?
²Can you put a cord through its nose
or pierce its jaw with a hook?
³Will it keep begging you for mercy?
Will it speak to you with gentle words?
⁴Will it make an agreement with you
for you to take it as your slave for life?
⁵Can you make a pet of it like a bird
or put it on a leash for the young women in your house?
⁶Will traders barter for it?
Will they divide it up among the merchants?
⁷Can you fill its hide with harpoons
or its head with fishing spears?
⁸If you lay a hand on it,
you will remember the struggle and never do it again!
⁹Any hope of subduing it is false;
the mere sight of it is overpowering.
¹⁰No one is fierce enough to rouse it.
Who then is able to stand against me?
¹¹Who has a claim against me that I must pay?
Everything under heaven belongs to me.
¹²“I will not fail to speak of Leviathan’s limbs,
its strength and its graceful form.
¹³Who can strip off its outer coat?
Who can penetrate its double coat of armor?
¹⁴Who dares open the doors of its mouth,
ringed about with fearsome teeth?