

Psalm 25: *Make us know your ways, Lord*



Psalm 25 (24) (Mode 3. 3....12 / 4.....271)

This is an acrostic psalm (compare Psalm 9-10).

The psalmist is feeling 'lonely and afflicted'. He looks to God and is earnest in wanting to learn God's will and keen to do it. Aware of his sinfulness, he humbly seeks pardon, confident in God's merciful love. He is willing to wait patiently for God's response.

The psalm highlights the covenant (verses 10,14) which is founded on God's hesed, and to which we should respond with reverence (verses 12,14), trust (verse 2) and hope (verses 3, 5b, 21). Compare the creedal formula 'The Lord, the Lord, a God tenderly compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness and faithfulness'(Exodus 34:6).

The Lord is our Teacher (verses 8-9, 14b).

[כ] All my longing is for you, O Lord.

[ב] My God, in you I trust.

Do not let my enemies gloat over me.

Do not fail me.

[ג] Those who hope in you will not be disappointed.

Disgrace is for those who are wantonly unfaithful.

[ד] Lord, show me how to live. Teach me your way.

[ה] Point me to your truth, and guide me.

For you are God my saviour.

ן] You are my constant hope.

{ר] Lord, be mindful of your tender compassion,
your kindness since ancient times.

ן] Remember me, not the sins of my youth
or the ways I have been unfaithful.

‘The Lord said: I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The Lord”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will tenderly compassionate towards whom I will show tender compassion’(Exodus 33:19).

‘The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed: The Lord, The Lord, a God tenderly compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness and faithfulness’(Exodus 34:6).

[ו] Good and upright is the Lord,
guiding those who stray.

[י] God leads the poor,
pointing out the path.

[כ] The Lord's paths are faithfulness and love
for those who keep the covenant.

[ל] Be true to your name, O Lord
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

‘Although our iniquities testify against us, act, Lord,
for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you’ (Jeremiah 14:7).

- [נ] For those in awe of God's presence,
the Lord will reveal the path to choose.
- [ו] They will live a full life,
and their heirs will inherit your land.
- [ז] The Lord counsels the faithful,
instructing them through the covenant.

He is speaking of that fear which is a gift from the Lord – the fear of what we are capable of doing that could cut us off from God.

[٧] My eyes are fixed on the Lord,
who will free me from the trap.

[٩] Turn to me and be gracious,
for I am lonely and poor.

[١٠] Relieve the troubles of my heart.
Free me from my distress.

[١٢] Observe my affliction and my trouble.
Forgive all my sins.

[ר] See how many are my foes.

How violent is their hatred towards me.

[ש] Rescue me and preserve my life.

Do not let me be put to shame.

In you I take refuge.

[ת] May integrity and uprightness preserve me,

For in you, O God, I hope.

Rescue Israel from every danger.