CMCS Houston Tea and Texts

The first Psalm and the first Surah

Psalm 1

JPS translation

צַשָׁרֵי הַאָּישׁ אַשֶׁר וֹ לָא הַלָּךְ בַּעַצַת רְשַׁעֵים וּבְדֵרֶךְ חָטַאִים לָא עַמַד וּבְמוֹשֶׁב לְצִים לְא יַשְׁב

Happy is the man who has not followed the counsel of the wicked, or taken the path of sinners, or joined the company of the insolent;

בִּי אֶם בַּתוֹרַת יָהֹוָה חֵפָצִוֹ וְבַתוֹרַתוֹ יֵהְגָּה יוֹמֶם וַלַיִּלָה:

rather, the teaching of the LORD is his delight, and he studies that teaching day and night.

וָהָיָה כִּעִץ שֶׁתָוּל עַל־פַּלגִּי־מֵים אֲשֵׁר פִּרְיוֹ ו יָהֵׁן בִּעָהוֹ לְאֹ־יִבְּוֹל וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֵׂה יַצְלֵיחַ:

He is like a tree planted beside streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season, whose foliage never fades, and whatever it produces thrives.

לא־כֵן הַרְשַׁעֵים כֵּי אָם־כַּמֹץ אֲשֶׁר־תִּדְפֵנוּ רְוּחַ:

Not so the wicked;

rather, they are like chaff that wind blows away.

צַל־כֵּן וּ לֹא־יַקָמוּ רָשַׁעִים בַּמִּשְׁפָּט וְחַטַּאִים בַּעַדַת צַדִּיקִים:

Therefore the wicked will not survive judgment, nor will sinners, in the assembly of the righteous.

(פּּ) בְּרָהְ זֶּרֶהְ זֶּרֶהְ צַדִּיקֵים וְדֶרֶהְ רְשָׁעִים תּאֹבֶד:

For the LORD cherishes the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

English Standard Version

1Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
4The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

5Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; 6for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Surah 1: al-Fatihah

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- 1. In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.
- ٢. ٱلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ ٱلْعَالَمِينَ ِ ٢
- 2. Praise be to God,

The Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds;

- ٣. ٱلرَّحْمَانِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ ِ 🔾
- 3. Most Gracious, Most Merciful;
- ٤. مَالِكِ يَوْمِ ٱلدِّينِ
- 4. Master of the Day of Judgment.
- ٥. إِيَّاكَ نَعۡبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسۡتَعِينُ ۞
- 5. Thee do we worship,

And Thine aid we seek.

- ٦. ٱهْدِنَا ٱلصِّرَاطَ ٱلْمُسْتَقِيمَ ۞
- 6. Show us the straight way,
- ٧. صرر أَطَ ٱلَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ ٱلْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَ لَا ٱلضَّالِّينَ ٧.
- 7. The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, Those whose (portion) Is not wrath,

And who go not astray.

Abdul Haleem's translation:

- ¹In the name of God, the Lord of Mercy, ^a the Giver ^b of Mercy! ^c
 ²Praise belongs to God, Lord ^d of the Worlds, ^e ³the Lord of Mercy, the Giver of Mercy, ⁴Master of the Day of Judgement. ⁵It is You we worship; it is You we ask for help. ⁶Guide us to the straight path: ⁷the path of those You have blessed, those who incur no anger ^f and who have not gone astray.
- ^a Most occurrences of this term rahman in the Qur'an are in the context of Him being mighty and majestic as well as merciful. The addition of the word 'Lord' here is intended to convey this aspect of the term.
- ^b This term *rahim* is an intensive form suggesting that the quality of giving mercy is inherent in God's nature.
- ^c This is the only instance where this formula, present at the start of every sura but one, is counted as the first numbered verse.
- ^d The Arabic root r–b–b has connotations of caring and nurturing in addition to lordship, and this should be borne in mind wherever the term occurs and is rendered 'lord'.
- ^e Al-'alamin in Arabic means all the worlds, of mankind, angels, animals, plants, this world, the next, and so forth.
 - f Note that the verb here is not attributed to God.