

The giving of the *Zabur* (Psalms)

Surah Nisaa 4

١٦٣- إِنَّا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ كَمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى نُوحٍ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ ۗ وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَعِيسَىٰ وَأَيُّوبَ
وَيُوسُفَ وَهَارُونَ وَهَارُونَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ ۗ وَآتَيْنَا دَاوُدَ زَبُورًا ۗ

163. We have sent thee inspiration as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him; We sent inspiration to Abraham Ismail Isaac Jacob and the Tribes to Jesus Job Jonah Aaron and Solomon and to David We gave the Psalms.

Surah Israa 17

٥٥- وَرَبُّكَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۗ وَلَقَدْ فَضَّلْنَا بَعْضَ النَّبِيِّينَ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ ۗ وَآتَيْنَا دَاوُدَ زَبُورًا ۗ

55. And it is your Lord That knoweth best all beings That are in the heavens And on earth : We Did bestow on some Prophets More (and other) gifts Than on others : and We gave To David (the gift Of) the Psalms.

Surah Baqara 2

٢٥١- فَهَزَمُوهُم بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُدُ جَالُوتَ وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ ۗ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَفَسَدَتِ
الْأَرْضُ ۗ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَىٰ الْعَالَمِينَ ۗ

251. By God's will they routed them: and David slew Goliath; and God gave him power and wisdom and taught him whatever (else) He willed. And did not God check one set of people by means of another the earth would indeed be full of mischief but God is full of bounty to all the worlds.

David the musician

1 Samuel 16

14Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. **15**And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. **16**Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." **17**So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." **18**One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." **19**Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." **20**And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. **21**And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. **22**And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." **23**And

whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

1 Chronicles 16

1And they brought in the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. **2**And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord **3**and distributed to all Israel, both men and women, to each a loaf of bread, a portion of meat,^a and a cake of raisins.

4Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel. **5**Asaph was the chief, and second to him were Zechariah, Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel, who were to play harps and lyres; Asaph was to sound the cymbals, **6**and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God. **7**Then on that day David first appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the Lord by Asaph and his brothers.

(there follows a song of praise similar to Psalms 105 and 96)

2 Samuel 23

1Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, the son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man who was raised on high,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the sweet psalmist of Israel:

2“The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me;
his word is on my tongue.

3The God of Israel has spoken;
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
When one rules justly over men,
ruling in the fear of God,

4he dawns on them like the morning light,
like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning,
like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.

5“For does not my house stand so with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.
For will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

6But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away,
for they cannot be taken with the hand;

7but the man who touches them

arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear,
and they are utterly consumed with fire.”

Quoting the *Zabur*

Surah Anbiya 21

○ ١٠٤- يَوْمَ نَطْوِي السَّمَاءَ كَطَيِّ السِّجْلِ لِلْكِتَابِ كَمَا بَدَأْنَا أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُعِيدُهُ وَعَدَّا عَلَيْهَا إِنَّا كُنَّا فَاعِلِينَ

104. The Day that We roll up The heavens like a scroll Rolled up for books (completed),— Even as We produced The first Creation, so Shall We produce A new one : a promise We have undertaken : Truly shall We fulfil it.

○ ١٠٥- وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ

105. Before this We wrote In the Psalms, after the Message (Given to Moses) : “ My servants, The righteous, shall inherit The earth.”

○ ١٠٦- إِنَّ فِي هَذَا لَبَلَاغًا لِقَوْمٍ عَابِدِينَ

106. Verily in the (Qur-ān) Is a Message for people Who would (truly) worship God.

○ ١٠٧- وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

107. We sent thee not, but As a mercy for all creatures.

This quotes Psalm 37:39

צְדִיקִים יִרְשׁוּ-אֶרֶץ וַיִּשְׁכְּנוּ לָעַד עָלֶיהָ:

The righteous shall inherit the land,
and abide forever in it.

Here’s the whole psalm:

Of David.

1Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

2For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

3Trust in the Lord, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

4Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

6He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

9 For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

11 **But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.**

12 The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him,
13 but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.

14 The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose way is upright;

15 their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

16 Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.

18 **The Lord knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will remain forever;**

19 they are not put to shame in evil times;
in the days of famine they have abundance.

20 But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

21 The wicked borrows but does not pay back,
but the righteous is generous and gives;

22 **for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land,
but those cursed by him shall be cut off.**

23 The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;

24 though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.

25 I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or his children begging for bread.

26 He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.

27 **Turn away from evil and do good;
so shall you dwell forever.**

28 For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints.

They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

29The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.

30The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

31The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

32The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.

33The Lord will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.

34Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

35I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree.

36But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found.

37Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.

38But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.

39The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

40The Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

What David said

Praises

Surah Naml 27

١٥- وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ وَسُلَيْمَانَ عِلْمًا وَقَالَا الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي فَضَّلَنَا عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِّنْ عِبَادِهِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ○

15. We gave (in the past) Knowledge to David and Solomon : And they both said : “ Praise be to God, Who Has favoured us above many Of His servants who believe ! ”

Surah Saba 34

١٠- وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا دَاوُودَ مِنَّا فَضْلًا يَا جِبَالُ أَوْبِي مَعَهُ وَالطَّيْرَ ظُورًا لَّنَّا لَهُ الْحَدِيدَ ○

10. We bestowed Grace aforetime On David from Ourselves : “ O ye Mountains ! sing ye Back the Praises of God With him ! and ye birds (Also) ! And We made The iron soft for him ;—

١١- أَنْ أَعْمَلْ سَابِغَاتٍ وَقَدِّرْ فِي السَّرْدِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ ○

11. (Commanding), “ Make thou Coats of mail, balancing well The rings of chain armour, And work ye righteousness ; For be sure I see (Clearly) all that ye do.”

Surah Saad 38

○ ١٥- وَمَا يَنْظُرُ هَؤُلَاءِ إِلَّا صَيْحَةً وَاحِدَةً مَّا لَهَا مِنْ فَوَاقٍ

15. These (to-day) only wait For a single mighty Blast, Which (when it comes) Will brook no delay.

○ ١٦- وَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا عَجَلْنَا لَنَا قِطْنًا قَبْلَ يَوْمِ الْحِسَابِ

16. They say that : “ Our Lord ! Hasten to us our sentence (Even) before the Day Of Account ! ”

○ ١٧- اصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَقُولُونَ وَادْكُرْ عَبْدَنَا دَاوُودَ ذَا الْأَيْدِ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ

17. Have patience at what they Say, and remember Our Servant David, the man of strength : For he ever turned (to God).

○ ١٨- إِنَّا سَخَّرْنَا الْجِبَالَ مَعَهُ يُسَبِّحْنَ بِالْعَشِيِّ وَالْإشْرَاقِ

18. It was We that made The hills declare, In unison with him, Our Praises, at eventide And at break of day,

○ ١٩- وَالطَّيْرَ مَحْشُورَةً كُلٌّ لَهُ أَوَّابٌ

19. And the birds gathered (In assemblies) : all with him Did turn (to God).

○ ٢٠- وَشَدَدْنَا مُلْكَهُ وَأَتَيْنَاهُ الْحِكْمَةَ وَفَصَّلَ الْخِطَابِ

20. We strengthened his kingdom, And gave him wisdom And sound judgment In speech and decision.

An example of a praise psalm: Psalm 96

1Oh sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth!

2Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

tell of his salvation from day to day.

3Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

4For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.

5For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

6Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

8Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

9Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

10Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.”

11Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13before the Lord, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Criticism of disobedience

Surah Ma'idah 5

○ -٧٨- لُعِنَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ عَلَى لِسَانِ دَاوُدَ وَعِيسَى ابْنِ مَرْيَمَ ۚ ذَلِكَ بِمَا عَصَوْا وَكَانُوا يَعْتَدُونَ

78. Curses were pronounced on those among the Children of Israel who rejected faith by the tongue of David and of Jesus the son of Mary: because they disobeyed and persisted in excesses.

On disobedience: Psalm 95

1Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

4In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

5The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

7For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,
8do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

10For forty years I loathed that generation

and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways.”

11Therefore I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

Prayer for help

Surah Baqara 2

○ ٢٥٠- وَلَمَّا بَرَزُوا لِجَالُوتَ وَجُنُودِهِ قَالُوا رَبَّنَا أَفْرِغْ عَلَيْنَا صَبْرًا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ

250. When they advanced to meet Goliath and his forces they prayed: “Our Lord! pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm; help us against those that reject faith.”

○ ٢٥١- فَهَزَمُوهُمْ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَقَتَلَ دَاوُدُ جَالُوتَ وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ ۗ وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ ۗ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ ذُو فَضْلٍ عَلَى الْعَالَمِينَ

251. By God’s will they routed them: and David slew Goliath; and God gave him power and wisdom and taught him whatever (else) He willed. And did not God check one set of people by means of another the earth would indeed be full of mischief but God is full of bounty to all the worlds.

Examples of prayer for help: Psalms 27 and 59

Psalm 27: Of David.

1The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

3Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

4One thing have I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to inquire in his temple.

5For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

6And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

7Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

8You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, Lord, do I seek."

9Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

10For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me in.

11Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

12Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they breathe out violence.

13I believe that I shall look^f upon the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

14Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Psalm 59: To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him.

1Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
protect me from those who rise up against me;
2deliver me from those who work evil,
and save me from bloodthirsty men.

3For behold, they lie in wait for my life;
fierce men stir up strife against me.
For no transgression or sin of mine, O Lord,
4for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.
Awake, come to meet me, and see!
5You, Lord God of hosts, are God of Israel.
Rouse yourself to punish all the nations;
spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. Selah

6Each evening they come back,
howling like dogs
and prowling about the city.
7There they are, bellowing with their mouths
with swords in their lips—
for “Who,” they think, “will hear us?”

8But you, O Lord, laugh at them;
you hold all the nations in derision.
9O my Strength, I will watch for you,
for you, O God, are my fortress.
10My God in his steadfast love will meet me;
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

11Kill them not, lest my people forget;
make them totter by your power and bring them down,
O Lord, our shield!
12For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips,
let them be trapped in their pride.
For the cursing and lies that they utter,
13consume them in wrath;
consume them till they are no more,
that they may know that God rules over Jacob
to the ends of the earth. Selah

14Each evening they come back,
howling like dogs
and prowling about the city.
15They wander about for food
and growl if they do not get their fill.

16But I will sing of your strength;
I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.
For you have been to me a fortress
and a refuge in the day of my distress.
17O my Strength, I will sing praises to you,
for you, O God, are my fortress,
the God who shows me steadfast love.