

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

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Psalm 5 — My King and My God



1.0 Introducing Psalm 5

1.1 Called a “morning psalm”:

“My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD;
In the morning I will direct *it* to You” (v. 3).

1.2 A psalm of confident prayer:

- Compare to Psalm 4.
- “My King and my God” (5:2)—God is in control; He is sovereign.
 - ✓ Psalm 68:24
 - ✓ Psalm 74:12
 - ✓ Psalm 84:3-4
- See 5:12 –
“For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous;
With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.”
- “shield” = large, full body-length shield



2.0 Reading Psalm 5 (NKJV)

A Psalm of David.



- a** **5:1** Give ear to my words, O LORD,
Consider my meditation.
- 5:2** Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God,
For to You **I will pray**.
- 5:3** My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD;
In the morning I will direct *it* to You,
And I will look up.
- b** **5:4** For You *are* not a God who takes pleasure in **wickedness**,
Nor shall **evil** dwell with You.
- 5:5** The **boastful** shall not stand in Your sight;
You hate all workers of **iniquity**.
- 5:6** You shall destroy those who speak **falsehood**;
The LORD abhors the **bloodthirsty** and **deceitful** man.
- c** **5:7** But as for me, I will come into Your house
in the multitude of Your mercy;
In fear of You
I will worship toward Your holy temple.
- c** **5:8** Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies;
Make Your way straight before my face.
- b** **5:9** For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth;
Their **inward part** *is* destruction;
Their throat *is* an open **tomb**;
They flatter with their tongue.
- 5:10** Pronounce them guilty, O God!
Let them fall by their own counsels;
Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions,
For they have rebelled against You.
- a** **5:11** But let all those rejoice **who put their trust in You**;
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;
Let those also **who love Your name**
Be joyful in You.
- 5:12** For You, O LORD, will bless **the righteous**;
With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. On an eight-stringed harp.

3.0 Understanding Psalm 5

3.1 Outline

- I. Superscription
- II. The Prayer of the Psalmist (vv. 1-3)
- III. The Peril of the Proud (vv. 4-6)
- IV. The Purpose of the Psalmist (vv. 7-8)
- V. The Peril of the Proud (vv. 9-10)
- VI. The Prayer of the Psalmist (vv. 11-12)
- VII. Subscription



3.2 Structure

- An example of introverted parallelism (W. Graham Scroggie, *The Psalms*, 1:63).
 - a* The believer (vv. 1-3, *singular*)
 - b* The unbelievers (vv. 4-6)
 - c* The psalmist (v. 7)
 - c* The psalmist (v. 8)
 - b* The unbelievers (vv. 9-10)
 - a* The believer (vv. 11-12, *plural*)
- An example of repeated parallelism (Willem A. VanGemenen, “Psalms,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, 5:87).
 - A.* Prayer for God’s Justice (vv. 1-3)
 - B.* Affirmation of God’s Hatred of Evil (vv. 4-6)
 - C.* Hope in Fellowship with God (v. 7)
 - A’.* Prayer for God’s Righteousness (v. 8)
 - B’.* Affirmation of Evil (v. 9)
 - C’.* Hope in God’s Righteousness (vv. 10-12)

3.3 Notes

- **v. 3** “And I will look up.”
 - Wait with great expectancy—hope (NIV: “wait in expectation”). See Micah 7:7.
 - Be on the lookout for; keep watch for—like a “watchman” (see Habakkuk 2:1; Ezekiel 33:1-7).
- **v. 4** “Nor shall evil dwell with You.”
 - “Dwell” is a Hebrew word that speaks of temporary residence, of sojourning, spending the night, being a resident alien rather than a citizen.

- “The psalmist’s point is that God is so incompatible with evil that even the most temporary coexistence is utterly impossible” (Gerald H. Wilson, *Psalms*, NIV Application Commentary, 1:166).

- vv. 4-6

- God abhors evil, sin, wickedness.
- God abhors the evil person, the sinner, the wicked.

- v. 7 “mercy”

- Cf. “godly” in Psalm 4:3.
- = “loyal love,” “steadfast love/loyalty,” “faithfulness”
- See Hosea 6:4—

“O Ephraim, what shall I do to you?
O Judah, what shall I do to you?
For your faithfulness is like a morning cloud,
And like the early dew it goes away.”



- v. 7 “Your house,” “Your holy temple”—Does this disprove David’s authorship of this psalm?

- “house” — see Joshua 6:24; 1 Samuel 1:24; 3:15; 2 Samuel 12:20
- “temple” — see 1 Samuel 1:9; 3:3; 2 Samuel 22:7

- v. 8 “Lead me”

- Psalm 27:11
- Psalm 139:24
- He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
Oh, words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be,
Still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.
*He leadeth me, He leadeth me;
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*
Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since ’tis my God that leadeth me.

- v. 9 In the Hebrew there is a play on the word “their inward part” and the word “tomb”—a play not possible to reproduce in English.

- Cf. Matthew 23:27-28 where Jesus employed the same comparison to describe the scribes and Pharisees.
- See Romans 3:13 where this verse is quoted by Paul.
- **v. 11** “who put their trust in You”
 - The Hebrew word for “trust” means to “flee to for refuge, take refuge in.”
- **v. 12** “You will surround him”
 - “You will crown him”?

4.0 Singing Psalm 5

**In the spir-it of wor-ship we come, we
come;
In the spir-it of wor-ship we come unto
Thee.
As we bow be-fore Your throne,
we wor-ship You, and You alone.
We were made to wor-ship You, O Lord.
We were made to wor-ship You,
we were made to wor-ship You,
we were made to wor-ship You, O Lord.**



5.0 Praying Psalm 5

- A morning prayer: Do you start your day with prayer? “The first hour is to the day what the rudder is to the ship, therefore *pray in the morning*” (W. Graham Scroggie, *The Psalms*, 1:63).
 - A problem: “Seen from the perspective of the New Testament the psalmist obviously goes beyond the limits of requests which one can prayerfully make as far as bloodthirsty men are concerned” (Stanley L. Jaki, *Praying the Psalms*, 42).
- O my God and King, hear my prayer. [v. 2]
 - Lord, keep me from speaking falsehood. [v. 6]
 - Lead me in Your way of righteousness. [v. 8]
 - Father, give me joy because I trust in You. [v. 11]

6.0 Applying Psalm 5

- We need to come before the Lord in prayer and praise on a daily basis — the earlier the better.
- Those who truly worship God are characterized by humility, honesty, and steadfast loyalty.
- The Lord protects His people and gives them cause to rejoice in Him.