

Psalm 107

4. ⁷And by that way which was most right,
he led them like a guide:
That they might to a city go,
and there also abide.
⁸Let men therefore before the Lord
confess his goodness then:
And show the wonders that he doth
before the sons of men.
5. ⁹For he the empty soul sustained,
whom thirst had made to faint:
The hungry soul with goodness fed,
and did them eke acquaint.
¹⁰Such as do dwell in darkness deep,
where they of death do wait:
Fast bound to taste such troublous storms
as iron chains do threat.
6. ¹¹For that against the Lord's own words
they fought so to rebel:
Esteeming light his counsels high,
which do so far excel.
¹²But when he humbled them full low,
they then fell down with grief:
And none was found, so much to help,
whereby to get relief.
7. ¹³Then did they cry in their distress,
unto the Lord for aid:
Who did remove their troublous state,
according as they prayed.
¹⁴For he from darkness out them brought,
and from death's dreadful shade:
Bursting with force the iron bands,
which did before them lade.⁵⁷
8. ¹⁵Let men therefore before the Lord
confess his kindness then:
And show the wonders that he doth
before the sons of men.
¹⁶For he threw down their gates of brass,
and brake them with strong hand:
The iron bars he smote in two,
nothing could him withstand.
9. ¹⁷The foolish folk great plagues do seal,
and cannot from them wend:⁵⁸
But heap on more to those that have,
because they do offend.
¹⁸Their soul so much did loath all meat,
that none they could abide:
Whereby death had them almost caught,
as they full truly tried.
10. ¹⁹Then did they cry in their distress,
unto the Lord for aid:
Who did remove their troublous state,
according as they prayed.
²⁰For he then sent to them his word,
which health did soon restore:
And brought them from those dangers deep,
wherein they were before.
11. ²¹Let men therefore before the Lord,
confess his kindness then:
And show the wonders that he doth,
before the sons of men.
²²And let them offer sacrifice
with thanks and also fear:
And speak of all his wondrous works
with glad and joyful cheer.
12. ²³Such as in ships or brittle barks,
into the seas descend:
Their merchandise through fearful floods
to compass and to end.
²⁴Those men are forced to behold
the Lord's works, what they be:
And in the dangerous deep the same
most marvellous they see.
13. ²⁵For at his word, the stormy wind,
ariseth in a rage:
And stirreth up the surges so,
as nought can them assuage.
²⁶Then are they lifted up so high,
the clouds they seem to gain.
And plunging down the depth until,
their souls consume with pain.
14. ²⁷And like a drunkard, to and fro,
now here, now there they reel:
As men with fear of wit bereft,
or had of sense no feel.
²⁸Then did they cry in their distress,
unto the Lord for aid:
Who did remove their troublous state,
according as they prayed.

⁵⁷ To load oppressively; burden.

⁵⁸ To change into another state.

15. ²⁹For with his word the Lord doth make
the sturdy storm to cease:
So that the great waves from their rage
are brought to rest and peace.
³⁰Tehn are men glad when rest is come,
which they so much do crave:
And are by him in heaven brought,
which they so fain would have.
16. ³¹Let men therefore before the Lord
confess his kindness then:
And show the wonders that he doth,
before the sons of men.
³²Let men in presence of the folk
with praise extol his name:
And where the elders do convent,
let them there do the same.
17. ³³For running floods to dry deserts
he doth oft change and turn:
And drieth up, as it were dust,
the springing well and burn.
³⁴A fruitful land with pleasures decked,
full barren doth he make:
When or their sins, which dwell therein,
he doth just vengeance take.
18. ³⁵Again the wilderness full rude
he maketh fruit to bear:
With pleasant springs of water clear
though none before were there.
³⁶Wherein such hungry souls are set,
as they doth freely choose:
That they a city may them build,
to dwell in for their use.
19. ³⁷That they may sow their pleasant land,
and vineyards also plant:
To yield them fruits of such increase,
as none may seem to want.
³⁸They multiply exceedingly,
the Lord doth bless them so:
Who doth also their brute beasts make
by numbers great to grow.
20. ³⁹But when the faithful are low brought,
by the oppressors stout:
And 'minish⁵⁹ do through many plagues,
that compass them about.
⁴⁰Then doth he princes bring to shame,
which did them so oppress:
And likewise caused them to err,
within the wilderness.
21. ⁴¹But yet the poor he raiseth up
out of his troubles deep:
And oft times doth his train augment,
much like a flock of sheep.
⁴²The righteous shall behold this sight,
and also much rejoice:
Whereas the wicked and perverse
with grief shall stop their voice.
22. ⁴³But who is wise, that now full well
he may these things record?
For certainly such shall perceive
the kindness of the Lord.

⁵⁹ Diminish.