

## Psalm 31-32

New King James Version (NKJV)

### Psalm 31

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

- <sup>1</sup> In You, O LORD, I put my trust;  
Let me never be ashamed;  
Deliver me in Your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> Bow down Your ear to me,  
Deliver me speedily;  
Be my rock of refuge,  
A fortress of defense to save me.
- <sup>3</sup> For You *are* my rock and my fortress;  
Therefore, for Your name's sake,  
Lead me and guide me.
- <sup>4</sup> Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me,  
For You *are* my strength.
- <sup>5</sup> Into Your hand I commit my spirit;  
You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.
- <sup>6</sup> I have hated those who regard useless idols;  
But I trust in the LORD.
- <sup>7</sup> I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy,  
For You have considered my trouble;  
You have known my soul in adversities,
- <sup>8</sup> And have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy;  
You have set my feet in a wide place.
- <sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
My eye wastes away with grief,  
Yes, my soul and my body!
- <sup>10</sup> For my life is spent with grief,  
And my years with sighing;  
My strength fails because of my iniquity,  
And my bones waste away.
- <sup>11</sup> I am a reproach among all my enemies,  
But especially among my neighbors,  
And *am* repulsive to my acquaintances;  
Those who see me outside flee from me.
- <sup>12</sup> I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;  
I am like a broken vessel.
- <sup>13</sup> For I hear the slander of many;

Fear *is* on every side;  
While they take counsel together against me,  
They scheme to take away my life.

- <sup>14</sup> But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD;  
I say, “You *are* my God.”
- <sup>15</sup> My times *are* in Your hand;  
Deliver me from the hand of my enemies,  
And from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> Make Your face shine upon Your servant;  
Save me for Your mercies’ sake.
- <sup>17</sup> Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You;  
Let the wicked be ashamed;  
Let them be silent in the grave.
- <sup>18</sup> Let the lying lips be put to silence,  
Which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.
- <sup>19</sup> Oh, how great *is* Your goodness,  
Which You have laid up for those who fear You,  
*Which* You have prepared for those who trust in You  
In the presence of the sons of men!
- <sup>20</sup> You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence  
From the plots of man;  
You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion  
From the strife of tongues.
- <sup>21</sup> Blessed *be* the LORD,  
For He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!
- <sup>22</sup> For I said in my haste,  
“I am cut off from before Your eyes”;  
Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications  
When I cried out to You.
- <sup>23</sup> Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints!  
*For* the LORD preserves the faithful,  
And fully repays the proud person.
- <sup>24</sup> Be of good courage,  
And He shall strengthen your heart,  
All you who hope in the LORD.

## Psalm 32

*A Psalm of David. A Contemplation.*<sup>[a]</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven,  
*Whose sin is* covered.
- <sup>2</sup> Blessed *is* the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,

And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.

- <sup>3</sup> When I kept silent, my bones grew old  
Through my groaning all the day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah
- <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I have not hidden.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah
- <sup>6</sup> For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You  
In a time when You may be found;  
Surely in a flood of great waters  
They shall not come near him.
- <sup>7</sup> You *are* my hiding place;  
You shall preserve me from trouble;  
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah
- <sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will guide you with My eye.
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule,  
*Which* have no understanding,  
Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle,  
Else they will not come near you.
- <sup>10</sup> Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked;  
But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;  
And shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!

## **Acts 23:16-35**

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<sup>16</sup> *So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.* <sup>17</sup> *Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him."* <sup>18</sup> *So he took him and brought him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you."*

<sup>19</sup> *Then the commander took him by the hand, went aside, and asked privately, "What is it that*

*you have to tell me?"*

<sup>20</sup> *And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask that you bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him." <sup>21</sup> But do not yield to them, for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you."*

<sup>22</sup> *So the commander let the young man depart, and commanded him, "Tell no one that you have revealed these things to me."*

***Sent to Felix***

<sup>23</sup> *And he called for two centurions, saying, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night; <sup>24</sup> and provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor." <sup>25</sup> He wrote a letter in the following manner:*

<sup>26</sup> *Claudius Lysias,*

*To the most excellent governor Felix:*

*Greetings.*

<sup>27</sup> *This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. <sup>28</sup> And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before their council. <sup>29</sup> I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him deserving of death or chains. <sup>30</sup> And when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, <sup>[a]</sup> I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him.*

*Farewell.*

<sup>31</sup> *Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.*

<sup>32</sup> *The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him, and returned to the barracks. <sup>33</sup> When they came to Caesarea and had delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him. <sup>34</sup> And when the governor had read it, he asked what province he was from. And when he*

*understood that he was from Cilicia,<sup>35</sup> he said, “I will hear you when your accusers also have come.” And he commanded him to be kept in Herod’s Praetorium.*