

The Highest Court of Appeal

Psalm 26

An absorbed delight in the presence and house of God makes the core of this psalm (vv. 6-8) a personal confession that shames our ‘faint desires’...In each of Psalms 26-28 the Lord’s house comes into view. In Psalm 26 the worshipper, as he approaches is searched by God’s demand for sincerity (*cf.* Pss. 15 and 24) and, in the last verse, rejoices to have found access. In Psalm 27 he sees this house as sanctuary from his enemies, and as the place of vision, face to face with God. In Psalm 28 he brings forward his petition, spreading his hands as a suppliant towards the holy of holies, and receives his answer.¹

Outline

- a Request for trial based on his integrity (1b-3)
 - b Evidence of integrity: Avoidance of sinners (Ps 1:1-2) (4-5)
 - x Evidence of integrity: Authentic worship in God’s presence (6-8)
 - b’ Request to be saved from the judgment of sinners (9-10)
- a’ Request for rescue based on his recommitment to integrity (11-12)

Putting Psalm 1 to the Test

Blessed is the man who
 does not **walk** in the counsel of the wicked,
 nor **stand** in the way of sinners,
 nor **sit** in the seat of mockers
 but his delight is in the law of I AM,
 and on his law he **meditates** day and night.
 He is like a tree transplanted by streams of water
 that yields its fruit in its season,
 and its leaf does not wither.
 and all that he does succeeds.
 Not so the wicked!
 For they are like chaff that the **wind drives away**.
 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the **assembly of the righteous**;
 for I AM knows the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

<p style="text-align: center;">1 לְדָוִד </p> <p style="text-align: center;">שְׁפֹטֵנִי יְהוָה</p> <p style="text-align: center;">כִּי־אֲנִי בְּתִמְנֵי הַלְכָתִי</p> <p style="text-align: center;">וּבֵיתֵךָ בְּטַחְתִּי לֹא אֶמְעָד :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 בְּחַנְנֵי יְהוָה וְנִסְגִּי</p> <p style="text-align: center;">צָרְפָה כְּלִי־וֹתִי וְלִבִּי :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 כִּי־חֶסֶדְךָ לִנְגִיד עֵינָי</p> <p style="text-align: center;">וְהִתְהַלַּכְתִּי בְּאֱמֻנָתְךָ :</p>	<p>1 By David.</p> <p>Vindicate me, I AM,</p> <p>for in my integrity I have walked</p> <p>in I AM I have trusted [and] not slipped.</p> <p>2 Prove me, I AM, and try me;</p> <p>test my heart and my mind.</p> <p>3 For your loyal-love is before my eyes,</p> <p>and I walk in your faithfulness (or “truth”)</p>	<p>I. Request for a trial based on his integrity</p> <p>A Request for vindication (a just verdict)</p> <p>B Reasons for confidence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His single-minded character 2. His unwavering trust <p>A’ Request for cross-examination</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be placed under examination 2. with complete disclosure <p>B’ Reasons for confidence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His singular focus 2. His unwavering character
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¹ Derek Kidner, *Psalms 1-71* (TOTC, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1973), 117.

<p>4 לֹא-יִשְׁבְּתִי עִם-מְתֵי-שָׁוְא וְעִם נְעֻלְמִים לֹא אֲבֹא : 5 שְׂנֵאתִי קְהַל מְרַעִים וְעִם-רְשָׁעִים לֹא אֲשֵׁב : 6 אֶרְתֹּץ בְּנִקְיֹן כַּפַּי וְאֶסְבֶּבֶה אֶת-מִזְבְּחֶךָ יְהוָה : 7 לְשִׁמְעַת בְּקוֹל תּוֹדָה וְלִסְפֹּר כָּל-נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ : 8 יְהוָה אֲהַבְתִּי מִעוֹן בֵּיתֶךָ וּמְקוֹם מִשְׁכַּן כְּבוֹדֶךָ : 9 אַל-תֶּאֱסַף עִם-חַטָּאִים נַפְשִׁי וְעִם-אַנְשֵׁי דָמִים תְּחִי : 10 אֲשֶׁר-בְּיַדֵּיהֶם זִמָּה וְיַמִּינָם מְלֵאָה שָׁחַד : 11 וְאֲנִי בְּתַמִּי אֵלֶיךָ פָּדֵנִי וְחַנּוּנִי : 12 רַגְלִי עָמְדָה בְּמִישׁוֹר בְּמִקְהָלִים אֲבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה :</p>	<p>4 I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor with hypocrites do I consort (“come”). 5 I hate the assembly of evildoers, and with the wicked I do not sit. 6 I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, I AM, 7 to proclaim thanksgiving aloud, and to tell all your wondrous deeds. 8 I AM, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells. 9 Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, 10 in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes. 11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me. 12 My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless you I AM.</p>	<p>II. Protestation of Innocence A What he does (neg) – “do not sit...will not sit” (see Psalm 1: “not walk...nor stand...nor sit”) B With authentic affections: hate (from the language it is likely he has been invited to throw his lot in with the mafia) A' What he does (pos) – worships in community 1. Public cleansing vs. secret lies 2. Public praise of God’s wondrous deeds B' With authentic affections: love (his affections are a fruit of “meditating on God’s word day and night – Ps 1:2) III. Request for Rescue (Ps 1:4) A. Based on the seriousness of the situation Verge of death from powerful, violent men who have plotted his murder in detail and paid off gov’t officials to look the other way B. Based on his recommitment to integrity his singular focus and commitment to integrity his need: supernatural rescue by grace his stability: resolve not to waver until saved his prospect: the JOY of paying his vow</p>
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