

# Tuesday Evenings

## Worshipping with the Psalms



King David Playing the Harp  
The Rothschild Miscellany  
Commissioned by  
Moses Ben Yekuthiel Hakohen in 1497

# Tonight's Menu

Opening prayer

Worship

Exposition of Psalm 11

*What Can the Righteous Do?*

“Flee like a Bird”

Closing Song

# What Can the Righteous Do?

## Psalm 11



*“Flee like a bird to the mountain”*

# THE DAILY NEWS

[www.dailynews.com](http://www.dailynews.com)

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Date:

## **RUN TO THE HILLS!**

Open your eyes and look!

The wicked have bent their bows,  
and set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.

When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?"

1 In I AM I take refuge.

How then can you say to me:

“Flee to the mountain like a bird.

2 For look, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.

3 When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”

4 I AM is in his holy temple;  
I AM is on his throne in heaven.  
His eyes see;  
his eyelids test the sons of men.

5 I AM tests the righteous and the wicked,  
those who love violence, his soul hates.

6 On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be the portion of their cup.

7 Because I AM is righteous, he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright will see his face.

# The Strophe

The word “strophe” comes from Greek and means “turn” or “twist.” Biblical poetry is characterized by rapid shifts and changes. What makes a strophe a strophe? The strophe has internal as well as external cohesion. This cohesion may come about in various ways. The strophe may...

- constitute one syntactic unit, for instance, one compound sentence or a sentence extended in a different way,
- formulate or explain one thought,
- present its poetic lines as a clear series,
- be an embedded speech, for instance a quotation,
- present or work out a metaphor or simile,
- demarcate itself by means of inclusio (a frame that opens and closes a unit).

J. P. Fokkelman

<sup>1</sup> In **I AM** I take refuge.

How then can you say to my soul:

“Flee to the mountain like a bird.

- <sup>2</sup> For look, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.
- <sup>3</sup> When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”
- 

<sup>4</sup> **I AM** is in his holy temple;

**I AM** is on his throne in heaven.

His eyes see;

his eyelids test the sons of men.

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<sup>5</sup> **I AM** tests the righteous and the wicked,  
those who love violence, his soul hates.

<sup>6</sup> On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be their lot. (Ps 1:4-5)

<sup>7</sup> Because **I AM** is righteous, he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright will see his face.

<sup>1</sup> In I AM I take refuge.

How then can you say to my soul:

“Flee to the mountain like a bird.

- A <sup>2</sup> For **look**, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.
- <sup>3</sup> When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”
- 

<sup>4</sup> I AM is in his holy temple;

I AM is on his throne in heaven.

His eyes **see**;

his **eyelids** test the sons of men.

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<sup>5</sup> I AM tests the righteous and the wicked,  
those who love violence, his soul hates.

A' <sup>6</sup> On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be the portion of their cup

<sup>7</sup> Because I AM is righteous, he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright **will see** his face.

Earth

Heaven

Heaven



Earth



# Structure and Rhetoric

1. 67 words in Psalm 11

2.  $67 = 32 + 3 + 32$

I AM / in heaven / his throne

# Strophe I

By David.

<sup>1</sup> In **I AM** I take refuge. (Ps 2.12)

How then can you say to my soul:

“Flee [to the] mountain like a bird.

<sup>2</sup> For **look**, the wicked bend their bows;

they set their arrows against the strings

to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.

<sup>3</sup> When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”



# The Center Strophe

4 I AM is in his holy temple;  
I AM in heaven his throne  
His eyes see;  
his eyelids test the sons of men.

# The Center Strophe

4 I AM is in his holy temple;	13 letters	= 26
I AM in heaven his throne	13 letters	
His eyes see;	10 letters	= 26
his eyelids test the sons of men.	16 letters	

The center allocates 12 words to God in his holy place  
in two verses of perfect balance  
14 + 14 syllables

# The Center Strophe

<sup>4</sup> I AM is in his holy temple;	13 letters	= 26
I AM in heaven his throne	13 letters	
His eyes see;	10 letters	= 26
his eyelids test the sons of men.	16 letters	

יְהוָה בַּשָּׁמַיִם כְּסֵאוֹ

I AM / in heaven / his throne

“the throne of I AM is in heaven” = 12 letters

The center allocates 12 words to God in his holy place  
in two verses of perfect balance  
14 + 14 syllables

## Strophe #3

- 5 I AM tests the righteous and the wicked,  
those who love violence, his soul hates.
- 6 On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be the portion of their cup
- 7 For I AM is righteous,  
he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright will see his face.

<sup>1</sup> In I AM I take refuge.

How then can you say to my soul:

“Flee to the mountain like a bird.

- A <sup>2</sup> For **look**, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.
- <sup>3</sup> When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”

<sup>5</sup> I AM tests the righteous and the wicked,  
those who love violence, his soul hates.

- A' <sup>6</sup> On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be the portion of their cup.
- <sup>7</sup> Because I AM is righteous, he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright **will see** his face.

Earth

Heaven



Earth

<sup>7</sup> Because I AM is righteous, he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright **will see** his face.

“Your eyes will **behold** the king in his beauty;  
they will see a land that stretches afar.

**Behold** Zion, the city of our appointed feasts!  
Your eyes will see Jerusalem,” (Isa 33:17, 20)



<sup>1</sup> In I AM I take refuge.

How then can you say to **my soul**:

“Flee to the mountain like a bird.

- A** <sup>2</sup> For look, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.
- <sup>3</sup> When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”

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those who love violence, **his soul** hates.

- A'** <sup>6</sup> On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be the portion of their cup.
- <sup>7</sup> Because I AM is righteous, he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright will see his face.

Earth

Heaven



Earth

<sup>1</sup> In I AM I take refuge.

How then can you say to **my soul**:

“Flee to the mountain like a bird.

- A** <sup>2</sup> For look, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.
- <sup>3</sup> When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the **righteous** do?”

<sup>5</sup> I AM tests the **righteous** and the wicked,  
those who **love** violence, **his soul hates**.

- A'** <sup>6</sup> On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be the portion of their cup.
- <sup>7</sup> Because I AM is righteous, he **loves righteous** deeds;  
the upright will see his face.

Earth

Heaven



Earth

Are you fleeing or taking refuge?

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