

THE SONG OF THE THREE JEWS

(Additions to Daniel, inserted between 3.23 and 3.24)

The Song of the Three Jews

23 Now the king's servants who threw them in kept stoking the furnace with naphtha, pitch, tow, and brushwood. ²⁴And the flames poured out above the furnace forty-nine cubits, ²⁵and spread out and burned those Chaldeans who were caught near the furnace. ²⁶But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace to be with Azariah and his companions, and drove the fiery flame out of the furnace, ²⁷and made the inside of the furnace as though a moist wind were whistling through it. The fire did not touch them at all and caused them no pain or distress.

28 Then the three with one voice praised and glorified and blessed God in the furnace:

²⁹ 'Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors,
and to be praised and highly exalted for ever;

³⁰ And blessed is your glorious, holy name,
and to be highly praised and highly exalted for ever.

³¹ Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,
and to be extolled and highly glorified for ever.

³² Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne on the cherubim,
and to be praised and highly exalted for ever.

³³ Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
and to be extolled and highly exalted for ever.

³⁴ Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,
and to be sung and glorified for ever.

³⁵ 'Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

³⁶ Bless the Lord, you heavens;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

³⁷ Bless the Lord, you angels of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

³⁸ Bless the Lord, all you waters above the heavens;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

³⁹ Bless the Lord, all you powers of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

⁴⁰ Bless the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

⁴¹ Bless the Lord, stars of heaven;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

⁴² 'Bless the Lord, all rain and dew;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

⁴³ Bless the Lord, all you winds;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

⁴⁴ Bless the Lord, fire and heat;

sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
45 Bless the Lord, winter cold and summer heat;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
46 Bless the Lord, dew and falling snow;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
47 Bless the Lord, nights and days;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
48 Bless the Lord, light and darkness;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
49 Bless the Lord, ice and cold;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
50 Bless the Lord, frosts and snows;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
51 Bless the Lord, lightnings and clouds;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

52 'Let the earth bless the Lord;
let it sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
53 Bless the Lord, mountains and hills;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
54 Bless the Lord, all that grows in the ground;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
55 Bless the Lord, seas and rivers;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
56 Bless the Lord, you springs;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
57 Bless the Lord, you whales and all that swim in the waters;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
58 Bless the Lord, all birds of the air;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
59 Bless the Lord, all wild animals and cattle;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

60 'Bless the Lord, all people on earth;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
61 Bless the Lord, O Israel;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
62 Bless the Lord, you priests of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
63 Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
64 Bless the Lord, spirits and souls of the righteous;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.
65 Bless the Lord, you who are holy and humble in heart;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

66 'Bless the Lord, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael;
sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

For he has rescued us from Hades and saved us from the power of death,
and delivered us from the midst of the burning fiery furnace;
from the midst of the fire he has delivered us.

⁶⁷ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures for ever.

⁶⁸ All who worship the Lord, bless the God of gods,
sing praise to him and give thanks to him,
for his mercy endures for ever.'

Daniel and the Priests of Bel

(Chapter 14 of the Greek version of Daniel)

1 When King Astyages was laid to rest with his ancestors, Cyrus the Persian succeeded to his kingdom. ²Daniel was a companion of the king, and was the most honoured of all his friends.

3 Now the Babylonians had an idol called Bel, and every day they provided for it twelve bushels of choice flour and forty sheep and six measures of wine. ⁴The king revered it and went every day to worship it. But Daniel worshipped his own God.

So the king said to him, 'Why do you not worship Bel?' ⁵He answered, 'Because I do not revere idols made with hands, but the living God, who created heaven and earth and has dominion over all living creatures.'

6 The king said to him, 'Do you not think that Bel is a living god? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?' ⁷And Daniel laughed, and said, 'Do not be deceived, O king, for this thing is only clay inside and bronze outside, and it never ate or drank anything.'

8 Then the king was angry and called the priests of Bel and said to them, 'If you do not tell me who is eating these provisions, you shall die. ⁹But if you prove that Bel is eating them, Daniel shall die, because he has spoken blasphemy against Bel.' Daniel said to the king, 'Let it be done as you have said.'

10 Now there were seventy priests of Bel, besides their wives and children. So the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel. ¹¹The priests of Bel said, 'See, we are now going outside; you yourself, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine, and shut the door and seal it with your signet. ¹²When you return in the morning, if you do not find that Bel has eaten it all, we will die; otherwise Daniel will, who is telling lies about us.' ¹³They were unconcerned, for beneath the table they had made a hidden entrance, through which they used to go in regularly and consume the provisions. ¹⁴After they had gone out, the king set out the food for Bel. Then Daniel ordered his servants to bring ashes, and they scattered them throughout the whole temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door and sealed it with the king's signet, and departed. ¹⁵During the night the priests came as usual, with their wives and children, and they ate and drank everything.

16 Early in the morning the king rose and came, and Daniel with him. ¹⁷The king said, 'Are the seals unbroken, Daniel?' He answered, 'They are unbroken, O king.' ¹⁸As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table, and shouted in a loud voice, 'You are great, O Bel, and in you there is no deceit at all!'

19 But Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. ‘Look at the floor’, he said, ‘and notice whose footprints these are.’ ²⁰The king said, ‘I see the footprints of men and women and children.’

21 Then the king was enraged, and he arrested the priests and their wives and children. They showed him the secret doors through which they used to enter to consume what was on the table. ²²Therefore the king put them to death, and gave Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

PSALM 151

This psalm is ascribed to David as his own composition (though it is outside the number), after he had fought in single combat with Goliath.

- ¹ I was small among my brothers,
and the youngest in my father’s house;
I tended my father’s sheep.
- ² My hands made a harp;
my fingers fashioned a lyre.
- ³ And who will tell my Lord?
The Lord himself; it is he who hears.
- ⁴ It was he who sent his messenger
and took me from my father’s sheep,
and anointed me with his anointing-oil.
- ⁵ My brothers were handsome and tall,
but the Lord was not pleased with them.
- ⁶ I went out to meet the Philistine,
and he cursed me by his idols.
- ⁷ But I drew his own sword;
I beheaded him, and took away disgrace from the people of Israel.