

## *PSALM 17*

Whatever dangers may terrify, whatever troubles disturb, whatever enemies oppress us, the Lord will hearken to every sincere and genuine prayer. He will uphold our goings in his paths of righteousness if we ourselves be sincerely mindful to walk in them. What gracious figures are employed to teach and assure us of the Lord's tender care for his people. They are kept as the tender pupil of the eye, as safe as a bird under the shadow of its mother's wing. How does this encourage us to trust and serve him, to look beyond the "men of this world, whose portion is in this life," and to look forward to seeing the "Lord's face in righteousness."

### **A Prayer of David.**

- 1 Hear a just cause, O YAHWEH; attend to my cry!  
Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!
- 2 From your presence let my vindication come! Let your eyes behold the right!
  
- 3 You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me,  
and you will find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.
- 4 With regard to the works of man,  
by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.
- 5 My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.
  
- 6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me; hear my words.
- 7 Wondrously show your steadfast love,  
O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.
  
- 8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,  
9 from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me.
  
- 10 They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly.  
11 They have now surrounded our steps; they set their eyes to cast us to the ground.
- 12 He is like a lion Arise, O YAHWEH! Confront him, subdue him!  
Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword,  
eager to tear as a young lion lurking in ambush.
  
- 13 Arise, O YAHWEH! Confront him, subdue him!  
Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword,
- 14 from men by your hand, O YAHWEH, from men of the world whose portion is in this life.  
You fill their womb with treasure;  
they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants.

15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

#### PRAYER

*Almighty God, you dwell in the highest heavens yet behold your creatures here upon earth. We humbly adore your sacred majesty, and with all the powers of our souls do exalt and praise your holy name. You have preserved us from the evils and dangers of the past night, and you bring us to the light of this new day in health and safety. Continue this mercy and goodness to us, we beseech you. And as you have awakened our bodies from sleep, so too have you raised our souls from the death of sin to a life of righteousness. Strengthen our resolve to embrace all opportunities of doing good and to avoid all occasions of evil. May we abound more and more in love for you and in zeal for your honor and glory. Hear us for your dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*