

## *PSALM 34*

During our earthly pilgrimage, we have a striking display of the frequent prosperity of the wicked and the troubles of the righteous. For this reason we are apt to forget that an inversion of circumstances will take place after death. Thus the redemption of the afflicted who are of a humble spirit is often insisted on in the course of this psalm. Let us, then, always give thanks to the Lord, whether in sickness or in health, or in prosperity or adversity.

### ***A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed.***

- 1 I will bless YAHWEH at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul makes its boast in YAHWEH; let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 Oh, magnify YAHWEH with me, and let us exalt his name together!
  
- 4 I sought YAHWEH, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.
- 6 This poor man cried, and YAHWEH heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of YAHWEH encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.
  
- 8 Oh, taste and see that YAHWEH is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
- 9 Oh, fear YAHWEH, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!
- 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek YAHWEH lack no good thing.
  
- 11 Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of YAHWEH.
- 12 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
  
- 15 The eyes of YAHWEH are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.
- 16 The face of YAHWEH is against those who do evil,  
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- 17 When the righteous cry for help, YAHWEH hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 YAHWEH is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
  
- 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but YAHWEH delivers him out of them all.
- 20 He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.
- 21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 YAHWEH redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

## PRAYER

*O most merciful and gracious Lord God, your eyes watch over the righteous and your ears are open to their prayers. Give us a humble heart and a contrite spirit, a fear of your name, a bridle over our tongues, and a zeal for your service. Endue us with that meekness of spirit that will enable us to live peaceably with all men, avoiding contentions and strife and uncharitableness. Prepare us for those heavenly joys which are at your right hand, and exalt us through the merits of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.*