

# Psalms The Message

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## Monday

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**11** <sup>1-3</sup> I’ve already run for dear life  
straight to the arms of God.  
So why would I run away now  
when you say,  
  
“Run to the mountains; the evil  
bows are bent, the wicked arrows  
Aimed to shoot under cover of darkness  
at every heart open to God.  
The bottom’s dropped out of the country;  
good people don’t have a chance”?  
  
<sup>4-6</sup> But God hasn’t moved to the mountains;  
his holy address hasn’t changed.  
He’s in charge, as always, his eyes  
taking everything in, his eyelids

## Tuesday

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Unblinking, examining Adam’s unruly brood  
inside and out, not missing a thing.  
He tests the good and the bad alike;  
if anyone cheats, God’s outraged.  
Fail the test and you’re out,  
out in a hail of firestones,  
Drinking from a canteen  
filled with hot desert wind.  
  
<sup>7</sup> God’s business is putting things right;  
he loves getting the lines straight,  
Setting us straight. Once we’re standing tall,  
we can look him straight in the eye.

## Wednesday

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**12** <sup>1-2</sup> Quick, God, I need your helping hand!  
The last decent person just went down,  
All the friends I depended on gone.  
Everyone talks in lie language;  
Lies slide off their oily lips.  
They doubletalk with forked tongues.  
<sup>3-4</sup> Slice their lips off their faces! Pull  
The braggart tongues from their mouths!  
I’m tired of hearing, “We can talk anyone into any-  
thing!  
Our lips manage the world.”

## Thursday

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<sup>5</sup> Into the hovels of the poor,  
Into the dark streets where the homeless groan, God  
speaks:  
“I’ve had enough; I’m on my way  
To heal the ache in the heart of the wretched.”  
  
<sup>6-8</sup> God’s words are pure words,  
Pure silver words refined seven times  
In the fires of his word-kiln,  
Pure on earth as well as in heaven.  
God, keep us safe from their lies,  
From the wicked who stalk us with lies,  
From the wicked who collect honors  
For their wonderful lies.

## Friday

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**13** <sup>1-2</sup> Long enough, God—  
you’ve ignored me long enough.  
I’ve looked at the back of your head  
long enough. Long enough  
I’ve carried this ton of trouble,  
lived with a stomach full of pain.  
Long enough my arrogant enemies  
have looked down their noses at me.  
  
<sup>3-4</sup> Take a good look at me, God, my God;  
I want to look life in the eye,  
So no enemy can get the best of me  
or laugh when I fall on my face.  
  
<sup>5-6</sup> I’ve thrown myself headlong into your arms—  
I’m celebrating your rescue.  
I’m singing at the top of my lungs,  
I’m so full of answered prayers.

# Psalms The Message

## Saturday

14 Bilious and bloated, they gas,  
“God is gone.”  
Their words are poison gas,  
fouling the air; they poison  
Rivers and skies;  
thistles are their cash crop.  
2 God sticks his head out of heaven.  
He looks around.  
He’s looking for someone not stupid—  
one man, even, God-expectant,  
just one God-ready woman.  
3 He comes up empty. A string  
of zeros. Useless, unshepherded  
Sheep, taking turns pretending  
to be Shepherd.  
The ninety and nine  
follow their fellow.  
4 Don’t they know anything,  
all these impostors?  
Don’t they know  
they can’t get away with this—  
Treating people like a fast-food meal  
over which they’re too busy to pray?  
5-6 Night is coming for them, and nightmares,  
for God takes the side of victims.  
Do you think you can mess  
with the dreams of the poor?  
You can’t, for God  
makes their dreams come true.  
7 Is there anyone around to save Israel?  
Yes. God is around; God turns life around.  
Turned-around Jacob skips rope,  
turned-around Israel sings laughter.

## Sunday

15 God, who gets invited  
to dinner at your place?  
How do we get on your guest list?  
2 “Walk straight,  
act right,  
tell the truth.  
3-4 “Don’t hurt your friend,  
don’t blame your neighbor;  
despise the despicable.  
5 “Keep your word even when it costs you,  
make an honest living,  
never take a bribe.  
“You’ll never get  
blacklisted  
if you live like this.”

## Weekly Scripture Readings

Week 23  
May 30-June 5

Sanctifying grace draws us  
toward the gift of Christian  
perfection, which Wesley  
described as a heart habitually  
filled with the love of God and  
neighbor, and as having the  
mind of Christ and walking as  
he walked.

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