

SIX

IN THEE I TRUST¹

In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.²

Yet God is felt, not proven (unless the feeling constitutes the proof); and the feeling of Biblical writers was strong. The piety of the Psalmists was at times over-placid but it remains the very type of personal religion. Their God was their 'guide' not only 'unto death' but also, in some way they did not specify, beyond.

This God is our God for ever and ever:
He will be our guide even unto death.³

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.⁴

After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. And Abram said, O Lord God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and he that shall be possessor of my house is Dammesek Eliezer? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This man shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine

¹Ps. 143: 8.

²Isa. 30: 15.

³Ps. 48: 15.

⁴Isa. 26: 3.

heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to tell them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.¹

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep; and when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant smote both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

And David said, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.²

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake.

¹Gen. 15: 1-6.

²1 Sam. 17: 32-37.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me:
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies:
Thou hast annointed my head with oil; my cup runneth
over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.¹

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and
fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither
did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know
that man doth not live by bread only, but by every
thing that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord
doth man live.²

He that walketh in darkness, and hath no light, let
him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his
God.³

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I
fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be
afraid?
When evil-doers came upon me to eat up my flesh,
Even mine adversaries and my foes, they stumbled and
fell.
Though an host should encamp against me,
My heart shall not fear:
Though war should rise against me,
Even then will I be confident.

¹Ps. 23.

²Deut. 8: 3.

³Isa. 50: 10.

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek
 after;
 That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days
 of my life,
 To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in
 his temple.
 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me secretly
 in his pavilion:
 In the covert of his tabernacle shall he hide me;
 He shall lift me up upon a rock.
 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine
 enemies round about me;
 And I will offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy;
 I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.
 Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice:
 Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said
 unto thee,
 Thy face, Lord, will I seek.
 Hide not thy face from me;
 Put not thy servant away in anger:
 Thou hast been my help;
 Cast me not off, neither forsake me, O God of my
 salvation.
 For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
 But the Lord will take me up.
 Teach me thy way, O Lord;
 And lead me in a plain path,
 Because of mine enemies.
 Deliver me not over unto the will of mine adversaries:
 For false witnesses are risen up against me, and such
 as breathe out cruelty.
 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the good-
 ness of the Lord
 In the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord:
Be strong, and let thine heart take courage;
Yea, wait thou on the Lord.¹

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed,
because his compassions fail not.
They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.²

Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgement,
and wait on thy God continually.³

The hand of our God is upon all them that seek him,
for good.⁴

Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given victory unto Syria: he was also a mighty man of valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out in bands, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! then would he recover him of his leprosy. And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, And now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest

¹Ps. 27.

²Lam. 3: 22-23.

³Hos. 12: 6.

⁴Ezra 8: 22.

recover him of his leprosy. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? but consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

And it was so, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariots, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.¹

¹2 Kings 5: 1-14.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains:
From whence shall my help come?
My help cometh from the Lord,
Which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper:
The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
Nor the moon by night.
The Lord shall keep thee from all evil;
He shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall keep thy going out and thy coming in,
From this time forth and for evermore.¹

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change,
And though the mountains be moved in the heart of
the seas;
Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with the swelling there-
of.² [Selah

They that go down to the sea in ships,
That do business in great waters;
These see the works of the Lord,
And his wonders in the deep.
For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind,
Which lifteth up the waves thereof.
They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to
the depths:

¹Ps. 121.

²Ps. 46: 1-3.

Their soul melteth away because of trouble.
They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man,
And are at their wits' end.

Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble,
And he bringeth them out of their distresses.

He maketh the storm a calm,
So that the waves thereof are still.
Then they are glad because they be quiet;
So he bringeth them unto the haven where they would
be.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness,
And for his wonderful works to the children of men!¹

If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.²

Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid nor
dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multi-
tude that is with him: for there is a greater with us
than with him: with him is an arm of flesh; but with
us is the Lord our God.³

My soul, wait thou only upon God;
For my expectation is from him.
He only is my rock and my salvation:
He is my high tower; I shall not be moved.
With God is my salvation and my glory:
The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Trust in him at all times, ye people;
Pour out your heart before him:
God is a refuge for us.⁴ [Selah

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my
cup:
Thou maintainest my lot.

¹Ps. 107: 23-31.

²Isa. 7: 9.

³2 Chron. 32: 7-8.

⁴Ps. 62: 5-8.

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places;
Yea, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel:
Yea, my reins instruct me in the night seasons.
I have set the Lord always before me:
Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth:
My flesh also shall dwell in safety.
For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol;
Neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption.
Thou wilt shew me the path of life:
In thy presence is fulness of joy;
In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.¹

Nevertheless I am continually with thee:
Thou hast holden my right hand.
Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel,
And afterward receive me to glory.
Whom have I in heaven but thee?
And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.
My flesh and my heart faileth:
But God is the strength of my heart and my portion for
ever.²

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in whom I trust.
For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler,
And from the noisome pestilence.
He shall cover thee with his pinions,
And under his wings shalt thou take refuge:
His truth is a shield and a buckler.

¹Ps. 16: 5-11.

²Ps. 73: 23-26.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night,
Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
For the pestilence that walketh in darkness,
Nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
A thousand shall fall at thy side,
And ten thousand at thy right hand;
But it shall not come nigh thee.
Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold,
And see the reward of the wicked.
For thou, O Lord, art my refuge!
Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation.

There shall no evil befall thee,
Neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent.
For he shall give his angels charge over thee,
To keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee up in their hands,
Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:
The young lion and the serpent shalt thou trample
under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I
deliver him:
I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble:
I will deliver him, and honour him.
With long life will I satisfy him,
And shew him my salvation.¹

As for me, I shall behold thy face in righteousness:
I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.²

I know that my redeemer liveth,
And that he shall stand up at the last upon the earth:

¹Ps. 91.

²Ps. 17: 15.

And after my skin hath been thus destroyed,
Yet from my flesh shall I see God.¹

Though he slay me, yet will I wait for him.²

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea,
with my spirit within me will I seek thee early.³

When I awake, I am still with thee.⁴

With thee is the fountain of life:
In thy light shall we see light.⁵

I would know the words which he would answer me,
And understand what he would say unto me.

Would he contend with me in the greatness of his
power?

Nay; but he would give heed unto me.⁶

Men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither
hath the eye seen a God beside thee, which worketh
for him that waiteth for him.

Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh
righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways.⁷

Search me, O God, and know my heart:
Try me, and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any way of wickedness in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.⁸

¹Job 19: 25-26.
²Job 13: 15.

³Isa. 26: 9.
⁴Ps. 139: 18.

⁵Ps. 36: 9.
⁶Job 23: 5-6.

⁷Isa. 64: 4-5.
⁸Ps. 139: 23-24.