

LXIII.—Strain of Praise.

PSALM 148 and 150.

M. Praise ye the Lord! praise the Lord from the heavens! praise Him in the heights.

C. Praise Him, all ye His angels! praise Him, all ye His hosts!

Praise ye Him, sun and moon! praise Him, all ye stars of light!

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens! ye waters, that are above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He commanded, and they were created.

He hath also established them forever; He hath given them a law and they transgress it not.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye sea-monsters, and all deeps!

Fire and hail, snow and vapor; thou tempest, that fulfillest his word!

Ye mountains, and all hills! fruit trees, and all cedars!

Ye wild beasts, and all cattle! ye creeping things, and winged birds!

Ye kings, and all peoples, princes, and all judges of the earth!

Young men and maidens, old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the Lord! for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and the heavens.

He exalteth the honor of His people, the glory of the children of Israel, a people near Him.

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! praise God in His sanctuary! praise Him in His glorious firmament!

Praise Him for His mighty deeds ! praise Him according to His excellent greatness !
 Praise Him with the sound of trumpets ! praise Him with the psaltery and harp !
 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance ! praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes !
 Praise Him with the clear-sounding cymbals ! praise Him with the high-sounding cymbals !
 Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord !
 Praise ye the Lord !

SCRIPTURAL SELECTIONS.

LXIV.—The Praise of Wisdom. (Proverbs.)

- M.* Happy the man who findeth wisdom ; yea, the man who getteth understanding !
- C.* For the profit thereof is greater than that of silver, and the gain thereof than that of fine gold.
 More precious is she than pearls, and none of thy jewels is to be compared with her.
 Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand are riches and honor.
 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold of her, and happy is every one who clings to her.
 Let not kindness and truth forsake thee ; bind them around thy neck, write them upon the tablets of thy heart :
 Then shalt thou find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.
 Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not on thine own understanding ;

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will
make thy paths plain.
Be not wise in thine own eyes ; fear the Lord, and
depart from evil.
It shall be health to thy muscles, and moisture to
thy bones.
Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the
first-fruits of all thine increase ;
Withhold not kindness from those who need it,
when it is in the power of thy hand to do it.
His own iniquities shall ensnare the wicked ; yea
he shall be held fast by the cords of his own
sins.
But the path of the righteous is as the light of
dawn, which groweth brighter and brighter
unto the perfect day.
The way of the wicked is as thick darkness ; they
know not at what they stumble.
More than anything which thou watchest, watch
thy heart ; for from it are the issues of life.
My son, despise not the correction of the Lord, nor
be impatient under His chastisement !
For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, even as
a father the son in whom he delighteth.
Behold, the righteous man is requited on the earth ;
much more the wicked man and the sinner !
Riches do not profit in the day of wrath ; but right-
eousness delivereth from death.
Through kindness and truth, iniquity is purged ;
and through the fear of the Lord, depart from
evil.
In the path of righteousness is life, and in her
pathway there is no death.

LXV.—The Victory of Righteousness (Isaiah).

M. O Lord, Thou art my God, I will exalt Thee, I will praise Thy name.

C. For Thou hast done wonderful things; Thine ancient purposes are faithfulness and truth.

Therefore shall mighty kingdoms praise Thee and the cities of powerful nations shall honor Thee.

For Thou hast been a defense to the poor, a defense to the needy in his distress;

A refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the rage of tyrants was like a storm against the wall.

As heat is allayed by a thick cloud, so the triumph of the tyrants is brought low.

Behold! this is our God; we have waited for Him and He hath saved us.

We have a strong city, His aid does God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

Open ye the gates that the righteous nation may enter in, the nation that keepeth the truth.

Him that is of a steadfast mind Thou wilt keep in continual peace, because he trusted in Thee.

Trust ye in the Lord forever, for the Lord is an everlasting rock.

Thou, O Lord, wilt give us peace, for all our works Thou doest for us.

My soul longeth for Thee in the night, and my spirit within me seeketh Thee in the morning.

The desire of our souls is to Thy name, and to the remembrance of Thy greatness.

Lord in our trouble we have looked for Thee, and poured out our prayer when Thy chastisements were upon us.

For when Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

The way of the upright is a smooth way ; Thou, O most righteous ! dost level the path of the just.

And the effect of righteousness shall be peace and the fruit of righteousness quiet and security.

Wisdom and knowledge shall be thy store of prosperity, and the fear of the Lord shall be thy treasure.

The Lord is exalted ; yea, He dwelleth on high ; He filleth Zion with justice and righteousness.

For the Eternal is our judge ; the Eternal is our law-giver ; the Eternal is our king ; He will save us.

LXVI. The Covenant of Peace. (Isaiah.)

M. Thus saith the high and lofty One, that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy, I dwell in the high and holy place.

C. With him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to quicken the heart of the contrite.

I will bring the blind by a way that they know not of, I will lead them in paths that they have not known.

I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.

When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel,
thy Helper.

I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no
Redeemer.

For a small moment have I forsaken thee, but with
great mercies will I gather thee.

In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a
moment, but with everlasting kindness will I
have mercy on thee.

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be re-
moved, but my kindness shall not depart from
thee.

Neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed,
saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee.

LXVII. The Light of God. (Isaiah.)

M. Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of
the Lord is risen upon thee.

C. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and
gross darkness the people.

But the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory
shall be seen upon thee.

And the nations shall come to thy light, and kings
to the brightness of thy rising.

Lift up thine eyes round about, and see, all they
gather themselves together, they come to thee.

Thy sons shall come from afar, and thy daughters
shall be nursed at thy side.

Therefore thy gates shall be open continually, they
shall not be shut day or night.

That men may bring unto thee the forces of the
nations, that their kings may be brought.