

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## PSALMS 8-14

Author, Ron Allen, rolls up the vast array of Psalms in one short sentence, “Life is tough, but God is good.” I like his summation.

Here’re 150 psalms in 7 words, “Life is tough, but God is good.”

Tonight we begin with **PSALM EIGHT**.

I mentioned last week the introductions to the psalms were not in the original text. They are though very old. In fact, some of the terms that appear in these inscriptions are obsolete and difficult to translate.

Psalms 8 is a good example, “To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.” Here the Hebrew word “Gittith” is translated “instrument of Gath.” David did spend time in the Philistine town and he may’ve been exposed to a musical instrument indigenous to the city.

There are tough other possibilities... It could’ve been a song sung over Goliath of Gath after David struck him down and lopped off his head.

The song may’ve been written for Obed-Edom - a Gittite, from the town of Gath who kept the Ark of the Covenant in his own home for a time.

Still other Bible scholars trace the word back to the “winepress.” It may’ve been sung by the workers as they squeezed out the grapes.

Verse 1 “O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who set Your glory above the heavens!”

Recognize any of these names? “Jibing Chen, Wei Yang, Kai Zou, Fei Cheng” – *you watched them!*

They were all Chinese gold medal winners in gymnastics.

After the Beijing Olympics they became household names in China. But you’re not really famous until your name is known in all the Earth.

Our Lord, Jehovah God, is so great and glorious His name is known in every village, in every corner, of the planet. Jesus is famous everywhere.

We sing this verse in our worship, “You are the Lord, the famous One, famous One, great is your name in all the Earth.” It’s from Psalm 8:1.

Verse 2 “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.” Jesus quotes this verse in Matthew 21:16...

After He rode His donkey into Jerusalem to the cheers of the crowd, and cleansed the Temple... the children in the Temple were crying out, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” And the priests became “indignant.”

They confronted Jesus, “Do you hear what these (folks) are saying?”

In response Jesus quoted this verse. In fact, Jesus *interprets* as He *quotes*, “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise.” Jesus translates

“strength” as “praise.”

*And why not? Praise is our strength.*

We are most qualified for whatever task God has for us - when our focus is off ourselves and our eyes are fixed on Jesus. Praise is perfected - strength is undiluted - in awe-filled, child-like faith.

Verse 3 “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?”

Imagine the shepherd boy, David, out in the field under a starry sky.

He gazes at an ocean of stars – a celestial sea – and he admires the genius of the God who created it all. Then it hits him – *while he’s sitting on earth thinking about God... God is in heaven thinking about him.*

God has cosmic vistas to enjoy, but His attention is fixed on earthlings. And David marvels, verse 4, “What is man that You are mindful of him...”

Plato, the great Greek philosophers searched and searched for a name that would describe man. Finally he settled on “featherless biped”.

It worked well, until one of his students threw a plucked chicken over the academy wall. It had a placard around its neck that read, “Plato’s Man”. His stunt pointed out that Plato’s wisdom was inadequate.

Charles Darwin referred to mankind as the “most efficient

animal...”

Philosopher Ed Carnell went as far as calling us “a grown-up germ”.

German rocket scientist, Wernher von Braun, labeled mankind as, “The only computer that can be mass-produced with unskilled labor.” **What is man?** Are we simply *a mature monkey or a magnificent machine?*

In 2002, the total cost of the raw materials that make up a human body was \$4.50. Based on the price of cowhide your skin is worth \$3 - the rest of you, a buck and change. Reduce a human being to his or her most basic physical composition, and we’re nothing but glorified mud balls.

Psalm 8 teaches us the value of man cannot be measured by looking *inward* - but *upward*. We’re special... *because we’re special to God.*

This is what we’re told in verse 5, “**For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.**

**You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen - even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.”** God created us in His image.

According to David we started out a little lower than the angels, but we are destined to rule over them. God gave mankind dominion over His creation, and one day all things will be placed under human feet.

Of course, God's plan for man was spoiled by the sin of the first man, Adam. GK Chesterton said of mankind, "Whatever is or is not true about men, this one thing is certain – man is not what he was meant to be."

*What is man?* Augustine's answered, "Man is a good thing spoiled."

American philosopher, Will Rogers, said this, "God made man a little lower than the angels, and he's been getting a little lower ever since."

Today, mankind lives in a fallen state - but we'll arise. We'll be exalted. What was spoiled by the first Adam will be restored by the last Adam, Jesus. In Christ a human becomes all a human was meant to be.

When Jesus returns our bodies will be transformed. We'll share in the glory God gave to Jesus. We'll be brilliant, magnificent beings.

Emerson notes our future glory. "Could you in vision see - Yourself, the man God meant - you never more would be - the man you are, content."

The human potential movement has missed the boat. We reach our full potential not by seeking to be our own god, but by bowing before Jesus.

The chapter ends how it begins. The first line and last line are identical. Verse 9, "O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!"

**PSALM NINE** is prefaced with a cryptic notation, "To the Chief Musician. To the tune of 'Death of the Son.' A Psalm of

David.”

The Hebrew word translated “Death of the Son” is “muth-labben.” The term can also be translated “Death of the Champion.”

An ancient tradition ties this Psalm to the death of Goliath. A Jewish commentary of the Bible, The Targum, adds these words, “Concerning the death of the man who went forth between the camps.” This is what Goliath did as he taunted the Jews and defied God.

Some folks see in Psalm 9 a picture of the Antichrist - who also goes between the camps in the Valley of Megiddo, at the last great Battle. He will blaspheme God, but the Son of David will slay the Devil's Champ.

Here's the message of Psalm 9... *Woe to those who defy God.*

Verses 1-2, “I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.” Notice the four “I Wills” of worship...

***I will praise... I will tell... I will be glad... I will sing...*** I don't have time to go over each of these “I wills” – *that's your homework tonight.*

But I will say if you're going to worship Him you need to be determined. A Christian *wills* to worship. He chooses to worship. Satan will try to throw every diversion imaginable across your path to prevent your worship.

If you don't make up your mind you'll become distracted.

Verse 3 “When my enemies turn back, they shall fall and perish at Your presence.” The presence of God overcame Goliath in the Valley of Elah.

“For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; even their memory has perished. But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment.

And here it seems the scope of the psalm transcends a localized battle between David and Goliath. Verse 8, God will judge the whole world.

He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.” A refuge was a cave in the side of a mountain. It was a hideout. It was a place a man could flee and find safety and security.

Where is your refuge? When the stress builds, and you don't think you can take it any longer, *where do you run and hide?* Everyone needs a hideout – a get away. In Haiti we call it “a safe house.” There’s chaos in the streets - danger all around – but the safe house is a refuge?

The psalmist says the Lord is our refuge! He is our hiding

place.

Verse 11 “Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. Zion was originally the name of the southern section of Jerusalem. Later it was associated with the Temple Mount.

In other Scriptures Mount Zion is even analogous with heaven.

Verse 12 “When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble. Have mercy on me, O LORD!” One day, God will avenge the innocent blood of all the innocent people throughout time.

“He does not forget the cry of the humble.” Jesus will recall your cry.

“Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, that I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation.”

“The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; in the net which they hid, their own foot is caught.” They fall into their own trap.

“The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.” Man's rebellion backfires.

Once Nick used his pocketknife to carve up a mahogany desk we'd inherited. It was nice furniture and we were mad. At first he denied it... even though he was the obvious culprit... *He carved his own name.*



Here, evil men get ensnared in a web weaved by their own hands.

Verse 17 “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. For the needy shall not always be forgotten; the expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. Arise, O LORD, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O LORD, that the nations may know themselves to be but men.” The nations forgot God – and when you forget who God is... you forget who you are...

Refuse to fear the Lord and you end up playing God.

**PSALM TEN** has no title, and is probably a continuation of Psalm 9.

It's interesting in the original language both Psalms form an acrostic. Each section began with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

The format was a tool that helped the reader memorize the psalm.

Verse 1, “Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.”

Psalm 10 opens with the author pondering the age-old problem, *why do the wicked prosper?* He wonders why God's judgment is not immediate...

Notice he accuses God of standing afar off, and hiding Himself in times of trouble. There are occasions when God

seems distant, but He's not.

The Lord is never far-away – even in times of trouble – even when the prideful, wicked man picks on the poor. *God sees... God knows...*

Verse 3 “For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; he blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD. The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.” The goal of Christian discipleship is to allow God to pervade and permeate all my thoughts.

Elsewhere we're told to *renew our minds...* I want God to challenge my assumptions, corral my imagination, and color my perspective. I suppose verse 4 is pagan discipleship... “God is in none of his thoughts.”

And the absence of God in the proud, boastful man's thoughts has created the absence of God on his face and in his step.

The psalmist says “his proud countenance does not seek God...”

Even in his body language and expressions he has a proud, arrogant persona - a wrinkled brow, a stern look, a stiff upper lip. He's cocky.

Once, Abraham Lincoln had selected several people to political posts.

When asked about a qualified man Lincoln had overlooked, the wise president explained, “No, no, not that man. I don't like his face”

His aide challenged him, “Don't you think it's inappropriate

*to disqualify someone for something as superficial as the look on your face?* President Lincoln replied, “Every man over 40 is responsible for his face.”

Often the content of your heart is revealed by the look on your face. Here the man who never thinks of God has “a proud countenance.”

Verse 5 “His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; as for all his enemies, he sneers at them.”

The psalmist is upset. The proud man is prospering. He has renounced the Lord, why does God ignore him? Where is God’s judgment?

“He has said in his heart, “I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity.” What arrogance! He’s mocking God and righteousness.

“His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue is trouble and iniquity. He sits in the lurking places of the villages; in the secret places he murders the innocent; his eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; he lies in wait to catch the poor; he catches the poor when he draws him into his net.”

How diabolical. He plots to take advantage of the poor and innocent.

So he crouches, he lies low, that the helpless may fall by his strength. He has said in his heart, “God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see.” The proud man misinterprets God's silence and patience. He assumes God

has forgotten, or approves, or is impotent to act.

Often a wicked man will think he's really pulling one over on God. How naïve. Just because God hasn't judged - doesn't mean He can't or won't.

**“Arise, O LORD! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble.”**

Over and over in the psalms you'll notice how David prays, **“Arise, O LORD!”** He prays for God to take action. He prays with anticipation.

Verse 13 **“Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, “You will not require an account.”** What a serious miscalculation!

It's been said, **“The mill of God grinds slowly, but it grinds to powder.”**

God's judgment doesn't always come quickly – it's seldom in a hurry. But when judgment does arrive it strikes decisively and thoroughly.

**“But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, to repay it by Your hand.”** The proud man recounts examples of God's willingness to judge the wicked. That he thinks he's an exception is a delusion.

**“The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless.”** God helps those who have no one else to help them.

Jehovah is the God of the underdog. He will help the humble.

In verse 15 the psalmist cries out for justice. “Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; seek out his wickedness until You find none.

The LORD is King forever and ever; the nations have perished out of His land. LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You’ll prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more.”

David’s life before he became king can be divided into three periods...

His earliest years were spent in the countryside tending his father’s flocks. He worshipped God under the stars. His faith was formed.

David then spent time in the court of Saul. These were the years where he learned wisdom, and restraint, and submission, and selflessness.

Finally, David spent a number of years in a cave - in the wilderness - on the run from King Saul. During his fugitive years he learned the art of war.

There is no reference to when David wrote **PSALM ELEVEN**, but from its contents it was probably written during his time in Saul’s Court.

“In the LORD I put my trust; how can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"? For look! The wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow on the string, that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. If the foundations

are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

When David joined Saul's court it didn't take long for jealousy to set in. God's hand was on David, and it made Saul jealous. In fact, it drove him mad. Twice Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the tip of a javelin.

Everyday David awoke he wondered if it be his last. His situation was hopeless. To whom can you appeal when the king is against you?

His friends counseled him to flee to the mountains like a bird.

The foundations of truth and righteousness had eroded.

When your foundation starts to erode how do you react?

You can read the handwriting on the wall... You're about to lose your job? A serious rift has developed in your marriage? A child is slipping further away? When life gets tough do you want to flee like a bird?

Instead of fleeing to the mountains, the psalmist enters the Temple!

Rather than run from trouble, he seeks God in the midst of his problem. "The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven;

Notice how differently his circumstances seem when he sees them from God's perspective. *Who is on the throne?* Previously, he only saw Saul on the throne. But what counts is that God is on the throne in heaven.

Saul is a mere puppet. The Lord is the one who is really in charge.

“His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.” God is in heaven squinting at David. He’s narrowing his eyelids to examine his situation.

God’s eyes see David’s plight and will orchestrate his deliverance.

“The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain coals; fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup.”

For a time the righteous are tested, but in the end they get vindicated, and just like Sodom and Gomorrah the wicked man gets torched.

“For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.” God eventually came to David’s rescue. In the end God always sides with those who do right. “He loves righteousness.”

**PSALM TWELVE** is psalm written by David with a dagger in his back.

This may’ve been penned when Ahithophel, his trusted counselor and friend sided with Absalom and his attempt to overtake David’s kingdom.

It could’ve come when the Ziphites wanted to sell him out to Saul.

Whatever the exact circumstances, David has been betrayed by a friend. Psalm 12 is his response. And notice how it begins, “**HELP!**”

He doesn't beat around the bush. He screams to God for help!

“Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.” David is so overcome by the deceptiveness and back-stabbing of his so-called friend he feels like all the faithful men have vanished. The nation has run out of godly men. They've all disappeared.

“They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; with flattering lips and a double heart they speak.” They're hypocrites. They butter you up. They say one thing and mean something different. No one is honest.

“May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaks proud things, who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?" David wants God to cut off lips and cut out tongues. As a true warrior he prays for a violent remedy.

It would be fitting if those who boasted with their tongue lost its use.

“For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now I will arise,” says the LORD; “I will set him in the safety for which he yearns.”

Verses 6-8 contrast the *words of men* with the *words of God*.

The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.



The wicked prowl on every side, when vileness is exalted among the sons of men.

David makes four statements about God's Word...

First, God's words are true ("the words of the Lord are pure").

Second, they're tested ("like silver tried in a furnace").

Third, they're trustworthy (God preserves His word).

Fourth, they're timeless (His Word lasts forever).

*True, tested, trustworthy,* and *timeless* is the Word of God.

**PSALM THIRTEEN** was probably written during David's fugitive years. He's in exile, on the run from Saul. Estranged from the people he loves.

You can hear his anguish, "How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?"

Four times David asks, "How long?"

In 1996 we took a family vacation out west. Mack was 5 years old.

We drove from Oregon to the Grand Canyon and all I can remember Mack saying was "Are we there yet?" For a five year old those long stretches seemed like an eternity. His question was "How long?"

Imagine David sitting in the shade of a cave in the hot Judean desert. On occasion he hikes down the mountainside to cool off in the springs.

It's been nearly 20 years since the prophet Samuel came to

his house, and took the ram's horn of oil, and anointed him king over Israel.

For the last 7 years he's been treated – not like a king, but like a king of beasts - a wild lion. King Saul has hunted David like he was a wild animal.

Saul became insanely jealous over David's popularity. Despite David's loyalty to Saul, the king viewed him as a rival – a threat to his throne.

Saul's driving passion – above all other matters - was to kill David.

Thus David spent 7 years of his life dodging Saul in the desert. He's always on the move – always looking over his shoulder. *When will God fulfill His promises? How long will this nightmare continue? How long?*

**“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death...”** Notice David believes in a resurrection.

Death is not the end. We know the spirit goes to God at death.

David's focus is on the body - it sleeps and waits for the day when the dead in Christ rise first and living believers are snatched up to be with Jesus. The rapture marks the resurrection of those who trust in God.

But again, even with the rapture, the question is *“How long?”*

As Christians it's important we learn that God is never, ever in a hurry!

The great preacher Phillips Brooks was pacing the floor one day when someone asked him, “*What’s the problem?*” He replied, “*The problem is, I am in a hurry and God is not.*” You can’t rush God or hurry Him up.

Nothing is more frustrating for a football fan than for the stadium clock to malfunction, and the time to be kept on the sidelines by the referee.

This is horrible. You watch the game with no idea how much time is left. *But this is the Christian life...* We ask “*how long*” – God says “Be faithful.”

Here David is saying he doesn’t want to die. “*Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him;" lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.*” Four times David asked “*How long?*” Three times he says, “*lest,*” or “*what if.*” Here are the enemies of faith - the “*how longs*” and “*what ifs.*”

We try to be patient and wait on God, but the “*what ifs*” torture us. They make us antsy and ratchet up our anxiety. We have as much control over the “*what ifs*” as we do the “*how longs.*” Both are in God’s hand, not mine.

Here’s the cure... we need to *wait* and *rest*.

As long as we’re *waiting on God’s will* we can *rest in God’s will*. If God pushes pause, then He knows what’s going to transpire in the meantime.

We’ve got to get a handle on “*how long*” and “*what if*” – if not, it’s the tag-team duo that will pin our faith. Let’s learn to *wait* and *rest*...

Verse 5 “**But I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.**” Remember, twice David had the opportunity to kill Saul - once in *his cave* and once in *Saul’s camp*. But David rightly understood it was not his place to decide Saul’s fate. He would not circumvent God’s will.

David tells God he’s waiting on “**Your mercy and Your salvation.**”

Real faith is willing to leave the matter in God’s hands.

**“I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”**

It’s amazing how a little patience will change your perspective!

David concludes, the Lord has fulfilled His promises in the past and will in the future! Psalm 13 *begins with sighing*, but *ends with singing*. Nothing changes in David’s circumstances, but a dramatic shift occurs in his heart.

**PSALM FOURTEEN** was written by David during a time when Israel was held captive by its enemies. The only occasion in David's lifetime when that was the case was just before he slew the Philistine giant.

Prior to his defeat of Goliath, the Philistines controlled the land of Israel.

Psalm 14 may’ve been written in response to Goliath’s mockings and blasphemies when he came out to defy the armies and God of Israel.

The lyrics of Psalm 14 are almost identical to the lyrics of Psalm 53.

Psalm 14 begins, “The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”

There’s a cartoon, “*Agnostic Fleas.*” Two fleas are walking across the furry landscape of a canine’s back when one says to the other, “I wonder if there really is a dog?” It takes a fool to repudiate the existence of God.

The evidence for God is so overwhelming – the order and symmetry within the universe... the complexities of life... the nature of mankind.

With the discovery of DNA the old idea of “*biogenesis*” - that inanimate matter, coupled with energy, and given enough time can produce living organism – has now become laughable – even among geneticists.

It’s now conceded a fourth element – not just *matter*, *energy*, and *time* - but “*information*” or “*intelligence*” is required for the creation of life.

And where does intelligence come from, but from an Intelligent Being? You don’t get an information-rich system by chance and randomness.

Nobel Prize winner, Fred Hoyle, conducted research to estimate the probability of the simplest cells forming through naturalistic evolution.

Hoyle concluded, “The probability of life originating at random is so utterly minuscule as to make the random concept absurd.”

As a piece of art requires an artist – as a watch necessitates a watchmaker – the orderly world we live in had to have a

Creator.

Order and life never flow out of chaos.

Complex systems don't spring from chance occurrences of accidental circumstances. Only a fool denies the existence of God.

“The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.” Paul quotes Psalm 14 in Romans 3 to prove that we're all sinners.

Every man and woman is born with rebellion in his heart.

The reason man doesn't gravitate toward God is the same reason a thief doesn't run to a policeman. We know we're as guilty as sin.

This is why the fool denies God's existence. It's not that he can't believe in God, it's that he won't believe. Deep inside he knows God exists, but it's easier to *deny Him* than *obey Him*. Here's a true statement, “**Earth houses atheists many - Hell is not occupied by any.**” The fool wises up in hell.

Verse 4 “**Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call on the LORD? There they are in great fear, for God is with the generation of the righteous.** The workers of iniquity add to their judgment by picking on the poor and oppressed.

**“You shame the counsel of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.”**

When I was 13 years old, I was playing tennis, when three little guys started making fun of me. They had a muscle-bound brute with them.

After a while I was done with the teasing. I told them to shut up or else! They chose the “*or else*” – but rather than come out fighting - they sent the brute. And I didn’t stand a chance. The guy decked me with one punch.

I learned a big lesson... **don’t ever pick a fight with people who have a big friend.** This is what the fool in Psalm 14 learns. He picks on the poor - but the poor run to God. He is their refuge. God will defend His people.

**“Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!”** David may’ve been the answer to his own prayer. **“When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.”**