

Attend my people to my Law

The Whole Booke of Psalms (1621) - Psalm 78

Michael CAVENDISH (ca. 1565-1628)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

At - tend my peop - le to my Law, and to my words in - cline:
At - tend my peop - le to my Law, and to my words in - cline:
At - tend my peop - le to my Law, and to my words in - cline:
At - tend my peop - le to my Law, and to my words in - cline:

3
S. My__ mouth shall speak strange pa - ra - bles, and sen - ten - ces di - vine, which__ we our - selves have heard and learn'd
A. My mouth shall speak strange pa - ra - bles, and sen - ten - ces di - vine, which we our - selves have heard and learn'd,
T. My mouth shall speak strange pa - ra - bles, and sen - ten - ces di - vine, which we our - selves have heard and learn'd,
B. My mouth shall speak strange pa - ra - bles, and sen - ten - ces di - vine, which we our - selves have heard and learn'd,

6
S. even of our fa - thers old, and which for our in - struc - ti - on our fa - thers have us told.
A. even of our fa - thers old, and which for our in - struc - ti - on, our fa - thers have us told.
T. even of our fa - thers old, and which for our in - struc - ti - on, our fa - thers have us told.
B. even of our fa - thers old, and which for our in - struc - ti - on, our fa - thers have us told.

4. Because we should not keep it close from them that should come after.
Who should Gods power to their race praise and all hiw works of wonder.
5. To Jacob he commandment gave how Israel should live:
Willing our fathers should the same unto their children give.

6. That they and their posterity that were not sprung up tho Should have the knowledge of the law, and teach their seed also.
7. That they may have the better hope in God that is above:
And not forget to keep his laws and his precepts in love.

Critical notes:
Text somewhat modernised.

8. Not being as their fathers were, rebelling in Gods sight:
And would not frame their wicked hearts to know their God aright.
9. How went the people of Ephraim, their neighbours for to spoil:
Shooting their darts the day of war, and yet they took the soil ?

10. For why ? they did not keep with God the covenant that was made:
Nor yet would walk at lead their lives according to his trade.
11. But put into oblivion his counsel and his will:
And all his works most magnifique, which he declared still.

The second part.

12. What wonder to our forfathers did he himself disclose:
In Egypt land within the field that call'd is Thaneos ?
13. He did divide and cut the sea, that they might pass at once:
And made the waters stand as still as doth an heap of stones.

14. He led them secret in a cloud by day when it was bright:
And in the night when dark it was with fire he gave them light.
15. He brake the rocks in wilderness, and gave the people drink:
As plentyful as when the drops do flow up to the brink.

16. He drew out rivers out of rocks, that were both dry and hard:
Of such abundance that no floods to them might be compar'd.
17. Yet for all this against the Lord their sin they did increase:
And stirred him that is most high to wrath in wilderness.

18. They tempted him within their hearts like people of mistrust:
Requiring such a kind of meat as served to their lust.
19. Saying with murmuration, in their unfaithfulness:
What ? can this God prepare for us a feast in wilderness ?

20. Behold he strake the stony rock,
and floods forthwith did flow:
But can he now give to his folk
both bread and flesh also ?

21. When God heard this he waxed wroth
with Jacob ad his seed:
So did his indignation
on Israel proceed.

The third part.

22. Because they did not faithfully
believe and hope that he
Could always help and succour them
in their necessity.

23. Wherefor he did command the clouds
forthwith they brake in sunder.

24. And rained down Manna for them to eat,
a food of mickle wonder.

25. When earthly men with Angels food
were fed at their request:

26. He had the East winds blow away,
and brought in the Southwest.

27. And rained down flesh as thick as daft,
and (Fewle) as thick as sand:

28. Which he did cast amid the place
where all their tents did stand.

29. Then did they eat exceedingly,
and all men had their fills:

Yet more and more did they desire,
to serve their lusts and wills.

30. But as the meat was in their mouths,
his wrath upon them fell:

31. And flew the flower of all their youth
and choice of Israel.

32. Yet fell they to their wonted sin,
and still they did him grieve:

For all the wonders he he wrought,
they would not him believe.

33. Their days therefor be shortened,
and made their honour vain:

Their years did waste and pass away,
with terror and with pain.

34. But ever when he plagued them
they sought him by and by:

Remembring that he was their strength,
their help and God most high.

35. Though in their mouths they did but gloss
and flatter with the Lord:

And with their tongues and in their hearts
dissembled every word.

The fourth part.

36. For why ? their hearts were nothing bent
to him, nor to his trade:

Nor yet to keep or to perform
the covenant that was made.

37. Yet was he still so merciful,
when they deserved to die:

That he forgave them their misdeeds,
and would not them destroy.

38. Yea many a time he turned his wrath
and did himself advise:

And would not suffer all his whole
displeasure to arise.

39. Considering that they were but flesh,
and even as a wind

That passed away, and cannot well
return by his own kind.

40. How often times in wilderness
did they the Lord provoke ?

How did they stirr and move the Lord
to plague them with his stroke ?

41. Yet did they turn again to sin,
and tempted God (eltoosn),

Prescribing to the holy Lord
what things they would have done.

41. Not thinking of his hand and power,
not of the day when he
Delivered them out of the hands
of the fierce enemy.

43. Nor how he wrought his miracles
as they themsemlves beheld
In Egypt, and the wonders that
he did in Zoan field.

44. Not how he turned by his power
their waters into blood:

That no man might receive his drink
at river or at flood.

45. Nor how he sent them swarms of Flies
which did them sore annoy:

And filled their country full of Frogs
which did their land destroy.

The fifth part.

46. Nor how he did commit their fruits
unto the Caterpillar:

And all the labour of their hands
he gave to the Grashopper.

47. With hailstones he destroyed their vines
so that they were all lost:

And not so much as wild Fig-trees
but he consumed with frost.

48. And yet with hailstones once again
the Lord their cattle smote:

And all their flocks and herds likewise
with thunderbolts full hot.

49. He cast upon them in his ire
and in his fury strong

Displeasure, wrath and evil spirits
to trouble them among.

50. Then to his wrath he made a way,
and saved not the least:

But gave unto the pestilence
the man and eke the beast.

51. He strake also the firstborn all
that up in Egypt came:

And all the chief of men and beasts
within the tents of Ham.

52. But as for all his own dear folk
he did preserve and keep,
And carried them through wilderness
even like a flock of sheep.

53. Without all fear both safe and sound
he brought them out of thrall:

Whereas their sons with rage of sea
were overwhelmed all.

54. And brought them out into the coasts
of his own holy land:

Even to the mount which he had got
by his strong arm and hand.

55. And there cast out the heathen folk,
and did their land divide:

And in their tents he set the tribes
of Israel to abide.

56. Yet for all this their God most high
they stirred and tempted still:

And would not keep his testament,
nor yet obey his will.

57. But as their fathers turned back,
even so they went astray

Much like a bow that would not bend,
but slip and start away.

The sixth part.

58. And griev'd him with their hill altars
with offerings and with fire:

And with their Idols vehemently
provoked him to ire.

59. Therewith his wrath began again
to kindle in his breast:

The naughtiness of Israel
he did so much detest.

60. Then he forsook the Tabernacle
of Silo, where he was

Right (connersant) with earthly men
even as his dwelling place.

61. Then suffered he his might and power
in bondage for to stand:

And gave the honour of his Ark
into his enemies hand.

62. And did commit them to the sword,
wroth with his heritage:

63. The young men were devoured with fire
Maids had no marriage.

64. And with the sword the priests also
did perish every one:

And not a widw left alibe
their death for te bemone.

65. And then the Lord began to wake
like one that slept a time:

And as a valiant man of war
refreshed after wine.

66. With Emrods in their hinder parts
he strake his enemies all:

And put them then unto a shame
that was perpetuall.

67. Then he the tent and tabernacle
of Joseph did refuse:

As for the tribe of Ephraim
he would in no wise choose.

68. But chose the tribe of Iehuds,
whereas he meant to dwell:

Even the noble Mount Sion,
which he did love so well.

69. Whereas he did his Temple build
both sumptuously and sure:
Like as the earth which he hath made
for ever to endure.

70. Then chose he David him to serve
his people for to keep:

Which he took up and brought away,
even from the folds of sheep.

71. As he did follow the Ewes with young,
the Lord did him advance:

To feed his people Israel
and his inheritance.

702. Thus David with a faithful heart,
his flock and charge did feed:

And prudently with all his power
did govern them indeed.