

Rhymes of the *Psalms* (“诗篇”赋)

LIU Jian-feng

School of Foreign Studies at Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China

“Rhymes of the *Psalms*” is used as the title for the 175 poems that I am writing from the *Psalms* in the *Bible*. And here the following fifteen poems have been written from *Psalms* 1-15.

1. Blessed are the Righteous, Not the Wicked (sonnet)

Blessed are those who reject th’ dvice o’ the wicked,
Who don’t follow th’ example of sinners,
Nor join to sit in the seat of scoffers;
Instead, they take delight in th’ law o’ the Lord.
They meditate th’ law o’ the Lord day and night,
They are like trees that grow beside a stream,
And they always bear their fruits at th’ right time,
Wither or dry up, their leaves, branch’s do not.
In whate’er they do, they’ll have prosp’rity.
But evil men are not like this at all,
They are like chaff that the winds always whirl.
The wick’d won’t stand and no place ’mong th’ godly.
For the Lord watches over th’ way o’ the pure,
But the evil are on th’ way to expire.

2. God’s Chosen King

Why do th’ foreign nations conspire,
And the peoples plot a thing vain?
Th’ kings revolt, th’ rulers plot tog’ther
Against th’ Lord and his Anoint’d one.

“Let us break their bands asunder,”
They say, “let us throw off their ropes.”
He who sits in th’ heavens snigger;
The Lord makes fun of those rulers.

He rebukes them when he’s angry

1. 弃恶从善必蒙福（商籁体）

弃恶谋蒙福，
不效罪人样，
褻慢座勿往；
惟遵主法律。
昼夜思主意，
像树溪边栽，
按时有果摘，
枝叶无枯兮。
所行皆亨通，
恶人境况非，
乃糠秕风吹，
难立义人中。
主看义人道，
恶道死难逃。

2. 神所拣选的君王

外邦为何争闹？
万民图谋虚妄？
列国君臣商讨，
抵挡主与膏王。

“吾侪折断锁链，”
言说：“脱去绳捆。”
上主发笑在天；
主必嗤笑王君。

祂怒惩戒他辈，

And terr'fies them i' his wrath, saying,
 “On Zion, my mountain holy
 As for me, I have set my king.”

惊吓他恚怒语：
 “锡安圣山之位，
 吾已立了君主。”

I'll declare what th' Lord promised has:
 “You are my son, I've begotten.
 Ask me, and I'll give you th' nations,
 The ends of th' earth your possession.

吾要传扬主旨，
 “吾儿今日余生。
 汝求万国赐你，
 地极赐汝田町。

You'll break them with an iron rod,
 Like a clay pot, dash them i' pieces.”
 Be wise, you rulers of the world,
 Listen to this warning, you kings.

他辈铁杖击打，
 如同陶器摔烂。”
 君王应当明达，
 聆受训诫劝勉。

Serve the Lord with fear and bow down;
 Kiss th' son, lest you die i' his angry,
 Flare up i' a moment his wrath can.
 Blessed, all who go him for safety.

敬虔服侍上主；
 亲吻主子免死，
 恐主瞬间发怒。
 蒙福把主靠依。

3. Morning Prayer for Help (sonnet)

3. 求助的晨祷（商籁体）

O Lord, how my enemies have increased!
 So many are rising up me against.
 Many are saying about my spirit,
 “There is no salvation for him in God.”
 O Lord, you're always my shield from danger,
 Th' lifter o' my head, He bestows me glory.
 I was crying to the Lord with voice my,
 From his sacred hill he gives me answer.
 I lie down and sleep, and I wake again,
 And all night long I have th' Lord's approval.
 I'm not afraid of ten thousands o' people
 Who draw up against me every side on.
 Save me, O Lord! Flog and leave them pow'rless.
 Salvation from th' Lord; your people you bless!

主啊！我敌何其多！
 起来攻击余。
 他辈议论吾，
 “他无神帮哦。”
 祢是我牌盾，
 昂首得荣耀。
 求主余哭叫，
 圣山主应允。
 我躺睡醒时，
 整夜主护卫。
 不怕万敌围，
 靠拢把余击。
 击敌将余救，
 子民主护佑。

4. Evening Prayer for Help (Sonnet)

4. 求助的晚祷（商籁体）

Hear me when I call, O God o' my right'ousness!
 Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.
 How long will you men my honor disgrace?

神显吾为义！
 垂听余祷告。
 人辱吾何时？

How long you love vain words, and seek lies 'fter?
 The Lord has chosen th' righteous for his own,
 And the Lord hears me when to him I call.
 Tremble wi' fear before God and do not sin;
 Med'tate i' your heart on your bed, and be still.
 Offer sacr'fices to th' Lord in th' right way,
 And trust in him, the redeemer our God.
 Lots o' men say, "Who can show us good any?"
 Lift up th' light of your face 'pon us, O Lord!
 Th' joy you've filled my heart great'r than th' grain and port
 I lie down and sleep, Lord 'lone keep me 'nhurt.

追荒诞何了？
 虔诚主拣选，
 余求祂必听。
 畏主罪不犯；
 卧床思肃静。
 献祭主喜悦，
 依靠耶和華。
 “谁示吾僭愆？”
 圣容照面颊。
 赐乐胜谷酒，
 保吾寐无忧。

5. A Prayer for Protection

Give your ear to my words, O Lord,
 Consider my groaning and cry.
 Give att'ntion to my sound, my God,
 And my king, for to you I pray.

 O Lord, in th' morn'ng you hear my voice;
 I plead my case to you, and view.
 You aren't a God who d'lights i' wick'dness;
 Evil will not sojourn with you.

5. 求主的保护

我主请听吾语言，
 顾念吾心吾嚎啕。
 神啊，垂听吾呼喊，
 吾王余向您祈祷。

Th' boastful can't stand before your eyes;
 You hate all folks of in'quity.
 You shall destroy them who speak lies;
 Th' Lord 'bhors th' bloodthirsty and wily.

主啊，早晨听吾音；
 余心陈明亦傲醒。
 我主非喜恶事神；
 恶人难与神留停。

By your great mercy, ent'r your house;
 Worship in your temple holy.
 O Lord, lead me i' your righteousness;
 Make your way smooth and straight for me.

狂傲难逃祢鉴查，
 作孽都为主所恨。
 祢必毁灭说谎话；
 流血诡诈主恨忿。

藉主慈爱入圣所，
 入主圣殿敬拜主。
 主以公义引领我，
 铺我前面正直路。

No truth i' their mouth, their heart wi' ruin filled;
 Flatter wi' their tongue, their throat grave 'pen.
 Condemn and punish them, O God;
 Let them fall by their counsels own.

口无诚实心邪恶；
 谄媚舌头开墓喉。
 定判他僭愆罪责；
 他辈跌倒因己谋。

Let all who take refuge i' your r'joice;
 Spread your protection them over.

投靠我主愿欢欣，
 信靠我主得护庇。

O Lord, for you bless the righteous;
As wi' a shield you co'er them wi' favor.

主必赐福与义人；
主恩如盾护卫兮。

6. A Prayer for Help in Time of Trouble

Lord, Don't be angry and scold me!
Don't punish me in your anger.
For I'm worn out, Lord, have mercy;
Heal me, for my bones shak'ng wi' terror.

6. 患难中求助的祈祷

求主勿怒责余，
罚吾主勿生气。
荏弱愿主怜恤；
骨颤求主医治。

And my soul is greatly dismayed;
How long, O Lord, will you deli'er?
Turn and rescue my soul, O Lord;
Save me because o' lo'ingkindness your.

余心大为慌惊；
主啊，何时拯救？
主来拯救余灵；
救吾主爱为由。

For in death you aren't i' memory;
In the grave who will give your praise?
With my moaning I am weary;
All night long I flood my bed wi' tears.

死地主无记念；
阴间谁将主谢？
唉哼使吾疲倦，
眼泪湿床整夜。

With grief, my eyes are so swollen;
'Cause o' all my foes they grow inv'lid.
Depart from me, you evil men,
For my weeping the Lord has heard.

眼肿皆因忧愁；
敌使吾眼失明。
恶棍离吾远走，
余哭主已耳听。

Th' Lord has heard my cry for mercy;
And th' Lord will answer my prayer.
All my foes shall be struck wi' dismay;
They'll turn back i' sudden dishonor.

余求主闻怜悯；
祷告主必应答。
敌均羞愧慌神；
转瞬奔逃羞煞。

7. Plea for Help Against Persecutors

O Lord, i' you I've refuge taken;
Save me from all who me pursue,
Or they'll tear me like a lion;
And drag me 'way, wi' no one rescue.

7. 求耶和华坚立义人

上帝吾神余靠庇；
救吾脱离众压迫，
如狮他辈将余撕；
无人搭救随狮拖。

If I've done this, O Lord my God,
And in my hands there's injustice,
If I've reward'd e'il to my friend,
Or have robbed my foe without source,

主啊，若余不义罪，
若有罪孽在余手；
恩将仇报歹非为，
攻击异己无缘由，

Let th' en' my pursue and catch me;
Let him trample my life to th' ground
And in the dust lay my glory.
Arise in your anger, O Lord;

任凭仇敌追与赶；
地上践踏余性命，
让余荣耀尘中陷。
求主怒起立身挺；

Rise up against the rage o' my foes,
Awake, my God; justice enact
Gather 'round, let th' ass'mbled peoples,
And o'er it on high take your seat.

抵挡吾敌之暴怒，
兴起吾主施公义，
聚集子民围绕主，
其上主归高座席。

Judges the peoples, judge me, O Lord,
By my righteousness and goodness,
Bring an end th' vi'lence o' the wicked
And make protected the righteous.

主审民众行断判，
审余公义与纯正，
根除恶人恶绝断，
赐福义人保信诚。

God, my shield, who saves th' upright i' heart,
God, judg's fairly, cond'mns th' wicked 'lways.
God will wet th' sword, if he turns not;
He has bent and readied his bows.

神为吾盾救心洁，
公正审判惩罪恶。
罪恶不改主剑灭；
弓必上弦箭备射。

His deadly weapons he's prepared;
Makes ready his fiery arrows.
The wick'd man conceives e'il, behold
Pregnant wi' mischief, gives birth to lies.

致命武器神预备；
弯弓主将火箭搭。
邪恶之人怀谋秽，
孕怀祸乱生虚假。

Digging it out, he makes a hole,
Falls into the pit he has made.
Returns upon himself th' trouble;
His vi'lence d'scends on his own head.

恶人掘坑又挖深，
自己竟落所掘阱，
痛苦患难临自身；
图谋暴行已报应。

For his justice I thank the Lord;
Sing praise to the Most High, our God.

为主公义余颂称；
唱诗赞美主盛名。

8. Divine Majesty and Human Dignity (Sonnet)

O Lord, how maj'stic is your name in th' world!
You've set your glory above the heavens.
Sure the children and infants praise you've made.
You've established strength because of your foes.
The heavens, th' work o' your fingers, think about,
The moon and th' stars you've set in position;

8. 神的荣耀和人的尊贵 (商籁体)

尊贵主名全地美！
荣耀彰显于诸天。
颂赞洋溢小孩嘴，
且因仇敌主力添。
举头望天主手造，
月亮群星主设阵；

What's a human be'ng that you think him 'bout
 And you take care of him, the son of man?
 Than God, You've made him a little lower,
 And You crown him with majesty and fame.
 Th' works o' your hands you make him to rule over;
 Over all th' creation You've made You placed him:
 Creatures of the field, the air and the sea.
 O Lord, in all th' earth your greatness we see!

人虽渺小主顾照，
 世人何用主怀珍？
 主让人微于天使，
 又赐冠冕尊与荣。
 主造万物人管理，
 顺服人命皆听从。
 主造生灵陆空海，
 主名全地壮美哉！

9. Thanksgiving for God's Justice

I'll praise you, O Lord, wi' all my heart;
 I'll tell about all your mir'cles.
 I'll sing with joy and i' your exult;
 Most High God, to you I'll sing praise.

My foes turn back when you appear;
 Before you they die and fall down.
 In your judgments you're hon'st and fair,
 Judging rightly you've sat on th' throne.

You've r'buked th' nations and ruined th' wicked;
 Forever you've erased their name.
 Endl'ss ruin to th' foes, their cit'es 'prooted;
 Has perished th' very mem'ry o' them.

But th' Lord sits enthroned etern'ly;
 He's set up his throne for justice,
 And he judges th' world wi' equity;
 He discerns th' peoples wi' uprightness.

The Lord, a refuge for th' oppressed,
 He keeps them safe in trouble times.
 Lord, those who know you will i' you trust;
 Don't desert those who to you comes.

Sing praises to th' Lord, who rules i' Zion;
 Declare among th' nations his deed.
 When for blood he makes inquis'tion,
 He does not ignore th' cry o' the wronged.

9. 称颂耶和华的公义

一心称谢主，
 传扬主奇妙。
 靠主心欢愉；
 颂主至者高。

主显敌后退；
 跌倒敌灭亡。
 诚信审冤仇，
 主坐公正堂。

灭恶责列国；
 抹去恶徒名。
 敌亡其城破；
 记忆消除净。

主座久长安；
 宝座为义立，
 公正审人寰；
 识民秉公义。

主为受压人，
 患难作庇护。
 知主多靠信；
 寻主无弃疏。

颂主居锡安；
 传扬主所行。
 查审流血冤，
 无疏苦哀声。

See how my foes persecute me!
O Lord have m'rcy, from death me r'scue,
That declare your saving I may
And tell them all that I praise you.

敌害主怜悯！
救吾免死亡，
述说主救恩，
美德余颂扬。

Th' nations have sunk i' the pit they made;
Their feet are caught i' net they've hidden.
By his fair judgement, th' Lord's been r'vealed;
The wick'd are snared by what they've done.

外邦已坑陷；
缚脚已网罗。
行审主彰显；
恶人坏跌落。

The wick'd shall be turned into Hell,
And all th' nations that forget God.
Not 'lways be negl'cted th' needy shall;
Th' hope of th' poor won't be fore'er crushed.

恶人归地府，
忘神人外邦。
贫困被忘无；
无灭穷人望。

Arise, Lord, don't let man succeed;
Let th' nations be judged your pr'sence in.
Buffet them with terror, O Lord;
Let the nations know they're but men.

主啊，求起兴；
列国惩判审。
主使外邦惊；
心明无奈人。

10. A Prayer for Justice

10. 为公义而祈祷

O Lord, why do You stand far 'way?
Why do You hide yours'lf i' trouble times?
In pride th' wick'd pursue th' poor hotly;
Let him be caught in th' schemes he plans.

为何主远离？
患难主隐身？
害贫恶横逆；
谋恶愿被擒。

The wick'd boasts of th' craving o' his heart;
Th' greedy man curs's and rejects th' Lord.
Care 'bout th' Lord, a wick'd man does not;
In his pride there's no room for God.

恶人心自誇；
贪财褻渎主。
恶人心无袍；
狂傲视主无。

A wicked man succeeds in all.
He doesn't want anyth'ng wi' God's laws.
He says to himself, “I'll ne'er fail;
Ne'er in trouble, be happy 'lways.”

恶人事顺哉，
无望主律法。
他言“余无败；
无忧总乐哈。”

His mouth is filled wi' cursing and d'ceit;
Und'r his tongue is m'schief and wick'dness.
In hiding plac's he kills th' inn'cent;
Stealthily watch's for th' disastrous.

诡诈咒满口；
舌底恶毒奸。
藏匿害无咎；
窥探人有难。

Waiting i' his hid'ng place like a lion,
He catches th' poor and drags them 'way.
To th' ground, his vict'ms are up beaten;
Th' afflict'd fall by his ones mighty.

如狮暗处藏，
目视穷人捕。
受害击他伤；
穷人威倒扑。

“God has forg'tten,” the wicked says;
“He co'ers his face and sees nothing.”
Lift up your hand, O Lord, arise!
Rem'mber those who are suffering!

恶言“主忘了；
掩面主无视。”
主起伸手哦！
困苦勿忘记！

Th' wick'd man r'viles God, says to himself,
“To account you will not call us”?
But 'ndeed you note trouble and grief,
You help th' helpless and th' fatherless.

恶徒轻慢神，
言“神不追究。”
忧患神思忖，
孤苦主必救。

Break th' arm o' the vile and e'ildoer;
Seek out his vice till none you find.
Th' Lord is King fore'er and ever;
Nations shall perish from his land.

击断恶人膀；
追恶至尽除。
永远主为王；
灭绝别神族。

O Lord, hear th' prayer o' the modest;
Strength'n their heart and list'n to their cry,
Defend th' fatherless and th' oppressed,
So th' man made o' dust may not terr'fy.

主听谦卑祷；
闻呼强其心，
护卫孤苦熬，
世人莫扰侵。

11. Song of Trust in God (Sonnet)

In th' Lord I take refuge; Can you say how,
“Away fly like a bird to the mountain;
For behold, the evil men bend the bow,
To shoot from the shadows at moral men.
When laws and orders are being destroyed,
The righteous people can do there's nothing.”
I' his holy temple, throne i' heaven is th' Lord.
He watch's people and knows what they're doing.
The Lord tests the righteous and the evil,
And his soul hates the violence's lover.
Rain coals o' fire and sulfur on th' wick'd he will;
A scorching wind shall be th' portion o' cup their.
For th' Lord is righteous and he loves justice;
Those who are honest will behold his face.

11. 在主里得安稳（商籁体）

余靠主，尔何言，
“汝当山飞像鸟；
恶人弯弓箭箭，
射杀义认暗操。
律例若被毁没，
义人可为无事。”
圣殿天上宝座，
主眼慧观人世。
查看义人恶徒，
主恨好勇斗狠。
火硫热风主雨；
恶人杯中有分。
公义主之所爱；
义人主必青睐。

12. Plea for Help against the Treacherous (Sonnet)

Help, O Lord, 'nyone who's good no longer;
 For th' faithful have vanished from among men.
 Everyone utters lies to his neighbour;
 Their unctuous lips speak with deception.
 May th' Lord silence flatt'ring lips and tongues all,
 May he cut out 'very tongue that great boasts makes.
 They say, "With our tongues we'll win the battle.
 We'll say what we wish, no one can stop us."
 "cause the oppressed are wronged, groan the needy,
 I will now arise," says the Lord, our God.
 "For which they long I'll place them in th' safety."
 The Lord's promis's are pure, se'en times refined.
 O Lord, us from such people you'll protect.
 As vilen'ss is honored, th' wicked strut about.

13. Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies (sonnet)

O Lord, my God, how long must I tarry?
 O Lord, will you forget me forever?
 How long will you turn your face from me 'way?
 Torment in my soul how long must I bear,
 And have sorrow i' my heart all day prolonged?
 How long will my foe over me prevail?
 Ponder and answer me, O lord, my God;
 Give light to my eyes, or sleep i' death I will;
 Then my en'mies will say, "Beat'n him we have."
 And my foes will rejoice when I'm shaken.
 But I have trusted i' your unfailing love;
 My heart shall gladden in your salvation.
 Sing to the Lord, because he will save me.
 Praise to God, he's dealt bountifully wi' me

14. Denunciation of Godlessness (sonnet)

To themselves fools say "There is no God!"
 Corrupt and vile, they've done terrible things;
 Looks down from heaven at mankind the Lord
 To see any who trust i' God and be wise.
 All have turned 'side, tog'ther become corrupt

12. 求助的祈祷 (商籁体)

好人无有求主助；
 世间诚信人绝断。
 人向邻舍说谎语；
 口舌油滑行欺骗。
 谄媚口舌愿主封，
 愿主剪除夸口舌。
 他侪言说“以舌胜，
 吾侪言欲人难遏。”
 困苦蒙冤穷叹息，
 主言“起身护他辈，
 置他切慕稳妥地。”
 如银七炼主言贵。
 主护吾侪无他侵，
 下流得荣恶纷纭。

13. 求神眷顾 (商籁体)

主啊，吾候何许？
 忘吾主会永远？
 掩面主吾不顾？
 心内痛苦熬煎，
 终日愁苦在心？
 仇敌制吾久长？
 求主看顾应允；
 赐光免吾睡亡，
 免敌言他“获胜。”
 敌因吾败欢喜。
 我信主之恩圣；
 主救余心乐兮。
 为主救吾而歌，
 颂扬主恩赐我。

14. 愚顽人的罪 (商籁体)

愚顽言说：“无神。”
 邪恶行事可恶；
 俯天主视世人，
 明智信主有无。
 歧途恶均变坏，

None of them does good, not a single one.
 Will evildoers never learn and ign'rant,
 D'vour people as bread, and don't call th' Lord on?
 There th' evildoers shall be i' great terror,
 For God is among those who him obey.
 You offenders frustrate the plans of th' poor,
 But the Lord is their refuge of safety.
 Oh, comes out o' Zion, th' salvation for Israel!
 Jacob will rejoice, be glad Israel will.

无一行事良善。
 作孽无视学乖，
 未祈食人当饭？
 恶徒极度惊恐，
 神在义人族类。
 犯罪挫败人穷，
 主为避难堡垒。
 锡安救恩以国！
 以国欢喜快乐。

15. Description of Citizen of Zion

Lord, who may enter your sacred temple?
 Who may worship on Zion, your holly hill?
 He who obeys God and 'lways does what's right,
 Who speaks the truth from th' bottom o' his heart
 And has no sland'r and scandal on his tongue,
 Who does his fellowman and neighb'r no wrong.
 Those who fear th' Lord he hon'rs, th' sinful he hates,
 He keeps his promis's even when it hurts.
 Money used not at int'rest or 'gainst th' pure.
 He who lives like that will always be s'cure.

15. 得居圣山者的品行

主啊，谁能进祢殿？
 谁能拜锡安圣山？
 从主正直行公义，
 秉性忠厚讲真理。
 舌无谗言无诽谤，
 友朋邻舍无中伤。
 厌憎罪恶主敬畏，
 践行誓言亏无悔。
 钱非取利害纯真。
 如此做人永安稳。

References

- Good News Bible*, Today's English Version. (1976). Toronto, Canada: Canadian Bible Society.
Holy Bible, Chinese/English, English Standard Version. (2016). Shanghai, China: National TSPM& CCC.
Holy Bible, Chinese/English, New International Version. (2007). Shanghai, China: NIV, National TSPM& CCC.
Holy Bible, King James Version.(1979). Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Bible Publishers.
Holy Bible, New American Standard Bible (NASB Text Edition). (1997). Anaheim, California: Foundation Publications, INC. , 92816, The Lockman Foundation.
Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version/Chinese Union Version (With Simplified Chinese Characters). (1989). Shanghai, China: National TSPM& CCC.
 NIE, Z. Z. (2007). *An Introduction to English Verse Rhythm*. Beijing: Chinese Social Sciences Press.
Roget's Thesaurus. (2012). Printed in the United States of America: Kappa Books Publishers, LLC.

About the Author

LIU Jian-feng, Male, Han Nationality, Born in 1953, in Heshui, Gansu Province, China. Graduated with a M. A. in English language and Literature from the College of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Lanzhou University. A retired professor of English and a supervisor of British and American Literature for M. A. postgraduates in the School of Foreign Studies at Jiangnan University; former head of the institute of British and American Literature Studies in the School of Foreign Studies; former director of the Center for American Studies at Jiangnan University, Council member of Jiangsu Association of Foreign Literature Studies, Council Member of the Chinese Association of English Poetry Studies, Council Member of the Chinese Association of American Studies, a visiting scholar of the department of English at The Johns Hopkins University (Jan.2000---Jan. 2001) and a visiting scholar of the Center for American Studies at Hong Kong University (Mar. 2007---July 2007).

Acknowledgments

The publication of the poems is financial aided by Mr LI Qi-bing, the President of Same International Biological Products Ltd.