

Psalms 1st lecture: Torah Piety

Psalm 18 (19) — The heavens recount (הַשָּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּרִים) the glory of God,
and the firmament (הַרְקִיעַ) declares the work of his hands.

Day unto day expresses the message, and night unto night conveys understanding.
There is neither speech nor words; and their voice is not heard,
Through all the earth their voice goes out, and their words to the edge of the world.
In them he placed a tent for the sun.
Coming forth like a groom from his canopy, he rejoices like a giant to run his course.
He leaves from the border of heaven, going around to the other end.
There is no hiding from his heat.

The law of the Lord (תּוֹרַת יְהוָה) is perfect, restoring the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is faithful, making the simple one wise.
The precepts of the Lord are upright, giving joy to the heart.
The command of the Lord is unblemished, enlightening the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is holy, enduring forever and ever.
The judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether,
more desirable than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter than honey and the oozing honeycomb.

Thy servant also observes (נִזְהָר) them, in their observance is a great reward.
But who can detect unwitting failures? Preserve me from hidden sins.
From willful faults safeguard thy servant. Let them not rule over me.
For then I shall be blameless, and free from great offenses.
May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 1 — Blessed the man that wanders not in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor takes a stand in the path (וּבְדֶרֶךְ) of sinners
nor sit in the company of scorners.
But his delight is in the Torah of the Lord,
and on his Torah he meditates day and night.
He shall be as a tree planted beside the streams of water,
which brings forth its fruit in its season,
and its leaves do not wilt; and whatever he does shall prosper.
Not so the wicked, not so! Like the chaff that the wind blows away.
The wicked shall not stand up in judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way (דֶּרֶךְ) of the righteous,
but the way (דֶּרֶךְ) of the wicked shall perish.