

O God my strength and fortitude

The Whole booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 18*

William COBBOLD (1560 - 1639)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or *Playnsong*
BASSVS

O God my strength and for - ti - tude, of force I must love thee:
O God my strength and for - ti - tude, of force I must love thee:
O God my strenght and for - ti - tude, of force I must love thee:
O God my strength and for - ti - tude, of force I must love thee:

3
S. Thou art my cast - le and de - fence, in my ne - ces - si - ty. My God, my rock in whom I trust,
A. Thou art my cast - le and de - fence in my ne - ces - si - ty. My God, my rock in whom I trust,
T. Thou art my cast - le and de - fence, in my ne - ces - si - ty. My God, my rock in whom I trust,
B. Thou art my cast - le and de - fence, in my ne - ces - si - ty. My God, my rock in whom I trust,

6
S. the wor - ker of my wealth: My re - fuge, buck - ler and my shield, the horn of all my health.
A. the wor - ker of my wealth: My re - fuge, buck - ler and my shield, the horn of all my health.
T. the wor - ker of my wealth: My re - fuge, buck - ler and my shield, the horn of all my health.
B. the wor - ker of my wealth: My re - fuge, buck - ler and my shield, the horn of all my health.

3. When I sing laud unto the Lord,
most worthy to be served:

Then from my foes I am right sure
that I shall be preserved.

4. The pangs of death did compass me,
and bound me every where:
The flowing waves of wickedness
did put me in great fear.

9. The Lord descended from above,
and bowed the heavens high:

And underneath his feet he cast
the darkness of the sky.

10. On Cherubs and on Cherubims
full royally he rode:

And on the wings of all the winds,
came flying all abroad.

15. And from above the Lord sent down
to fetch me from below:

And plucked me out of waters great
that would me overflow.

16. And me delivered from my foes,
that would have made me thrall.

Yea, from such foes as were too strong
for me to deal withall.

5. The sly and subtle snares of hell
were round about me set:

And for my death there was prepared
a deadly trapping net.

6. I thus beset with pain and grief
did pray for God for grace:

And he forthwith did hear my plaint
out of his holy place.

The Second part

11. And like a den most dark he made
his hid and secret place:

With waters black and airy clouds
environed he was.

12. But when the presence of his face
in brightness shall appear:

The clouds consume, and in their stead
came hail and coals of fire.

17. They did prevent me to oppress
in time of my great grief:

But yet the Lord was my defense,
my succor and relief.

18. He brought me forth in open place,
whereas I might be free,

And kept me safe because he had
a favor unto me.

7. Such is his power that in his wrath,
he made the earth to quake:

Yea, the foundation of the mount
of Balan for to shake

8. And from his nostrils came a smoke,
when kindled was his ire:

And from his mouth came kindled coals
of hot consuming fire.

13. These fiery darts and thunderbolts
disperse them here and there:

And with his often lightnings
he puts them in great fear.

14. Lord at thy wrath and threatnings,
and at thy chiding cheer:

The springs and the foundations
of all the world appear.

19. And as I was an innocent
so did he me regard:

And to the cleanness of my hands
he gave me my reward.

20. For that, I walked in his ways,
and in his paths have trod:

And have not wavered wickedly
against my Lord and God.

Critical notes:

Editorial naturals added in Medius bar 1/notes 6 & 7; editorial flat added in Medius bar 2/note 3 and Medius bar 3/note 2;
Text somewhat modernised.

The third part.

21. But evermore I have respect
to his law and decree:
His statutes and commandments
I cast not out from me.

22. But pure, and clean, and uncorrupt,
appeared before his face:
And did refrain from wickedness,
and sin in any case.

27. The Lord will light my candle so,
that it shall shine full bright:
The Lord my God will make also
my darkness to be light.

28. For by thy help and host of men
discomfit Lord I shall:
By thee I scale and overleap
the strength of any wall.

23. The Lord therefore will me reward
as I have done aright:
And to the cleanness of my hands
appearing in his sight.

24. For Lord with him him that holy is
wilt thou be holy too:
And with the good and virtuous men
right virtuously wilt do.

29. Unspotted are the ways of God:
his word is purely tried:
He is a sure defense to such,
as in his faith abide.

30. For who is God except the Lord?
for other there is none:
Or else who is omnipotent,
saving our God alone?

25. And to the loving and elect
thy love thou wilt reserve:

And thou wilt use the wicked men,
as wicked men deserve.

26. For thou dost save the simple fool,
in trouble when they lie:
And dost bring down the countenance
of them that look full high.

The fourth part.

31. The God that girdeth me with strength
is he that I do mean:
That all the ways wherein I walk
did evermore keep clean.

32. That made my feet like to the Harts'
in swiftness of my pace:
And for my surety brought me forth
into an open place.

37. So I suppress and wound my foes,
that they can rise no more:
Far at my feet they fall down flat,
I strike them all so sore.

38. For thou dost gird me with my strength,
to ware in such a wise:
that they be all scattered abroad
that up against me rise.

33. He did in order put my hands,
to battle and to fight:

To break in sunder bars of brass
he gave mine arms the might.

34. Thou teachest me thy saving health,
thy right hand is my tower:
Thy love and familiarity
doth still increase my power.

39. Lord thou hast put into my hands
my mortal enemies yoke:
And all my foes thou dost divide,
in sunder with thy stroke.

40. They called for help but none gave ear
nor holpe them with relief:
Yea, to the Lord they called for help,
yet heard he not their grief.

35. And under me thou makest plain
the way where I should walk:

So that my feet shall never slip,
nor stumble at a balk:

36. And fiercely I pursue and take
my foes that me annoyed:
And from the field do not return
till they be clean destroyed.

The fifth part.

41. And still like dust before the wind,
I drive them under feet:
And sweep them out like filthy clay,
that stincketh in the street.

42. Thou keep'st me from seditious folk,
that still in strife be led:
And thou dost of the Heathen folk
appoint me to be head.

47. And from my foes me delivered,
and set me higher then those,
That cruel and ungodly were,
and up against me rose.

48. And for this cause O Lord my God,
to thee give thanks I shall:
And sing out praises to thy name,
among the Gentiles all.

43. A people strange to me unknown,
and yet they shall me serve:
And at the first obey my word,
whereas mine own will swerve.

44. I shall be irksome to mine own,
they shall not see my light:
But wander wide out of their ways
and hide them out of sight.

49. That gavest great prosperity
unto the king I say:
To David thine anointed king,
and to his seed for ay.

45. But blessed be the living Lord,
most worthy of all praise:
That is my rock and saving health,
praised be he always.

46. For God it is that gave me power
revenged for to be:
And with his holy word subdued
the people unto me.