

## KING DAVID: CHORUS TEXT

### FIRST PART

#### The Song of David, the Shepherd (alto solo)

God shall be my shepherd kind,  
He will shield me from the wind,  
Lead his lamb to pastures cool,  
Guide me to the quiet pool.

He shall be my staff and rod,  
Restore my spirit again;  
E'en the darkest vale I trod  
Shall not be travelled in pain.

He will keep me from alarm,  
Though the lightning play around,  
Save me with His mighty arm,  
The while, shelter me from harm;  
Comfort I have found

#### Psalm (chorus)

All praise to him, the Lord of glory,  
The everlasting God, my helper,  
He has avenged all my wrongs and my woes,  
And by his hand my people are made safe.

When hoardes of heathens arose up against  
me,  
By his right hand I felt myself sustained,  
His thunder pealed on the heads of the foe,  
Who in their malice sought my end

#### Song of Victory (chorus)

David is great! The Philistines o'er-thrown.  
Chosen of God is he, Succoured and unafraid.  
Saul hath slain his thousands,  
And ten thousands, David!

#### Psalm (tenor solo)

In the Lord I put my faith, I put my trust, How say ye unto my soul: "Flee like any bird unto the mountain?"  
For behold, evil is here, and the wicked bend their bow, That they may privily shoot them that are clean and upright.

**Psalm (soprano solo)**

O had I wings like a dove,  
 Then would I fly away and be at rest.  
 Save in the tomb alone is there no comfort?  
 Is there no balm to heal this woe of mine?

Where shall I find for my head some safe  
 shelter?  
 Morning and eve I pray and cry aloud.  
 The storm of my distress blows like the  
 tempest,  
 Bearing to God my cries and my prayer.

**Song of the Prophets (men's chorus)**

Man that is born of woman lives but a little while.  
 Which-ever way he turn, the path he must pursue is heavy to his feet.  
 He cometh up like grass, which in time shall be mowed down.  
 He fleeth as a shadow, and the place that once he knew remembers him no more.

**Psalm (tenor solo)**

Pity me, Lord, for I am weak!  
 A refuge and harbour I seek,  
 My weary head thy wings shall cover;  
 When will the endless night be over?  
 Pity me, Lord, for I am weak!

My heart upraise  
 To hymn thy bounty all my days!  
 O sun, arise to lead me on,  
 That with my harp, the victory won,  
 I may return to sing a joyful song of praise!

**Psalm (chorus)**

God, the Lord shall be my light and my  
 salvation;  
 What cause have I to fear?  
 God, the Lord shall be my strength in  
 tribulation;  
 His help is ever near.

Though wicked enemies came,  
 And my foes who my flesh would fain devour,  
 Bright sword and lance they might claim,  
 Yet they stumble and fall upon that hour.

E'en though an host against me should rise,  
 I shall not be afraid;  
 From field of war the Lord will hear my cries,  
 And their arm shall be stayed.

**SECOND PART****The Dance Before the Ark****Song of the daughters of Israel (soprano solo and women's chorus)**

Sister, oh sing thy song!  
 Never hath God forsaken us,  
 E'en in captivity,  
 Or in adversity.

Chosen of him above,  
 On us now lights his love.  
 God the Lord comes to bless Israel.

**Chorus**

Mighty God! Jehovah be with us! O radiance of the morn, And the splendour of noon! Mighty  
 God, be with us!

**Priests (before the Ark)**

Ope wide those doors that lead to Heaven!  
Ope wide those gates that lead to justice!

**Soldiers**

Many nations brought me to war,  
Yet in Jehovah's name they were destroyed;  
Compassed me round like bees that swarm,  
Yet in Jehovah's name they were destroyed.

For the righteous alone enter therein,  
In those precious portals of God the Lord.

Each withered bush I set on fire;  
In great Jehovah's name it was destroyed,  
For he has shielded me from harm,  
And his right hand has led me on,  
Lord above, show thyself, and scatter all the  
foes!

### **Maidens**

Sing to the Lord, sing loud and long!  
Play on your instruments and dance!  
Give to the Lord glory and strength!  
Let the sea roar in its fullness,  
Yea, let the fields rejoice for gladness  
And the trees of the forest sing praises!

In eternal light he abides,  
He hovers on wings of the wind,  
And his robe the roof of the earth,  
Hidden by clouds, there lies his dwelling,  
And 'mid the tempest, he hath spoken.  
Then magnify the Lord Creator!  
Praise to the holiest, Saviour of Israel!

### **Chorus**

Mighty God! Jehovah be with us!

### **The Angel**

Give ear, 'tis not for thee as king  
To build a house unto my name.  
Behold, a child is born to thee,  
And I will set him on thy throne.

And he shall be my Son, and I will be his  
Father.  
Then shall he build me a house for my name,  
And Solomon, he shall be anointed,  
That over Israel peace may reign.

### **Choir of Angels**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **THIRD PART**

### **Chorus**

Now my voice in song upsoaring  
Shall loud proclaim my king afar.  
His wealth of splendour fast outpouring  
Shall put to nothing e'en the loveliest of star.

Pride of Adam's race that bore thee,  
A simple shepherd, wont to sing,  
And yet surpassing all before thee.  
Thou has been chosen by the Lord to be our  
king.

God will send thee sons to cherish,  
Who shall inherit in their turn;  
Thy name, in glory shall not perish,  
And all the people as their pastor  
Shall announce thee Master.

### **Song of the Handmaid (alto solo)**

Oh my love, take my hand,  
Let us wander the vale,  
Where vine-leaves so frail,  
Promise fruit for the land!

Nay, fair one, in this bower,  
As yet, no grape to cull,  
But see, in splendour full  
The mandrake is in flower!

### **Psalm of Penitence (chorus)**

Pity me, God, in my distress!  
Turn not away, but heal me again!  
Wash me of sin and cleanse me of shame  
And in thy hot displeasure, O chasten me not!

### **Psalm (chorus)**

Behold, in evil I was born,

I have been shown the path to follow,

And in iniquity conceived.  
For thou desirest truth and goodness,  
And in the hidden part great wisdom.  
I have sinned, yea heavily transgressed.

And I have wandered from thy footsteps.  
Pity me, God, in my distress!  
Pardon, Lord, the evil I have done!

**Psalm (tenor solo)**

O shall I raise mine eyes unto the mountains,  
 From whence should come my help?  
 The Lord shall guide thy steps, going and  
 coming,  
 From henceforth, ever more.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved,  
 For he is on high, watching above;  
 The Lord who is thy helper neither slumbers  
 nor sleeps.

**The Song of Ephraim (soprano solo and chorus)**

O thou forest of grief,  
 Where ravens seek their prey,  
 The fruit is gathered in  
 That hung upon thy boughs.

The fruit, fiery as blood,  
 Was plucked by envious hands;  
 And must this be the price  
 And forfeit of a kiss?

**Psalm (chorus)**

Thee will I love, O lord, who art my fortress,  
 Thou art my shield, the horn of my salvation.  
 God is my refuge safe, I trust in him,  
 My rock, my strength, my tower and my  
 deliverer.

In him I find the refuge that I long for;  
 He guideth my steps, that I may walk in  
 comfort.  
 I call on him and invoke his aid,  
 And I am saved from my strong enemy.

When waves of death encompassed me,  
 And snares of men made me afraid,  
 Then did he send, and take me from above,  
 And drew me forth out of many waters.

**Psalm (chorus)**

In my distress then I cried to my God.  
 Sorrows of Hell did so compass me round.  
 Out of his temple he listened and heard,  
 E'en to his throne came my voice to his ears.

Suddenly, the earth did shake in its  
 foundations,  
 The very hills moved and trembled, and broke,  
 From summit above to the foot of the vale,  
 So great the anger and wrath of the Lord

**The Death of David****The Angel (soprano solo)**

And God said: The day shall dawn  
 To bring a flower, newly born;  
 From thy stem in fulness growing,

In fragrance sweet, night and morn,  
 All my people shall adorn,  
 With breath of life bestowing.

**Choir of Angels**

Alleluia, Alleluia!