

## Psalm 1<sup>iii</sup>

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

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### <sup>iii</sup> **About Psalm 1**

This psalm, with its call to a righteous life based on knowledge of the “law of the Lord,” the Torah, serves as a fitting introduction to all the psalms. It springs from the wisdom tradition, which emphasized how to live in both material and spiritual prosperity.

The righteous are those who have not taken the advice of the wicked, nor imitated their way of life, nor joined in their rejection of the law. They “meditate” (v. 2) upon it, literally, ‘read it aloud in a low voice’. The Lord is in intimate and personal relationship with the righteous.