

Refrain: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

1 The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' □

Corrupt are they, and abominable in their wickedness;

there is no one that does good.

2 The Lord has looked down from heaven

upon the children of earth, □

to see if there is anyone who is

wise and seeks after God.

3 But every one has turned back;

all alike have become corrupt: □

there is none that does good; no, not one. [R]

4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers, □

who eat up my people as if they ate bread

and do not call upon the Lord?

5 There shall they be in great fear; □

for God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Though they would confound the counsel of the poor, □

yet the Lord shall be their refuge.

7 O that Israel's salvation would come out of Zion! □

When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,

then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

Refrain: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

God of heaven,

look with mercy on all who are consumed

by ignorance and greed,

and let the children of earth know

that you are God for ever.

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