Open English Translation
of the Bible

Psalm 151

Introduction

Psalm 151 is a short additional song presented in David's voice. He remembers being the youngest of his brothers, caring for his father's sheep, and making music. Although his brothers were impressive in appearance, God chose him. The song ends by recalling his victory over Galyat (Goliath), the Pelishti (Philistine) who had challenged him.
The song brings together events also found in 1 Samuel 16–17. Its emphasis is on God's choice of an overlooked shepherd and the rescue accomplished through him. The title identifies it as a song beyond the usual collection of one hundred and fifty.
Psalm 151 is recognised as Deuterocanonical Scripture by the Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches.

Main components of this song

David's humble work and music *1:1-3*
God chooses David *1:4-5*
David defeats the Pelishti *1:6-7*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

This Psalm is a genuine one of David, though extra,[1] composed when he fought in single combat with Galyat.

God chooses David and gives him victory

151:1 I was small among my brothers,
and the youngest in my father's family.
I tended my father's sheep.
2 My hands made a musical instrument,
and my fingers tuned a lyre.
3 Who'll tell my master?
The master himself hears.
4 He sent his messenger and took me from my father's sheep,
and he anointed me with his anointing oil.
5 My brothers were handsome and tall;
but the master didn't take pleasure in them.
6 I went out to meet the Pelishti,
and he cursed me by his idols.
7 But I drew his own sword and beheaded him,
and removed the disgrace from the Israeli people (Israel).

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1 **RV 1:0 · Note** or, supernumerary