

I asked but heavenly wisdom me to guide.  
He said, "Because thou seekest nought beside,  
Long life I'll add and My salvation show,  
Thou shalt be satisfied—My power shalt know."  
This promise, too, to me fulfilled has been,  
And three score years and ten I now have seen.

It was in vision that Isaiah saw  
The King, the Lord of hosts, and filled with awe  
He felt himself undone, his lips unclean,  
His woe discovered by the light he'd seen.  
Then flew the seraph a live coal to bring  
And touched Isaiah's lips and purged his sin.  
So when God sought a messenger to send,  
He ready was because his lips were cleansed.

Like Jeremiah, to whom God said, "Go  
And make the house of Israel to know  
Their sin, My love, and how they've strayed from Me;  
Bid them return, and they shall welcome be."  
Then, too, I said, "I am vile and weak  
And ignorant. O Lord, I cannot speak.  
If I attempt it, they will say to me,  
'Who made thee ruler and a judge to be?'"

And as Ezekiel was by visions taught,  
So in the spirit I, too, have been brought  
To see and hear, not for myself alone,  
But that God's will to others might be shown,  
And learned much more than pen or tongue could tell,  
Yet did not always use my knowledge well,  
But often failed just when a crisis came,  
Just when I should have spoken in His name.  
O wondrous mercy, that my life has spared,  
That did not banish me as I deserved.