

The Psalms



Lesson 1

Introduction to the Psalms

The Psalms



- "The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty." (Psa. 29:3-4)
- "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways." (Psa. 139:1-3)

The Psalms



- "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me." (Psa. 51:10-11)
- "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." (Ps. 19:14)
- "My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever." (Ps. 145:21)

The Psalms



"Who can sufficiently extol the merits and the value of the Psalter? Many eloquent words have been written on the subject ... There does not seem to be any situation in life for which the Psalter does not provide light and guidance ... They are not the fruit of abstract meditation. They did not grow out of the study of the scholar. They were born out of real-life situations. They are often wet with the tears and the blood of the writer ... the Psalms continually carry the reader into the immediate presence of God. They do not refer to Him in the abstract. God is not a God of the distance to the psalmist. All the psalms were prayed on the steps of the throne of mercy. The light that emanates from that presence somehow gives light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."
(H.C. Leupold)

Plan for Our Study

- Schedule (p. 1) - Lessons will be topical
- Daily readings (pp. 2-3)
 - Consider the following: background if one is given, the general mood of the psalm, what the basic theme(s) is, how it affects you, what you like about it, questions for further study
- Categorizations (p. 4)
- Lessons
 - Consider the following: notes from your daily readings and any historical background given; research articles on hand – look at x-refs in your Bible and commentaries; you may even want to outline the psalm
- Articles
- Write your own psalms or poems

Lesson 2 (9/10)	
Psalms Praising God's Glory, Omnipotence, and Majesty - Part I	
9/3/23 Sun	24
9/4/23 Mon	29
9/5/23 Tue	33
9/6/23 Wed	93, 95
9/7/23 Thu	96
9/8/23 Fri	97
9/9/23 Sat	104

The Psalms – An Introduction



The Psalms are where Christians come ...

- For strength during trials
- For joyful reading
- To better understand how to praise God
- When taking time for meditation
- For songs of worship to God
- When suffering a loss or setback
- For wisdom and understanding

Their enduring quality speaks to their inspiration

What is a Psalm?



- Original Hebrew - "Sepher Tellihim"
 - Book of praises
- Psalm 100
 - A universal call to praise and worship (v. 1-2)
 - The grounds – He is their Maker (v. 3)
 - As all have derived their being from Him, they are called on to praise Him as their Common Creator and Father.
 - A call to worship (v. 4)
 - Again, the reason (v. 5) – His goodness, mercy and enduring truth

What is a Psalm?



- In our Bibles - "Psalms" –
 - Was the title in the Septuagint
 - Comes from the Greek word "psalmoi" or "psalmos" - a touching, twang as of a bowstring; a song, as accompanying stringed instruments
 - Essentially, designates poems that are sung to the accompaniment of music played on strings
- Hebrew word - "mizmor"

 - Appears 57 times as a designation in the title of certain psalms

- Compiled into five books
- Writers
 - David, Solomon, the sons of Korah, Moses, Asaph, Heman, Ethan

Why did they write psalms?

- An expression of the inner being (of the soul)
 - To express: joy, anguish, thankfulness, praise, need, doubt, questions, instruction for others
- Poetry - not unlike why people write poetry today
 - Natural outgrowth of love for God
 - Personal fulfillment
 - Share with others
- Part of what makes us in God's image
 - You will not find animals expressing thought, exploring questions, or providing moral instruction to others
- Expression of prayer
- Inspiration and Prophecy

Purpose



“This is the book to which the soul naturally turns for its devotional needs. Coming into the secret place of the Most High, the soul finds here the satisfaction it seeks for its yearning and aspiration after God. Through the Psalms, in a special way, the soul of man reaches up to the Infinite, sings its praises to God, speaks its fears, pours out its griefs, expresses its abiding faith, and seeks spiritual nourishment in the pastures of the Divine Shepherd. In the Psalms we find ourselves mirrored, because we recognize in the words of the inspired writers our own deepest desires, our own searching after God, and our own spiritual longings that only God can satisfy.” (Intro. to Psalms, Dickson Bible)

Favorite Psalms



Psalm 139A

(LM)

Dou've searched me and You've known me, Lord;
You know it when I sit and rise;
You see my thinking from afar;
My ways are all before Your eyes.

You know my words before I speak;
You hedge me in before, behind;
You always lay Your hand on me;
Your wonders overwhelm my mind.

Where can I go to hide from You?
Above, below, You still are there;
Upon the dawn, beneath the sea,
Your hand will lead me everywhere.

If I ask dark to cover me,
And day around me turns to night,
To You, the night is as the day;
You see in darkness as in light.

From *“Worshipping with the Psalms”* by M.W. Bassford

Psalm 139

To the tune “Sun of My Soul” / F – 3/4 / Do

You’ve searched me and You’ve known me, Lord;
You know it when I sit and rise;
You see my thinking from afar;
My ways are all before Your eyes.

You know my words before I speak;
You hedge me in before, behind;
You always lay Your hand on me;
Your wonders overwhelm my mind.

Psalm 139


Where can I go to hide from You?
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Background



- Five books compiled into one
- Authorship
- Classification
- New Testament Quotations
- Music



“The book that has such Scriptural range, that so distinguishes the glory and majesty of the Bible, that has plumbed the depths of the human soul and carries us to the bosom of the Father can never be outgrown or become obsolete.”

