



# Psalms

## The Book of Praises

Lesson 11

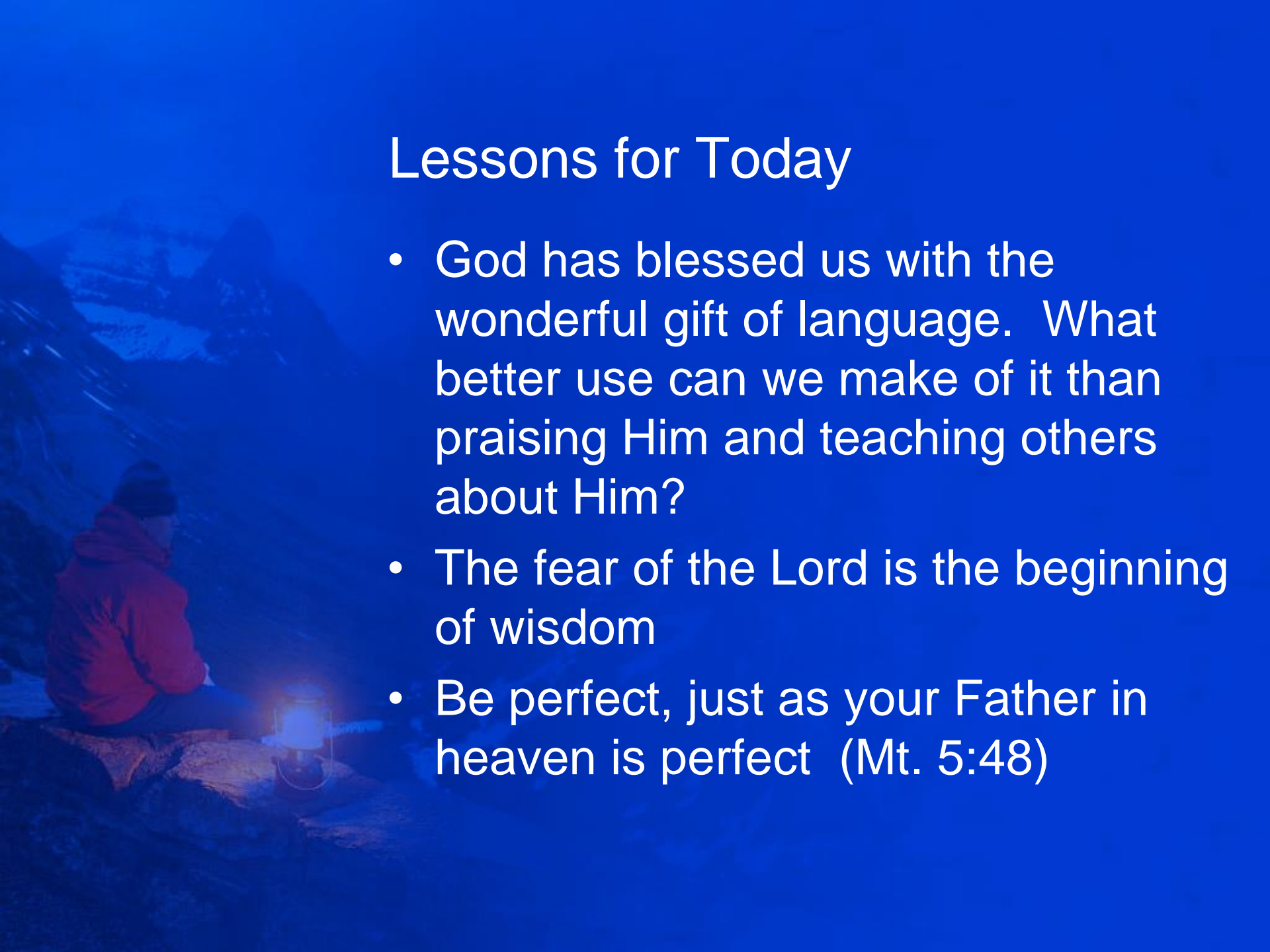
### The Acrostic Psalms

# The Acrostic Psalms

- Acrostic - “a composition usually in verse in which sets of letters (as the initial or final letters of the lines) taken in order form a word or phrase or a regular sequence of letters of the alphabet.”
- Nine psalms employ this method: 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145

# Lessons for Today

- God has blessed us with the wonderful gift of language. What better use can we make of it than praising Him and teaching others about Him?
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
- Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect (Mt. 5:48)



# The Acrostic Psalms

- Q1. What are some possible reasons the acrostic method is used in these psalms?
  - As a memorization aid
  - To demonstrate the flexibility of the writer and of language
  - It is part of the message – the inexhaustable nature of their subject
- “... even with the almost unlimited power and flexibility of language we shall never exhaust His praise.”

# The Acrostic Psalms

- Q2. Give two other examples (references) in the Bible besides the psalms that use the acrostic format (read the article).
  - Lamentations 1-4 – The distress of God's people is complete.
  - Prov. 31:10ff – Not all the letters of the alphabet can exhaust the worthy woman's praise.



# The Acrostic Psalms

9: Praise to God for His righteous judgments and as the basis of a plea for deliverance. I praise You with the entire alphabet.

10: A prayer of complete confidence in God's power over the wicked.

25: A prayer for help and forgiveness. An alphabet of entreaties.

34: The complete happiness of those who trust in God.

37: The complete blessings of the righteous and the complete calamity of the wicked. Do not fret because of evil doers.

111: Praise to God for His goodness.

112: The complete blessedness of the righteous.

119: The many excellencies of the Word of God. The golden ABC of praise for the Word of God.

145: God's love and majesty are to be greatly praised.

# The Acrostic Psalms – Question 4

- **P**RAISE
- **S**ONGS OF THANKSGIVING
- **A**SSURANCE
- **L**AMENTS
- **M**ESSIANIC
- **S**ONGS OF INSTRUCTION

# Psalm 111

- Psalm 111 & 112 are a pair. Both acrostic; verses begin with a different letter of the alphabet; both have the same number of verses and the same length of verses.
- “Since the era after the return from the Babylonian Captivity was one of discouragement and littleness of faith, one cannot help but feel that the psalm was written to hearten the faith of that generation by showing the nature of God’s works throughout the history of His chosen people and then concluding with the pertinent observation that the fear of the Lord and doing of His commandments were still basic for God’s people as they had always been.” (Leupold)
- God is praised for who He is and what He does



# Psalm 111 – Praise to God for His Works

- V. 2 - Works are great
- V. 2 - Works are studied
- V. 3 - Work is honorable and glorious
- V. 3 - Righteousness endures forever
- V. 4 - Made them to be remembered
- V. 4 - Is gracious and full of compassion
- V. 5 - Gives food (to those who fear Him)
- V. 5 - Mindful of His covenant
- V. 7 - Works are truth and justice
- V. 7 - Precepts are sure
- V. 8 - They stand fast forever
- V. 8 - They are done in truth and uprightness
- V. 9 - Has sent redemption
- V. 9 - Holy and awesome is His name

# Psalm 112

- Praising God for what He does for those who fear Him
- Very similar to 111
  - Same phrases and groups of words used in this psalm with reference to the believer
  - Look at the close parallels between vv. 3, 4
  - Essentially, the second says about man what the first says about God
- “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Mt. 5:48)

# Psalm 112 – Blessings for Those Who Fear Him

- V. 1
  - The happy state of man who fears the Lord
- Vv. 2-3
  - The details of the happy state of the man who fears the Lord
- Vv. 4-5
  - The attitude of helpfulness toward the needy
- Vv. 6-8
  - The stability of a man thus blessed by God
- Vv. 9-10
  - A summary of the happy man in contrast with the disappointment of the wicked

# Psalm 112

To the tune “Abide with Me”

How blessed is the one who fears the Lord;  
On him abundant blessings will be poured;  
With wealth and children God will bless the pure;  
Forever will his righteousness endure.

The help of God will make his darkness light  
Because he is kindhearted and upright;  
The Lord sustains the one who helps the poor;  
His righteous name will last forevermore.



E-flat – 4/4 - Me↑

# Psalm 112

To the tune “Abide with Me”

Though warned of evil, he will never fear;  
He trusts in God, who will defend him here;  
The Lord will keep the righteous from dismay,  
But wicked men who watch will melt away.

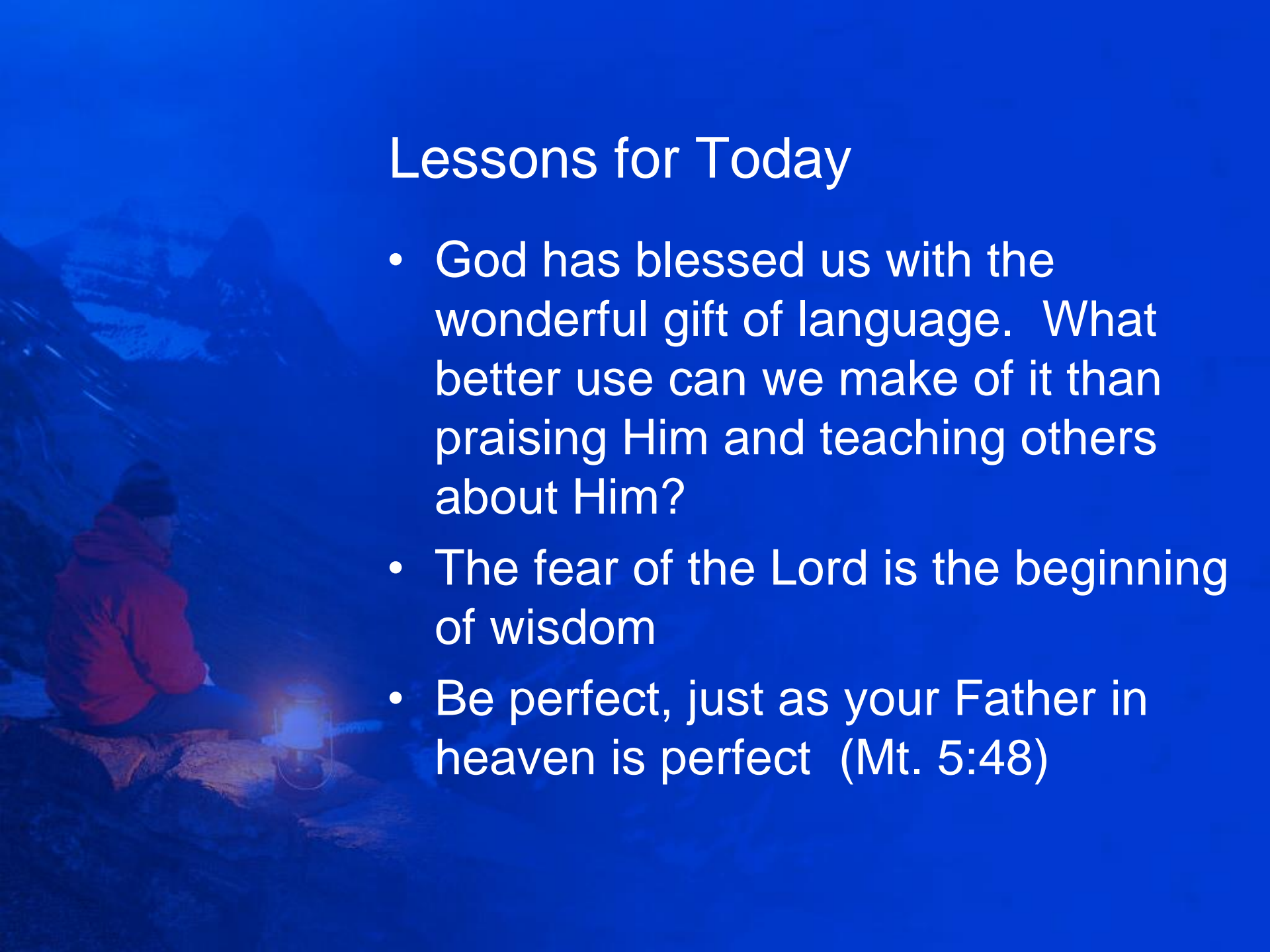
# Psalm 145 – David's Praise

- Vv. 1-2
  - Resolve to bless the Lord forever
- Vv. 3-7
  - His incomparable greatness the theme for all generations to come
- Vv. 8-9
  - His grace and mercy is especially to be praised
- Vv. 10-16
  - The kingdom of the Lord is the object of praise of all His works
- Vv. 17-21
  - God's readiness to hear prayer especially comforting



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# Review

- What is a psalm?
  - Poems that are sung to the accompaniment of music played on strings.
- Original title of this book?
  - Sepher Tellihim – book of praises
- Writers?
  - David, Sons of Korah, Moses, Solomon, Asaph, Heman

# Review

- Types of psalms so far:
  - Psalms of Praise
  - Instructional Psalms
  - Psalms of Lament
  - Psalms of Thanksgiving
  - Psalms of Penitence
  - Psalms of Trust and Assurance

