

A STUDY OF THE PSALMS



*"I WILL PRAISE THE LORD ALL MY LIFE;
I WILL SING PRAISES TO MY GOD
AS LONG AS I LIVE."*

PSALM 146:2

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BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

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Study Guide for the Psalms – Ray Reynolds Rap Publications

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INTRODUCTION

Author(s) & Date(s) of the Book of Psalms:

The psalms, book of praises, were written by several authors and used for devotion and worship. Some of the anonymous psalms are believed to have been written by David (i.e. **Psalm 2** according to **Acts 4:25**, **Psalm 95** according to **Hebrews 4:7**), some may have been penned by Ezra, or other authors. None of the psalms can be proven to have been of a later date than the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. Therefore, the whole collection extends over a period of about 1,000 years.

King David wrote 73 psalms (**Psalms 3-9, 11-32, 34- 41, 51-66, 68-70, 86, 101, 103, 108-110, 122, 124, 131, 138-145**). David (around 1000 B.C.) brought the sacred lyric to its full maturity. He is often falsely credited with ALL of the psalms. In fact, he wrote less than half the book! And as popularity of the psalms spread and many others joined in.

There are 50 anonymous writers (**Psalms 1, 2, 10, 33, 43, 66-67, 71, 91-94, 96-100, 102, 104-107, 111-121, 123, 125-126, 128-130, 132, 134-137, 146-150**). It is very likely that David himself or Solomon may have wrote these psalms or the Asaph family. Since no one chose to write their name on the heading.... We call them anonymous.

Asaph and/or his sons can be credited with 12 psalms (**Psalms 50, 73-83**). Asaph was the music director during the reigns of David and Solomon (**I Chronicles 16:1-7**). No doubt he taught the people of God to sing the psalms of David and penned some of his own to aid them in worship.

Korah and/or his sons can be credited with 10 psalms (**Psalms 42, 44-49, 84-85, 87-88**). These people were Levites who served in the Temple (**I Chronicles 26:1-19**). They are credited with 10-12 psalms because they effectively led the saints in worship, like Asaph and his family.

King Solomon is recognized at the author of two psalms (**Psalms 72, 127**). According to **I Kings 4:29-32** he wrote many more than these. With Solomon, the creation of psalms began to decline; this was “the age of the proverb.” Only twice after this did the creation of psalms rise to any height, and then only for a short period: under Jehoshaphat (875 BC) and again under Hezekiah (725 BC).

Two virtually unknown men wrote psalms. Heman wrote one psalm (**Psalm 88**). He was a contemporary with David and Asaph, and is known as “the singer” (**I Chronicles 6:33**) and NOT just a composer or musician. Ethan also wrote a psalm (**Psalms 89**). He was a companion with Asaph and Heman in the Temple worship (**I Chronicles 15:19**).

Moses also wrote one psalm (**Psalms 90**). This is the oldest of the Psalms and was written around 1400 BC. He may be the first psalm writer! We have three psalms penned by Moses: (1) **Exodus 15:1-15** is a song of triumph following the crossing of the Red Sea. (2) **Deuteronomy 32, 33** is a song of exhortation to keep the Law after entering Canaan (3) **Psalm 90** is a song of meditation, reflection, and prayer.

Theme(s) of the Book of Psalms:

There are many different themes for the psalms. They are not lumped together by theme, with the exception of the songs of ascents. Here are some themes:

- **Didactic** - Psalms of teaching and instruction (**Psalms 1**).
- **Messianic** - Psalms pertaining to the coming Messiah (**Psalms 2, 110**).
- **Ethical** - Psalms that teach moral principles (**Psalms 15**).
- **Repentant** - Psalms expressing sorrow for sins that have been committed (**Psalms 51**).
- **Imprecatory** - Psalms that invoke God to bring judgment upon enemies (**Psalms 69**).
- **Thanksgiving** - Psalms of grateful praise to Jehovah for blessings (**Psalms 100**).
- **Suffering** - Psalms that express cries of suffering in affliction (**Psalms 102**).
- **Hallelujah** - Psalms of praise, beginning and/or ending with “hallelujah” (**Psalms 103**).
- **Historical** - Psalms that review the history of God and His people (**Psalms 106**).
- **Celebratory** - Psalms that are to be sung during festivals and feasts (**Psalms 113-118**) i.e. three great feasts, at the new moon, and on the eight days of the feast of dedication.
- **Meditation** - Psalms of spiritual expression (**Psalms 119**).
- **Alphabetic or Acrostic** - These psalms have lines that start with words whose first letters follow a certain pattern in Hebrew. For example, in **Psalms 119**, the first eight lines start with words beginning with the Hebrew letter ALEPH, the second eight lines with words beginning with BETH, etc. This may have been done to aid in memorization.
- **Songs of Ascent (or Songs of Degrees)** - These psalms were sung by pilgrims on the way to Jerusalem to observe the feasts. They are grouped together as **Psalms 120-134**.
- **Worship** - **Psalms 136** is generally called “The Great Hallel” but the Talmud includes also **Psalms 120-135** with this distinction.
- **Praise and Devotion** - Psalms of joyful praise to God (**Psalms 148**).

Audience(s) for the Book of Psalms:

All of God’s people were intended to hear the psalms. The Psalms were useful for singing praise because God’s people could sing them verbatim. They were also equally valuable for teaching (**Isaiah 42:10, Jeremiah 20:13**). It has been said that in the Psalms one finds “expressed the eager yearning and longing for God’s presence.” It certainly contains “prayers and songs of joyous trust and praise.” Every emotion known to man is expressed in beautiful and inspired terms in the psalms (i.e. joy, anger, praise, repentance, trust, even doubt). A study of the psalms will be very beneficial to the believer.

The value of the Old Testament to the Christian is expressed several times in the New Testament (**Romans 15:4, I Corinthians 10:11, II Peter 1:19-21, II Timothy 3:14-17**). The psalms, like the rest of the Old Testament must be taught to God's people (**Deuteronomy 4:9-10, Psalm 119:160, Proverbs 22:6**) as part of the "whole counsel of God" (**Acts 20:27, I Thessalonians 2:13**). The psalms are quoted 116 times in the New Testament. However, the church is commanded not only to study the psalms but to sing the psalms (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, James 5:13**). The psalms confirm that Jesus is the Christ. Jesus mentions this (**Luke 24:44-47**) and Peter does this too in his first gospel sermon (**Acts 2:25-28, 34-35**).

Literary Notes on the Book of Psalms:

English poems often rhyme with similar sounds making them difficult to translate into other languages. However, in Hebrew poetry ideas are compared and contrasted to create what are considered to be "thought rhymes." These translate well into ALL other languages! We should consider the varying styles to understand the image or message intended by the author. Consider the different types of parallelism (in order):

- **Progressive Parallelism** - A set of lines given through a progressive series as seen in **Psalms 1:1**. There are several varieties of this form, the most common being: *Stair-like* where each line provides a complete element of the aggregate or composite thought. Another common form is *Climatic* where the principal idea in the first line is repeated and expanded to complete the thought (**Psalm 29:1**).
- **Antithetic Parallelism** - The thought of the first line is paralleled to a contrasting idea as seen in **Psalms 1:6, 115:5-7**. The truth presented in one line is strengthened by a contrasting statement in the next line.
- **Synonymous Parallelism** - The thought of the first line is repeated as seen in **Psalms 2:4, 7:16, 24:2**. The thought of first line is repeated in the second line, expressed in different words for the sake of emphasis.
- **Acrostic Parallelism** - Each new line starts with a different letter of the alphabet, in this case it is Hebrew. Examples of this can be found in **Psalms 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145**. We see this many times on television when people make signs at sporting events to get on the camera spelling out words with the acrostic ABC or ESPN.
- **Emblematic Parallelism** - The use of figurative expressions and images are used to paint images. **Psalms 23:1-4, 57:1** are two examples. This could also be called "figurative expressionism." The Psalms are filled with figurative expressions, and as such it is important to keep certain principles of interpretation in mind...The figure must be accepted and dealt with as a figure of speech, not as a literal statement.
- **Synthetic Parallelism**- The thought in the first line leads to the second line through cause and effect (**Psalm 23:1, 119:11**). The 1st & 2nd lines bear some definite relation to each other (such as cause and effect, or proposition and conclusion).

- **Introverted Parallelism** - The thought moves from inward to outward (**Psalms 51:3, 91:14**). The first line is closely related in thought to the fourth, and the second to the third.
- **Cadence/Responsive Readings** - The lines are designed so that individuals or group of people could repeat them to the speaker (**Psalms 136**).

In **Luke 24:44** the word "psalms" means the holy writings (Hagiographa) one of the sections into which the Jews divided the Old Testament. Many of the psalms have topical headings to are dedicated to someone or written with a specific purpose. For example, **Psalms 39, 62, and 77** are addressed to Jeduthun. **Psalms 50 and 73-83** are addressed to Asaph. The "sons of Korah," who formed a leading part of the Kohathite singers (**II Chronicles 20:19**), were entrusted with the arranging and singing of **Psalm 42, 44-49, 84, 85, 87, and 88**.

It is often fascinating to note how creative the Hebrew poets were as they composed their poetry using "thought rhyme" rather than "word rhyme." In some cases it even helps in interpreting difficult expressions or phrases. Appreciating these characteristics of Hebrew poetry can help the Psalms become more meaningful, and understanding these characteristics can also help avoid misinterpreting the Psalms to teach doctrines the psalmist had no intention of teaching!

Division of the Book of Psalms:

The Psalms are divided after the analogy of the Pentateuch, into five books, each closing with a doxology or benediction:

- Book #1: The Genesis Book = Psalms Concerning Man (**Psalms 1-41**). This book contains 41 psalms, all ascribed to David (except 1, 2, 10, 33). It is believed that they were collected at the height of psalm writing in David's day.
- Book #2: The Exodus Book = Psalms Concerning Israel (**Psalms 42-72**). This book contains 31 psalms, 18 ascribed to David and 1 to Solomon, while the rest are anonymous and were probably collected in the days of Solomon.
- Book #3: The Leviticus Book = Psalms Concerning Worship (**Psalms 73-89**). This book contains 17 psalms, one written by David, one by Heman, and one by Ethan among others. It is believed that it was collected by the singers of Jehoshaphat (**II Chronicles 20:19**).
- Book #4: The Numbers Book = Psalms Concerning The Nations & The Earth (**Psalms 90-106**). This book contains 17 psalms, one ascribed to Moses, and one to David among others. It was probably collected by the men of Hezekiah.
- Book #5: The Deuteronomy Book = Psalms Concerning the Word of God (**Psalms 107-150**). This book contains 44 psalms, 15 are ascribed to David, and one to Solomon among others. These books were probably collected and organized by Ezra.

Outline of the Book of Psalms:

- I. *Psalms Concerning Man (Psalms 1-41)*
- II. *Psalms Concerning Israel (Psalms 42-72)*
- III. *Psalms Concerning Worship (Psalms 73-89)*
- IV. *Psalms Concerning The Nations & The Earth (Psalms 90-106)*
- V. *Psalms Concerning the Word of God (Psalms 107-150)*

Topical Psalms:

There are many ways to divide and study the psalms. Here they are divided by topic. Some of them are repeated because of the dual nature of the psalm:

- **AFFLICTION** = Psalms 3; 4; 5; 7; 11; 13; 16; 17; 22; 26; 27; 28; 31; 35; 41; 42; 43; 44; 54; 55; 56; 57; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 69; 70; 71; 74; 77; 79; 80; 83; 84; 86; 88; 89; 94; 102; 109; 120; 123; 129; 137; 140; 141; 142; 143
- **DIDACTIC** = Psalms 1; 5; 7; 9; 10; 11; 12; 14; 15; 17; 24; 25; 32; 34; 36; 37; 39; 49; 50; 52; 53; 58; 73; 75; 82; 84; 90; 91; 92; 94; 101; 112; 119; 121; 125; 127; 128; 131; 133
- **HISTORICAL** = Psalms 78; 105; 106
- **INTERCESSION** = Psalms 20; 67; 122; 132; 144
- **LAMENTATIONS** = Psalms 3; 5; 22; 79; 80
- **MERCY** = Psalms 9; 18; 30; 34; 40; 75; 103; 108; 116; 118; 138; 144
- **MESSIANIC** = Psalms 2; 8; 16; 22; 34; 35; 40; 41; 45; 68; 69; 72; 89; 102; 109; 110; 116; 118
- **PRAYER** = Psalms 6; 25; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143
- **PRAISE** = Psalms 8; 19; 24; 29; 33; 47; 50; 65; 66; 76; 77; 93; 95; 96; 97; 99; 104; 111; 113; 114; 115; 134; 139; 147; 148; 150
- **PROPHETIC** = Psalms 2; 16; 22; 40; 45; 68; 69; 72; 87; 97; 110; 118
- **THANKSGIVING** = Psalms 21; 46; 48; 65; 66; 68; 76; 81; 85; 98; 105; 124; 126; 129; 135; 136; 149
- **PROVISION** = Psalms 23; 34; 36; 91; 100; 103; 107; 117; 121; 145; 146

Other Psalms of the Bible:

Psalms are a popular way of expression. There are many other psalms in the Bible, besides those listed in the book of Psalms:

- **PSALMS OF MOSES = Exodus 15:1-15, Deuteronomy 32-33, Psalm 90**
- **PSALM OF MIRIAM = Exodus 15:20-21**
- **PSALM OF DEBORAH = Judges 5**
- **PSALM OF HANNAH = I Samuel 2:1-10**
- **PSALMS OF DAVID = II Samuel 22:1-4, 23:2-7, I Chronicles 16:7-36, 29:10-19**
- **PSALMS OF ISAIAH = Isaiah 12:1-3, Isaiah 25-26**
- **PSALMS OF HEZEKIAH = Isaiah 38:9-20**
- **PSALM OF ELIZABETH = Luke 1:42-45**
- **PSALM OF MARY = Luke 1:46-55**
- **PSALM OF ZECHARIAH = Luke 1:68-79**

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BOOK ONE = **Psalms 1-41**

The Genesis Book = Psalms Concerning Man

The first book of Psalms is mostly written by David. **Psalms 1, 2, 10** and **33** are anonymous but are usually attributed to David. However, as previously mentioned **Acts 4:25** attributes **Psalms 2** to David. There is some evidence that **Psalms 10** could have been split off from **Psalms 9** (a psalm of David). Also, the LXX and 4QPsq attribute **Psalms 33** to David. This leaves only the introductory **Psalms 1** without solid confirmation or dedication. Therefore, most scholars believe that this is probably an exclusive, but not exhaustive, collection of Davidic psalms. Ezra may have compiled these psalms with the intended purpose of keeping this first book entirely comprised of Davidic psalms. We can trust his scholarship and the work of the Holy Spirit (**II Peter 1:20-21**).

Psalms: Book One relates to the book of **Genesis**. The general theme is about man and His relationship to God (**Psalms 1**, related to **Genesis 1-2**), then follows with man's fall and rebellion (**Psalms 2-15**, related to **Genesis 3-11**), and ends with hope of redemption through Christ (**Psalms 16-41**, related to **Genesis 12-50**). These 41 psalms focus on God's ability to deliver those who fear Him as the Creator. They reflect much of David's life and his understanding of the glory of God. This book uses the divine name *Yahweh* (273), more than *Elohim* (15).

Every kind of emotion is revealed in these Psalms. As we read these psalms we witness David pouring out his heart to God, begging God for protection, and asking Him for help against his enemies. They have a personal appeal to the reader and help us to put ourselves in his shoes. No doubt God allows these psalms to be preserved in our Bible to help us feel a one-on-one interaction with God.

Psalms 1 sets the scene for the rest of the book. The man blessed by God is the one who is obedient to His word, while the sinner rejects it and receives His judgment. From the perfection of those who are blessed by God we are led to the Salvation of the Lord. Along the way we see the consequences of sin and the need for redemption.

We see the depravity of man despite the great love of God toward the sinner. This causes David to ask, "*What is man*" that God should pay any attention to him (**Psalms 8**)? In **Psalms 9** he speaks of the Lord as the God who has the power to deliver from the enemy. In **Psalms 10** David knows that God hears and answers prayer which is a sign of His deliverance.

Toward the middle of the book, we can see David speaking to God as the Great Shepherd who watches faithfully over His flock (**Psalms 23**). David praises God as the King of Glory (**Psalms 24**). **Psalms 36** reveals that God hates sin but loves those who trust in Him. However, the closing thought of the section is almost identical in thought to the first psalm as it speaks of the blessed person (**Psalms 41**). The doxology reads, "*Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting.*" Don't miss the double "Amen" at the end!

Two Ways of Life – **Psalms 1**

- (1) The Lifestyle of the Righteous (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Lifestyle of the Wicked (vs.4-5)
- (3) The Contrast of the End (v.6)

The Victory of God – **Psalm 2**

- (1) The Rebellion of Man (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Reaction of God (vs.4-6)
- (3) The Remedy For Sin (vs.7-9)
- (4) The Response of Man (vs.10-12)

A Prayer in Time of Darkness – **Psalm 3**

- (1) God Is Our Strength (vs.1-2)
- (2) God Is Our Shield (vs.3-4)
- (3) God Is Our Sustainer (vs.5-6)
- (4) God Is Our Savior (vs.7-8)

Are You Content in God's Care? – **Psalm 4**

- (1) Supplication For Mercy (v.1)
- (2) Reproof For Misdeeds (vs.2-3)
- (3) Advice To Meditate (vs.4-5)
- (4) Testimony of Meekness (vs.6-8)

Did You Think To Pray? – **Psalm 5**

- (1) David Depended on God (vs.1-3, 7-8, 11-12)
- (2) David Despised the Wicked (vs.4-6, 9-10)
- (3) David Sought Destruction (vs.10)

Have Mercy On Me, Oh Lord – **Psalm 6**

- (1) David's Confession (vs.1-7)
- (2) David's Confidence (vs.8-10)

God's Justice Is Fair – **Psalm 7**

- (1) God's Fairness Towards David (vs.1-5)
- (2) God's Fairness Towards The Wicked (vs.6-8)
- (3) God's Fairness Towards The Righteous (vs.9-17)

The Glory of God – **Psalm 8**

- (1) Glory To God's Name (v.1)
- (2) Glory To God's Strength (v.2)
- (3) Glory To God's Handiwork (vs.3-5)
- (4) Glory To God's Dominion (vs.6-9)

The Righteous of God – **Psalm 9**

- (1) God's Righteous Name (vs.1-2)
- (2) God's Righteous Work (vs.3-5)
- (3) God's Righteous Judgment (vs.6-12)
- (4) God's Righteous Mercy (vs.13-16)
- (5) God's Righteous Wrath (vs.17-20)

Does God Stand With Us? – **Psalm 10**

- (1) Complaining To God (vs.1-2)
- (2) Cursing To God (vs.3-11)
- (3) Confidence in God (vs.12-18)

Will You Flee or Have Faith? – **Psalm 11**

- (1) Worldly Foundation Stones Make Us Want To Flee (vs.1-3)
Society, Work, Family
- (2) Heavenly Foundation Stones Help Us To Develop Faith (vs.4-7)
The Reign of God, The Rule of God, The Righteousness of God

Please, Help Us Lord! – **Psalm 12**

- (1) The Prayer of David (vs.1-2)
- (2) The Petition of David (vs.3-4)
- (3) The Promise of God (vs.5-7)
- (4) The Prowl of the Wicked (v.8)

From Despair to Delight – **Psalm 13**

- (1) Will God Listen? (vs.1-2)
- (2) Will God Hear? (vs.3-4)
- (3) Will God Answer? (vs.5-6)

The Folly of the Godless – **Psalm 14**

- (1) The Godless Turn From God (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Godless Oppress The Poor (vs.4-6)
- (3) The Godless Will Perish (v.7)

Who Will Spend Eternity With God? – **Psalm 15**

- (1) The Question (v.1)
- (2) The Answer (vs.2-5)
- (3) The Conclusion (v.6)

Centered on God – **Psalm 16**

- (1) The Reason For Trusting In God (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Benefit of Trusting In God (vs.5-8)
- (3) The Confidence From Trusting in God (vs.9-11)

A Prayer For Protection – **Psalm 17**

- (1) The Innocence of David (vs.1-5)
- (2) The Oppression of David (vs.6-14)
- (3) The Meditation of David (v.15)

Give Thanks To The Lord – **Psalm 18**

- (1) Give Thanks For God's Deliverance (vs.1-30)
- (2) Give Thanks For God's Grace (vs.31-45)
- (3) Give Thanks For God's Presence (vs.46-50)

God's Creation & His Word – **Psalm 19**

- (1) Natural Revelation (vs.1-6)
- (2) Special Revelation (vs.7-11)
- (3) Human Revelation (vs.12-14)

A Prayer For The King – **Psalm 20**

- (1) Pray For His Worship (vs.1-3)
- (2) Pray For His Salvation (vs.4-5)
- (3) Pray For His Works (vs.6-8)
- (4) Pray For His Guidance (v.9)

God's Wonderful Blessings To David – **Psalm 21**

- (1) Salvation (vs.1-2)
- (2) Leadership (vs.3-7)
- (3) Victory (vs.8-12)
- (4) Heart (v.13)

The Victory of the Suffering Servant – **Psalm 22**

- (1) The Desperate Cry (vs.1-2)
- (2) The Deliverance Commended (vs.3-5)
- (3) The Despised Condition (vs.6-11)
- (4) The Desperate Circumstances (vs.12-18)
- (5) The Delightful Confidence (vs.19-24)
- (6) The Dignified Christ (vs.25-28)
- (7) The Death Commanded (vs.29-31)

The Shepherd's Psalm – **Psalm 23**

- (1) The Good Shepherd (vs.1-6)
- (2) The Gracious Host (vs.1-6)

The Creator of the World – **Psalm 24**

- (1) Recognition of God's Dominion (vs.1-2)
- (2) Recognition of God's Dwelling (vs.3-6)
- (3) Recognition of God's Determination (vs.7-10)

An Alphabet For Trouble – **Psalm 25**

- (1) Lord, Lift Up My Soul (vs.1-3)
- (2) Lord, Show Me Your Ways (vs.4-7)
- (3) Lord, Remember Your Mercy (vs.8-10)
- (4) Lord, Pardon My Sin (vs.11-21)
- (5) Lord, Redeem Your People (v.22)

Please, Consider Me Oh Lord – **Psalm 26**

- (1) Vindicate Me (v.1)
- (2) Examine Me (v.2)
- (3) Prove Me (vs.2-5)
- (4) Cleanse Me (vs.6-8)
- (5) Save Me (vs.9-10)
- (6) Redeem Me (vs.11-12)
- (7) Have Mercy On Me (vs.11-12)

Wait Upon The Lord – **Psalm 27**

- (1) Wait Upon The Lord With Faith (vs.1-3)
- (2) Wait Upon The Lord With Desire (vs.4-6)
- (3) Wait Upon The Lord With Hope (vs.7-10)
- (4) Wait Upon The Lord With Assurance (vs.11-14)

God Hears The Righteous – **Psalm 28**

- (1) The Stone of the Righteous (vs.1-5)
- (2) The Support of the Righteous (vs.3-5)
- (3) The Strength of the Righteous (vs.6-8)
- (4) The Shield of the Righteous (v.7)
- (5) The Song of the Righteous (v.7)
- (6) The Shepherd of the Righteous (vs.8-9)

The Power of God's Voice – **Psalm 29**

- (1) The Voice of God Rules (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Voice of God Dominates (v.4)
- (3) The Voice of God Breaks (vs.5-6)
- (4) The Voice of God Divides (v.7)
- (5) The Voice of God Shakes (v.8)
- (6) The Voice of God Makes (v.9)

What Can God Do For You? – **Psalm 30**

- (1) He Can Lift You Up (v.1)
- (2) He Can Heal You (v.2)
- (3) He Can Save You (v.3)
- (4) He Can Inspire You (vs.4-5)
- (5) He Can Strengthen You (vs.6-8)
- (6) He Can Bless You (vs.9-11)
- (7) He Can Encourage You (vs.11-12)

David Trusted In The Lord – **Psalm 31**

- (1) David's Disgrace (vs.1-8)
- (2) David's Destitute (vs.9-13)
- (3) David's Deliverance (vs.14-18)
- (4) David's Doxology (vs.19-24)

The Joy of Forgiveness – **Psalm 32**

- (1) What God Had Done For David (vs.1-2)
- (2) What David Had Done For God (vs.3-7)
- (3) What David Will Do For God Now (vs.8-11)

Lord of All Creation – **Psalm 33**

- (1) Praise God The Creator (vs.1-3)
- (2) Believe God The Creator (vs.4-9)
- (3) Fear God The Creator (vs.10-19)
- (4) Trust God The Creator (vs.20-22)

God Cares About You – **Psalm 34**

- (1) Bless The Lord (vs.1-2)
- (2) Magnify The Lord (vs.3-5)
- (3) Trust The Lord (vs.6-7)
- (4) Fear The Lord (vs.8-9)
- (5) Seek The Lord (vs.10-14)
- (6) Know The Lord (vs.15-18)
- (7) Serve The Lord (vs.19-22)

Pray For Help And You'll Get It Every Time – **Psalm 35**

- (1) David's Prayer For Help #1 (vs.1-8)
Hope is Found (vs.9-10)
- (2) David's Prayer For Help #2 (vs.11-17)
Hope is Found (v.18)
- (3) David's Prayer For Help #3 (vs.19-26)
Hope is Found (vs.27-28)

Living In Two Worlds – **Psalm 36**

- (1) The Power of Evil Men (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Power of God (vs.5-9)
- (3) The Power of God's Grace (vs.10-12)

Don't Worry About Your Enemies – **Psalm 37**

- (1) What Should You Do When You Have Enemies? (vs.1-11)
 - Trust In The Lord (vs.1-3)
 - Delight In The Lord (v.4)
 - Commit To The Lord (v.5)
 - Rest In The Lord (vs.7-8)
 - Wait On The Lord (vs.9-11)
- (2) What Will God Do For The Righteous? (vs.12-33)
 - He Will Uphold The Righteous (vs.12-17)
 - He Will Bless The Righteous (vs.18-22)
 - He Will Accompany The Righteous (vs.23-29)
 - He Will Rescue The Righteous (vs.30-33)
- (3) What Will God Do To The Enemies? (vs.34-40)
 - He Will Cut Off The Wicked (vs.34-36)
 - He Will Destroy The Wicked (vs.37-38)
- (4) What Will God Be For The Righteous? (vs.39-40)
 - He Will Be Their Savior (v.39)
 - He Will Be Their Strength (v.39)
 - He Will Be Their Helper (v.40)
 - He Will Be Their Deliverer (v.40)

Forgive My Sin– **Psalm 38**

- (1) David Recounts His Conviction (vs.1-2)
- (2) David Recounts His Affliction (vs.3-8)
- (3) David Recounts His Suffering (vs.9-14)
- (4) David Recounts His Hope (vs.15-22)

My Hope Is In You – **Psalm 39**

- (1) Find Hope In Confession (vs.1-3)
- (2) Find Hope In Meditation (vs.4-6)
- (3) Find Hope In Discipline (vs.7-11)
- (4) Find Hope In Supplication (vs.12-13)

Is The Law of God In Your Heart? – Psalm 40

- (1) Then You Will Wait For The Lord (vs.1-3)
- (2) Then You Will Trust In The Lord (vs.4-5)
- (3) Then You Will Delight In The Lord (vs.6-8)
- (4) Then You Will Praise The Lord (vs.9-10)
- (5) Then You Will Pray To The Lord (vs.11-12)
- (6) Then You Will Bless The Lord (vs.13-15)
- (7) Then You Will Rejoice In The Lord (vs.16-17)

The Mercy of God – Psalm 41

- (1) The Lord Will Give You His Deliverance (v.1)
- (2) The Lord Will Give You His Preservation (v.2)
- (3) The Lord Will Give You His Strength (v.3)
- (4) The Lord Will Give You His Healing (vs.4-6)
- (5) The Lord Will Give You His Comfort (vs.7-9)
- (6) The Lord Will Give You His Righteousness (vs.10-12)
- (7) The Lord Will Give You His Presence (v.13)

Study Guide for the Psalms – Ray Reynolds Rap Publications

BOOK TWO = Psalms 42-72

The Exodus Book = Psalms Concerning Israel

The second book of Psalms is full of Davidic psalms. It includes 31 psalms with 18 ascribed to David, 7 to the sons of Korah, 1 to Solomon (**Psalms 72**), and the rest are anonymous. These psalms were compiled for Tabernacle and Temple services.

Psalms: Book Two relates to the book of **Exodus**. The general theme concerns Israel as a nation: Israel's ruin, Redeemer, and redemption. It begins, like Exodus, with a cry from the depth of ruin and despair (**Psalms 41-42**, related to **Exodus 1-3**), continues with God's mighty works of deliverances (**Psalms 44-50**, related to **Exodus 4-15**), includes backsliding, defeat, and hardships (**Psalms 51-55**, related to **Exodus 16-27**) and ends with God's redemptive work for Israel and His eternal reign (**Psalms 56-72**, related to **Exodus 19-40**).

It is interesting how the psalms in this section focus on God as the mighty Judge and King. He is the powerful worker of justice on all nations, the rescuer of those who delight in Him, and the One who is above all and over all. The Lord will go before us to execute justice on His enemies. David wants us to have a sense of wonder when we worship the Lord, but does not want us to forget about our deliverance and redemption. They speak of how God is able to rescue His people even when they are in ruin and slavery. This book uses the name *Elohim* (164), more than *Yahweh* (30).

Psalms 42 sets the scene by crying out for God's presence in a dry wilderness experience, much like the scene depicted in Exodus. The Psalmist continually appeals to God for deliverance from the enemy who is afflicting God's people. The book finishes with a prayer of Solomon, the third king of the United Kingdom of Israel (**Psalms 72**). The final verses praise God for His power and might, and His glory. Don't miss the double "Amen" at the end of the doxology! Again.

Yearning For God – Psalms 42

- (1) Spiritual Thirst (vs. 1-3)
- (2) Spiritual Hunger (vs. 4-5)
- (3) Spiritual Agony (vs. 6-8)
- (4) Spiritual Doubts (vs. 9-10)
- (5) Spiritual Relief (v. 11)

There Is Hope In God – Psalms 43

- (1) Vindicate Me, Only You Can Plead My Cause (v. 1)
- (2) Deliver Me, Only You Can Strengthen My Life (vs. 1-2)
- (3) Lead Me, Only You Can Give Light & Truth (vs. 3-4)
- (4) Bring Me, Only You Can Accept My Praise (vs. 4-5)
- (5) Help Me, Only You Can Give Me Hope (v. 5)

One Nation Under God? – **Psalm 44**

- (1) God Will Help Us In Time of Need (vs.1-8)
 - He Will Drive Out The Wicked (vs.1-3)
 - He Will Drive Out The Enemies (vs.4-5)
 - He Will Save The Righteous (vs.6-8)
- (2) God Knows That There Will Always Be A Time of Need (vs.9-16)
 - People Will Persecute Us (vs.9-10)
 - People Will Scatter Among Us (vs.11-12)
 - People Will Reproach Us (vs.13-16)
- (3) God Waits For Us To Ask In Time of Need (vs.17-26)
 - We Need To Repent (vs.17-19)
 - We Need To Seek God (vs.20-22)
 - We Need To Pray (vs.23-26)

Christ & His Church – **Psalm 45**

- (1) Addressing The Christ (vs.1-9)
 - Christ Is Worthy of Praise (v.1)
 - Christ Is Fairer Than Men (vs.2-3)
 - Christ Is A Mighty Warrior (vs.4-5)
 - Christ Is Anointed By God (vs.6-9)
- (2) Addressing The Church (vs.10-17)
 - The Church Should Listen To God (v.10)
 - The Church Should Worship God (vs.11-12)
 - The Church Should Rejoice In God (vs.13-15)
 - The Church Should Serve God (vs.16-17)

God Is Our Unfailing Refuge – **Psalm 46**

- (1) Victory #1 – Conquering Doubts & Fears (vs.1-3)
- (2) Victory #2 – Conquering Nations & Kingdoms (vs.4-7)
- (3) Victory #3 – Conquering Peace & Love (vs.8-11)

God Is The Eternal King – **Psalm 47**

- (1) He Has Conquered All (vs.1-4)
- (2) He Sits On His Throne (vs.5-8)
- (3) He Is Exalted As King (v.9)

The Glory of God – **Psalm 48**

- (1) Exalt God By Reflecting On His Holy City (vs.1-3)
- (2) Exalt God By Reflecting On His Greatness (vs.4-8)
- (3) Exalt God By Reflecting Him In The World (vs.9-11)
- (4) Exalt God By Reflecting On His Strength (vs.12-14)

Wealth Cannot Save You From Death – **Psalm 49**

- (1) Wealth Cannot Be Trusted In (vs.1-9)
- (2) Wealth Cannot Be Taken With You (vs.10-12)
- (3) Wealth Cannot Spare You From Death (vs.13-15)
- (4) Wealth Cannot Spare Others From Death (vs.16-20)

Prepare To Meet Your God – **Psalm 50**

- (1) The Judge Appears To Man (vs.1-6)
- (2) The Judge Asserts His Judgment (vs.7-11)
- (3) The Judge Affirms His Power (vs.12-15)
- (4) The Judge Accuses The Wicked (vs.16-21)
- (5) The Judge Assures The Righteous (vs.22-23)

Create In Me A Clean Heart, Oh God – **Psalm 51**

- (1) A Petition For Mercy (vs.1-2)
- (2) A Penitent Confession of Sin (vs.3-6)
- (3) A Plea For Restoration (vs.7-13)
- (4) A Promise of Worship (vs.14-17)
- (5) A Prayer For Grace (vs.18-19)

The Judgment & Grace of God – **Psalm 52**

- (1) The Commitment of the Wicked (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Fate of the Wicked (vs.5-7)
- (3) The Commitment of the Righteous (v.8)
- (4) The Fate of the Righteous (v.9)

The Godly vs. The Godless – **Psalm 53**

- (1) God Looks For Those Who Seek Him (vs.1-3)
- (2) God Despises Those Who Don't Seek Him (vs.4-5)
- (3) God Saves For Those Who Seek Him (v.6)

God Will Help His People – **Psalm 54**

- (1) An Expression of Trouble (vs.1-3)
- (2) An Expression of Trust (vs.4-5)
- (3) An Expression of Thanksgiving (vs.6-7)

Do Not Worry – **Psalm 55**

(1) Why Do People Worry?

- Worrying About Prayer (v.1)
- Worrying About Rest (v.2)
- Worrying About Enemies (v.3)
- Worrying About The Wicked (v.3)
- Worrying About Death (vs.4-5)
- Worrying About Deliverance (vs.6-8)
- Worrying About Evil (vs.9-11)
- Worrying About Friends (vs.12-15)

(2) Why Should A Believer Have Faith in God?

- The Lord Will Save Us (v.16)
- The Lord Will Hear Us (v.17)
- The Lord Will Redeem Us (v.18)
- The Lord Will Vindicate Us (v.19)
- The Lord Will Comfort Us (vs.20-21)
- The Lord Will Sustain Us (v.22)
- The Lord Will Avenge Us (v.23)

Why Should You Trust In God?– **Psalm 56**

- (1) God Will Take Away Fear (vs.1-4)
- (2) God Will Punish Iniquity (vs.5-7)
- (3) God Will Remember You (vs.8-9)
- (4) God Will Deliver You (v.10)
- (5) God Will Save You (vs.11-12)

What Should I Do When I Face Trials? – **Psalm 57**

- (1) Pray For God's Deliverance (vs.1-6)
- (2) Praise Him For His Deliverance (vs.7-11)

Seeking Fair Judgment For The Righteous – **Psalm 58**

- (1) Description of the Persecution of the Wicked (vs.1-5)
- (2) Description of the Hatred for the Wicked (vs.6-8)
- (3) Description of the Destruction of the Wicked (vs.9-11)

We Need Protection From Our Enemies – **Psalm 59**

- (1) Recognize The Wicked (vs.1-4)
- (2) Punish The Wicked (vs.5-7)
- (3) Laugh At The Wicked (vs.8-10)
- (4) Kill The Wicked (v.11)
- (5) Scatter The Wicked (vs.11-12)
- (6) Consume The Wicked (vs.13-15)
- (7) Destroy The Wicked (vs.16-17)

Give Us Help In Time Of Trouble – **Psalm 60**

- (1) What God Has Done (vs.1-5)
- (2) What God Has Said (vs.6-8)
- (3) What God Has Promised (vs.9-12)

The Eternal Helper – **Psalm 61**

- (1) God Leads Us (vs.1-2)
- (2) God Shelters Us (vs.3-4)
- (3) God Hears Us (v.5)
- (4) God Blesses Us (vs.6-8)

Be Still, My Soul – **Psalm 62**

- (1) Be Still For God Is My Salvation (v.1)
- (2) Be Still For God Is My Defense (vs.2-6)
- (3) Be Still For God Is My Strength (v.7)
- (4) Be Still For God Is My Refuge (vs.7-10)
- (5) Be Still For God Is My God (vs.11-12)

Our God Is The True God – **Psalm 63**

- (1) He Desires True Worship (vs.1-5)
- (2) He Desires True Living (vs.6-8)
- (3) He Desires True Judgment (vs.9-11)

Fear of the Enemy – **Psalm 64**

- (1) The Schemes of the Wicked (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Sin of the Wicked (vs.5-6)
- (3) The Judgment of the Wicked (vs.7-9)
- (4) The Enemies of the Wicked (v.10)

God Is Great – **Psalm 65**

- (1) God Is Our Great Redeemer (vs.1-4)
 - God Awaits (v.1)
 - God Hears (v.2)
 - God Provides (v.3)
 - God Chooses (v.4)
- (2) God Is Our Great Creator (vs.5-8)
 - God Answers (v.5)
 - God Establishes (v.6)
 - God Stills (v.7)
 - God Makes (v.8)

(3) God Is Our Great Provider (vs.9-13)

- God Visits (v.9)
- God Enriches (v.9)
- God Provides (v.9)
- God Prepares (v.9)
- God Waters (v.10)
- God Settles (v.10)
- God Makes (v.10)
- God Blesses (v.10)
- God Crowns (v.11)
- God Produces (vs.12-13)

Remember What God Has Done For You— **Psalm 66**

- (1) We Need To Worship God (vs.1-4)
- (2) We Need To Rejoice In God (vs.5-7)
- (3) We Need To Bless God (vs.8-12)
- (4) We Need To Serve God (vs.13-15)
- (5) We Need To Praise God (vs.16-20)

Great Gifts of God — **Psalm 67**

- (1) God's Way (vs.1-2)
- (2) God's Salvation (vs.2-3)
- (3) God's Judgment (vs.4-5)
- (4) God's Blessings (vs.6-7)

God's People Should Praise Him — **Psalm 68**

- (1) God Will Be Compassionate With His People (vs.1-6)
- (2) God Will Work Through His People (vs.7-18)
- (3) God Will Deliver His People (vs.19-27)
- (4) God Will Strengthen His People (vs.28-35)

Seek God And You Will Live — **Psalm 69**

- (1) God Knows Our Foolishness (vs.1-18)
- (2) God Knows Our Reproach (vs.19-28)
- (3) God Knows Our Sorrow (vs.29-36)

God Will Answer Our Prayers — **Psalm 70**

- (1) God Will Deliver Us (v.1)
- (2) God Will Help Us (v.1)
- (3) God Will Punish Our Enemies (vs.2-3)
- (4) God Will Make Us Rejoice (v.4)
- (5) God Will Not Delay (v.5)

Even In Your Old Age – **Psalm 71**

- (1) Put Your Trust In God (vs.1-3)
- (2) Put Your Hope In God (vs.4-6)
- (3) Put Your Faith In God (vs.7-13)
- (4) Put Your Praise In God (vs.14-18)
- (5) Put Your Joy In God (vs.19-24)

The Messiah Is King – **Psalm 72**

- (1) The Morality of the King (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Endurance of the King (vs.5-7)
- (3) The Kingdom of the King (vs.8-16)
- (4) The Name of the King (vs.17-20)

Study Guide for the Psalms – Ray Reynolds Rap Publications

BOOK THREE = Psalms 73-89

The Leviticus Book = Psalms Concerning Worship

The third book of Psalms is predominately comprised of psalms from the sons of Asaph (**Psalms 73-83**). This family was devoted to leading the people in worship to God in His temple (**I Chronicles 25:1**). However, of the 17 Psalms in this section there is also a psalm of David (**Psalms 84**), one from Heman the Ezraite (**Psalms 88**), one from Ethan the Ezraite (**Psalms 89**), and three from the Sons of Korah (**Psalms 84-85, 87**).

Psalms: Book Three relates to the book of **Leviticus**. The general theme concerns the Sanctuary. The book begins with the Sanctuary as related to man (**Psalms 73-83**, related to **Leviticus 1-7**) and concludes with the Sanctuary as related to God (**Psalms 84-89**, related to **Leviticus 8-27**). Many of these psalms were actually written by the Levitical priests. They emphasize God's faithfulness—a faithfulness that spans generations and are not just used in conjunction with the psalmist (like the first two books) but with the entire nation. In Book Three, we see the Lord around us, remaining faithful to His people through the generations. The Asaph psalms prefer the name *Elohim* or *El*, in reference to God, but the rest of the book uses *Yahweh*.

These were written to be sung by the temple choirs and/or congregational hymns. They remind us that God alone is holy and that we should remember our place before Him when we worship. When we come into God's presence we should have reverential fear, awe, and respect for Him.

The first psalm in this book announces, "*Truly God is good to Israel*" (**Psalms 73:1**). God has been just in all of His dealings with the nation of Israel despite the sufferings that the people often went through and the sins they committed. The final psalm in this book speaks of the fact that God has kept His covenant with David, therefore He should be worshipped and praised (**Psalms 89**). Don't miss the double "Amen" at the end! Again.

The Counsel of God – Psalms 73

- (1) God's Counsel Is Good (vs.1-14)
- (2) God's Counsel Is Worthy (vs.15-24)
- (3) God's Counsel Is Desirable (vs.25-28)

A Prayer For Protection – Psalms 74

- (1) We Need Someone Who Will Listen (vs.1-11)
- (2) We Need Someone We Can Trust (vs.12-17)
- (3) We Need Someone We Can Petition (vs.18-22)

God Will Judge The World – Psalms 75

- (1) God Will Judge The Upright (vs.1-3)
- (2) God Will Judge The Boastful (vs.4-9)
- (3) God Will Judge The Wicked (v.10)

God Protects His People – **Psalm 76**

- (1) God Is Great (vs.1-3)
- (2) God Is Glorious (vs.4-6)
- (3) God Is Feared (vs.7-10)
- (4) God Is Awesome (vs.11-12)

Remembering God In Anguish – **Psalm 77**

- (1) A Confession in Anguish (vs.1-9)
- (2) A Vow in Anguish (vs.10-15)
- (3) A Prayer in Anguish (vs.16-20)

God's Faithfulness In Israel's History – **Psalm 78**

- (1) The Purpose of God's Faithfulness (vs.1-8)
- (2) God's Faithfulness in the Wilderness (vs.9-42)
- (3) God's Faithfulness During The Plagues (vs.43-54)
- (4) God's Faithfulness During The Judges (vs.55-66)
- (5) God's Faithfulness in the Northern Kingdom (vs.67-72)

How Can A Nation Be Delivered? – **Psalm 79**

- (1) The Nation Must Plead (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Nation Must Pray (vs.5-12)
- (3) The Nation Must Praise (v.13)

What Do We Need From God? – **Psalm 80**

- (1) Please, Rescue Us (vs.1-2)
- (2) Please, Restore Us (vs.3-7)
- (3) Please, Return To Us (vs.8-16)
- (4) Please, Revive Us (vs.17-19)

Remember The Lord – **Psalm 81**

- (1) Sing To The Lord (vs.1-5)
- (2) Work For The Lord (vs.6-7)
- (3) Admonish The Lord (vs.8-10)
- (4) Heed The Lord (vs.11-16)

God Is At Work – **Psalm 82**

- (1) God Stands (v.1)
- (2) God Judges (vs.1-2)
- (3) God Defends (v.3)
- (4) God Delivers (v.4)
- (5) God Knows (v.5)
- (6) God Punishes (vs.6-7)
- (7) God Inherits (v.8)

The Enemies of God – **Psalm 83**

- (1) God Will Defeat His Enemies (vs.1-8)
- (2) God Will Deal With His Enemies (vs.9-12)
- (3) God Will Destroy His Enemies (vs.13-18)

The Blessings of God's House – **Psalm 84**

- (1) Love in God's House (vs.1-2)
- (2) Rest in God's House (vs.3-4)
- (3) Strength in God's House (vs.5-7)
- (4) Anointing in God's House (vs.8-9)
- (5) Blessed in God's House (vs.10-12)

Revive Us Again – **Psalm 85**

- (1) God Gives Restoration (vs.1-3)
- (2) God Gives Revival (vs.4-7)
- (3) God Gives Reconciliation (vs.8-9)
- (4) God Gives Righteousness (vs.10-13)

Teach Me Your Way, Oh Lord – **Psalm 86**

- (1) Teach Me How To Need (vs.1-5)
- (2) Teach Me How To Trust (vs.6-7)
- (3) Teach Me How To Praise (vs.8-9)
- (4) Teach Me How To Walk (vs.10-15)
- (5) Teach Me How To Serve (vs.16-17)

The Glory of Zion – **Psalm 87**

- (1) The Love of God (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Home of God (vs.4-5)
- (3) The Record of God (vs.6-7)

Praying For Deliverance – **Psalm 88**

- (1) Pray Day & Night (vs.1-9)
- (2) Pray Daily (vs.10-12)
- (3) Pray Every Morning (vs.13-18)

God's Commitment To His People – **Psalm 89**

- (1) God's Commitment To David's Descendants (vs.1-18)
- (2) God's Commitment To David (vs.19-37)
- (3) God's Commitment Withheld (vs.37-48)
- (4) God's Commitment Renewed (vs.49-52)

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BOOK FOUR = **Psalms 90-106**

The Numbers Book = Psalms Concerning The Nations & The Earth

The fourth book of Psalms is filled with anonymous psalms. These 17 psalms also include one written by Moses (**Psalms 90**) and two written by David (**Psalms 101,103**). These psalms, like those in book three, were composed for public worship. Many of them may have been written by the Levitical priests.

Psalms: Book Four relates to the book of **Numbers**. The general theme of this section concerns Israel and the Gentiles on earth. Numbers describes the Kingdom of Israel in relation to its neighbors. In a similar way, these Psalms reveal that God's kingdom rules over all, but that His people should praise His name among the other nations. It begins with Israel in the wilderness taking account of themselves (**Psalms 91**, related to **Numbers 1-8**), continues with instructions for the future (**Psalms 91-94**, related to **Numbers 9-14**), and discussion of the anticipated rest (**Psalms 95-100**, related to **Numbers 15-26**), and the basis for entering into rest (**Psalms 101-106**, related to **Numbers 27-36**).

Most of these psalms direct our eyes to the Lord who rules over all the earth. Several of these psalms begin with simply, "*The Lord reigns*," or "*Praise the Lord!*" They remind us that the Lord is above us. They also reveal that God is good, kind, and righteous. The Lord of heaven deserves our worship and praise. Scholars are quick to point out that there are also pre-captivity sentiments expressed in these psalms, but the emphasis on praise toward God for His blessings even in difficult circumstances. This book uses *Yahweh* exclusively.

The introduction to the section declares confidence in God as Protector of His people (**Psalms 90**). Several of the psalms describe the steadfastness and faithfulness of God. The doxology praises God for the way He has led Israel until the present day, and declares that He never changes (**Psalms 106**). We are reminded that He is "*from everlasting to everlasting*." The book closes with Amen and Hallelujah, rather than a double "Amen" like the previous books.

Nothing Should Come Before God – **Psalms 90**

- (1) Humanity Before God (vs.1-6)
- (2) Sin Before God (vs.7-12)
- (3) Efforts Before God (vs.13-17)

God Is So Great – **Psalms 91**

- (1) He Will Dwell in the Secret Place (vs.1-2)
- (2) He Will Deliver His People (v.3)
- (3) He Will Cover His People (v.4)
- (4) He Will Protect His People (vs.5-6)
- (5) He Will Lead His People (vs.7-8)
- (6) He Will Secure His People (vs.9-13)
- (7) He Will Love His People (vs.14-16)

Praise God For His Goodness – **Psalm 92**

- (1) The Value of Praise (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Worthiness of Praise (vs.5-9)
- (3) The Exaltation of Praise (vs.10-11)
- (4) The Benefit of Praise (vs.12-15)

The Lord Rules The Earth – **Psalm 93**

- (1) He Rules Because of His Majesty (v.1)
- (2) He Rules Because of His Strength (v.1)
- (3) He Rules Because of His Eternity (v.2)
- (4) He Rules Because of His Might (vs.3-4)
- (5) He Rules Because of His Holiness (v.5)

The Certainty of God's Justice – **Psalm 94**

- (1) God Will Use Vengeance (vs.1-7)
- (2) God Will Use Instruction (vs.8-15)
- (3) God Will Use Comfort (vs.16-19)
- (4) God Will Use His Law (vs.20-23)

God, The Great King – **Psalm 95**

- (1) Sing to the Lord (v.1)
- (2) Shout to the Lord (v.1)
- (3) Come to the Lord (vs.2-5)
- (4) Worship the Lord (vs.6-7)
- (5) Obey the Lord (vs.8-11)

The Sovereignty of God – **Psalm 96**

- (1) Sing To The Lord (vs.1-6)
 - Sing A New Song (v.1)
 - Bless His Name (v.2)
 - Declare His Glory (v.3)
 - Fear His Nature (vs.4-5)
 - Honor His Strength (v.6)
- (2) Give To The Lord (vs.7-9)
 - Give Him Glory & Strength (v.7)
 - Give Him An Offering (v.8)
 - Worship Him (v.9)
- (3) Live For The Lord (vs.10-13)
 - The Lord Reigns (v.10)
 - The World Is Lost (v.10)
 - The Heavens Rejoice In Him (v.11)
 - Nature Has Joy In Him (v.12)
 - He Will Come Again (v.13)

Praise The Lord! – Psalm 97

- (1) Praise The Lord – He Reigns (v.1)
- (2) Praise The Lord – He Is Righteous (vs.2-6)
- (3) Praise The Lord – He Is Worthy (vs.7-9)
- (4) Praise The Lord – He Is Holy (vs.10-12)

Sing A New Song To The Lord – Psalm 98

- (1) Celebration For Deliverance (vs.1-3)
- (2) Celebration In Song (vs.4-6)
- (3) Celebration For Creation (vs.7-9)

The Qualities of God's Holiness – Psalm 99

- (1) The Lord Is Great (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Lord Loves Justice (vs.4-5)
- (3) The Lord Has Strong Followers (vs.6-7)
- (4) The Lord Forgives His People (vs.8-9)

Enter His Gates With Thanksgiving – Psalm 100

- (1) God Is God (vs.1-3)
- (2) God Is Our Maker (v.3)
- (3) God Is Good (vs.4-5)
- (4) God Is Merciful (v.6)
- (5) God Is Truthful (v.6)

A Commitment To Holiness – Psalm 101

- (1) Sing of God's Mercy (v.1)
- (2) Obey God's Way (v.2)
- (3) Set Nothing Before God (vs.3-4)
- (4) Let God Judge (vs.5-8)

Prayer of a Suffering Servant – Psalm 102

- (1) Confidence in God's Presence (vs.1-11)
- (2) Confidence in God's Power (vs.12-17)
- (3) Confidence in God's Providence (vs.18-28)

The Benefits of God – Psalm 103

- (1) The Lord Deserves Our Blessings (vs.1-5)
- (2) The Lord Blesses His People (vs.6-19)
- (3) The Lord Will Be Blessed (vs.20-22)

God's Care For His Creation – **Psalm 104**

- (1) Creative Work of the Heavens (vs.1-4)
- (2) Creative Work of the Waters & Lands (vs.5-9)
- (3) Creative Work of the Humans & Animals (vs.10-18)
- (4) Creative Work of the Luminaries (vs.19-23)
- (5) Creative Work of the Sea Creatures (vs.24-26)
- (6) All Creatures Must Depend on God

God Cares For His People – **Psalm 105**

- (1) God Cared For Abraham (vs.1-15)
- (2) God Cared For Joseph (vs.16-22)
- (3) God Cared For The Israelites in Egypt (vs.23-36)
- (4) God Cared For The Israelites in the Wilderness (vs.37-41)
- (5) God Cared For The Israelites in Canaan (vs.42-45)

The Long-suffering God – **Psalm 106**

- (1) The Faithfulness of God Through The Rebellion in the Wilderness (vs.1-33)
- (2) The Faithfulness of God Through Canaan's Gods (vs.34-39)
- (3) The Faithfulness of God Through The Exile (vs.40-48)

Study Guide for the Psalms – Ray Reynolds Rap Publications

BOOK FIVE = **Psalms 107-150**

The Deuteronomy Book = Psalms Concerning the Word of God

The fifth, and final, book of Psalms is a comprehensive book of thanksgiving hymns. It contains 44 psalms including 15 ascribed to David, one to Solomon (**Psalms 127**) and the rest are anonymous. These psalms reiterate the thoughts of praise and giving thanks. Why? Because He is the Savior, deliverer, and God over all the earth.

Psalms: Book Five relates to the book of **Deuteronomy**. This is similar to the book of Deuteronomy because it speaks of a new beginning in the Promised Land. The general theme is the Word of God. While several divisions distinguish the other books, like God's Word itself, this book is a perfect whole and is the only "Psalm Book" with an even number of Psalms. They express the thoughts, prayers, and experiences of the captives and their return to Jerusalem. They also convey a message of both God's presence among His people and God's will within His word. We see God among us, in His temple with His people and in their midst when they meditate on His law. This book uses *Elohim* (7) much less than *Yahweh* (236).

Many of these psalms praise God for His word (note **Psalms 119**). God's people should give thanks for God's direction. God wants the most perfect sacrifice of all, which is our faithfulness and obedience to His revealed will. He desires for us to know Him and His purpose for our lives.

This book begins with acknowledging the delivering power of God (**Psalms 107**). In the middle we can find the "Egyptian Hallel" (**Psalms 111-119** - the psalms used by Israel during the annual feasts), and the "Songs of Ascents" (**Psalms 120-137** - the hymns traditionally sang on the way to worship). The doxology is found in **Psalms 150** but really should include **Psalms 145-150**, because they are five hallelujah psalms. They thank God in every possible way for His goodness towards His people. Hallelujah ends this final section as a note of joyfulness and gladness without an "Amen" to conclude it. It might be inferred that more songs of praise should be added to the hymnbook of the church as we continue to see the will of God fulfilled among His people.

The Song of the Redeemed – **Psalms 107**

- (1) Thanksgiving For God's Redemption (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Four Scenes of Redemption (vs.4-32)
 - Those In The Wilderness (vs.4-9)
 - Those In Prison (vs.10-16)
 - Those Who Were Ill (vs.17-22)
 - Those At Sea In A Storm (vs.23-32)
- (3) God's Instruction in Redemption (vs.33-43)
 - Discipline & Restoration

God Is Our Defender – **Psalm 108**

- (1) I Will Sing & Praise (v.1)
- (2) I Will Awaken (vs.2-4)
- (3) I Will Exalt (vs.5-6)
- (4) I Will Declare (vs.7-9)
- (5) I Will Follow (vs.10-13)

A Cry For Vindication – **Psalm 109**

- (1) A Complaint to God (vs.1-5)
- (2) A Curse on the Wicked (vs.6-20)
- (3) A Compassionate Prayer (vs.21-29)
- (4) A Confident Vow of Praise (vs.30-31)

The Victorious Rule of the Messiah – **Psalm 110**

- (1) The Lord Has Said (v.1)
- (2) The Lord Has Sent (vs.2-3)
- (3) The Lord Has Sworn (v.4)
- (4) The Lord Has Sat Down (vs.5-7)

The Wonderful Works of God – **Psalm 111**

- (1) His Works Are Great (vs.1-2)
- (2) His Works Are Honorable & Glorious (v.3)
- (3) His Works Are Memorable (v.4)
- (4) His Works Are Given (v.5)
- (5) His Works Are Declared (v.6)
- (6) His Works Are Verity & Justice (v.7)
- (7) His Works Are Eternal (v.8)
- (8) His Works Are Truthful & Upright (v.8)
- (9) His Works Are Redeeming (v.9)
- (10) His Works Are Influential (v.10)

What Do You Fear? – **Psalm 112**

- (1) Consider The Lord (v.1)
- (2) Consider The Righteous (vs.2-9)
- (3) Consider The Wicked (v.10)

Praise The Lord & Bless His Name – **Psalm 113**

- (1) The Lord Is To Be Praised (v.1)
- (2) The Lord Is To Be Blessed (vs.2-3)
- (3) The Lord Is Above All Nations (v.4)
- (4) The Lord Dwells On High (vs.5-6)
- (5) The Lord Raises The Poor (v.7)
- (6) The Lord Lifts The Needy (vs.7-8)
- (7) The Lord Grants The Barren (v.9)

The Miracles of God's Deliverance – **Psalm 114**

- (1) What Did God Do?
Deliverance From Egypt (vs.1-4)
- (2) What Should God's People Remember?
Deliverance From The Sea (v.5)
Deliverance From Jordan (v.5)
Deliverance From The Mountains (v.6)
Deliverance From The Hills (v.6)
- (3) What Should God's People Do? (vs.7-8)

To God Be The Glory – **Psalm 115**

- (1) God Is Superior (vs.1-8)
God's Name, God's Mercy & God's Truth
- (2) God Is Trustworthy (vs.9-11)
God Is A Help & God Is A Shield
- (3) God Is Mindful (vs.12-18)
God Will Bless & We Should Bless Him

Are You Thankful For Salvation? – **Psalm 116**

- (1) Love The Lord (v.1)
- (2) Call Upon The Lord (v.2)
- (3) Find The Lord (vs.3-4)
- (4) Praise The Lord (vs.5-7)
- (5) Walk With The Lord (vs.8-9)
- (6) Believe In The Lord (vs.10-11)
- (7) Render To The Lord (vs.12-13)
- (8) Make Vows To The Lord (vs.14-15)
- (9) Serve The Lord (v.16)
- (10) Worship The Lord (vs.17-19)

What Can I Do For God? – **Psalm 117**

- (1) Praise Him (v.1)
- (2) Laud Him (v.1)
- (3) Reflect On His Mercy (v.2)
- (4) Reflect On His Kindness (v.2)
- (5) Reflect On His Truth (v.2)

Give Thanks To The Lord – **Psalm 118**

- (1) A Call For Thanksgiving (v.1)
- (2) A Call For Praise (vs.2-4)
- (3) A Call For Help (vs.5-9)
- (4) A Call For Deliverance (vs.10-14)
- (5) A Call For Victory (vs.15-18)
- (6) A Call For Righteousness (vs.19-21)
- (7) A Call For Salvation (vs.22-29)

Praise God For The Holy Scriptures – **Psalm 119**

- (1) The Scriptures = The Law of God (vs.1-8)
- (2) The Scriptures = The Word of God (vs.9-16)
- (3) The Scriptures = The Glory of God (vs.17-24)
- (4) The Scriptures = The Security of God (vs.25-32)
- (5) The Scriptures = The Value of God (vs.33-40)
- (6) The Scriptures = The Mercy of God (vs.41-48)
- (7) The Scriptures = The Trust of God (vs.49-56)
- (8) The Scriptures = The Portion of God (vs.57-64)
- (9) The Scriptures = The Reliability of God (vs.65-72)
- (10) The Scriptures = The Judgment of God (vs.73-80)
- (11) The Scriptures = The Vindication of God (vs.81-88)
- (12) The Scriptures = The Eternity of God (vs.89-96)
- (13) The Scriptures = The Wisdom of God (vs.97-104)
- (14) The Scriptures = The Light of God (vs.105-112)
- (15) The Scriptures = The Comfort of God (vs.113-120)
- (16) The Scriptures = The Deliverance of God (vs.121-128)
- (17) The Scriptures = The Entrance of God (vs.129-136)
- (18) The Scriptures = The Righteousness of God (vs.137-144)
- (19) The Scriptures = The Faithfulness of God (vs.145-152)
- (20) The Scriptures = The Redemption of God (vs.153-160)
- (21) The Scriptures = The Commands of God (vs.161-168)
- (22) The Scriptures = The Treasure of God (vs.169-176)

God Will Give Us Peace – **Psalm 120**

- (1) He Gives Peace By Delivering Answers To Our Prayers (vs.1-2)
- (2) He Gives Peace By Defeating Our Enemies (vs.3-4)
- (3) He Gives Peace By Developing It In Our Hearts (vs.5-6)

The Lord Is Our Protector – **Psalm 121**

- (1) He Is The Source of Help (vs.1-2)
- (2) He Is The Source of Protection (vs.3-4)
- (3) He Is The Source of Light (vs.5-6)
- (4) He Is The Source of Love (vs.7-8)

Pray For Peace in Jerusalem – **Psalm 122**

- (1) Have Respect For The Holy City (vs.1-5)
- (2) Have Concern For The Holy City (vs.6-9)

Looking At God – **Psalm 123**

- (1) Your Eyes Should Look To The Heavens (v.1)
- (2) Your Eyes Should Look To The Lord (v.2)
- (3) Your Eyes Should Look To The Mercy of God (vs.3-4)

God Is On Our Side – **Psalm 124**

- (1) A Description of Praise (vs.1-2, 6)
- (2) A Description of the Enemy (vs.3-5, 7)
- (3) A Description of Faith (v.8)

Trust In The Lord – **Psalm 125**

- (1) The Security of the Righteous (vs.1-3)
- (2) The Prayer For the Righteous (v.4)
- (3) The Enemies of the Righteous (v.5)

Restoration To God – **Psalm 126**

- (1) The Joy of Restoration (vs.1-2)
- (2) The Greatness of Restoration (vs.3-4)
- (3) The Blessings of Restoration (vs.5-6)

The Lord & The Home – **Psalm 127**

- (1) God Will Build The Home (vs.1-2)
- (2) God Will Bless The Home (vs.3-4)
- (3) God Will Brighten The Home (v.5)

Family Blessings Come From Trusting in God – **Psalm 128**

- (1) The Family Will Be Happy (vs.1-2)
- (2) The Wife Will Be Fruitful (v.3)
- (3) The Children Will Be Faithful (v.3)
- (4) The Husband Will Be Blessed (v.4)
- (5) The Family Will Have A Future (vs.5-6)

The Enemies of God – **Psalm 129**

- (1) They Will Afflict God's People (vs.1-2)
- (2) They Will Not Prevail (vs.2-4)
- (3) They Will Be Ashamed (v.5)
- (4) They Will Turn Back (vs.5)
- (5) They Will Not Influence The Righteous (vs.6-8)

A Prayer For Forgiveness – Psalm 130

- (1) A Plea For God's Attention (vs.1-2)
- (2) A Plea For God's Mercy (vs.3-4)
- (3) A Plea For God's Strength (vs.5-6)
- (4) A Plea For God's Hope (vs.7-8)

A Prayer of Humble Trust – Psalm 131

- (1) My Heart Is Not Haughty (v.1)
- (2) My Eyes Are Not Lofty (v.1)
- (3) My Mind Is Not Concerned (v.1)
- (4) My Soul Is Calm & Quiet (vs.2)
- (5) My Hope Is In The Lord (vs.3)

Remembering David's Trust in God – Psalm 132

- (1) David Trusted In God's Work (vs.1-5)
- (2) David Trusted In God's Promises (vs.6-12)
- (3) David Trusted In God's Blessings (vs.13-18)

A Message of Brotherly Love – Psalm 133

- (1) Unity Is Good (v.1)
- (2) Unity Is Pleasant (vs.1-2)
- (3) Unity Is Commanded (v.3)

God's People Must Bless The Lord – Psalm 134

- (1) Bless The Lord With Your Voices (v.1)
- (2) Bless The Lord With Your Hands (v.2)
- (3) Bless The Lord With Your Worship (vs.2-3)

The Lord of All Nations – Psalm 135

- (1) The Lord Is Good (vs.1-4)
- (2) The Lord Is Great (vs.5-7)
- (3) The Lord Is Active (vs.8-12)
- (4) The Lord Is Eternal (vs.13-18)
- (5) The Lord Is Blessed (vs.19-21)

God's Mercy Endures Forever – Psalm 136

- (1) He Has Done Great Wonders (vs.1-4)
 - He Is Good (v.1)
 - He Is the God of gods (v.2)
 - He Is the Lord of lords (v.3)
 - He Is Worthy Alone (v.4)

- (2) He Has Made Great Things (vs.5-9)
 - He Has Made The Heavens (v.5)
 - He Has Made The Earth (v.6)
 - He Has Made The Lights (vs.7-9)
- (3) He Has Preserved Great People (vs.10-26)
 - He Saved Them In Egypt (vs.10-12)
 - He Saved Them In The Red Sea (vs.13-15)
 - He Saved Them In The Wilderness (v.16)
 - He Saved Them From Evil Kings (vs.17-23)
 - He Saved Them From Their Enemies (vs.24-26)

When Life Gets You Down— **Psalm 137**

- (1) Life Will Get You Down (vs.1-3)
- (2) Make The Most of It (vs.4-6)
- (3) Remember God Is In Control (vs.7-9)

A Prayer of Thanksgiving – **Psalm 138**

- (1) A Vow of Praise (vs.1-3)
- (2) An Assertion of Praise (vs.4-6)
- (3) A Confidence in Praise (vs.7-8)

The Nature of God – **Psalm 139**

- (1) God Is Omniscient (vs.1-4)
- (2) God Is Knowledge (vs.5-8)
- (3) God Is Omnipresent (vs.9-12)
- (4) God Is Omnipotent (vs.15-16)
- (5) God Is Knowable (vs.17-18)
- (6) God Is Wrathful (vs.19-22)
- (7) God Is Sovereign (vs.23-24)

Lamenting Over The Wicked – **Psalm 140**

- (1) Deliver Me (vs.1-3)
- (2) Keep Me (vs.4-5)
- (3) Hear Me (vs.6-8)
- (4) Avenge Me (vs.9-11)
- (5) Bless Me (vs.12-13)

Just Ask The Lord – **Psalm 141**

- (1) Ask The Lord To Listen To Your Voice (vs.1-2)
- (2) Ask The Lord To Watch Over Your Speech (vs.3-4)
- (3) Ask The Lord To Keep You Disciplined (v.5)
- (4) Ask The Lord To Hear Your Words (vs.5-7)
- (5) Ask The Lord To Keep You From Snares (vs.8-10)

The Lord Is My Refuge – **Psalm 142**

- (1) I Am Concerned (vs.1-2)
 - My Voice (v.1)
 - My Supplication (v.1)
 - My Complaint (v.2)
 - My Trouble (v.2)
- (2) I Am Overwhelmed (vs.3-4)
 - My Spirit (v.3)
 - My Path (v.3)
 - My Hands (v.4)
 - My Soul (v.4)
- (3) I Am Discouraged (vs.5-7)
 - My Cry (vs.5-6)
 - My Persecutors (vs.6-7)

To Do God's Will I Must Know – **Psalm 143**

- (1) The Faithfulness of God (v.1)
- (2) The Vision of God (v.2)
- (3) The Enemies of God (vs.3-4)
- (4) The Works of God (vs.5-6)
- (5) The Face of God (v.7)
- (6) The Lovingkindness of God (v.8)
- (7) The Shelter of God (v.9)
- (8) The Message of God (v.10)
- (9) The Righteousness of God (v.11)
- (10) The Mercy of God (v.12)

Have Confidence In God – **Psalm 144**

- (1) God Is My Rock (v.1)
- (2) God Is My Lovingkindness (v.2)
- (3) God Is My Fortress (v.2)
- (4) God Is My High Tower (v.2)
- (5) God Is My Deliverer (v.2)
- (6) God Is My Shield (v.2)
- (7) God Is My Refuge (v.2)
- (8) God Is My Rescuer (vs.3-8)
- (9) God Is My Salvation (vs.9-10)
- (10) God Is My Joy (vs.11-15)

The Works of God Lead Us To Praise – **Psalm 145**

- (1) The Qualities of God Must Be Exalted (vs.1-9)
- (2) The Kingdom of God Must Be Magnified (vs.10-13)
- (3) The People of God Must Be Praised (vs.14-21)

The Lord Will Answer – **Psalm 146**

- (1) The Lord Gives Life (vs.1-2)
- (2) The Lord Gives Help (vs.3-4)
- (3) The Lord Gives Hope (v.5)
- (4) The Lord Gives Truth (v.6)
- (5) The Lord Gives Freedom (v.7)
- (6) The Lord Gives Healing (v.8)
- (7) The Lord Gives Love (v.8)
- (8) The Lord Gives Security (v.9)
- (9) The Lord Gives Relief (v.9)
- (10) The Lord Gives Authority (v.10)

The Lord God Almighty – **Psalm 147**

- (1) The Lord Reigns (v.1)
- (2) The Lord Builds (v.2)
- (3) The Lord Gathers (v.2)
- (4) The Lord Heals (v.3)
- (5) The Lord Counts (v.4)
- (6) The Lord Calls (v.4)
- (7) The Lord Understands (v.5)
- (8) The Lord Lifts (vs.6-7)
- (9) The Lord Covers (v.8)
- (10) The Lord Prepares (v.8)
- (11) The Lord Makes (v.8)
- (12) The Lord Gives (v.9)
- (13) The Lord Takes (vs.10-11)
- (14) The Lord Strengthens (vs.12-13)
- (15) The Lord Blesses (v.13)
- (16) The Lord Fills (v.14)
- (17) The Lord Commands (v.15)
- (18) The Lord Stands (v.16)
- (19) The Lord Causes (v.17)
- (20) The Lord Declares (vs.18-20)

All Creatures Should Give Praise The Lord – **Psalm 148**

- (1) Praise Him In The Heavens (vs.1-6)
 - Praise Him In The Heights (v.1)
 - Praise Him Angels (v.2)
 - Praise Him Hosts (v.2)
 - Praise Him Sun, Moon, & Stars (v.3)
 - Praise Him In The Heavens of Heaven (v.4)
 - Praise Him In The Waters Above Heaven (v.4)
 - Praise Him For His Greatness (vs.5-6)

- (2) Praise Him In The Earth (vs.7-14)
 - Praise Him Sea Creatures (v.7)
 - Praise Him Precipitation (v.8)
 - Praise Him Mountain, Hills, & Trees (v.9)
 - Praise Him Beasts & Birds (v.10)
 - Praise Him Kings & People (v.11)
 - Praise Him Princes & Judges (v.11)
 - Praise Him Young & Old (v.12)
 - Praise Him For His Glory (vs.13-14)

The Victory of the Lord – **Psalm 149**

- (1) His Praise (v.1)
- (2) His People (vs.2-4)
- (3) His Enemies (vs.5-9)

Should I Praise The Lord? – **Psalm 150**

- (1) Praise The Lord In His Sanctuary (v.1)
- (2) Praise The Lord In His Firmament (v.1)
- (3) Praise The Lord For His Works (v.2)
- (4) Praise The Lord For His Greatness (v.2)
- (5) Praise The Lord With Instruments (vs.3-5)
- (6) Praise The Lord Dancing (v.4)
- (7) Praise The Lord For Life (v.6)

Study Guide for the Psalms – Ray Reynolds Rap Publications

CONCLUSION

The Greek word is “psalmos,” from the Hebrew word “zmr” meaning “to pluck;” i.e., taking hold of the strings of an instrument with the fingers. It implies that the psalms were originally composed to be accompanied by a stringed instrument. “Psalms are songs for the lyre, and therefore lyric poems in the strictest sense” (Delitzsch, *Psalms*, Vol. I, p. 7).

David and others therefore originally wrote the Psalms to be sung to the accompaniment of the harp. In fact, many of the psalms have headings, much like our song books with author, title, number, tune, medley, and pitch. The authors intended for certain instruments to be used for certain psalms, where in others the text remains silent as to how one should use it in worship.

In New Testament worship, we are told to sing the psalms to the accompaniment of the heart: “...in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (**Ephesians 5:19**). The phrase, “making melody,” comes from the Greek word “psallontes” (literally, plucking the strings of). Therefore, we are to “pluck the strings of our heart” as we sing the psalms. I think a more literal interpretation would be to sing with emotion or understanding as Paul says (**I Corinthians 14:15**) and let the praise toward God flow from our heart. In fact, in the NLT it says, “*singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.*”

Like the skilled fingers on the strings of a harp, the Psalms touch and move the hearts of those individuals who will read and meditate upon them. Every emotion known to man is expressed in the Psalms, including fear and faith, hope and doubt, trust and anxiety, as inspired men of God shared their personal spiritual journeys in the service of God.

The Psalms should be a constant resource to help the Christian learn how to praise and pray, to meditate and contemplate, to face life and death. In an attempt to illustrate the value of the Psalms and encourage their frequent reading, I offer the following sampling of what Psalms might be read at different times in your life:

Are you interested in the Messianic kingdom? Read **Psalms 2, 16, 22, 40, 45, 72, 110**

Are you looking for encouragement during your morning prayers? Read **Psalms 5, 94, 95**

Are you looking for encouragement during your evening prayers? Read **Psalms 4, 90, 139, 141**

Are you being falsely accused? Read **Psalms 7**

Are you curious about the glory of God? Read **Psalms 8, 139**

Are you seeking wisdom about the righteous and the wicked? Read **Psalms 15, 25, 32, 34, 36, 37, 52, 127, 128**

Are you amazed by the magnificence of the Scriptures? Read **Psalms 19, 119**

Are you ready to pray for others? Read **Psalms 20**

Are you finding it difficult to focus during the Lord's Supper? Read **Psalms 22**

Are you in need of guidance? Read **Psalms 23**

Are you steadfast in times of distress, and want encouragement? Read **Psalms 27, 31**

Are you seeking God's mercy in adverse circumstances? Read **Psalms 34, 40**
 Are you struggling with the futility of this life? Read **Psalms 39, 49, 90**
 Are you finding it difficult to focus during the Sunday collection? Read **Psalms 41, 112**
 Are you wishing for God's blessings? Read **Psalms 46, 48, 66, 67**
 Are you remorseful and penitent for your sins? Read **Psalms 51, 32**
 Are you in trouble? Read **Psalms 54, 63**
 Are you searching for courage and confidence? Read **Psalms 61, 91**
 Are you seeking to meditate on the power of God? Read **Psalms 65, 66, 97, 99, 104, 111**
 Are you under significant mental stress? Read **Psalms 70**
 Are you envious of the wicked? Read **Psalms 73**
 Are you fascinated by the history of Israel? Read **Psalms 78, 105, 106**
 Are you forgetting your responsibilities? Read **Psalms 82, 101**
 Are you seeking a deeper personal devotion to God? Read **Psalms 91, 103, 104, 138, 146**
 Are you eager to prepare yourself for corporate worship? Read **Psalms 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 122, 133, 134, 145, 147, 148**
 Are you ready to meditate on the characteristics of God? Read **103, 121, 145, 146**
 Are you being tempted? Read **Psalms 130**
 Are you lacking in humility? Read **Psalms 131**

The psalms may have started out as a means of expression. Now they are a significant part of the Bible. They can enhance our regular devotion to God. Someone else once said the Psalms are:

The Christian's "hymnal" to assist us in our praise to God
The Christian's "prayer book" in which we learn how to approach God in prayer
The Christian's "book of evidences" to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ
The Christian's "training guide" for living holy and righteous lives before God

However you choose to view the psalms, they are another part of God's amazing story. They lead us to Jesus. God wants us to direct our attention toward Him. He uses this GREAT book to do it. He uses the psalms and their writers to grab our attention. It is His will that we recognize Him and learn to love Him as He loves us. God is good!