

The Psalms

June 7, 2015

Intro.

What are the Psalms?

1. The Psalms are music. They are the lyrics for the hymns of ancient Israel. When we study the Psalms we are reading the words of Israel's hymns. The longest book in the entire Bible is a book of music – the Psalms.
2. The Psalms are crammed full of theology.

Eph 5:19

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

3. They are great examples for those writing new “spiritual songs”.
4. A Psalm is a poem that is sung as an expression of praise to God.

5. The book of Psalms therefore is a collection of 150 songs. The Psalms express the full range of emotions that any human goes through during the course of a lifetime: joy, sorrow, desperation, anger, vengeance, praise, peace, and thankfulness. The message of the Psalms is, "Praise God!" Every situation can be turned into an occasion for Praise. If we are sad, we should Praise. If we are glad, we should Praise. If we are in the dark, we should Praise. If we are in the light, we should Praise. Paul said the same in Philippians 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice . . ."

6. The Psalms are a multi-faceted diamond of truth that teaches us about who God is and who we are as we see God and life from many sides and angles.

Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

Psalm 22:16-19, "Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."

Psalm 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."

Psalm 29:1-2, "Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness."

Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalm 119:1-2, "Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart."

7. The Psalms are brutally honest. They are outpourings of emotion along the roller coaster of life. When times are good, Psalms speak out in great thanksgiving and celebration, but when life is bad, the authors are very candid in their expression of emotion. Regardless where you are in life, you can always relate to the Psalms.

Praise Psalm - “God is Good”

Lament Psalm - “Life is Tough”

Who wrote the Psalms?

1. David wrote the most —73 psalms.

Psalms 3–9

Psalms 11–41

Psalms 51–65

Psalms 68–70

Psalms 86

Psalms 101

Psalms 103

Psalms 108–110

Psalms 122

Psalms 124

Psalms 131

Psalms 133

Psalms 138–145

2. Asaph wrote 12 psalms:

Psalm 50

Psalms 73–83

3. The sons of Korah wrote 11 psalms:

Psalm 42

Psalms 44–49

Psalms 84–85

Psalms 87-88

4. Heman the Ezrahite coauthored Psalm 88 with the sons of Korah.

5. Solomon wrote two psalms:

Psalm 72

Psalm 127

6. Moses wrote Psalm 90.

7. Ethan the Ezrahite wrote Psalm 89.

*** The remaining 50 “orphan psalms” are not credited to any one author.**

When were the Psalms written?

- The earliest of the Psalms would have been the one Moses wrote (Ps. 90), and it probably dates from about 1405 B.C.
- Those David composed would have originated between about 1020 and 975 B.C.
- Asaph was a contemporary of David, so we can date his Psalm in approximately the same period.
- Solomon's psalm(s) seem to have been produced about 950 B.C.
- Korah's descendants, as well as Heman and Ethan, probably lived after Solomon, but exactly when we cannot identify. Since Heman and Ethan are connected with Ezra as Ezhrahites, they probably lived and wrote after the Babylonian exile.

**** The Jews worshiped with songs written over a period of 700+ years.**

- The New Testament writers quoted the Book of Psalms more frequently than any other Old Testament book.
- *Greek New Testament lists just over **400** quotations from the Psalms.*

Superscriptions

- Superscriptions are the lines before the first verse. They include such things as: song title, type of work, author/composer, dedication, performance directions, instrumentation, purpose.
- Every manuscript of the Psalms in our possession has superscriptions.
- 117 of the 150 psalms have superscriptions.

Psalm 4

Evening Prayer of Trust in God.

For the choir director; on stringed instruments.

A Psalm of David.

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have relieved me in my distress;

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

2 O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach?

How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception? Selah.

3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly man for Himself;

The Lord hears when I call to Him.

4 Tremble, and do not sin;

Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,

And trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"

Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O Lord!

7 You have put gladness in my heart,

More than when their grain and new wine abound.

8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep,

For You alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety.

Psalm 5

Prayer for Protection from the Wicked.

For the choir director; for flute accompaniment.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 Give ear to my words, O Lord, Consider my groaning.
- 2 Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray.
- 3 In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice ;In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.
- 4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.
- 5 The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.
- 6 You destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.
- 7 But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.
- 8 O Lord, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.
- 9 There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction itself. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.
- 10 Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.
- 11 But let all who take refuge in You be glad ,Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.
- 12 For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O Lord, You surround him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 6

Prayer for Mercy in Time of Trouble.

For the choir director; with stringed instruments, upon an eight-string lyre.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your wrath.
- 2 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am pining away; Heal me, O Lord, for my bones are dismayed.
- 3 And my soul is greatly dismayed; But You, O Lord — how long?
- 4 Return, O Lord, rescue my soul; Save me because of Your lovingkindness.
- 5 For there is no mention of You in death; In Sheol who will give You thanks?
- 6 I am weary with my sighing; Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears.
- 7 My eye has wasted away with grief; It has become old because of all my adversaries.
- 8 Depart from me, all you who do iniquity, For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.
- 9 The Lord has heard my supplication, The Lord receives my prayer.
- 10 All my enemies will be ashamed and greatly dismayed; They shall turn back, they will suddenly be ashamed.

6 categories of Psalms

1. Royal Psalms.
2. Lament Psalms.
3. Messianic Psalms.
4. Wisdom Psalms.
5. Imprecatory Psalms.
6. Praise Psalms.

Royal Psalm

“Praise To The King Of All The Earth”

Psalm 47

June 7, 2015

The Royal Psalms

2; 18; 20; 21; 45; 47; 72; 89; 101; 110; 132; 144

1. They are called “Royal” because they speak of Kingship.
2. The King may be either God, the King of the universe, or it may be an earthly King.
3. God is to be praised for earthly kings for they represent human government. These psalms talk about how good it is to have a king.

They say 3 things:

1. God preserve our king.
2. Bless our king.
3. Encourage our king.

Psalm 47

For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

- 1 O clap your hands, all peoples;
Shout to God with the voice of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
A great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues peoples under us
And nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us,
The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.
- 5 God has ascended with a shout,
The Lord, with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with a skillful psalm.
- 8 God reigns over the nations,
God sits on His holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the people have assembled themselves as the people of the God of Abraham,
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly exalted.

Who are the Sons of Korah?

Num 26:9-11

- 9 The sons of Eliab: Nemuel and Dathan and Abiram. These are the Dathan and Abiram who were called by the congregation, who contended against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they contended against the Lord,
- 10 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up along with Korah, when that company died, when the fire devoured 250 men, so that they became a warning.
- 11 The sons of Korah, however, did not die.

I. Everyone on earth is to praise the King. (1)

1 O clap your hands, all peoples;

Shout to God with the voice of joy.

A. Clap. (1a)

B. Shout. (1b)

*It should be noted that Scripture directs believers at other times to be silent, to speak softly, to raise hands, to bow down.

Ps 46:10

10 Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!

Ecc1 3:1,7

3 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —

7 A time to be silent and a time to speak.

II. 5 reasons the King is to be praised. (2-4)

A. The King is the Lord Most High. (2a)

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared,

- As high as the mountains are, God is higher.
- As high as the clouds are, God is higher.
- As high as the planets in our solar system are, God is higher.
- As high as our Milky Way galaxy is with its billions of stars , God is higher.
- As high as the billions of galaxies, each with their own billions of stars, God is higher.
- As high as heaven and the angels in heaven are, God is higher.

GOD IS THE MOST HIGH!

Ps 99:1

9 The Lord reigns, let the peoples tremble;
He is enthroned above the cherubim, let the earth
shake!

Jer 10:6-7

6 There is none like You, O Lord;
You are great, and great is Your name in might.
7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?
Indeed it is Your due!
For among all the wise men of the nations
And in all their kingdoms,
There is none like You.

B. The King is over the whole earth. (2b)

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared,

A great King over all the earth.

God is greater than and rules over the continents, the islands, the mountains, all plants and trees, the oceans, the lakes and the rivers, the large cities, the small towns and villages, the animals, the insects, the birds, the wind, hurricanes, tornados, snow, rain, ice, glaciers, volcanoes, tsunamis, cyclones, earthquakes, blizzards, and every other thing that concerns this physical earth and that which inhabitants it.

C. The King is over people. (3a)

3 He subdues peoples under us

- As great as Rulers are, God is greater.
- As great as Presidents are, God is greater.
- As great as Emperors are, God is greater.
- As great as Prime Ministers are, God is greater.
- As great as Kings are, God is greater.
- As great as Princes, and Dukes, and Lords, and Sheiks, and Sultans, and Czars, and Caesars, and Pharaohs, and Shahs, and Monarchs, and Chancellors are, God is greater.
- God is greater than King Artexerxes, King Seneceribe, King Herod, Antiochus Epiphinees, Alexander the Great, Peter the Great, Fredrick the Great, Joseph Stalin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Adolph Hitler, Mao Tse Tung, Vladimar Putin, Osama Bin Laden, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, AL-QAEDA, TALIBAN, ISIS, HEZBOLLAH, BOKO HARAM, HAMAS, and AL-SHABAAB .

Dan 2:21

21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs;
He removes kings and establishes kings;

Dan 5:21

21 "He (Neb.) was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.

Prov 21:1

21 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord;
He turns it wherever He wishes.

D. The King is over all nations. (3b)

3 He subdues peoples under us

And nations under our feet.

- *God was in control of the Canaanites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, Philistines, Babylonians, Persians, Assyrians, and God is presently in control of the United States, Russia, China, France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Finland, Denmark, Korea, Philippines, Israel, Syria, Egypt, Australia, England, South America, Canada, Iraq, Iran, Japan, Ukraine, Greece, India, and all the rest of those nations who total 190 +. Unlike Baal, Molech, and Ashteroth, God is not a territorial God! He is not a local deity! He is God of all!*

E. The King guarantees the believer's future. (4)

4 He chooses our inheritance for us,

The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.

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And nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us,
The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.

Ps 8:4

- 4 What is man that You are mindful of him

Rom 9:11-13

- 11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,
- 12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."
- 13 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

Division of the Promised Land to the children of Israel



Eph 1:11-14

- 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.
13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Col 1:10-12

- 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

1 Peter 1:3-4

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

E. The King guarantees the believer's future. (4)

4 He chooses our inheritance for us,

The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.

*Our inheritance is guaranteed because it is based on God's grace, as Jacob's was, which placed us in a position to receive it.

“Selah” – Time to pause and think and meditate about what has just been said.

End of 1st Movement

Psalm 47

For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

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- 3 He subdues peoples under us
And nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us,
The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.
- 5 God has ascended with a shout,
The Lord, with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with a skillful psalm.
- 8 God reigns over the nations,
God sits on His holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the people have assembled themselves as the people of the God of Abraham,
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly exalted.

III. The King's victory celebration. (5-7)

5 God has ascended with a shout,

The Lord, with the sound of a trumpet.

A. Ascends with shout. (5a)

B. With the sound of the trumpet. (5b)

*He had descended to fight for His people and with the victory accomplished He again ascends to His throne.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth;

Sing praises with a skillful psalm.

C. Sing praises. (6,7)

IV. The King's superior position. (8,9)

**8 God reigns over the nations,
God sits on His holy throne.**

A. He reigns. (8a)

B. He sits on His holy throne. (8b)

*Everything that comes from His throne is holy – His Word is holy, His laws are holy, His commands are holy, His ways are holy, His Son is holy, and His Spirit is holy.

**9 The princes of the people have assembled
themselves as the people of the God of Abraham,**

Gen 22:15,18

15 Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven . . .

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

*The descendants of Abraham (Jew and Gentile who have been justified by faith) are those who are rightly related to the great King of the universe. The invitation is to all.

For the shields of the earth belong to God;

He is highly exalted.

C. He is highly exalted. (9)

Phil 2:9-11

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Application:

1. In a moment of insanity the finite creature believes he is wiser than the infinite King of the universe.
2. The exaltation of God is never so evident as in the praises sung by those who love and worship our King.
3. When our lives overflow with praise to our King, it is then that we are the fulfillment of the end purpose for which we have been created for time and for all eternity.