

Lessons from the Psalms

Introduction

The Psalms are the hymnbook of the Bible – the faith of Israel set to music. The 150 Psalms were written over many centuries, but many are attributed to King David and obviously speak to the events of his life.

The Psalms reflect the life of the Israelite nation – its triumphant faith, its weaknesses, and its understanding of God. God Himself is the central theme of the Psalms. There are songs of worship, of despair, of need and frustration and of great joy. Prayer is seen as intimate communication with God. The themes include Psalms of lamentation or complaint or cries for help; thanksgiving; praise, wisdom; and the role of the human king in the life of Israel.

Many Psalms should be read devotionally – either as an individual or as a part of a congregation. Psalm 23 may be the best know of all the Psalms and is often a part of a memorial service for an individual who has died. Psalm 23 is also a great comfort to those who suffer personal pain or pain for another.

The great teachings of the Psalms include the following:

1. God is One.
2. God is Holy.
3. God is Spirit.
4. God is steadfast Love.
5. God creates.
6. God rules.
7. God reveals Himself.
8. God chooses.
9. God forgives.
10. God saves. (**Disciple's Study Bible**. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1988 pp.633-635)

Verses from 22 different psalms are included in this study. They include the following themes: forgiveness, God's knowledge of us as humans; God as creator and deliverer; prayer and trust; our relationship to government, what it means to be a righteous person; how we can rightly worship God and how we experience joy in the presence of the Lord.

One of the enjoyable aspects of a study of the psalms is an occasional glimpse of the coming Messiah. The reader asks himself or herself how a writer so many years before Christ could understand so much about him. See the list of sessions on the following page.

Lessons from the Psalms

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
25-52-01-en	1. Forgiveness	<i>Forgiveness Is Real</i>	Psalm 51:1-13, 17
25-52-02-en	2. God Knows Me	<i>God Knows Me</i>	Psalm 139:1-17, 23-24
25-52-03-en	3. Trusting God	<i>Trusting God in Times of Trouble</i>	Psalm 40:1-5, 9-11, 16-17
25-52-04-en	4. God, the Creator	<i>God Is Creator</i>	Psalm 104
25-52-05-en	5. God, Our Deliverer	<i>God Deliverers Us</i>	Psalm 34
25-52-06-en	6. Prayer	<i>Prayer – Talking with God in Life’s Worst Situations</i>	Psalms 3:1-8; 4:1-8; 71:1-5, 19-22
25-52-07-en	7. Made in God’s Image	<i>What Is Man that God Is Mindful of Him?</i>	Psalm 8
25-52-08-en	8. Righteousness	<i>The Happiness of the Righteous and the Ruin of the Wicked</i>	Psalms 1; 14
25-52-09-en	9. Government	<i>Praying for and Respecting Government Officials and Anticipating the Messiah</i>	Psalms 2:7-12; 20:1-9; 21:1-7; 63:1-11
25-52-101-en	10. Purity of our Lives	<i>Entering Into God’s Presence – Living a Pure Life</i>	Psalms 15:1-5; 24:3-6
25-52-11-en	11. Majesty of God	<i>God On His Throne – Enthroned Over the Universe</i>	Psalms 47; 93
25-52-12-en	12. Worship	<i>The Worshipping Congregation</i>	Psalms 67; 108:1-6; 121
25-52-13-en	13. God’s Presence	<i>Joy In the Presence of the Lord</i>	Psalm 16

