

Psalms

1 – Psalms 1-5

What makes Psalm 1 such a great introduction for this collection of Psalms? What verses specifically point to Jesus? (I mark my Bible with a cross next to these verses.) Note the superscription on Psalms 3 – they are helpful in “setting up” the tone of the Psalm.

2 – Psalms 6-11

Psalm 8 is one of the better known Psalms, why? What are occasions when it would be helpful to pray / sing these other Psalms?

3 – Psalms 12-17

Note how contemporary these Psalms are, why do they still speak so accurately about our lives today? How can these Psalms also guide us in our prayer life?

4 – Psalms 18-23

In what situations would Psalms 18 bring comfort? How is Psalms 19 a great one for sunrise or sunset? (see Psalms 19:14 for a great daily prayer!) How does Psalms 22 point very directly to Jesus’ death and resurrection? Why is Psalm 23 so well known and loved?

5 – Psalms 24-29

How can we have “clean hands and a pure heart” (Psalms 24:4)? See also Psalms 25 for the answer. Can we really pray, “I have led a blameless life” (Psalms 26:1, 11)? If you could ask “one thing of the Lord” (Psalms 27:4) what would it be? What if God would “hide His face from us” (Psalms 27:9)?! Where / how do we hear “the voice of the Lord” today? (Psalms 29) Are these verses of “the voice of the Lord” true also today? Why or why not?

6 – Psalms 30-35

When would be a situation where you might especially pray Psalms 30? Why is Psalms 31 suggested to be prayed on Passion Sunday and Good Friday? When are times that Psalms 32 could bring great comfort to you? How is Psalms 33 such a powerful prayer / song for our nation? How can we “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalms 34:8)?

7 – Psalms 36-41—End Of “Book 1”

How do Psalms 36 & 37 give encouragement as we live in an ungodly / evil world? How does Psalms 38 describe depression, and hope through such deep feelings? Many people don’t want to talk about the end of their life – but how does Psalms 39 reflect on the end of life? How does Psalms 41 compare with Psalms 1? (note these Psalms are “book ends” of the collection of “book 1” in the 5 “books” of the collection of Psalms.) Note also Jesus and Judas in Psalms 41:9.

8 – Psalms 42-46

What is the “refrain” repeated in Psalms 42:5, 11 & 43:5? What is the answer to these same questions? Psalms 44 (especially v.9-19) does a lot of complaining to God! Is this okay to do? Psalms 46 is sometimes referred to as the Reformation Psalm. Why is this a good designation?

9 – Psalms 47-51

How do nations “clap their hands”? (Psalms 47:1) What does Psalms 49 teach us about the “gospel of prosperity”? What does God want from us? (Psalms 50) Why does He want this of us? Psalms 51 (see [2 Samuel 11-12](#)) is David’s Psalm of confession – how is it also very appropriate for us today?

10 – Psalms 52-56

Read [1 Samuel 22](#) with Psalms 52. How do Psalms 52 - 54 speak to situations in life when it seems the wicked have the upper hand? Why are there so many Psalms praying for God to punish the wicked? Do we have that many enemies?

11 – Psalms 57-61

Psalms 57, 59, 61 Prayers for deliverance; Psalms 58 – see also [Matthew 26:57-68](#); Psalms 60 – a lament on God’s rejection of His people!

12 – Psalms 62-65

Psalms 62 - Where do you seek “rest”? Psalms 63 - How earnestly do we seek God? Psalms 64 - Can we complain to God? Psalms 65 - How is this a Thanksgiving Psalm?

13 – Psalms 66-72—End Of “Book 2”

Psalms 66 - What has God done in your life? Psalms 67 - Why should people praise the Lord? Psalms 68 - A triumphal processional. Psalms 69 and 70 - prayers for God to save! Psalms 71 - prayer for God’s help in old age Psalms 72 - note this is ascribed to Solomon - a prayer for wisdom and justice.

14 – Psalms 73-78

Psalms 73 - what was the dangerous focus of the writer? Psalms 74 - God knows all, so why does the Psalmist seem to be reminding God of what is happening? Is that okay to do? Psalms 75 - what are the “horns” in this Psalm? Psalms 76 - praise for God’s power Psalms 77 - what is the answer to those who cry out to God for help? Psalms 78 - a “family” Psalm of instructions and warnings.

15 – Psalms 79-84

Psalms 79 - a prayer for justice Psalms 80 - Note the refrain (sung) Psalms 81 - God speaking about His people. Psalms 82 - Who are the “gods”? Psalms 83 - When does it seem in our lives that God is “still”? What reminders does the Psalmist give for such times? Psalms 84 - How do you feel about being in “the courts of the Lord’s house”?

16 – Psalms 85-89—End Of “Book 3”

Psalms 85 - How could the Psalmist pray, “restore us again, O God our Savior”? Psalms 86 - How can we have an “undivided heart”? Psalms 87 - What does it mean to “be born in Zion”? Psalms 88 - “darkness is my closest friend”? In a Psalm? Psalms 89 - How is this Psalm fulfilled in Jesus Christ?

17 – Psalms 90-94

Psalms 90 - a comforting Psalm at the time of a funeral. Psalms 91 - How do we “make the Most High our dwelling”? Psalms 92 - Why “for the Sabbath Day”? Psalms 93 - the beginning of a series of Psalms (93 - 100) of praise to the only true God!

18 – Psalms 95-98

When you visit the Grand Canyon - read Psalms 95, especially v.4! Do trees really sing? (96:12) What would a picture look like of Psalms 97:11-6? In Psalms 96 the trees sing - in Psalms 98, the rivers clap their hands, the mountains sing (“The hills are alive, with the sound of music...”?)

19 – Psalms 99-103

What attributes of God are showcased in Psalms 99? Psalms 100 “closes” the group of Psalms (93-100). Psalm 101 is thought to be a Psalm that David wrote for Solomon before he became king. What Godly counsel does this Psalm give to all of us? Psalm 102 is one of the penitential Psalms. What makes it a penitential Psalm? As you read Psalms 103, what part of David’s life come to mind? What part of your life?

20 – Psalms 104-106—End Of “Book 4”

How does Psalms 104 compare with Genesis 1? How is Psalms 105 an instructional Psalm? Psalms 106 is similar to Psalms 105, but different - in what way?

21 – Psalms 107-113

Compare Psalms 107 with Psalms 105 & 106 (yes, very similar, like a trilogy!) - so why is it considered the beginning of “book 5”? Psalms 108 has portions of Psalms 57 and 60 - what hymns, prayers do we have today that also combine other prayers and hymns? Can we really pray like Psalms 109? Isn’t it a sin to wish harm on someone else? Psalms 110 is quoted often in the NT. It is a Messianic Psalm. Psalms 111 and 112 are “twins”. At Passover, Psalms 113 and 114 were sung before the meal, and Psalms 115-118 were sung after the meal. (see tomorrow’s Psalms...)

22 – Psalms 114-118

What Old Testament stories does Psalms 114 recall? How does Psalms 115 and 116 “hallow” God’s name? Psalms 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible – the shortest Psalm. How many images of Jesus do you find in reading Psalms 118?

23 – Psalms 119

The longest chapter of the Bible, a devotional Psalm (different from a historical Psalm or Psalm of praise) divided into the Hebrew alphabet, each with 8 verses. How would this be a good teaching Psalm?

24 – Psalms 120-123

These are titled, “song of ascents” thought to have been sung when pilgrims made their way “up” to Jerusalem for festival celebrations. Note the references to “lifting our eyes to the hills” (Jerusalem was on Mt. Zion); “going to the house of the Lord”; the Lord watching over them.

25 – Psalms 124-127

How can we remember “the Lord is on our side” we can always trust Him? Are there verses in these Psalms that would be a blessing to pray each day? Do you know anyone building a house? (see Psalms 127)

26 – Psalms 128-131

Know anyone getting married? (see Psalms 128) Know of anyone who is suffering? (see Psalms 129 & 130) When would Psalms 131 be helpful to sing / pray?

27 – Psalms 132-135

Why do we want God to remember (Psalms 132 – see especially v.10-18 for “what” we want God to remember)? Psalms 133 -135 are “thanksgiving” psalms!

28 – Psalms 136-139

Psalms 136, how appropriate for Thanksgiving Day! (Want a special prayer for the Thanksgiving Day meal?) Psalms 137 is a lament by those in Babylonian captivity – grieving the destruction of Jerusalem. Verses of Psalms 139 are great at the time of a birth – could it also be a blessing at a funeral?

29 – Psalms 140-144

Is it okay to pray for bad things to happen to the wicked? (see Psalms 140:8-11) Psalms 141 is a part of the liturgy for evening prayer (see LSB p.245) – how is this an evening prayer? Psalms 142-143 are petitions and Psalms 144 is thanksgivings!

30 – Psalms 145-150—End Of “Book 5”

Psalms 145 is acrostic (each verse begins with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet) – what would a Psalm from A-Z sound like for us today? Psalms 146-150 are called “the hallelujah Psalms”. Why finish up this wonderful book of songs and prayers with Hallelujahs?