

Psalms Lesson 2 – Psalm 1-18

Psalms was Israel's songbook but as Psalm 1:1 states- "*blessed is the man*". Place yourself before God as that person and prepare to be changed forever.

The first 18 Psalms take us on a journey through a full range of emotions and topics related to them, concluding with a personal praise for what God has done and will do; "*I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold*" Ps 18:1-2

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 2 Samuel 7:12-16. How do these two promises relate to Psalm 2? Now read Acts 13:33, Romans 1:4 and Hebrews 1:5. What is said of Jesus in relation to these promises?
2. Read 2 Samuel 15&16. Now concerning Psalm 3, and the fact that David is the author, does his use of the strong and blunt language seem appropriate?
3. The Psalms are quoted in the New Testament more than 70 times. The apostle Paul quotes Psalm 4:4 in Ephesians 4:26. How does he apply it?
4. Psalm 5 is the first psalm to call God "King" (v. 2). This is the most used metaphor for God in the Psalms: He is the God who rules the whole of creation. This psalm also provides the first instance of a psalm with prayers for the personal downfall of enemies. What does the psalmist ask God to do? Why? Do you feel that the request is reasonable?
5. Psalm 6:1 is a good example of a parallelism. What different words mean nearly the same thing? How does the second line move beyond the first?
6. Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 are sometimes called the "Penitential Psalms". While we don't know the specific sin or sins, he sorrows over, what does the psalmist ask God to do for him?
7. Hebrew poetry uses imagery rather than rhyme or rhythm; what are the images employed in Psalms 6:6-7 and 7:1-2? Why does God use so many metaphors, similes, etc., in the Psalms?
8. Psalm 8 is a hymn of praise. Notice that God is not praised for abstract attributes, but rather for what?
9. The Psalms teach us about God as well as about ourselves. What is said of "man" in Psalm 8? How does the New Testament – namely 1 Corinthians 15:25-27; Ephesians 1:22; and Hebrews 2:6-9 – apply this Psalm to Jesus? Compare also Psalm 8:2 with what Jesus said in Matthew 21:16.

10. In light of Romans 3:10 and 3:23 how should we understand passages like Psalms 4:1; 6:1; 7:3-5, 8; 17:1-5 and 18:20-24? Does the context provide and help?
11. Psalm 9 serves as an excellent summary of Psalms 1-8; that the Lord is a king who righteously saves those who trust in Him and by judging the nations who do not. From Psalms 9-18 a group called "the wicked" (also called sinners, scoffers, wrongdoers, ungodly, etc.) rises to the surface. For example, look at Psalm 10; why does the psalmist ask God to arise and judge the wicked? What have they done?
12. Psalm 10 begins with a question we all ask at times; "why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" Look at Matthew 26:53; 27:43; Luke 23:14-16; and 1 Peter 2:23. How did Jesus wait for God's answer to this question?
13. How is the question in Psalm 15:1 answered in the rest of the chapter? Does anything make you uncomfortable about the answers? How does Hebrews 12 give a New Testament perspective on this?
14. We have heard the expression "God loves the sinner but hates the sin." What do you make of that slogan considering Psalm 11:5?
15. A common question in the Psalms is "How long?" In Psalm 13 "How long" is repeated four times. What helps the psalmist wait? Can what helped him also help you?
16. Psalm 18 is an adaptation of David's song in 2 Samuel 22. In Romans 1:3 Paul writes of Jesus as "descended from David according to the flesh." Similarly, Mary sings of her son as being given "the throne of His father David" and having an everlasting kingdom (Luke 1:31-33). Jesus fulfills the Davidic covenant (read 2 Samuel 7). Where in Psalm 18 is this covenant mentioned? Also, where is another place in the New Testament where Jesus is called the "Son of David"?