

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #28

PSALMS 1-50

07-09-23

Monday - Psalms 1-12

Wednesday - Psalms 23-33

Friday - Psalms 41-50

Tuesday - Psalms 13-22

Thursday - Psalms 34-40

The Psalms is the second of the five books we refer to as the books of poetry in the Old Testament. Its Hebrew name is "Songs of Praise." Most of the Bible is written from the perspective of God speaking to man to communicate His divine nature and His will for man. The book of Psalms basically approaches God's greatness from the opposite direction. In it man is expressing his love and appreciation to God for His glory and majesty and lovingkindness to him. While the psalmists praise God as the supreme Being they admit their own weaknesses, limitations, transgressions and dependence upon Him. All of this is done in the beauty of Hebrew poetry. Led by the Holy Spirit, these men wrote songs that expressed their knowledge and understanding, their personal feelings, desires and needs. In so doing, the Spirit revealed through them principles of truth that were not only of importance to those that penned them, but to everyone who chooses to walk with God in paths of righteousness.

The authorship of The Psalms is at least partially known. If we take the superscriptions of the various psalms as key to who wrote them, we then have several of the writers identified and the number of psalms which they contributed:

- 1.) David – Seventy-three (Also see 2 Samuel 23:1)
- 2.) Solomon – Two (Ps 72, 127)
- 3.) Heman – One (Ps 88)
- 4.) Ethan – One (Ps 89)
- 5.) Moses – One (Ps 90)
- 6.) Levitical singing groups of Asaph (Ps 50, 73-83) and Korah (Ps 42-49, 84, 85, 87)
- 7.) The rest are anonymous

The date of writing cannot be fixed at one moment in time because this book is obviously a collection of writings over hundreds of years. This period ranges from the life of Moses to, possibly, shortly after the temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem (Ps 147). At some point the collection was complete and through God's will became recognized as holy Scripture.

The theme of the book deals with the greatness of God and the dependence of man upon him. It is expressed in The Psalms with various sentiments such as praise, petition and penitence. As in Proverbs, Psalms tells us that the righteous will be blessed and the wicked will be punished. Even though evil may prosper for a while, in the end good will be victorious and the faithful will be rewarded.

An outline of the book of Psalms is not really practical. It is divided into five books or groups of psalms and those are listed below. Each of these five sections ends with a doxology, or a statement of praise:

- 1.) Ps 1-41
- 2.) Ps 42-72

- 3.) Ps 73-89
- 4.) Ps 90-106
- 5.) Ps 107-150

The Psalms can be categorized to some degree by subject matter. Sometimes this is not satisfactory because many psalms will deal with multiple subjects. The following gives eight classifications and an example of a psalm that would fit into each one:

- 1.) Hortatory psalms (Psalms of exhortation) – Ps 1
- 2.) Psalms of praise and adoration – Ps 8
- 3.) Psalms of thanksgiving – Ps 107
- 4.) Penitential psalms – 51
- 5.) Psalms concerning Hebrew history – 78
- 6.) Psalms of petition – Ps 80
- 7.) Psalms of trust in the Lord – Ps 23
- 8.) Prophetic psalms – Ps 22

Questions for The Psalms 1-50:

- 1.) In 4:7-8, what are three things David said he received because of the Lord?
- 2.) Who does David say may abide in the tent of the Lord in 15:2?
- 3.) The Lord sits as what forever in 29:10?
- 4.) In the first part of 31:5, what statement does David make that Christ later said on the cross?
- 5.) As David talks about his enemies he says that even who has turned against him in 41:9?

Answers to questions for Week #27

- 1.) Jesus Christ.
- 2.) A temple of the Holy Spirit.
- 3.) The unmarried and widows.
- 4.) Forgive him and comfort him.
- 5.) He was an ambassador for Christ and he begged them to be reconciled to God.