

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 1

### Lesson 1

1. Is there any indication of the author of this Psalm?
2. It has been suggested that this Psalm is intended as an introduction to the entire collection. What evidence do you see that might support this? How does the message of this Psalm compare to the message of the Psalms as a whole?
3. What is the meaning of the word "Blessed"?
4. Verse one contains the following interesting progressions.
  - a. Define the following progression of depravity:
    1. Ungodly
    2. Sinner
    3. Scornful
  - b. Define the following progression of involvement:
    1. Walk
    2. Stand
    3. Sit
5. How does the ungodly person influence others?  
What warning does this contain for us?
6. How does the sinner influence others?  
What practical application can we make of this knowledge?
7. How does the scornful person influence others?  
As long as an individual has a scornful attitude, what hope is there of converting him?  
With what figures does Jesus describe such a person in Matt. 7:6?
8. From verse 2, what activities will protect us from these evil influences?
9. To what kind of tree is the righteous person compared?
10. How is the good person like such a tree?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
11. To what are the ungodly compared?  
What comparisons can be made?
12. In what two surroundings will the ungodly and sinner be unable to stand?
  - a.
  - b.
13. What assurance do the righteous have that they will be able to stand?
14. Consider the different meanings of the word "know".

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 15

### Lesson 2

- Intro. 1. According to the inscription, who is the author of this Psalm?  
2. Some have called this "The Question and Answer Psalm."

#### I. The Question

- A. "Who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?"  
1. What is a tabernacle?  
2. Compare the tabernacle made by Moses with the temple of Solomon.
- B. Figuratively:  
1. What might the tabernacle represent for us?  
2. What might be represented by God's "Holy Hill?"

#### II. The Answer:

- A. "He who walks uprightly."  
1. What is suggested by *walking*?  
2. What would be the opposite of walking uprightly?  
3. What would walking uprightly mean?
- B. "And works righteousness."  
1. What works are righteous? (Ps. 119:172)?  
2. What must one be in order to work righteousness (I Jn. 3:7)?
- C. "And speaks the truth in his heart."  
1. Can you think of any possible difference between speaking truth in the *heart* and speaking truth with the *mouth*?  
2. Which person would you rather have dealings with?
- D. "He who does not backbite with his tongue."  
1. What does the term "backbite" bring to mind?  
2. How might one be guilty of backbiting (Lev. 19:16-18)?
- E. "Nor does evil to his neighbor"  
1. What are some evils one might do to a neighbor?
- F. "Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend."  
1. What two actions does this imply?  
2. How does our treatment of a reproach we hear vary with our attitude toward the person reproached?
- G. "In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the Lord."  
1. What is the character of most of the heroes of our modern generation?  
2. *Think*: What characteristics do we personally honor most, worldly or spiritual?
- H. "He who swears to his own hurt, and changes not."  
1. What usually motivates a promise or agreement to a "deal"?  
2. What is the Christian's duty if he finds it was not to his advantage?
- I. "He who does not put out his money at usury"  
1. Is it wrong to charge interest if someone borrows money to start a business?  
2. When does charging interest become wrong?
- J. "Nor takes a bribe against the innocent."
- Conclusion: "He who does these things shall never be moved."

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 19

### Lesson 3

- Intro. 1. Who is indicated as author of this psalm?  
2. It is often noted that the knowledge of God is obtained from both nature and revelation.

#### I. THE MESSAGE OF NATURE (vss. 1-6)

- A. What are the two messengers?
- B. What are the two times when the message is delivered?
- C. The Method. Check different translations of verse 3.
  - 1. What is suggested by the reading in KJ, NKJ & NIV?
  - 2. What is suggested in ASV and NAS?
- D. How far does the message reach?
- E. The Sun
  - 1. What is its tabernacle?
  - 2. To what is it compared?
  - 3. What is its course?

#### II. THE MESSAGE OF REVELATION (vss. 7-11)

- A. In these verses, tell what God's word is called, how it is described and what it does.

Designation	Description	What it does
1. (7a)		
2. (7b)		
3. (8a)		
4. (8b)		
5. (9a)		
6. (9b)		
B. To what are the words of God compared as to:		
1. Value?		
2. Sweetness?		
C. What significant blessings come from:		
1. Reading them?	2. Keeping them?	

#### III. EFFECT OF THE MESSAGE (vss. 12-14)

- A. Humble awareness of imperfection. What New Testament passages suggest the same response?
- B. What prayers are called forth by awareness of the truth of verse 11?
  - 1. (12b)
  - 2. (13a)
  - 3. Explain the difference between these two types of sin.
    - a.
    - b.
  - 4. What warning does God state concerning presumptuous sin (Num. 15:30-31)
- C. What is to be hoped for as this prayer is answered (13c,d)?
- D. What two things does the psalmist pray may be acceptable to God?
  - 1.
  - 2.

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 22

### Lesson 4

- Intro.
1. The Messianic Psalms seem to have been conceived in some circumstance in the life of David which was close to that which the Messiah would experience. Inspiration, however, would carry David on beyond his own experience to describe things applicable only to the Messiah.
  2. Psalm 22 describes suffering and glory which were beyond David or any other man but Jesus. It was recognized, even by many Hebrew scholars, as Messianic.
  3. "The voice of a forsaken sufferer--loudly lamenting his lot, minutely describing his pain and shame, without reproaching God or accusing himself--is suddenly silenced (in death); and then suddenly is heard in a strain of triumph, in which other voices join, all celebrating the praises of Jehovah as sovereign Lord." - Rotherham

#### I. THE SUFFERING MESSIAH

##### A. Mental Anguish. How is it described in the following verses:

1. Vs. 1
2. Vs. 2
3. Vss. 6
4. Vs. 7-8
5. Vs. 11
6. To what animals does he compare his attackers?
7. Vs. 17b
8. Vs. 18

##### B. Physical Suffering. What pains of the cross are described in the following verses?

1. Vs. 14
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Vs. 16b
3. Vs. 17a

#### II. THE TRANSITION - Verse 21c " \_\_\_\_\_ "

#### III. THE SEQUEL

##### A. Faith in God Rewarded

1. In all the complaints of the earlier part of the Psalm, is there any criticism of God?
2. What words of praise do you find?
  
  
3. What comfort is suggested in vss. 4-5?
4. What comfort is in 9-10?

##### B. What developments follow the cross. Suggest fulfillment.

1. Vs. 22
2. Vs. 25
3. Vs. 26
4. Vs. 27
5. Vs. 29
6. Vs. 30-31

Conclusion: If Jesus had been aware of this Messianic Psalm and had set out consciously to fulfill it, could He have done so without the cooperation of his enemies?

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 23

### Lesson 5

- Intro.
1. Who is the author of this psalm?
  2. List several characteristics of sheep that require a shepherd's care.
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.
  3. Can you understand why David might sense his own need for a shepherd?

#### I. JEHOVAH, DAVID'S SHEPHERD

1. What suggests that David considered God his personal shepherd?
2. What was his confidence since God was his shepherd (vs. 1)?  
Suggest some passages in the New Testament that give us the same assurance.
3. What two things are indicated if sheep *lie down* in a green pasture?
  - a.
  - b.
4. What advantage would still waters have for sheep?
5. Name one way in which the shepherd restores the soul (Ps. 19:7).
6. In what paths does He lead the sheep?  
What more does Ps. 16:11 reveal about these paths?  
What is the alternative path (Prov. 4:14)?  
From your observation, what are some consequences of this path?
7. Is the valley of the "shadow of death" death itself or is it a near brush with death?  
  
If it is death itself, what is required to make a shadow?  
What possessions of the shepherd comfort the sheep and what would be the use of each?
  - a.
  - b.
8. What would be the enemies of sheep?  
How would the shepherd prepare a table?  
On what occasion did God literally do this for Israel (See Ps. 78:19)?
9. What does the running over cup suggest?
10. What does David expect as result of the fact that God is his shepherd?

#### II. JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD (John 10:2-30)

##### A. From the following verses, describe Jesus as our shepherd.

1. Vs. 3c
2. Vs. 4a
3. Vs. 10
4. Vs 11, 15
5. Vs. 14
6. Vs. 28
7. Vs. 29

##### B. From the following verses tell the responsibilities of the sheep.

1. Vs. 3
2. Vs. 4, 27
3. Vs. 5

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### Psalm 34

### Lesson 6

- Intro.
1. Who is the author of this psalm?
  2. According to the caption, what was the occasion for its writing?
  3. Read I Samuel 21:10 - 22:2

#### I. DAVID'S HYMN OF PRAISE (Verses 1-10)

1. What does it mean to "bless the Lord"?
2. When did David intend to praise the Lord?
3. Of what would an ordinary man boast after such an escape as David had achieved?  
In what do the following verses encourage boasting?  
Jeremiah 9:23-24 Not in: But in:  
I Cor. 1:31; II Cor. 10:17 Gal. 6:14
4. Who would rejoice with David in his deliverance?  
What does he call on them to do?
5. From what did the Lord deliver David (vs. 4)?
6. Vs. 5 must refer to "the humble." What does God do for them?
7. Whom does David credit for his deliverance?
8. What conclusion does he draw from this (vs. 7)  
How does II Kings 6:8-18 illustrate this truth?  
From II Kings 6:17, what do we need in order to see the angels of the Lord?
9. What does "taste" suggest?
10. What do young lions depend on for necessities? How do they fare?  
How does this compare with those who seek the Lord?

#### II. DAVID'S SERMON (Verses 11-22)

1. What do you think is the connection between this section and the preceding one?
2. To what natural human desires does the Psalmist appeal in verse 12?
3. He refers to three different fruits borne from the fear of the Lord: Vs. 13  
Vs. 14a Vs. 14b
4. Why might David be particularly aware of the folly of speaking "guile"?  
Who is the perfect example of avoiding guile?
5. With whom are we to seek peace?
6. Though this is Old Testament teaching, what evidence is there that it applies to us now?
7. What three qualities are mentioned as gaining approval of God (Vss. 15-18)?
8. What four consequences are stated for those who do evil (Vss. 16, 21)?
9. Do vss. 19-22 promise there will be no afflictions for the righteous? What do they promise?  
What light does II Tim. 4:16-18 shed on this promise?

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 37

### Lesson 7

- Intro. 1. Who is the author of this Psalm?  
2. Do you see any indication in the Psalm of his age when it was written?

#### I. ADMONITIONS TO THE RIGHTEOUS

##### A. Negatively.

1. Vs. 1 (2)
2. Vs. 8 (3)

##### B. Positively

1. Vs. 3
2. Vs. 4
3. Vs. 5
4. Vs. 7
5. Vs. 34

#### II. CONSIDERATION OF EVIL-DOERS

##### A. Their actions:

1. Vs. 7
2. Vs. 12 (2)
3. Vs. 14
4. Vs. 21
5. Vs. 32

Name two who had done this to David.

##### B. Their Apparent Reward

1. Vs. 7
2. Vs. 21
3. Vs. 35

##### C. Their Eventual Reward

1. Vs. 2
2. Vs. 9-10
3. Vs. 15
4. Vs. 17
5. Vs. 20
6. Vs. 28

What enemy of David suffered this?

#### III. REWARDS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

##### A. In this Life

1. Vs. 3
2. Vs. 4
3. Vs. 6
4. Vs. 9,11
5. Vs. 19,25
6. Vs. 23-24
7. Vs. 34

##### B. Eternal

1. Vs. 18
2. Vs. 28

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### Psalm 46

### Lesson 8

- Intro.
1. This Psalm is by an unknown author written on the occasion of some great national crisis.
  2. Many scholars have suggested the events recorded in II Chronicles 32:1-22.
    - a. Can you think of any time when our own nation seemed to face such a crisis?
    - b. Has the "kingdom of Heaven" faced any such circumstances during its existence?
  3. Think of this Psalm when you feel God's people are facing hopeless odds.

#### I. GOD, OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH

1. What kind of refuge have men unusually depended on in times of war?
2. What do they depend on for strength.
3. What did Sennacherib, King of Assyria, do to other nations who trusted in such things?
4. What natural disasters are mentioned as possible sources of fear in verse 2 and 3?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
5. What contrasting conditions exist within the "city of God?"
6. What city is referred to here?  
What would be the river?  
What is the Christian's "City of God" (See Heb. 12:18-29)?
7. What does verse 5 promise will not happen to the city of God?  
What does the Heb. 12:28 say about the kingdom we are receiving?
8. At what time of day did God deliver Jerusalem (Is. 37:36)?
9. How does verse 6 describe God's deliverance of His people?

#### II. WHAT WE MUST DO:

##### A. "Come and behold" (vss. 8-9)

1. What are some things the Psalmist says that God has done in the past?
2. List some occasions when those things were done for Israel.

##### B. "Be still, and know that I am God." (vs. 10)

1. Is there ever a time when we should **not** be still?
2. When should we be still?
3. List some times when God was "exalted among the heathen" by saving His people.

Conclusion: Verses 7 and 11 form a kind of refrain. It is thought by many that the same refrain should be found at the end of verse 3 as well. This would make the form of the Psalm regular.



## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 51

### Lesson 9

- Intro. 1. Who is said to be the author of this Psalm?  
2. The circumstances under which this Psalm was written seem to be as evident as for any other. In preparation for this study, read II Samuel 11 and 12.

#### I. PRAYER

##### A. For forgiveness (vss. 1-7)

1. For what two things does David plead in verse 1?
2. In verses 1 and 2, he uses three words to describe what he has done. List and define them:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
4. What reason does David give in verse 3 for asking God to forgive him?
5. In verse 3, David speaks of his "transgressions" (plural). List some involved on this occasion.
6. Why would David say he had sinned only against God (vs. 4)?
7. What was David's attitude toward the rebuke and punishment administered by Nathan (vs.4)?
8. Does verse 5 mean that David was born a sinner? Suggest meaning.

*Cf.* Acts 2:8

9. What kind of purity does God desire?  
How does this anticipate the Sermon on the Mount?

10. What is necessary for absolute cleansing?

##### B. For Restoration (vss. 8-12) What things does David pray for in the following verses?

1. Vs. 8
2. Vs. 9
3. Vs. 10
4. Vs. 11 (2)

5. Vs. 12

#### II. PROMISES (Vss. 13-15) What three things does David promise?

- A. Vs. 13
- B. Vs. 14
- C. Vs. 15

#### III. BASIS OF HIS TRUST THAT GOD WILL HEAR.

- A. What would not avail.
  1. Was any sacrifice prescribed for one who sinned presumptuously (Dt. 17:12, Heb. 10:26)?
  2. What did David say about this?
- B. What did David say God would not despise?

Conclusion: Is this prayer for David alone (vss. 18-19)?

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 66

### Lesson 10

- Intro. 1. The author is unknown. It may well have been written by a king who had been delivered from some major crisis.
2. The Psalm can well be applied to modern experiences, for God is the same in all generations.

#### I. INTRODUCTION (vss. 1-4)

1. Who is called upon to make a joyful noise unto God?
2. What act of praise is identified? For what purpose was this to be done?

Is this our purpose as we engage in this act of praise?

3. What word is used to describe God's works (See different translations)?
4. What is the purpose of these works?

#### II. "COME AND SEE" (Vss. 5-15)

1. What two exhibits of God's power are named in verse 6?
2. What were the results according to the following passages?  
Joshua 2:9-12  
Joshua 5:1
3. What conclusion did the Psalmist draw from God's works in the past (vs. 7)?
4. It is clear that vss. 8-9 refer to some deliverance that was recent when the Psalm was written. What deliverance might be referred to if the author were:  
David (I Chron. 14:8-17)  
Asa (II Chron. 14:9-12)  
Jehoshaphat (II Chron. 20:1-26)  
Hezekiah (II Chron. 32:1-24)
5. What did the Psalmist consider the reason for God's allowing the enemy to attack them?
6. How does he describe their experience?
7. What was the end result?
8. In what tangible way does the Psalmist propose to respond to God's goodness?

#### III. "COME AND HEAR" (vss. 16-19)

1. What does the Psalmist propose to tell?
2. Specifically what does he say?
3. What condition blocks prayer?  
Find other verses suggesting the same.
4. What was the testimony of the Psalmist?
5. How did he express his gratitude?

Assignment: Think of some time in your own life when prayer was heard and deliverance was granted.

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 90

### Lesson 11

- Intro.
1. Who is said to be the author of this Psalm?
  2. This is the only Psalm ascribed to anyone before David's time. The time of its writing is uncertain. It may well have been toward the end of the wilderness wandering when several plagues were sent on the Israelites and the generation that left Egypt was passing away.

#### I. MEDITATION (vss. 1-6)

1. How would verse 1 fit the life of Moses and Israel over a 40 year period?
2. What characteristic of God is featured in verse 2?
3. In what great event described in Genesis did God turn "man to destruction" and say "return, you children of men"?
4. How is this true of every generation?
5. Quote the New Testament passage that elaborates on verse 4.
6. In contrast, what figures of speech describe the longevity of man (See also vs. 9)?

#### II. COMPLAINT (vss. 7-11)

1. List some occasions in the wilderness wandering when Israel was consumed by God's anger.
2. How did God deal with their iniquities and secret sins (vs. 8)?
3. How many years are allotted to man?  
If one one has strength to live beyond that time, what does that strength actually produce?
4. How did Moses himself experience the "power of thine anger"?

#### III. PRAYER (vss. 12-17)

1. Many, in contemplating the brevity of life, resolve to live what time they have in complete abandon so as to reap all of the pleasure life can afford. What is the usual result in the lives of such people?  
What does Moses pray that we might gain from such calculations?
2. What does Moses plead for in the plague which they were suffering at that time (vs. 13)?  
What might he have pled for?-
3. How long did he pray that their gladness might last?
4. What *work* do you think Moses is contemplating in verses 16 and 17?  
Whose work is it?
5. What is "the beauty of the Lord our God"?

Conclusion: What are the major impressions you receive from this Psalm?

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 110

### Lesson 13

- Intro.
1. Who is indicated in the heading to be the author of this psalm?
  2. Modern "scholars" question his authorship. Find infallible proof in the New Testament that he is indeed the author.
  3. That this Psalm was understood by the Jews to be Messianic is clear from Mt. 22:41-46.
  4. The Psalm is addressed by the author to the Messiah whom he sees in a prophetic vision.

#### Questions on the Psalm:

1. Verse one is quoted often in the New Testament. What is it quoted to prove in
  - a. Matthew 22:41-46
  - b. Acts 2:34-36
  - c. Hebrews 1:13
  - d. Hebrews 10:11-14
2. When was Jesus elevated to God's right hand (Heb. 1:3)?
3. What is the last enemy to be defeated (I Cor. 15:26)? What does this suggest about the nature of the enemies of the Messiah?
4. From what source is the "rod of Your strength" to go forth? What other thing will go forth from the same source (Is. 2:3)?
5. Where will the Messiah rule?
6. Describe the followers of Messiah (vs. 3)
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
7. What two things strengthen God's designation of the Messiah as a Priest (vs. 4)
8. Could Jesus have been a priest after the order of Aaron? What reasons are given in
  - a. Heb. 7:12-14
  - b. Heb. 8:4-6
9. How does this prove that Psalm 110 could not be written about David, as some claim?
10. Did the Messiah make Himself a priest? How was He made a priest according to Heb. 5:5-10?
11. What are some significant comparisons between Christ and Melchizedek?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
12. How long does His priesthood continue? Why is this possible (Heb. 7:23-8:1)?
13. Who will destroy the Messiah's enemies?
14. Name at least one king who died because of his opposition to the Messiah.
15. The word *heads* in verse 6 may also be singular, *head*. If this is correct, to whom would it refer?

Conclusion: It seems likely that the defeat of enemies described in verses 5-7 is not so much physical as spiritual (See Ephesians 6:12). However, those rejecting the Messiah are destined to eternal destruction.

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 137

- Intro. 1. This Psalm was evidently written by one of those taken captive into Babylon. It is the only portion of the Old Testament which reveals the feelings of those who were captive.
2. This is known as one of the imprecatory Psalms. These have caused difficulties to many of us who believe the Bible inspired. Yet, "all scripture inspired of God is profitable..." and it would be a mistake not to study such Psalms for the value they have for us as Christians.

#### I. Sadness in Captivity (vss. 1-6)

1. Where did the captives sit down?  
Where was Ezekiel when he had his first revelation (Ez. 1)?  
Name some other Jews who gathered by a river when they had no place of worship.
2. Why did they weep?  
What comparable circumstances might cause Christians to weep today?
3. Why did they hang their harps on the willows?
4. Why would their captors ask them to sing?
5. What songs did they request?
6. How did the Jews react?
7. Is there a lesson here regarding use of "the Lord's songs" today?
8. What curses did they call down on themselves if they forgot Jerusalem?
9. Describe the music when they did return (Ezra 3:10,11; Neh. 12:27-29, 31,38,40-43).
10. What is the Christian's Jerusalem? Over what should she be preferred?

#### II. Judah's Enemies

##### A. Edom

1. Who were the Edomites?
2. What offense did Edom commit against Jerusalem?
3. What similar offenses does Obadiah accuse them of (probably on a previous occasion)?

##### B. Babylon

1. How does the author wish Babylon to be rewarded?
2. What does verse 9 suggest the Babylonians had done to Judah?
- 3.
3. Who does the author call happy or blessed (vs. 9)?  
*Spurgeon says, "Let those find fault with it who have never seen their temple burned, their city ruined, their wives ravished and their children slain."*

Conclusion: Some observations regarding imprecatory scripture.

1. Is there any scripture in the New Testament that expresses strong feelings against sinners?
2. Did the feelings in either the Old or the New involve personal offenses?
3. Is it wrong to wish for justice against impenitent sinners? In whose hands should the Christian leave such vengeance?
4. Who are our enemies (Eph. 6:12)?  
How strong should our feelings be against these enemies?
5. Suggest some profitable lessons from verses 7-9.

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 103

### Lesson 12

Intro. "Bless the Lord, O My Soul;  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name."

I. BLESS THE LORD FOR PERSONAL BENEFITS (Vss. 2-5). List the benefits named:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

II. BLESS THE LORD FOR UNIVERSAL BENEFITS (Vss. 6-18)

1. What may those who are oppressed hope for?
2. Where and how did God make known His ways and acts to Moses and the children of Israel?

Compare vs. 8 and Exodus 34:4-7.

3. How does verse 10 explain our continued existence?
4. What does the Psalmist illustrate by
  - a. The height of the heavens?
  - b. The distance between East and West?
5. How is God like a father (vs. 13)?
6. What does our creator know and remember about us?
7. To what is the life of a man likened in its permanence?
8. By contrast, what is the extent of the mercy of the Lord?  
Is it limited to one generation?
9. What three conditions are stated in verses 17-18 if one is to receive the mercy of the Lord?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

III. BLESS THE LORD, ALL CREATION (Vss. 19-22a)

1. How do God's angels bless the Lord?
2. How do His ministers bless Him?
3. Where are God's works to praise Him?  
How extensive is His dominion (vs. 19)?
4. What does all of this suggest regarding the manner in which we bless the Lord?

Note: Commenting on the Psalmist's desire to bless the Lord with "all that is within me", one writer said, "Let your *judgment* bless Him, by decisions in accordance with his word. Let your *imagination* bless him, by pure and holy musings. Let your *affections* praise him, by loving whatsoever he loves. Let your *desires* bless him, by seeking only his glory. Let your *memory* bless him, by not forgetting any of his benefits. Let your *thoughts* bless him, by meditating on his excellencies. Let your *hope* praise him, by longing and looking for the glory that is to be revealed. Let your every *sense* bless him by its fealty, your every *word* by its truth, and your every *act* by its integrity." - John Stevenson.

Conclusion: "Bless the Lord, O my soul!"

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 111/112

Intro. These two psalms are known as "twin psalms" for the following reasons:

1. Both begin with "Hallelujah". They are sometimes classified among "Hallelujah Psalms"
2. Both are alphabetic, consisting of twenty lines arranged in ten verses.
3. They complement each other: Psalm 111 setting forth some notable qualities of God, while Psalm 112 is concerned with the reflection of these in the blessed state of His servants.
4. The two seem to be an introduction to the "Hallel" (Psalms 113-118) sung at three feastdays.

#### **I. Psalm 111 "Praise to God for His Faithfulness and Justice"**

A. List three specific works of God for which He is praised in this Psalm.

1. Vs. 5
2. Vs. 6
3. Vs. 9
4. List other works of God worthy of praise:

B. List some divine attributes of God praised in this Psalm and indicate the verse where found.

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

C. What responses to God are suggested in the following verses:

1. Vs. 1
2. Vs. 2
3. Vs. 4
4. Vs. 9c
5. Vs. 10b

D. Discuss the statement: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

#### **II. Psalm 112 "The Blessed State of the Righteous"**

A. One of the greatest blessings of serving God is having Him as an influence in our lives. From Psalm 112, list some qualities of a righteous person which reflect the qualities listed in I-B above.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

B. List blessings suggested in the following verses:

1. Vs. 2
2. Vs. 3
3. Vs. 4
4. Vs. 6
5. Vs. 9

C. How does this list of benefits differ from benefits featured in the New Testament?

D. Does this mean that this Psalm is irrelevant to our dispensation?

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 121/122

- Intro. 1. Psalms 120-134 are all called "Psalms of Ascent." The reason is uncertain. One theory is that they were sung by pilgrims as they approached Jerusalem for the feasts.
2. These Psalms of Ascent form a small Psalter of their own. The middle one is ascribed to Solomon, four of them to David, but they are arranged so that no two ascribed Psalms join.

#### I. Psalm 121 - Pilgrims Approaching the City

- A. What would a pilgrim see approaching Jerusalem from any direction?
- B. What dangers would he be facing in the open country?
- C. On whom could the pilgrim depend for protection?
1. What three characteristics of God reassure those depending on Him?
    - a.
    - b.
    - c. (Vs. 8)
  2. What protection does He offer?
    - a. Vs. 3
    - b. Vss. 5-6
    - c. Vs. 7
    - d. Vs. 8
- D. Practical applications
1. What are we (I Pet. 2:11)?
  2. What is our Jerusalem (Gal. 4:26)?
  3. What are some dangers we face?
  4. What protection can we hope for from human sources?
  5. In Whom can we trust?
  6. What does God promise to keep? (Note what He does not promise to keep.)
    - a. Vs. 4
    - b. Vs. 7

#### II. Psalm 122 - Pilgrims In Jerusalem (vs. 2)

- A. How did the Psalmist feel about the invitation to go to the temple?
1. How would this affect his worship? (See Psalm 95:1-7)
  2. What had David expressed in
    - a. Ps. 27:4
    - b. Ps. 63:1-2
    - c. Ps. 84:1-4,10
- B. Jerusalem was compact, especially in David's day (vs. 3). What benefits would this provide?
- 1.
  - 2.
- C. What were two reasons for the importance of Jerusalem?
1. Vs. 4
  2. Vs. 5
- D. For what did the Psalmist encourage prayer?
- 1.
  - 2.
- E. Practical applications
1. Is there a sense in which we are now in Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22)?
  2. How should our worship be offered? (Note Heb. 12:28)
  3. For what should we pray?



## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 139

- Intro.
1. In this Psalm, the psalmist cites and illustrates some of the outstanding qualities of God.
  2. They are not seen, however, as they might be observed from afar but as they relate intimately to the psalmist personally. This makes the Psalm especially valuable to us.

#### I. Characteristics of God (Verses 1-16)

##### A. Omniscience (1-6)

1. In these verses what knowledge of God most impresses the psalmist.
2. In verses 1-4, what things about the psalmist did God know?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
  - g.
3. What three times of one's life is God aware of (vs. 5)?
4. How did the psalmist react to such knowledge?

##### B. Omnipresence (7-12)

1. In these verses as a whole, what impresses the psalmist most about God's omnipresence?
2. What person in the Old Testament illustrated verses 7-10?
3. What distant places does he name which provide no escape from God (8-10)?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
4. What effect does darkness have on God's vision?

##### C. Power and Wisdom (13-16)

1. What do we usually use to illustrate God's power and wisdom?  
What does the psalmist use?
2. How much is God involved in the formation of an embryo?  
What does abortion do to the work of God?
3. Is the embryo a person in God's mind?  
When was Jeremiah known by God (Jer. 1:5)?

#### II. The Psalmist's Meditations (verses 17-24)

##### A. Verses 17-18

1. What did the psalmist apparently count to go to sleep?
2. What did he find when he awoke?

##### B. Verses 19-22

1. What appears to be the motivation for the strong sentiments expressed against the wicked?
2. Can hatred and revulsion ever be godly characteristics?

##### C. Verses 23-24

1. How does the psalmist wish God to use His Omniscience, Omnipresence, Power and Wisdom?
2. What kind of heart does this indicate? Does this fit the character of David?

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 127/128

Intro. These two Psalms are twin Psalms. Both involve domestic blessings.

I. **PSALM 127** (This Psalm is ascribed to Solomon. However, many scholars believe it was written by David for the instruction and encouragement of Solomon. Thus, the inscription would read "A Song of Ascents *for* Solomon.")

1. What are some different uses of the word *house* in the Bible?

If it is written for Solomon, what would David be teaching him?

2. What besides a house is being considered here?

3. Suggest some examples of efforts to build without God's blessings.

4. What kind of person is pictured in verse 2 a,b,c?

When are the things he does vain (See verse 1)?

5. To whom does God give sleep?

Solomon was also named Jedidiah. What does that name mean?

6. How does verse 3 connect with the preceding?

7. If a child is aborted, what has one done with God's gift?

8. How are children like arrows?

9. If an arrow is to accomplish its purpose what is essential?

How does this illustrate the rearing of children?

10. How were children a special blessing in Bible times?

How are they a blessing now?

### II. PSALM 128

1. Reading over this Psalm, do you get the impression of a house built by the Lord?

2. What two verses indicate the character of the father?

3. What blessing is suggested in 2a?

4. How is a good wife like a fruitful vine (Are God's compliments always politically correct)?

5. Why would children be compared with olive trees?

6. From what source will God bless such a family?

What is the New Testament counterpart?

7. What two things shall the good man be blessed to see?

a.

b.

## SELECTED PSALMS

### Psalm 116

- Intro.
1. The author of this Psalm or the time of its writing are not indicated in the title of the Psalm.
  2. It fits so beautifully the circumstances of Hezekiah's deliverance from death, and the language is so similar to language ascribed to Hezekiah that we intend to study it as one written in thanksgiving for that blessing.
  3. Read carefully Isaiah 38.

#### I. Deliverance from Death Vss. 1-8

1. Why did the author love the Lord?
2. What resolution did God's response to his prayer prompt him to make (vs. 2, also Is. 38:20)?
3. How deep had he sunk (vs. 4, also Is. 38:10,18)?
4. What qualities of God proved to be his salvation (vs. 5-6)?
5. What could he now do (vs. 7)?
6. Assuming this to have been written by Hezekiah, how did God "help" him and "deal bountifully" with him (Is. 38:20)?
7. From what had God delivered him (vs. 8, see also Is. 38:3)?

#### II. A PARENTHESIS Verses 9-10

1. Why had the psalmist thus spoken? Find this repeated in the N.T.
2. Compared with God what can be said of all men?

#### III. WAYS OF EXPRESSING GRATITUDE (Verses 12-19) Tell how the Psalmist proposed to express his gratitude to God and suggest something comparable that we can do to thank Him.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

For Discussion: In the context, what does verse 15 tell us about God's concern for the death of His saints?