

Through the Bible Course

March 2, 1947

Psalms

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Key Word: Worship

Key Verse: 103:1

Name: Hebrew means, “Praises” or “Hymns.” It is the Hebrew “Prayer and Praise Book.”

Authors: Seventy-three by David; 12 by Asaph (one of David’s choir leaders) refer to Chronicles 25:1-7; 11 by children of Korah (the poetic priests of David’s time); 2 by Solomon; 1 by Moses (90th); 50 are anonymous (some believe many of these were by David)

I. Some interesting facts about Psalms

1. Psalm 14 and 43 are alike.
2. Psalm 119 is longest chapter in the Bible; there are not more than three verses which fail to mention God’s Word under one name or another.
3. Psalm 117 is shortest chapter in the Bible – also the middle.
4. Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse in the Bible.

II. Five Divisions Each Ending with Doxology

1. Psalms 1 through 41 – these are ascribed to David and reflect much of his life and faith.
2. Psalms 42 through 72 – ascribed to several authors; those of sons of Korah being prominent. These are especially full of historical facts.
3. Psalms 73 through 89 – most these ascribed to Asaph and were specially prescribed for worship. They are also strongly historical.
4. Psalms 90 through 106 – they reflect much of the pre-captivity sentiment and history.
5. Psalms 107 through 150 – mostly matters pertaining to captivity and the return to Jerusalem.
 - a. Psalms 120 through 134 were probably sung by caravan pilgrims as they went up to various sections of the country to keep annual feasts at Jerusalem.

III. Many of the titles of Psalms are liturgical and musical; examples...

1. Alamoth – for female voices
2. Neginoth – a stringed instrument
3. Sheminith – for male voices
4. Shiggaion – enthusiastic
5. Selah – some believe means an orchestral interlude; others think it means “pause and consider.”

- IV. Someone has said every experience of mankind is found expressed in the Psalms
1. Penitence – 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143
 2. Sorrow – 38, 39, 69, 120 and 137
 3. Darkness – 42, 43, 73, 74, 77 to 80 and 88
 4. Faith – 23, 27, 31, 37, 49, 56, 61, 62, 121, 123 and 131
 5. Prayer – 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 25, 26, 54, 64, 86 and 122
 6. Worship – 21, 30, 33, 37, 48, 63, 65, 66, 67, 84, 95, 96, 98, 100, 101, 108, 111, 112, 113, 116, 117, 133, 134, 138, 144, 148 and 150
- V. Psalms About God
1. His eternity – 90
 2. His natural perfection – 139
 3. His universal sovereignty – 46, 75, 76, 82, 93, 97, 99, 115, 124, 125, 146 and 135
 4. His moral perfection – 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 50, 71, 76 and 94
 5. His providence – 18, 25, 31, 104, 127, 128 and 147
 6. His grace – 36, 85, 86, 103 and 130
- VI. Christ in the Psalms or those known as Messianic
1. The conquering King – 2
 2. Man, the Lord of Creation, realized through the Messiah – 8
 3. The resurrection from the dead of the Holy One – 16
 4. The suffering Messiah; an amazing picture of the crucifixion – 22
 5. The King's eternal throne – 45
 6. The King's eternal, universal, righteous reign – 72
 7. The eternal Priest – 110
 8. Rejected by the builders – 118
 9. The eternal inheritor of David's throne – 132
- VII. We find in Psalms an expression of all our experiences
1. Confession – 51
 2. Protection – 91
 3. Praise – 103
 4. Travelers – 121
 5. All the journey through life – 23