

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #17

Psalms - Part 1

PRAYER:

Many of the Psalms are prayers. Read Psalm 17 as your opening prayer. Amen.

Notes on Psalms:

The book of Psalms is the hymnal of the Old Testament. They would be sung or chanted to certain tunes. The Psalms would become a part of all the Jewish people. Because they were put to music, they would be more easily remembered.

The Psalms would be quoted many times in the New Testament. The Jews would know exactly where the quotations were from when someone like Peter, Paul or Jesus would quote a Psalm.

There are 150 Psalms. Many, but not all of them, were written by the great King David. That would date them around 1000 B.C. in origin. Others of the Psalms would have been written later. The collection of Psalms probably was completed by the priests of Israel after they had returned from the Babylonian captivity.

The Psalms cover most everything there is to know about our relationships to God and to each other. Martin Luther called the Psalms "a little Bible." Many of the thoughts and feelings that we experience in life are found in the Psalms.

There is no way you can completely study the Psalms in these two lessons. I will try to pick out some of the highlights. It is a good Practice to read a Psalm everyday with your daily devotions and prayer.

The Psalms contain some very exact references to Jesus. Listed below are some verses from the Psalms and New Testament verses that show their fulfillment in Jesus. Look these up and write out the common point.

- Psalms 2:7 = Matthew 3:17
- Psalms 16:10 = Acts 2:31
- Psalms 22:16 = John 20:25
- Psalms 22:18 = Matthew 27:35
- Psalms 34:20 = John 19:32-36
- Psalms 69:21 = Matthew 27:34
- Psalms 118:26 = Matthew 21:9

The large Book of Psalms is sub-divided into five sections. The sections are chapters 1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; 107-150. Look at the last verses of each of these sections. Write out the common closing of the five sections.

Some of the Psalms grew out of events in the lives of God's people. Psalm 51 was David's response to God after Nathan pointed his sin with Bathsheba to him in 2 Samuel 12. Look for his words that describe his:

- Repentance/Confession

- Assurance of forgiveness

- Renewed commitment to the Lord

Psalm 1 is an introduction to the whole Book. How often should we read and meditate on the word of God?

According to Psalms 1:3 what are some of the benefits of staying close to God in His Word?

To conclude this lesson read Psalms 27. List the good things the Lord does for us.

For the next lesson read especially Psalms 22, 23, 46, 119 & 150.