

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #18 Psalms - Part 2

PRAYER:

Read Psalm 19 as your prayer. Pay special attention to verse 14.

Notes on Psalms:

There are 34 so-called "orphan" psalms. These are the ones with unknown authors. 73 are by David, 11 Asaph, 12 by the sons of Korah (a musical guild), 2 by Solomon and 1 by Moses.

The Psalms are Hebrew poetry. Do not try to apply the rules of rhyme or meter to this type of poetry. One of the main components of Hebrew poetry is called PARALLELISM. In parallelism the author will have consecutive lines of the psalm describe the same thought, but he will use different words which have similar meanings.

Look at Psalm 117 (the shortest one)

Praise the Lord, all you nations;
Extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us,
And the faithfulness of the Lord
Endures forever
Praise the Lord.

With your pen, connect the words and phrases that are parallels.

A similar technique employed is the use of synonyms for one major thought through a Psalm.

Look up Psalm 119 (the longest one). In verse 1-8, the writer is talking about the Word of God (The Laws). Write out the many synonyms he uses for the Law in the first 8 verses.

Psalm 119 is written in certain form. It is called an Alphabetic Acrostic. It takes the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet and writes 8 verses for each letter. The 176 verses are a beautiful description of God's word active in our lives. What were some of your thoughts as you read this Psalm?

Psalm 22 is the most quoted Psalm of the New Testament. Who quoted Psalm 22:1 in Matthew 27:46
_____?

Much of what David writes here is clearly seen in the life of Jesus. Write out words and phrases that cause you to think of the suffering of Jesus.

Psalm 23 is perhaps the best known chapter in the Word of God. David, who was a shepherd as a boy, knew that really he and all believers are sheep and the Lord is the Shepherd. What are some of the thoughts you have when you read it?

Psalm 46 – Martin Luther based his great hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”, on this Psalm. Look at the lines of the hymn and circle the thoughts that Luther found in the Psalm.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in flight;
On earth is not his equal.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabbath Lord,
And there's none other God;
He hold the field forever

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom our remaineth.

I think Psalm 46:10 could be a summary of the Psalms.

Read Psalms 150 as your closing.

Your questions on Psalms...

Begin reading Proverbs.