



PSALMS

the songs Jesus prayed

OVERVIEW FOR PSALMS

Jesus grew up with a Psalter - book of songs (hymnbook) that were sung as prayers. The Psalms were written in response to the composer's experience of God's presence or perceived absence during a specific episode in life. Each Psalm is written with a general form so that others could use the Psalm to address similar experiences through song and prayer. The Psalms provided a means and a template which formed and trained God's people how to approach God with every kind of experience known to man. God wants us to come to him with our whole being.

There are several different genres that provide ways for us to express our hearts to God and provide a means to commune with God. Through praying and singing these Psalms, God will meet us and transform us in the process.

PART 4: ROYAL SONGS

Read the text: Psalm 20

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

May he send you help from the sanctuary

and give you support from Zion!

May he remember all your offerings

and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! *Selah*

May he grant you your heart's desire
and fulfill all your plans!
May we shout for joy over your salvation,
and in the name of our God set up our banners!
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!
Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.
Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.
They collapse and fall,
but we rise and stand upright.
O Lord, save the king!
May he answer us when we call.

The Royal Psalms remind us there's a King who reigns over everything. These Psalms lift our heads from anger and despair to see new possibilities through our King and His kingdom. How do we respond to God's power when it shows up, when it is shared, and when it is silent?

1. In the Royal Psalms, we see God's power show up in creation and redemption. In response, all of creation honors the King! Where has God's power shown up in your own life? How have you honored him as King for his power? What would it look like for you to honor his power in your life?
2. In our rebellion, we often want God's power shared with us, but we don't want the King. We may want to use God's power or leverage it without actually wanting God himself. In what ways have I tried to box up God's power rather than pursue the Kingdom?

3. Where does God's power seem silent in my life? Share where in your life you're asking for God to work, but feel like God has been silent in response. How might praying the Royal Psalms help you persevere in the gap while you wait for God to show up? Take time to pray together for God's power to show up in this area, for God to help you trust him when his answer does not look like what you expected, and to help you persevere while you wait.

Reading the Psalms This Week

This week, pick some of these Royal Psalms to read and pray. As you pray each Psalm, take time to honor the King for his incredible power, ask Him to help you align with how His power will be manifested in your life, and pray for perseverance to trust Him when his power seems silent.

Psalms 2, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 29, 45, 46, 47, 50, 68, 72, 81, 89, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 110, 122, 132, 144