

Psalms
Summer
Study
2022

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Introduction to the Psalms 2022 Summer Study

The following Bible study guides are for you to use on your own, with a friend, or in a small group. They are meant to encourage, bring joy, and challenge your thinking.

The questions take you verse by verse through each psalm. There are additional supporting Scriptures to add clarity.

My intent is to encourage your interest in God's precious, life-giving word, and to know Him better. May the Lord use them for His purpose in your life.

Scripture texts are either from The New Scofield Study Bible (1967), or New American Standard. Feel free to use other translations. ESV, NIV are good.

Additional resources for Scripture texts, word definitions, and commentaries are available at www.blueletterbible.org, or www.biblegateway.com.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge my Dad, Arthur H. Osterlund Jr. He was my Professor, and my inspiration. He taught me the importance of handling God's word carefully, and to compare scripture to scripture, ask questions, and seek the truth. He loved the Lord, and the study of His word. I am grateful, and I dedicate these study guides in his memory.

Jane Hanzalik

Psalm 19
“The works and Word of God” *
To the chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

Read Psalm 19.

1) What three truths about God, His work, and His Word stand out to you?

a)

b)

c)

2) Consider God’s creation, and the beauty of nature. What do you enjoy most about each season?

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

3) Describe the “comfort” you find in looking for God in His creation?

See also: Isaiah 40:25-26; Romans 1:20; Psalm 8:3-8

4) David then gives a description and definition of God’s “law, testimonies, and statutes” in verses 7 -11. What does he say?

What are the benefits from knowing and following God’s word in our daily living?

Psalm 19

“The works and Word of God” *

5) Verse 9 proclaims that the “fear” of the LORD is “clean”. How do the following verses help to define the “fear of the LORD”? Proverbs 1:7; 14:26-27

Why should we fear God?

6) David’s final thoughts turn to confession and a request in verses 12-14. He asks God to protect him from “presumptuous” (proud, deliberate, or willful) sins. Why is pride such a problem? See Proverbs 6:16-17; 11:2; 13:10; 16:18.

7) Consider the *promise* of verse 13 as David, in humility, affirms and confirms His Savior and LORD. What makes it even *possible* for us to have righteous thoughts and speech? What does it require of us? See Ephesians 2:8-9; 6:16-18; James 1:5,21-22; 4:8-10.

8) In your own words, rewrite verses 13- 14 as your prayer and request to God, your Heavenly Father.

When you have more time...

Read through the Creation story in Genesis and compare to David’s thoughts in this psalm. What additional truths do you find about God, His word, and His works?

Psalm 33

“A psalm of joy” *

Read Psalm 33.

1) This psalm opens with singing and rejoicing “in the Lord”. (vv. 1-3)

How does the writer offer praise?

2) He then proceeds to speak to the Sovereignty of the Lord, His word and His works. What statements are made concerning God, Who He is, His word and works? (vv.1-9)

3) Describe the relationship the Lord has with the “nations” and mankind. (vv. 10-14)

4) The writer appears to take a pause and reflect on the reality of mankind and his abilities (or inabilities). What does he say about man’s strength, even that of “the horse”? (vv.16-17)

Psalm 33

“A psalm of joy” *

5) He concludes with a declaration for those whose hope is “in the Lord”. What assurances are given for those who place their trust in Him alone? (vv.18-22)

6) At times, we may find it difficult to have joy, or rejoice. Describe a time when this has been a challenge for you. What happened? How were you able to find joy?

7) Key to our ability to rejoice is the phrase “in the Lord”. What do the following say about how we should, and why we can rejoice? Psalm 32:11, 35:9, 64:10, 97:12, 104:34, Philippians 4:4; I Peter 1:7-9; Jude 1:24-25

When you have more time...

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian church to “rejoice in the Lord”, and then to “think on these things” for the peace only God can give. Write out Philippians 4:8. Then for each “thing” listed (true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good reputation), and using a Concordance or Bible dictionary, do a word search. Locate and record at least one verse that supports those “things” that will allow you to rejoice, “in the Lord”.

Resources: www.blueletterbible.org and, www.biblegateway.com.

Summer Study in the Psalms
Prepared by Jane Hanzalik May 2022

* Title description taken from The New Scofield Study Bible 1967

Psalm 108
“Steadfast praise” *
A Song or Psalm of David.

Read Psalm 108.

1) What are your first impressions? What does the mood of the writer suggest? (Consider the opening statement, “My heart is steadfast, (or determined).”

2. How will David offer his steadfast praise to the Lord? What are his statements about how and where he will do this? (vv.1-3)

3. He gives specific attributes of God. What are they? (vv.4-5)

4. David makes a request for “rescue” as the “beloved” of His Sovereign God. (v.6) Consider what it means to be the “beloved” of God? What do the following say about our position as believers in Christ and as the “beloved” of God? Romans 5:1-2, 8:14-17; Galatians 2:20; 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:13; I John 3:1-2

Psalm 108
“Steadfast praise” *
A Song or Psalm of David.

5. David speaks of God’s holiness, authority and power. He recalls *specifically* how the Lord delivered him in the past, and given him victories in and over various lands. He remembers what is his, how the Lord provided, and a future promise of a “triumph over Philistia”. (vv.7-9)

In thinking about how the Lord has provided for you, what *specifically* can you recall? Describe an event or situation.

6. David ponders the question, “Who? And won’t you, O God?”, understanding that help from man is in vain. (vv. 10-13) What is his conclusion? (v.13)

7. We can believe God. We can believe He goes before us, yet we tend to worry and wonder how “things” will work out. We have memories of what God has done in our lives, the testimonies of others, and the faith stories of the Bible.

What do the following say about the promise of our Sovereign God that says, with His help, “we shall do *valiantly*”? Romans 8:1,35-39; I Corinthians 2:5,16; Ephesians 3:20, 6:10; Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 13:6; I Peter 1:3-5

When you have more time...

David and the history of the lands and divisions of Judah and Israel, Edom, and of their opposition - Moab and Philistia is fascinating. Using a Bible Dictionary and Concordance, look up each one. Resources online, www.blueletterbible.org, and www.biblegateway.org

Psalm 90
“The eternal God and mortal man” *
A prayer of Moses, the man of God

Read Psalm 90.

1) Describe your favorite “dwelling place”. The place where you go to relax, think, breathe, or take a time-out? Is it a favorite room? Is it an outdoor space? Why?

2) Moses begins with the *fact* that God is God, has always been God, and throughout all generations has been *our* “dwelling place”. What does he say about the LORD? (vv.1-3)

What do the following say about our Creator God? Genesis 1:1; Exodus 6:2-3; Isaiah 45:21-22, 46:9; Jeremiah 23:23-24, 31:35; John 8:58; Hebrews 13:8, Revelation 1:8

3) Moses then considers mankind. Describe God’s concept *of* time and man’s significance *in* time? (vv. 3-10)

How do the following support these *facts*? Psalm 8:4-6; 103:14-16; Isa. 40:6-8; Romans 1:18-20, 3:10-23; II Peter 3:8-11

Psalm 90
“The eternal God and mortal man” *
A prayer of Moses, the man of God

4) In verse 11 Moses considers the power of God’s anger or “wrath”, and the “fear” that is due Him. What do the following say about how we should think about God? Deuteronomy 6:2, Ecclesiastes 12:13; Isaiah 40:28, 42:8; Jeremiah 23:24; Hebrews 12:28-29

5) What does Moses conclude about how we should live our lives? (vv. 12-16)

6) How do we develop a “heart of wisdom”? What do the following say about acquiring wisdom: Joshua 1:7-8; Psalm 119:130; Proverbs 2:6-7; Colossians 3:16; I Peter 2:2; James 1:5

How are you acquiring wisdom? Are there habits you’d like to develop? What steps will you take to develop them?

Psalm 90
“The eternal God and mortal man” *
A prayer of Moses, the man of God

6) Moses closes requesting favor of the Lord our God. What is his request? (vv.16-17)
Is this request for what we do with our hands alone? Would you say he also meant to include what we think, feel in our hearts, and how we choose to spend our time? Why?

7) Because God sent His Son Jesus, what do we know about the “wrath of God” and the “work” of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf? Romans 5:8-10; II Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:6-11; I Thessalonians 5:9-10; Titus 3:4-7

When you have more time...

The Holy Spirit is given to each one who places their faith and hope in the Lord Jesus as Savior. Read Romans 8. How many times is the Holy Spirit mentioned? What does this chapter reveal about the role of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life today?

Psalm 139

“God’s all-seeing eye and inescapable presence” *

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David

In I Samuel 13:14, and in Acts 13:22, we read that
God saw David as a man after “His own heart”.

Read Psalm 139.

1) First impressions: Describe David’s relationship to God.

2) What does he say about God? What does this mean for David? What does this mean for you? (vv. 1-6)

3) *Where* does He say God is? What does this mean for David? What does this mean for you? (vv.7-12)

4) How do the following support David’s statements about God? Isaiah 40:21-28; Daniel 2:20-22; Romans 11:33-36

5) David continues his praise. Describe God’s view of David, even before he was born. (vv. 13-18)

Psalm 139

“God’s all-seeing eye and inescapable presence” *

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David

6) How do the following support these truths, especially for those who trust in Christ Jesus as Savior? Genesis 1:26-27; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Isaiah 55:6-9; Romans 8:14-17, 35-39; Ephesians 1:3-8; Colossians 3:3-4

What do you conclude about how God sees and thinks about *you*?

7) David turns his attention to the “wicked” or the ungodly. (vv.19-22)
How does David describe them? Why do you think David uses the word “hate” in describing his feelings of grief toward those who hate God?

What do the following say about those who are the “enemies” of God? What will be their end? II Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15; Ephesians 5:6; Philippians 3:1-3, 17-19; Hebrews 10:30-31; II Peter 3:7

7) Rather than take any action, David looks inward again, and makes a request of the Lord. What is it? (vv. 23-24) Why do you think he asks this? What does he *know* God will do for him? (v.24)

Psalm 139
“God’s all-seeing eye and inescapable presence” *
To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David

What is it that you want to ask God to “search out” in you today? Write out your prayer.

When you have more time...

One thing David did not have that we have today is the entire Bible. In II Peter 1:3-4 we read “His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him...” and that we’ve been given, “these precious and magnificent promises...so that we may partake of His divine nature”.

What do the following from God’s word tell us about God’s word, and the result of knowing, memorizing, and meditating on it?

Joshua 1:8

Psalm 119:11, 105, 113-114, 130, 165 (in fact, this entire psalm is dedicated to the praise of God’s word – so enjoy taking *a little more time* with it!

Luke 4:4 (see Deuteronomy 8:3);

Hebrews 4:12

II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17

Romans 10:17, 15:4

Psalm 121
“The traveler’s psalm” *
A Song of degrees

Psalms 120-134, written by David, are designated as “songs of degrees” or songs of “ascents”. Some scholars believe they were used as the people of Israel traveled for feast days to Jerusalem. Others suggest each song was read or and sung as each step leading to the temple court was ascended. Still others suggest each were sung in order of ascending musical notes.¹

While we may not know *exactly* David’s intentions, or how or when they were used in the past, we have been given them for our praise and worship of the Lord today.

Read Psalm 121.

1) First impressions: What truths are declared in this psalm about the LORD?

2) The psalmist begins by looking “up to the hills”. He asks a question and follows it up with an immediate response. What is his question? What is the response? Could this be an “affirmation” of what he already knows to be true? Why do you think he includes the reference to God as Creator of heaven and earth in his statement? (v.1-2)

3) What do the following tell us about the “help” our Lord offers and to whom He offers it: Psalm 10:14, 22:24, 28:7, 30:2, 42:11, 46:1, 54:4, 94:17; Romans 8:26; Galatians 3:13-14, 26-28; Philippians 4:13,19; I Timothy 2:5-6

4) What are the absolute promises made to the “traveler” on life’s journey? (vv. 3-6)

Psalm 121

“The traveler’s psalm” *

5) What is it that our Lord has promised to “preserve”? For how long? (vv.7-8)

6) Does this mean we will never experience suffering or loss? Make a mistake? Slip or fall? What do the following tell us about the Lord as our tireless Guardian and Protector?
Psalm 73:23-28; 94:18-19; 103:8-14; II Corinthians 1:3-4, 3:4-5; Hebrews 4:15-16;
II Peter 3:8-9; I John 5:13-15; Jude 24-25

7) What do the following say about how *secure* we really are when we place our faith and trust (and our future) in the Lord Jesus Christ? What we are preserved for?
John 1:12, 3:16, 14:1-3; II Corinthians 4:14-18, 5:17-21; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6;
I Thessalonians 4:16-17; II Timothy 1:12, 4:8; I John 3:1-2

How will knowing these truths help you in living your life today?

When you have more time....

Read through the remaining Songs of degrees (Psalms 120. 122-134). For each one, write out the “theme” of the song in one or two sentences. Consider using one of these psalms each day and into the coming days for your worship and praise as you take the next “step” on your faith journey with the Lord, your Guardian and Keeper.

¹ For review of a variety of commentaries on the meaning and uses of the “Songs of degrees” (Psalms 120-134), go to www.blueletterbible.org.