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*Psalm 122*

*Tourists vs. Pilgrims*

### ***Three Jerusalems***

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2. *Our “Jerusalem” – The Church*
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# How to Read the Psalms

## 9 Principles to Enrich Your Understanding

by Tremper Longman III

There are nine principles that we should keep in mind as we read the psalms. Not only will they help us understand God's message in the psalms, but these principles will also allow us to see them in all their richness. As we meditate on the psalms we will think, feel, imagine, and choose in increasingly godly ways.

### 1: Read a psalm in its context.

### 2: Determine the genre of the psalm you are reading.

- Hymns, laments, thanksgiving, remembrance, wisdom, kingship, confidence

### 3: Meditate on the parallelism of the psalm.

- It is not A (the first line) equals B, but A, and what's more B.

### 4: Unpack the imagery of the psalm.

### 5: Read the psalm in light of the title.

- Authorship, worship setting, musical terms, historical situation, etc. [DAVID'S PSALM]

### 6: Glean the theological teaching of the psalm.

- What does it tell us about God?

### 7: Ask how the psalm anticipates Jesus Christ.

- We can pray them as prayers to Jesus and prayers of Jesus. The whole Old Testament, the psalms included, anticipate Christ. Ask yourself how the psalm you are reading leads you to Christ. [JESUS' PSALM]

### 8: Consider the psalm a mirror of your soul.

- Let it reveal your own soul. [MY PSALM]

### 9: Let the psalm guide your life.

- The psalms do more than teach us about God by stimulating our imagination. They do more than guide our emotional lives. They lead us to godly actions and attitudes. Preeminently, the psalms, as the hymnbook of ancient Israel, tell us how to worship. They encourage us to sing, praise, clap our hands, pray, fall on our knees. They invite us to an enthusiastic adoration of our God in good times and in difficult times.

These principles can help us as we seek to understand and apply the psalms to our lives. They are not a magical formula, however. **We must approach the psalms with the understanding that we will meet our God there.**

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