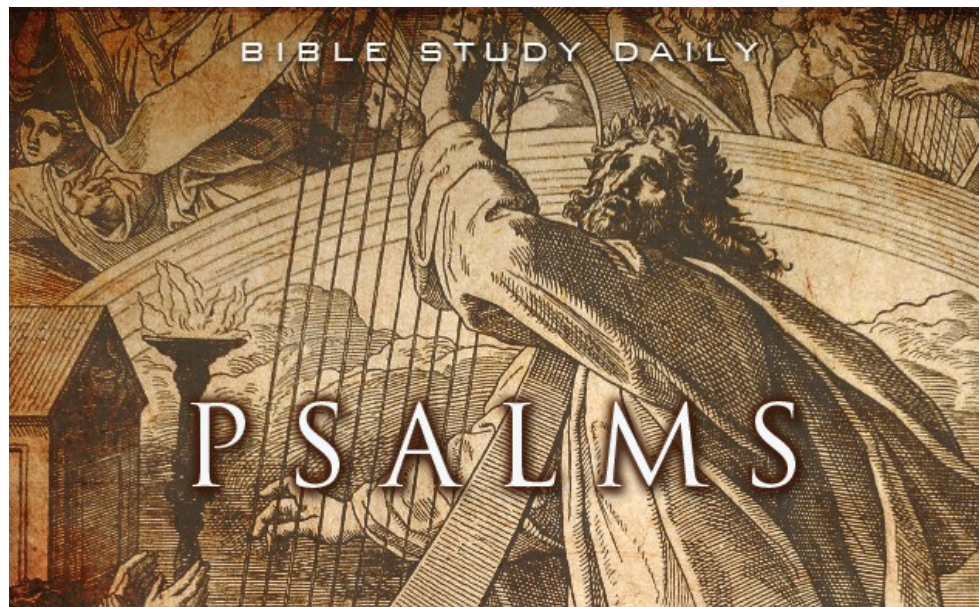




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of Psalms as well as my study notes for the book.

Name

The title “Psalms” is derived from the Greek Septuagint word psalmos. The Hebrew bible refers to the psalms as “The Book of Praises.”

Author

There is some debate about the authorship of the psalms. However, it is generally accepted that David wrote 73; Moses wrote Psalm 90; Asaph wrote Psalms 50, 73-83; Heman the Ezrahite wrote Psalm 88; Ethan the Ezrahite wrote Psalm 89; and Solomon wrote Psalms 72 and 127.

Genre

Poetry. Psalms are religious musical lyric poetry.

Literary Form

A feature of Hebrew poetry is called parallelism where one line repeats the meaning of another line. Some common types of parallelism include:

- Synonymous parallelism is when the consecutive lines are similar in thought or unit of measure. (ex. Psalm 120:2)
- Antithetical parallelism is when the consecutive lines are opposite of each other. (ex: Psalm 90:6)
- Emblematic parallelism is when one line metaphorically describes the other. (ex. Psalm 103:13)
- Climactic parallelism is when one phrase is repeated in steps. (ex. Psalm 29:12)
- Synthetic parallelism is when one phrase develops the first. (ex. Psalm 2:6)


Time Frame

The psalms cover a time period of perhaps 1,000 years. The oldest being the psalm that Moses wrote (Psalm 90), and the newest being Psalm 137 written when the Israelites were in captivity in Babylon.

Emphasis

The emphasis of the Psalms corresponds with each of the five books:

- Book 1. The Lord is the source of all blessing for His people.
- Book 2. The people’s ruin and redemption in the latter days.
- Book 3. The Holiness of God in dealing with His people.
- Book 4. The first man’s (Adam) failure, and the whole world under the hand of the second Adam (Jesus).

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- Book 5. The divine ways in which man and God are united.

Outline

The Psalms are divided into 5 books. Each book closes with a doxology.

- Book 1 (Psalms 1-41)
- Book 2 (Psalms 42-72)
- Book 3 (Psalms 73-89)
- Book 4 (Psalms 90-106)
- Book 5 (Psalms 107-150)

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 1-9)

Psalm 1

Psalm 1 contrasts the way of the righteous man with the way of a wicked man. He does not walk, sit, or stand in the way of the wicked, but delights in the law of the Lord. The righteous man produces fruit and does not wither. By contrast, the wicked are like worthless chaff that is blown away in the wind. God will separate the righteous from the wicked in judgment. The wicked will perish.

Psalm 2

Psalm 2 is known as a Messianic Psalm in that it refers to the messiah (Jesus). It is also one of eleven psalms known as Royal Psalms used by Davidic kings. Verses 1-3 refer to the rebellion of people and nations against God's chosen. Verses 4-6 record the Lord's response as laughing at their foolish attempts. Verses 7-9 include the messianic reference to Jesus: "You are MY son" and the foretelling of the rebellious nations coming under the Lord's rule. Verses 10-12 are an exhortation to the kings to submit to God, and serve him with fear, trembling lest his wrath come against you.

Psalm 3

Psalm 3 was written by David when he was fleeing from his son Absalom (2 Samuel 15-18). David laments being surrounded by his enemies but finds comfort in God's character because God has sustained him (vv. 1-6). David calls with confidence on the Lord to save him from his enemies (vv. 7-8).

Psalm 4

Psalm 4 may be linked to the situation in Psalm 3. David calls out to God for help knowing that the Lord hears him when he prays (vv. 1-3). Therefore, says David, the wicked should give up their plans and worship the Lord (vv. 4-7). David concludes, lying down in peace knowing that the Lord protects him (v. 8).

Psalm 5

Psalm 5 is David's morning prayer asking God to hear him as he begins each day (vv. 1-3). Verses 4-7 reflect David's confidence in God's mercy, and God's dislike of the wicked evildoers, and deceitful men. In verses 8-10, David prays for guidance against his enemies and asks God to judge them for their rebellion against God. David closes the psalm in verses 11-12 with encouragement for those who rejoice in the Lord because the Lord will bless the righteous.



Psalm 6

Psalm 6 is one of six penitential (or confessional) psalms: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143. Verses 1-3 include a prayer for relief from suffering. Deliverance is requested in verses 4-5. Verses 6-7 are a lament describing his suffering, while verses 8-10 describe David's assurance that God had heard his prayer and would deliver him.

Psalm 7

Psalm 7 is a song that specifically calls out the words of Cush, a Benjamite. David asks God to rescue him from all his enemies (vv. 1-2). He proclaims his innocence (vv. 3-5) in the form of an oath (if I have done this, then judge me). Then David appeals to God to rise up and strike the wicked, while protecting the righteous. Verses 10-17 describe God as David's shield readying His weapons to destroy the wicked and concludes with David thanking and praising God for His righteousness as the Lord Most High.

Psalm 8

Psalm 8 begins by describing the Lord's majesty and His strength (vv. 1-2). In verses 3-8, David marvels at God's creation and the position of man in the created order. Verse 9 proclaims God's majesty, repeating verse 1.

Psalm 9

Psalms 9 and 10 may have originally been one psalm as nearly every other verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Psalm 9 is a psalm of thanksgiving (vv. 1-2). Verses 3-12 describe the cause for David's praise: his enemies have been turned away, rebuked, and destroyed; the Lord is the true judge of the world and the protector of the oppressed. The psalm concludes with a prayer to aid the afflicted (vv. 13-20) through the Lord's justice against the wicked and the hope of the righteous.

It is easy to see David's heart for the Lord in these psalms. His faith and trust in the Lord are apparent as is his respect for the majesty of the Lord and His creation.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 10-17)

Psalm 10

Verse 1 wonders why God is far off in times of trouble. Verses 2-11 describes attributes of the wicked as they take advantage of the poor and helpless thinking that God will not see what he is doing. Verses 12-18 are an appeal to God to take vengeance on the wicked and an expression of confidence God has heard the prayers of the afflicted.

Psalm 11

The psalmist describes not fleeing to the mountains to avoid danger but instead flees to the Lord (vv. 1-3). Flee to the Lord because He is in His temple, He is righteous, and He will uphold the righteous (vv. 4-11).

Psalm 12

The psalmist calls out to God for deliverance from lying and arrogant people (vv. 1-4). The Lord assures deliverance of the afflicted (v. 5), so the psalmist expresses confidence in God's word that He will keep them safe (vv. 6-8).

Psalm 13

This psalm is a lament that asks a series of four "How long?" rhetorical questions (vv. 1-2). An answer to the questions is requested in verses 3-4, while confidence in the Lord is expressed in verse 5, and praise for salvation is offered in verse 6.

Psalm 14


The entire human race is described as fools having turned away from God (vv. 1-3). The psalmist speaks of needed punishment of the wicked and a time when God would deliver His people Israel (vv. 4-7).

Psalm 15

The psalmist describes the strong character of a person who is worthy to be in the house of the Lord. Such a person is blameless, speaks the truth, fears the Lord, keeps his word, does not charge interest on a loan, and does not take bribes.

Psalm 16

This psalm describes the joy of fellowship with the Lord. The psalmist describes his absolute trust in the Lord and his delight in Godly people (vv. 1-4). Next, he describes the blessing of his inheritance in the Lord, his confidence in the Lord, and the joy that stems from his confidence that the



Lord will never abandon him (vv. 5-11).

Psalm 17

With dangers surrounding him, the psalmist prays to be protected from the evils of the world. There is a sense of urgency felt in his three-part appeal: hear, listen, and give ear to the prayer of a righteous man (vv. 1-5). The prayer specifically speaks of taking refuge in the Lord and asks for protection from those who would ambush him (vv. 6-12).

What I Noticed Today

(Psalms 18-22)

Psalm 18

Psalm 18 is a long psalm of praise by David after God had rescued him from the hands of his enemies and saved him from Saul. David recounts how God delivered him from certain death and destruction (vv. 4-19). The psalmist proclaims his faith in the Lord and states that God was rewarding him for his righteousness (vv. 20-29).

David rejoices in God's perfect word, attributes his abilities and victories to God, and praises God for all the blessings in his life (vv. 30-50).

Psalm 19

David declares the Law of the Lord is perfect. The glory of the Lord is seen in nature (vv. 1-6). The Law of God is perfect and gives joy to the heart because it causes believers to lead righteous lives. The value of the Law of the Lord is greater than gold (vv. 7-11). David prayed for a complete cleansing so that he would be able to live a blameless life, forgiven for even hidden faults, and prevented from willful sin (vv. 12-14).

Psalm 20


Psalm 20 is one of the royal psalms. As David prepared to go to war, he stopped to pray and was joined by the congregation. The congregation and David make an intercessory prayer asking that God would give them protection and victory (vv. 1-5). David proclaims his trust in the Lord and the assurance of victory based on his faith that God would protect him (vv. 6-9).

Psalm 21

Psalm 21 is related to Psalm 20 and may have been written following the battle anticipated in Psalm 20. The Lord is praised for delivering the victory as an answer to prayer (vv. 1-7). Attention shifts to the congregation who now addresses the king, affirming that they knew he would defeat his enemies because they trusted in the Lord (vv. 8-13).

Psalm 22

Psalm 22 is a major shift in tone from Psalms 20 & 21. David now feels forsaken by God. Surrounded by enemies, he endures suffering and pleads with God to deliver him. David feels forsaken by God. Scorned by mankind, he still expects God to save him. Verses 1-5 are a lament, while verses 6-10 express confidence in God's deliverance. David compares his enemies to ravenous lions and bulls whose constant attacks have drained his strength (vv. 12-15). David then compares his enemies to scavenging dogs (vv. 16-18).



David prays that the Lord will deliver him from his enemies and concludes with a notation that his prayers have already been heard (vv. 19-21). In the final section of the psalm, David addresses the congregation vowing praise to the Lord because the Lord had fulfilled His promise. Because of this, many future generations would turn to the Lord and worship Him (vv. 22-31).

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 23-30)

Psalm 23

David describes the Lord as His shepherd. This was an apt metaphor since David was the shepherd king. The Lord, as shepherd, met his needs for spiritual nourishment (v. 2), spiritual restoration (v. 2b-3), guidance in the right way (v. 3b), protection (v. 4), and provider (v. 5). In response to these blessings, David concludes he will live in the house of the Lord forever (v. 6).

Psalm 24

David acknowledges God's sovereignty over all the world (vv. 1-2), and asks who can dwell with God in such a holy place (vv. 3-4). The psalmist answers that a righteous person with clean hands and a pure heart who seeks God will receive His blessings (vv. 5-6). David exhorts the reader to lift up his head because the King of Glory, the Lord of Hosts is coming in (vv. 7-10).

Psalm 25

Psalm 25 is an acrostic; each verse starts with successive letters in the Hebrew alphabet. David lifts up his soul to the Lord without shame, praying that God would show him His ways, and asks for forgiveness for past sins (vv. 1-7). David speaks of the goodness of the Lord teaching sinners and guiding the humble and asks once again for forgiveness for past sins (vv. 8-11). He describes the person who fears the Lord as the one with whom the Lord reveals his covenant (vv. 12-14). Concluding, David prays for the Lord's deliverance and to forgive his sins (vv. 15-22).

Psalm 26


David asserts his integrity having trusted in the Lord (vv. 1-3). He offers proof of his integrity by staying away from evil doers and hypocrites (vv. 4-8). David prays that God will reward his integrity by keeping him away from sinners and evil men (vv. 9-12).

Psalm 27

The focus of this psalm is on David's confidence in the Lord (v. 1). Even if enemies come against him, he trusts in the Lord (vv. 2-3). David expresses desire to live in God's house because there was safety in God's presence (vv. 4-6). He concludes with a prayer for the Lord not to reject or forsake him but confidence resumes as he waits for the Lord to deliver him (vv. 7-14).

Psalm 28

David asks God to keep him separate from the wicked when the wicked are



thrown down to the pit, and that God would hear him when he cries for help (vv. 1-4). He expresses confidence that the Lord would throw down the wicked because the wicked do not regard the works of the Lord and be a fortress saving His people (vv. 5-8).

Psalm 29

David calls on the angels three times to give (ascribe) glory to the Lord (vv. 1-2). Seven times David refers to the ‘voice of the Lord’ as thunder that is powerful, majestic, even shaking the wilderness (vv. 3-9). He concludes that the Lord is enthroned forever giving strength to His people (vv. 10-11).

Psalm 30

David’s song at the dedication of the temple. David promises to praise the Lord because he was healed (restored) (vv. 1-3). David called on the people to sing praises to the Lord because God’s anger is temporary but His deliverance is forever (vv. 4-5). David includes a prayer for mercy, and to preserve him from the grave (vv. 6-10). He concludes giving thanks to the Lord because he has turned his mourning into joy and dancing (vv. 11-12).

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 31-35)

Psalm 31

Much of Psalm 31 points to the suffering and resurrection of the messiah, especially verse 5 (see Luke 23:46).

In verses 1-8, David cries out to the Lord to be rescued but confidently states that the Lord is his rock, his fortress, and his refuge. David commits his spirit into the hands of the Lord in faith trusting the Lord to redeem him from his suffering.

In verses 9-13, David asks the Lord to be gracious to him because he is in distress from his enemies who are scheming against him. In verses 14-18, he goes on trusting the Lord to save him from the lying lips of his enemies.

David concludes the psalm praising the Lord for His goodness in protecting the faithful and encourages the saints to remain strong and take courage (vv. 19-24).

Psalm 32

Psalm 32 likely follows Psalm 51. In Psalm 51, David had been confronted by the prophet Nathan regarding David's sin with Bathsheba. Psalm 32 is focused on the Lord's forgiveness of David's sins. David sees himself as blessed because after he had repented the Lord had forgiven him (vv. 1-2). However, while he was unrepentant his sin weighed heavily on him, causing him to waste away (vv. 3-5).


Because the Lord had forgiven him, David encouraged others to confess their sins, be repentant, and submit to the Lord because the Lord protects those who trust in Him (vv. 6-11).

Psalm 33

Psalm 33 is a psalm of praise to the Lord. Those who trust in the Lord have the assurance of salvation. Verses 1-3 are a call to praise the Lord and give thanks to Him. The reason we should praise is because the Lord is faithful to fulfill His promises, He is righteous, and is steadfast in His love (vv. 4-19). Concluding, David says the faithful demonstrate their faith by waiting expectantly for deliverance, they trust in Him, and they pray for His steadfast love (vv. 20-22).

Psalm 34

Psalm 34 came after David pretended to be insane in order to escape from his son, Abimelech (1 Samuel 21:11).



In verses 1-10, David called on the congregation to praise the Lord with him because the Lord had delivered him and protected him. You will be blessed if you take refuge in the Lord, those who seek the Lord will lack no good thing.

In verses 11-22, David instructs the people how to achieve a good life; shun evil and do good. The Lord looks favorably on the righteous, he hears the prayers of the righteous, and delivers the righteous from their troubles. All those who take refuge in the Lord will be redeemed.

Psalm 35

Psalm 35 contains three laments for deliverance from enemies.

David first prays for deliverance from those who seek to destroy him (vv. 1-10). Then laments over those who hate him unjustly (vv. 11-18). In the closing verses 19-28, David asks the Lord to deliver him from the wicked and bring justice to the righteous people who have been treated unjustly by the wicked. David asks the people to praise the Lord because the Lord delights in the welfare of His servants.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 36-39)

Psalm 36

Psalm 36 records an oracle reported by David concerning the philosophy and lifestyle of wicked unbelievers. This stands in contrast to David's personal knowledge of the nature of God.

Verse 1-4 explains that the wicked have no fear of the Lord so they commit evil acts with impunity. Not only do they not think about rejecting evil, they plot evil.

In contrast, verses 5-9 describe the love, faithfulness, and justice of God to David and the obedient believers.

In verses 10-12 David prayed that the Lord would continue to love and protect those who fear God from the arrogant and wicked.

Psalm 37

Psalm 37 is a build on Psalm 36.

In verses 1-8 David tells believers to continue to trust in the Lord despite the presence of evil, sinful people. The righteous should not envy the wicked who succeed, nor should they concern themselves with their success because that leads only to anger and evil.

In verses 9-11 David describes how the wicked will soon be cut off, and that the meek will inherit the earth.


Verses 12-22 build on verses 9-11 with five contrasting examples: wicked devise evil but the Lord laughs at them, the wicked attack the meek but their own violence will destroy them, it is better to be poor than to be wicked and have wealth, the Lord protects the righteous but the wicked will perish, and the wicked are selfish but the poor are generous.

In verses 23-31 David describes the blessings of the Lord upon the righteous, He provides food for them, and loves and protects them. The righteous are just and wise because the law of God is in their hearts.

Concluding in verses 32-40, David warns that the wicked lie in wait to destroy the righteous, but the Lord will protect and uphold the righteous and destroy the wicked. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord who helps and delivers them from the wicked.

Psalm 38

Psalm 38 is David's sorrowful petition to the Lord to not forsake him in the midst of the Lord chastening him.



In verses 1-8 David describes the harsh and painful chastening from the Lord delivered on account of David's sin. The guilt of his sin was crushing him. In verses 9-12, David describes his family and friends avoiding him while his enemies plotted ways to ruin him.

David concludes in verses 13-22 expressing confidence in the Lord who would have compassion on him. His hope was in the Lord to answer his prayer and end his suffering.

Psalm 39

The theme of Psalm 39 is similar to Psalm 38, but the attacks by his enemies have ceased.

In verses 1-6 David recognized the brevity of life as he resolved not to sin with his tongue, while at the same time seeking relief from the Lord during this brief life.

In verses 7-13 David asked God to deliver him from his transgressions and to stop chastening him because he was completely spent. David concludes with a prayer that God would hear his plea for relief.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 40-45)

Psalm 40

Psalm 40 begins with thanksgiving (vv. 1-10) and concludes with a petition (vv. 11-17).

In verses 1-10, David begins by telling the congregation that after patiently waiting the Lord had lifted him up, saved him from destruction, and that was the reason for his rejoicing. He proclaimed God's wondrous deeds, as he yielded his life to the will of God. David proclaimed the Lord's righteousness, faithfulness, salvation, and love to the congregation.

In verses 11-17, David prayed fervently for the Lord to continue to show His compassion to him despite his many sins. David specifically asked the Lord to deliver him from his enemies who intended to hurt him.

Psalm 41

Psalm 41 contains David's message to the congregation that those who aided the needy would receive deliverance from the Lord. He also called on the Lord to raise him up so that he could repay those who had acted wickedly against him.

In verses 1-3 David began by telling the congregation that the Lord will protect and bless the one who is considerate of the poor.

In verses 4-10 David asked the Lord to heal him from his sins. He also noted that many, including his friends, had maliciously turned against him. David hoped that he would be able to repay those who had turned against him for their treachery.

In verses 11-13 David addressed God knowing that God had delivered him from his enemies because of his integrity.


Book 2

Psalm 42

Psalm 42 marks the beginning of Book 2 of Psalms. The focus shifts from the Lord as the source of the people's blessings (Book 1), to the people's ruin and redemption (Book 2).

Note: Psalm 42 and 43 may have originally been together which is how they appear in many Hebrew manuscripts.

In verses 1-5 the psalmist writes of his soul longing for God, while others taunted him asking, "Where is your God?"



In verses 6-11 the psalmist refers to his soul being downcast even as he prayed to God. Then he proclaims that God will be with him by day and by night putting a song in his heart. Even so, he concludes asking God why his enemies still taunt him and his soul is downcast.

Psalm 43

Psalm 43 is a song of praise asking the Lord to lead the psalmist back to Jerusalem where he will sing songs of joy and praise.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist asks God to vindicate and defend him against the ungodly who are unjust and deceitful.

In verses 3-5 the psalmist asks for God's light and truth to lead him to Jerusalem where he will joyfully praise God. The psalmist finds hope in God despite the fact that his soul is downcast.

Psalm 44

Psalm 44 is a lament of the disasters that the nation had experienced.

In verses 1-8 the people recognize God's past works on behalf of the people because the people had trusted in the Lord.

In verses 9-16 the people have been disgraced and shamed as they suffered defeat at the hands of their enemies.

In verses 17-22 the people express confusion; they continue to have faith in God but they have suffered death like sheep led to the slaughter.

In verses 23-26 the people petition God to rescue them from their misery. They felt rejected by God but remained trusting that God would redeem them because He loved them.

Psalm 45

Psalm 45 is one of the royal psalms celebrating a king's wedding. It is also messianic reflecting Christ as the bridegroom.

In verses 1-9 the psalmist proclaims the nobility of the king and the majesty of the king, who clearly had God's blessing. The king was anointed by God because of his righteousness.

In verses 10-15 the psalmist gives advice to the bride to honor her groom. In honoring her groom, she would be blessed with expensive gifts and others would seek her favor.

In verses 16-17 the psalmist predicts the marriage would produce many princes, and through them, the king would be remembered and praised forever and forever.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 46-51)

Psalm 46

Psalm 46 magnifies God as the believer's refuge and strength at all times.

Verses 1-3 declares God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble. Believers need not be afraid no matter what trouble comes their way.

In verses 4-7 the psalmist declares that the holy habitation of God in Jerusalem surrounded the city like a fortress.

In verses 8-11 the psalmist exhorts believers see the works of God, and to trust in God and His power.

Psalm 47

Psalm 47 is classed as an enthronement psalm celebrating God's reign over the earth (other enthronement psalms include 93 and 95-99).

In verses 1-4 the psalmist calls on all nations to bestow honor on the Lord who is king over all the earth and has selected Israel as His inheritance.

In verses 5-9 the psalmist describes God going up to His throne as the people sing His praises, and princes of the earth gather under His exalted reign.

Psalm 48

Psalm 48 is about the city of Jerusalem; its glory and deliverance from enemies by God who is praised.

In verses 1-3 Jerusalem is described as God's holy mountain; the joy of the whole earth because God has made her His fortress.

In verses 4-8 the psalmist describes the defeat of Jerusalem's enemies as the Lord destroyed them making the city secure.


In verses 9-14 the psalmist offers praise to God for His steadfast love and righteousness, and for being Jerusalem's protector forever.

Psalm 49

Psalm 49 is classed as a wisdom poem questioning the prosperity of the wicked.

In verses 1-4 the psalmist called all the people of the world, rich and poor to listen to his wisdom.

In verses 5-12 the psalmist notes the prosperous enjoy a sense of false security because their wealth cannot redeem them from death. The wealthy die alongside the poor, and their graves will become their dwelling places.



In verses 13-20 the psalmist says that the foolish will end up in Sheol, while God will redeem the righteous and the righteous will rule over them.

Psalm 50

Psalm 50 is classed as a didactic (teaching) psalm dealing with man's worship of God and man's treatment of his neighbors.

In verses 1-6 the psalmist describes a courtroom in which the Lord has come to judge those who have made a covenant with Him while the inhabitants of the earth observe.

In verses 7-15 the Lord brings the first of two charges against the people. This first charge is that the people are keeping the sacrifices as they should but they don't realize that God does not need the sacrifices or man's worship for survival (unlike the pagan gods of the time).

In verses 16-23 the Lord brings the second charge, that of hypocritical living. The Israelites appeared to be righteous in their actions but took part in theft, adultery, and slander. God warned them not to forget Him and to continue to offer their thank-offerings.

Psalm 51

Psalm 51 is a prayer for forgiveness of sins when Nathan the prophet confronted David for the sin of taking Bathsheba, another man's wife. Remember, though, this confession of sin took place about a year after David took Bathsheba.

In verses 1-2 David appeals to God for love and compassion and his grace to forgive his sins.

In verses 3-6 David confessed his sins and acknowledged that he was, in fact, born in sin.

In verses 7-12 David petitioned God for forgiveness, to cleanse and renew his heart, to not remove the Lord's spirit from him, and to restore the joy of his salvation.

In verses 13-17 David promised to teach other transgressors about God's ways, to sing God's praises, and to bring sacrifices to God with a broken and contrite heart.

In verses 18-19 David prays that God will continue to build up Jerusalem as the people bring righteous sacrifices to God.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 52-59)

Psalm 52

Psalm 52 is ascribed to David and pertains to the time when Doeg the Edomite betrayed David (1 Samuel 22:9).

In verses 1-7 David addresses Doeg directly as the evil man who boasts in his evil and was a disgrace to God, contrasted with the righteous men who would laugh at Doeg.

In verses 8-9 David describes himself metaphorically as an olive tree that was flourishing because he trusted in God's love and would continue to praise God for all that He had done.

Psalm 53

Psalm 53 is similar to Psalm 14 with a shift in focus to the evil of mankind.

In verses 1-3 David speaks of the fool who says there is no God, thus, they live corrupt lives.

In verses 4-6 David anticipates the wicked being terrified as God rejects them, and anticipates the people rejoicing because salvation for Israel will come in Jerusalem.

Psalm 54

Psalm 54 is a prayer of David when he was betrayed by the Ziphites (1 Samuel 23:19) as he is being pursued by Saul.

In verses 1-3 David prays for God to deliver him because strangers had risen up against him.

In verses 4-7 David affirms his confidence and trust in God because God had delivered him from his enemies.

Psalm 55

Psalm 55 David laments the oppression that had come into his life when he was betrayed by a close friend.

In verses 1-8 David prays to God to hear his complaint about the wicked men who are angrily bearing a grudge against him.

In verses 9-15 David prays that God would confuse the wicked that are oppressing him, especially one who is a close friend, and hopes that God will bring destruction on them.

In verses 16-23 David calls on the Lord to save him, redeem his soul, and

humble his oppressors. He knows that God will never forsake the righteous, but will destroy the wicked who persecute the righteous.

Psalm 56

Psalm 56 recounts a time when David visited Gath (1 Samuel 21:10).

In verses 1-7 David prayed that the Lord would be gracious to him and destroy his enemies who were planning to destroy him.

In verses 8-13 David expresses confidence that the Lord knows him intimately, even counting his tears. He waits confidently for the Lord to deliver him and vows to present thank offering in anticipation of God delivering him as He had done in the past.

Psalm 57

Psalm 57 is similar to Psalm 56.

In verses 1-5 David asks God to be merciful to him and to allow him to take refuge from his enemies. He describes his soul as being in danger from wild beasts.

In verses 6-11 David describes his enemies as waiting to trap him in a pit but that they had fallen into it. Therefore, David praised the Lord in a song of victory for His love and faithfulness to him.

Psalm 58

Psalm 58 is a denouncement of unrighteous judges whom David wishes God would destroy.

In verses 1-5 David claims that because these judges are wicked because they are not righteous judges.

In verses 6-9 David calls on God to destroy these wicked judges.

In verses 10-11 David says the righteous will rejoice in the destruction of the wicked, and men will see the destruction of the wicked and see a reward for being righteous.

Psalm 59

Psalm 59 is a prayer of David to protect him from Saul who was coming for him (1 Samuel 19:8-14).

In verses 1-5 David prays for deliverance from the bloodthirsty men who were coming for him and asks God to punish them.

In verses 6-10 David describes his enemies as snarling dogs but is confident that God will destroy them and rescue him.

In verses 11-13 David prays that the Lord would shield him and punish the wicked in a way that would humiliate them by exposing their lies.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 60-66)

Psalm 60

Psalm 60 is a didactic (teaching) psalm). David prayed for victory during his war with invaders in the north (1 Kings 11:15-16).

In verses 1-5 David complains that the Lord has allowed Israel to be defeated so he prayed for the Lord to deliver the people by His power.

In verses 6-8 David quoted the promises of the Lord to deliver the Israelites and give them victory over their enemies.

In verses 9-12 David asks the Lord three rhetorical questions that point to David's conclusion that victory will only come from the Lord.

Psalm 61

In verses 1-2 During a time of distress David asks God to lead him to God's high rock where he will take refuge from his enemies.

In verses 3-8 David refers to the Lord as his refuge and strong tower in times of trouble. He prayed that God would prolong his life and that God would continue to protect him. Then David vowed to sing praises to the Lord.

Psalm 62

Psalm 62 speaks of David's confidence and trust in the Lord despite the opposition he was facing.

In verses 1-4 David speaks of resting in the Lord. God was his rock, his salvation, and his fortress. He describes wicked men who are trying to take him down as hypocritical liars; they spoke well of him to his face but cursed him in their hearts.

In verses 5-8 David repeats that he is waiting for the Lord because the Lord is his only hope. He asked the people to pour out their hearts to the Lord trusting in God to protect them.

In verses 9-12 David warned the people not to trust wicked men because their power was fleeting. Rather, they should trust in the power of the Lord.

Psalm 63

Psalm 63 is a Psalm of David written at a time when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

In verses 1-2 David describes his soul thirsting for the Lord like a man in the desert thirsts for water, and being separated from the Lord's sanctuary in Jerusalem.



In verses 3-8 David begins his praise of God who satisfies his soul and brings joy to his lips. He meditates on God at night in bed where even there the Lord has upheld him.

In verses 9-11 David predicts that those who oppose him will be overcome and David will rejoice in the Lord praising Him in song.

Psalm 64

Psalm 64 is a prayer of David asking for God to bring judgment down on his enemies.

In verses 1-6 David asks God to hear his plea to protect him and hide him from evildoers. These wicked men are preparing to attack the innocent with slander.

In verses 7-10 David predicts that God will bring his enemies to ruin, that people would fear the Lord, and the righteous would rejoice and praise the Lord.

Psalm 65

Psalm 65 is a song of praise for the blessings from the Lord as they celebrated a harvest season.

In verses 1-4 David proclaims praise to God for hearing his prayers despite their many sins and gives thanks for God's blessings.

In verses 5-8 David says that God's awesome deeds are the answer to the prayers of the righteous. God's power over all the earth is a reason to shout for joy.

In verses 9-13 David expects a great harvest because of God's blessings being poured out on the land.

Psalm 66

Psalm 66 is another psalm of thanksgiving like Psalm 65. The psalmist begins writing in second person (we, our), but concludes in first person (I, me).

In verses 1-9 the psalmist addressed all the earth asking that they praise the Lord by singing and speaking of His awesome works on behalf of man. He called on the people to bless God because He had blessed them.

In verses 10-12 the psalmist acknowledges God's testing of the people and bringing the people to a place of abundance.

In verses 13-20 David turns his attention to the people of Israel and leads them in sacrifices and praise to God. God had listened to their prayers because they had purified their hearts in turning away from sin.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 67-71)

Psalm 67

Continuing from Psalm 66, the psalmist now calls on the people of Israel to praise God so that they will enjoy His blessings.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist asks for God to bless the nation and make His ways known on all the earth.

In verses 3-7 the psalmist calls on all the people to sing praises to God. All nations should sing for joy because God is a righteous judge. When the people praise God for His blessings it causes others to worship Him.

Psalm 68

Psalm 68 is a song of celebration marking some triumphal procession or a great victory.

In verses 1-6 David prayed that God would display His power, scattering His enemies, while the righteous would rejoice. Then David asked the people to sing God's praises as Israel's protector.

In verses 7-18 David recounts the time when God led the people of Israel through the wilderness to their inheritance, the Promised Land. Then he describes the victories of the nation Israel over the kings of the land and the Lord's establishing His sanctuary in Jerusalem.

In verses 19-31 David praised the Lord who had been their salvation and their deliverer as they conquered their enemies and established the Lord's sanctuary in Zion (Jerusalem). David asks God to display His power yet again so that pagan kings would see it and submit to God.

In verses 32-35 David concludes calling for all nations to sing praises to God in recognition of His power and majesty.


Psalm 69

Psalm 69 is a long song in which David asks God to save him from those who hate him.

In verses 1-4 David uses imagery to suggest he is near death as he waits for God to save him.

In verses 5-12 David admits his shortcomings and hopes that others who believe in God will not be ashamed because of him. He claims it is for God's sake that he has suffered dishonor and reproach.

In verses 13-28 David asks the Lord to save and redeem him. He knew that God had seen how he had been mistreated and that God would bring



judgement on the wicked because they had persecuted God's people.

In verses 29-36 David prayed yet again that the Lord would hear him in the midst of his distress, and save and protect him. David promised to praise God in anticipation of God delivering His people.

Psalm 70

Psalm 70 is a psalm of David asking God to rescue him quickly.

In verses 1-3 David asks God to save him quickly and to put his enemies to shame.

In verses 4-5 David asks all who seek the Lord to say "God is Great." He closes saying he is poor and needy and his only hope is in God's deliverance.

Psalm 71

Psalm 71 combines elements from four other psalms (Psalms 22, 31, 35, and 40).

In verses 1-4 the psalmist prays for deliverance from God, his rock, and fortress providing security from the wicked.

In verses 5-13 the psalmist confirms his confidence and hope in the Lord. He asks God to continue to care for and protect him from those who would harm him and bring shame, scorn, and disgrace upon them.

In verses 14-24 the psalmist's hope remains in the Lord and he will continue to praise Him and tell others of His mighty deeds. As the aging psalmist closes, he vows to continue to praise God as the "Holy One of Israel."

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 72-77)

Psalm 72

Psalm 72 is one of two psalms written by Solomon (Psalms 72 & 127). The psalm describes blessings that come from God's righteous rule over all the earth.

In verses 1-7 the psalmist prays the God would give the king the ability to judge righteously, bring prosperity to the people, protect the poor, and crush their enemies.

In verses 8-14 the psalmist prays specifically the God would give him dominion over the region. He asks this because of how God delivers the needy and the weak, protecting them from oppression.

In verses 15-17 the psalmist describes the prosperous reign of the king.

In verses 18-20 the psalmist praises God for His glorious deeds. These verses are the second doxology of Book 2 (Psalms 42-72) and signify the end of Book.

Book 3

Of the 17 psalms in Book 3 eleven are by Asaph, one by David, three by the sons of Korah, 1 by Heman, and one by Ethan. Asaph, Heman, and Ethan were all Levite musicians during David's reign (1 Chronicles 15:17-19).

Psalm 73

Psalm 73 is a wisdom psalm similar to Psalm 49.


In verses 1-14 Asaph affirms that God is good to those in Israel who are pure in heart, but admits that he himself had been envious of the prosperity of the wicked. The wicked did not suffer the way the rest of mankind suffered, and they continued to build up their wealth. This made Asaph wonder why God would allow the wicked to prosper while the righteous suffered.

In verses 15-28 Asaph recognized that the end of the wicked was to be cast down in ruin; to be destroyed. By contrast, Asaph recognized that God was always there to guide and counsel him. Concluding, Asaph says that those who are unfaithful will perish while those who are near God will be secure.

Psalm 74

Psalm 74 is Asaph's prayer to God to remember the people after their enemies had destroyed the sanctuary.

In verses 1-2 Asaph asks God not to continue to be angry with His people.



In verses 3-9 Asaph laments the destruction of the sanctuary and that there is no one to give spiritual counsel to the people.

In verses 10-17 Asaph asks God how long these enemies would be allowed to mock God before God crushed them.

In verses 18-23 Asaph asked God not to forget his covenant with the people by protecting His people and defeating their enemies.

Psalm 75

Psalm 75 is a thanksgiving song in anticipation of victory over the wicked.

In verses 1-3 Asaph thanks God for His judgment over the earth.

In verses 4-8 Asaph warns the boastful and wicked not to lift themselves up because God will execute his judgment.

In verses 9-10 Asaph vows to sing praises to God for cutting off the wicked and lifting up the righteous.

Psalm 76

Psalm 76 describes how God destroyed the wicked and lifted up the righteous in Jerusalem.

In verses 1-3 God has made himself known by breaking the weapons of their enemies who were coming against God's city.

In verses 4-10 Asaph offers praise to God for His majesty and mighty power.

In verses 11-12 Asaph tells the people to be sure to fulfill their vows to the Lord.

Psalm 77

In Psalm 77 Asaph cries out to God in the midst of his distress.

In verses 1-9 Asaph cried out to God all night in hopes of receiving comfort for his troubled spirit. He is confused because he feels abandoned by God, wondering if God's silence was an indication that God had abandoned them.

In verses 10-20 Asaph decided to remember and meditate on the past deeds of the Lord, who had worked wonders for His people.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 78-80)

Psalm 78

Psalm 78 is considered an instructive psalm in that it relates not only the history of the Israelites relationship with God but a parable of how future generations should conduct themselves.

In verses 1-8 Asaph calls the people together to hear his teaching about the glorious deeds, power, and wonders of God so that the people would not forget the works of the Lord like their forefathers had done.

In verses 9-11 Asaph refers to a battle with the Ephraimites that the Israelites lost because they forgot about God.

In verses 12-72 Asaph describes God's actions with Israel over their history.

In verses 12-39 the focus is on the Exodus, their time in the desert, and the people's failure to obey God.

In verses 40-72 the focus is on everything God did from the time of the plagues to David's installation as king, and the people's obedience to God.

Psalm 79

In Psalm 79 Asaph describes the devastation of Jerusalem and begs God to deliver them from their enemies.

In verses 1-4 Asaph laments the division of the people, the defilement of the temple, and how the Israelites had been mocked by their enemies.

In verses 5-12 Asaph pleaded with God not to remember the sins of the people, and to not be angry with the Israelites, but to pour out His anger on their oppressors.

In verse 13 Asaph says that once the people were restored they would praise God forever.


Psalm 80

Psalm 80 is a lament asking God to forgive His people, to no longer be angry with them, and to restore the people.

In verses 1-3 Asaph refers to the Lord as Israel's shepherd asking that the Lord would restore His people.

In verses 4-7 Asaph's lament continues asking how long God would continue to discipline His people while their enemies continued to mock them.

In verses 8-14 Asaph metaphorically describes Israel as a vine that God had planted but now was withering.



In verses 15-19 Asaph asked God to look at His vine, cut down and burned, and to restore His vine. Asaph closes with a promise that if God would restore them and bless them the people would be faithful to Him.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 81-87)

Psalm 81

Psalm 81 is a song celebrating the Lord's deliverance of Israel. The imagery suggests the psalmist is referring to the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-36).

In verses 1-5 Asaph calls the people together to sing praising the Lord. He states that the Law required the people come together.

In verses 6-16 Asaph recalls God delivering the people out of Egypt and God revealing His Law to them. But the people did not submit to God so God allowed them to go their way. God promised that if only they would obey Him He would subdue their enemies and prosper them.

Psalm 82

In verse 1 Asaph describes God as judging an assembly of judges. The word 'god' (*ēlōhm*) is used to describe the authorities in Israel.

In verses 2-8 Asaph warns the judges of Israel to do their jobs well; to be just, protecting the fatherless, poor, and the needy. The warning to these judges is that if they do not do their jobs well they will perish.

Psalm 83

Psalm 83 is a lament over the danger that Israel faced from her enemies.

In verses 1-8 Asaph describes Israel's enemies planning to come against God's people from all directions.

In verses 9-18 Asaph prays that God will intervene and protect Israel from her enemies. He recalls past victories led by the Lord, praying that the Lord will conquer these enemies as well. Asaph prays again that their enemies be put to shame and perish in disgrace so that they will know that the Lord is Most High over all the earth.

Psalm 84

Psalm 84 is a pilgrimage psalm similar to Psalms 42-43 expressing a desire for a place of worship.

In verses 1-4 the Sons of Korah sing of longing for the dwelling place of the Lord as a home where those who dwell are blessed.

In verses 5-7 the psalmists speak of the blessings and joy that comes to those who go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

In verses 8-12 the psalmists pray for the king and sing of the joy of being in

the Lord's presence.

Psalm 85

Psalm 85 by the Sons of Korah describes the grace of God by restoring his people and forgiving their sins.

In verses 1-7 the psalmists praised God for restoring the nation of Israel and forgiving the people's sins in the past. He continues in a prayer that the Lord would again restore the people, not be angry with them any longer, and forgive their sins.

In verses 8-9 the psalmist promises, they will listen to the Lord. Salvation comes to those who fear the Lord that God's glory may dwell in the land.

In verses 10-13 the psalmist expresses confidence that the Lord's faithfulness and righteousness will bring peace and prosperity to the people.

Psalm 86

Psalm 86 is David's prayer to God that He would give him the strength to face the people who hate him. David uses the word Lord (*Yahweh*) stressing God's lordship and sovereignty seven times in this one psalm (Ps 86:3-5, 8-9, 12, 15).

In verses 1-5 David prayed that God would hear his prayer and have mercy on him because of his poor condition.

In verses 6-13 David repeats his plea to the Lord to hear him and answer him as he expressed his faith in God. He alone is God.

In verses 14-17 David prays for strength because insolent, ruthless men have risen up against him. He also asked that others would see God working in David's life and realize it was God who delivered him.

Psalm 87

Psalm 87 by the Sons of Korah describes the glorious nature of the city of Zion and the joy of the people who live there.

In verses 1-3 David describes the glorious nature of Zion (Jerusalem).

In verses 4-7 David lists five nations (Rahab which is Egypt, Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, and Cush) that will be gathered to Zion acknowledging God. The Lord will register the people of all these nations as if they had been born there, and great rejoicing will occur.

What I Noticed Today

(Psalms 88-91)

Psalm 88

Psalm 88 written by Heman the Ezrahite (1 Chronicles 15:19) is a lament describing an affliction that brought him near death.

In verses 1-7 Heman prays day and night for God to deliver him from death.

In verses 8-12 Heman describes his friends shunning him and his eyes weakening as he asks God if dead people praise you (suggesting he could continue to praise God if God would save him).

In verses 13-18 Heman cries out the third time to for God to deliver him but now wonders if God has rejected him. Even so, he knows God is his only hope for deliverance so he will continue to pray

Psalm 89

Psalm 89 is a royal psalm written by Ethan the Ezrahite (1 Chronicles 15:17-18). The multiple references to the Davidic covenant (vv. 3-4, 27-29, 35-37, 49) affirm Messiah will come from the line of David.

In verses 1-4 Ethan proclaims vows to praise the Lord because of His love and faithfulness, and the covenant promises God made to David.

In verses 5-18 Ethan praises the wonders of the Lord (vv. 5-8) and His power (vv. 9-14). Because of God's wonders and power, the people are blessed and protected.

In verses 19-37 Ethan reminds God that he chose David and anointed him as His servant, promised to strengthen and protect him like a father does a son, and the promises of the covenant were unconditional (they could not be broken).

In verses 38-52 Ethan laments David's affliction and defeat. God seemingly cast David aside. Ethan wonders, given the shortness of life, how long God will wait before restoring David.


The doxology of verse 52 ends Book 3.

Book 4

Only three of the seventeen psalms in Book 4 have known authors (Psalm 90 by Moses, and Psalms 101 and 103 by David). The remaining fourteen psalms are anonymous.

Psalm 90

Scholars suggest that this psalm was written by Moses and that it describes a



period of time during the wilderness wanderings. If correct, that makes this the oldest psalm in the book of Psalms.

In verses 1-11 the psalmist contrasts the infinite nature of God with the finite nature of man.

In verses 13-17 the psalmist pleads with the Lord to return to them and to love them, saying this would bring joy to the people all their days. The psalmist asks God to display His work and power to His servants and bring favor on the work of their own hands.

Psalm 91

Although Psalm 91 is anonymous there are several terms common to Psalm 90, Psalm 91, and Psalm 92: dwelling, grass, springs up, make glad, your deeds, and Most High.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist describes the Lord as his refuge and fortress whom he trusts.

In verses 3-13 the psalmist describes how the Lord delivers and protects his children from attack. No harm, says the psalmist, can come to the believer who makes the Lord his refuge because the Lord's angels will protect him.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 92-100)

Psalm 92

Similar to Psalm 90 and Psalm 91, Psalm 92 is a song about the security we have in God.

In verses 1-7 the psalmist declares that it is good to praise the Lord Most High. He speaks of the great works and thoughts of the Lord that are impossible for the fool to understand.

In verses 8-15 the psalmist creates a contrast between the wicked who flourish briefly (v. 7) with the Lord who reigns forever. The psalmist praises the Lord for building him up, allowing him to see the downfall of his enemies, and enabling the righteous to flourish when they are planted in the house of the Lord.

Psalm 93

Psalm 93 is an enthronement psalm (sometimes referred to as a theocratic psalm) celebrating the Lord's reign on the earth. Other enthronement psalms include 47, 93, and 96-99.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist refers to the Lord establishing the world and reigning from of old to everlasting.

In verses 3-5 the psalmist praises the strength and might of the Lord and the holy trustworthiness of the Lord's decrees.

Psalm 94

Psalm 94 recognizes vengeance belongs to the Lord.


In verses 1-7 the psalmist prays for the wicked who oppose God to be judged. He laments the oppression inflicted on the righteous by the wicked because they think the Lord does not see their actions.

In verses 8-15 the psalmist tells the wicked fools that surely the God that created them can hear and see them and knows their wickedness. He warns them that the Lord will not forsake his people and will bring justice to the righteous.

In verses 16-23 the psalmist describes relying on the Lord for help and encouragement. The Lord was his stronghold and refuge.

Psalm 95

Psalm 95 is an enthronement psalm singing praises to the Lord. Other enthronement psalms include 47, 93, and 96-99.



In verses 1-7 the psalmist calls on the congregation to sing praises to the Lord. The Lord is the rock of our salvation; the great King who should be worshiped because He is their God.

Verses 8-11 are didactic (teaching). The psalmist warns the congregation not to make the mistakes of prior generations when they hardened their hearts and were disobedient to the Lord.

Psalm 96

Psalm 96 is a call to people to praise the Lord who reigns in righteousness and truth.

In verses 1-6 the psalmist invites the people of all the earth to sing a new song of praise to the Lord because He is greater than the people's gods and idols.

In verses 7-10 the psalmist calls for families everywhere to ascribe glory and strength to the Lord and worship Him because His reign is righteous.

In verses 11-13 the psalmist calls on all creation and nature to rejoice for the righteous reign of the Lord over all the earth.

Psalm 97

Psalm 97 is a didactic (teaching) psalm describing the coming of the Lord to judge the earth.

In verse 1 the psalmist proclaims the earth's rejoicing because the Lord reigns.

In verses 2-9 the psalmist describes the appearance of the Lord; the clouds, darkness, fire, lightening, and mountains melting that will proclaim the coming of the Lord. The heavens will declare his glory and idol worshippers will be put to shame.

In verses 10-12 the psalmist tells believers to praise the Lord, and despise evil, and in so doing they will be delivered from the wicked.

Psalm 98

Psalm 98 is a call for all the earth to sing praises to the Lord.


In verses 1-3 the psalmist asks the congregation to sing the Lord a new song because He has provided salvation through His love and faithfulness.

In verses 4-9 the psalmist calls the people of the earth to rejoice in the Lord because He comes to judge the world in righteousness.

Psalm 99

Psalm 99 is another call for the people to praise the Lord.

In verses 1-5 calls on the congregation to praise the Lord who reigns in Zion (Jerusalem).



In verses 6-9 the psalmist reminds the people of the Lord's mercy to their ancestors despite their sins and rebellion; that even after punishing them the Lord still answered their prayers.

Psalm 100

Psalm 100 is a psalm of thanksgiving celebrating the Lord's rule.

In verses 1-3 the psalmist calls for the people to sing praises to the sovereign Lord with joyful songs.

In verses 4-5 the psalmist calls on the people to enter into Jerusalem and then into the temple to offer their thanksgiving offerings in recognition of the Lord's blessings and faithfulness to the people.

What I Noticed Today

(Psalms 101-105)

Psalm 101

Psalm 101 is a psalm of David in which he promises to walk with integrity.

In verses 1-2 David promises to sing of God's steadfast love and justice, and to lead a blameless life of integrity.

In verses 3-8 David elaborates saying he will not tolerate evil in the form of worthless men; those with a perverse, arrogant heart; or those who slander others. Rather, David says he will look for faithful men to serve him; men who are blameless, who do not practice deceit, and who do not lie. The wicked he will cut off in the land.

Psalm 102

Psalm 102 is a prayer of someone who is afflicted reaching out to God for help.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist prays that God will hear him and because he is in great distress, he asks God to answer him quickly.

In verses 3-11 the psalmist describes his situation with his body deteriorating. His enemies are taunting him as though he was cursed. He believes his condition is a result of God's wrath as he continues to wither away like grass.

In verses 12-22 the psalmist switches from describing his own condition to praising the Lord who is enthroned forever. He speaks with confidence about the Lord rescuing the people of Jerusalem, and that in His glory other nations would fear and praise Him.


In verses 23-28 the psalmist ends with another appeal for the Lord to notice his condition and to not shorten his days. Because God is unchanging and will never perish, He will be faithful to all future generations.

Psalm 103

Psalm 103 is a psalm of David in which David calls on all creation to bless the Lord.

In verses 1-5 David told himself to praise the Lord who forgives, heals, and redeems because of His love and mercy.

In verses 6-18 David refers to God's righteousness and justice while recounting Israel's history. God made His covenant with Moses. God forgives sins because He loves the people. God has compassion for the people because God knows how weak and frail man is. Despite man's weakness, the Lord's



love is with those who obey him.

In verses 19-22 David concludes blessing the Lord who has dominion over all the earth.

Psalm 104

Psalm 104 begins with the same words as Psalm 103 in praise of the Lord.

In verse 1 the psalmist blesses the Lord who is very great.

In verses 2-23 the psalmist describes the majesty and greatness of the Lord in the lights, clouds, wind, and fire. He describes the majesty of the earth, the water, the food for animals and man, and how the earth is amazingly designed for all forms of life.

In verses 24-30 the psalmist recognizes God's wisdom displayed in His great creation.

In verses 33-35 the psalmist promises to sing to the Lord all his days in hopes that his meditation will be pleasing to God, and hopes that the sinners and wicked will be no more.

Psalm 105

Psalm 105 is a song recounting the wondrous works of the Lord.

In verses 1-6 the psalmist calls on the people of Israel to praise, rejoice, and remember the wondrous works of the Lord.

In verses 7-41 the psalmist recalls the Lord's covenant with Abraham and recounts the history of Israel as God fulfilled His promise to make Israel into a great nation.

In verses 42-25 the psalmist speaks of how the Lord remembered His people and rescued them from Egypt, and led them to the Promised Land.

What I Noticed Today

(Psalms 106-107)

Psalm 106

Psalm 106 is a confessional psalm in which the psalmist recounts Israel's rebellion against God and prays that God will still deliver the people.

In verses 1-5 the psalmist praises God for His love and power.

In verses 6-46 the psalmist began by confessing that Israel had sinned as their fathers had sinned. He then recounts the rebellion of the people at the Red Sea (vv. 7-12), the sins of the people as God led them to the Promised Land (vv. 13-33), and their sin in not destroying the inhabitants of the Promised Land as God had commanded them (vv. 34-46).

In verses 47-48 the psalmist prays the God will once again save the people by gathering them together from the nations so that they could once again give thanks and praise God.

Book 5

There are 44 psalms in Book 5; 15 written by David, 1 by Solomon, and 28 that are anonymous.

Psalm 107

Psalm 107 is a psalm calling on the redeemed of the Lord to praise him for delivering the people.

In verses 1-3 the psalmist calls on the people to thank God for his steadfast love, especially those the Lord had redeemed.

In verses 4-32 the psalmist gives four examples of how the Lord delivered the people:

In verses 4-9 the Lord delivered some from their wandering in the wilderness.

In verses 10-16 the Lord delivered some who were prisoners.

In verses 17-22 the Lord delivered some who were sick and near death.

In verses 23-32 the Lord delivered some who were sailors from the storms on the seas.

In verses 33-43 the psalmist calls on the people to praise the Lord for His sovereignty on governing the world. He concludes saying it is the wise man who considers what the Lord has done, praise Him for His steadfast love.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 108-118)

Psalm 108

Psalm 108 is a psalm of David praising the Lord for His steadfast love and faithfulness.

In verses 1-6 David praises God for his steadfast love and faithfulness. The Lord should be exalted over all the earth so that His beloved will be delivered.

In verses 7-13 David prayed for God's help in defeating Israel's enemies.

Psalm 109

Psalm 109 is a psalm of David praying that the Lord would avenge Israel's enemies.

In verses 1-5 David cried out to God praising Him and asking Him to deliver Israel from the deceitful, hateful enemies.

In verses 6-20 David cursed his enemy asking that he be found guilty and that he be cut-off because this man had taken advantage of the poor, the needy, and the brokenhearted.

In verses 21-31 David asked the Lord for His help in delivering him because he was poor and needy, weak, and an object of scorn. David said he would rejoice when the wicked were put to shame and disgraced, and would give God the credit for delivering him.

Psalm 110

Psalm 110 is a prophetic psalm of David after he received an oracle from the Lord.


In verses 1-2 David reports a conversation between the Lord (*Yahweh*) and David's Lord (*Ādōnāy*), or God the Father and the Messiah, saying that David's Lord is sitting at the right hand of the Father.

In verses 3-4 those who will join the Messiah in battle will be holy and the Lord will be a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

In verses 5-7 David foretells the glorious victory of the Lord, crushing kings, and judging nations as He is lifted up.

Psalm 111

Similar to Psalm 112, in Psalm 111 the psalmist praises the Lord for his wondrous work of redemption.



In verses 1-3 the psalmist praises the Lord for His great and wondrous works.

In verses 4-9 the psalmist reviews specifics of God's wondrous works: He is gracious and compassionate, He remembers His covenant, He is faithful, and His name is Holy and awesome.

In verse 10 the psalmist concludes that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Psalm 112

Psalm 112 describes some of the blessings received by someone who fears the Lord.

In verse 1 the psalmist says that he who fears the Lord and delights in His law is blessed.

In verses 2-9 the psalmist describes five blessings: physical and material prosperity because he is righteous, light is given even in darkness, goodness is received in return for being generous, his faith will be unshakable, and because he provides for the poor he will be lifted up and honored by the Lord.

In verse 10 the psalmist describes the anxiety that will fill the wicked who are about to waste away.

Psalms 113-118

Psalms 113-118 are what is known as the Hallel, a collection of songs sung at major festivals and Holy days. For example, Psalms 113-114 are sung before the Passover meal, and Psalms 115-118 are sung afterward.

Psalm 113

Psalm 113 is a call to all believers to praise God.

In verses 1-3 the psalmist calls on servants of the Lord to praise His name.

Note: Praise the Lord in Hebrew is *halelû-yāh* (hallelujah).

In verses 4-9 the psalmist says servants of the Lord should praise Him because of his greatness and grace.

Psalm 114

Psalm 114 celebrates the Lord's deliverance of the people in Exodus.

In verses 1-4 the psalmist relates the power of God when God brought them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea and into Canaan.

In verses 7-8 the psalmist instructs the earth to tremble at the power of the Lord.

Psalm 115

Psalm 115 is a call for the Lord to demonstrate His sovereignty.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist speaks of the people's unworthiness in contrast to the glory, love, and faithfulness of the Lord.

In verses 3-8 the psalmist declares the sovereignty of the Lord over idols.

In verses 9-11 the psalmist calls on the people of Israel to trust in the Lord, not in idols.

In verses 12-18 the psalmist calls on everyone to trust in the Lord because as creator of the heaven and earth he will bless them

Psalm 116

Psalm 116 is a personal song of thanksgiving because the Lord delivered the psalmist from certain death.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist declares his love for the Lord because the Lord has heard him.

In verses 3-11 the psalmist describes how the Lord delivered him at the point of death. He describes three lessons from the experience: believers can rest because God can remove suffering, God delivers so they can live in obedience to Him, and God can be trusted in the midst of great affliction.

In verses 12-19 the psalmist says all he can do to repay the Lord is to lift Him up in praise so that others will also hear. The lives of the servants of the Lord are precious to Him.

Psalm 117

Psalm 117 is a short invitation to people everywhere to praise the Lord.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist calls on all nations to praise the Lord because the Lord loves and is faithful to His people.

Psalm 118

Psalm 118 is a praise song of the Lord's faithful love for His people. It is prophetic in its description of the Messiah.

In verses 1-4 the psalmist calls on Israel and others who fear the Lord to acknowledge the steadfast love of the Lord.

In verses 5-21 the psalmist describes how the Lord rescued him from distress and was his refuge in the midst of his enemies. He praises the Lord for His strength, song, and salvation. The psalmist declares thanks for God's righteousness and sings praises for delivering him.

In verses 22-29 the psalmist declares that the Lord had taken the stone that the builders had rejected and made it the capstone of the nation. He prayed for the Lord to save the people as they acknowledged the Lord's steadfast

love of His people.



What I Noticed Today (Psalms 119)

Psalm 119

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the book of Psalms, with 176 verses. It is written in an acrostic format. The first letter of each paragraph begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Additionally, each paragraph (also known as a strophe), is composed of eight verses. Each of these verses begins with the same Hebrew letter.

The psalm is a collection of prayers on the Word of God. The Word of God is referred to by ten synonyms: Law, Word, Saying, Commandment, Statutes, Judgement, Precepts, Testimony, Way, and Path.

Aleph

In verses 1-8 the psalmist declares that those who walk in the way of the Lord are blessed. He prays that he will be able to follow God's law and promises to praise God as he learns more about God's statutes.

Bet

In verses 9-16 the psalmist says that a man stays pure by wholeheartedly seeking God, storing up God's Word in his heart, and meditating on it continually.

Gimel

In verses 17-24 the psalmist asks the Lord to open his eyes to see the blessings in the Law. He prays that the Lord would keep evil doers away so that he can meditate on God's Word.

Daleth

In verses 25-32 the psalmist prays that the Lord would learn and understand God's statutes so that he can meditate on them. He promises to remain faithful to God's Law.


He

In verses 33-40 the psalmist declares his loyalty to the Word of God which he followed with a whole heart. He prayed that the Lord would keep him from covetousness and vanity.

Waw

In verses 41-48 the psalmist asks the Lord to save him based on the Lord's promise and steadfast love. He then prayed that he would keep God's Law continually.

Zayin



In verses 49-56 the psalmist says that his hope is in the Word comforts him in the midst of his afflictions. He is angry with those who forsake the Law. He is blessed because he has kept God's precepts.

Heth

In verses 57-64 the psalmist says the Lord is his portion and promises to keep His Word even when surrounded by the wicked.

Teth

In verses 65-72 the psalmist says that the Lord has dealt with his servant according to His Word and asks the Lord to teach him good judgment and knowledge so he won't go astray. He admits that being afflicted helped him learn the Lord's statutes

Yodh

In verses 73-80 the psalmist declares that he was created by the Lord and asks that the Lord give him the understanding to learn His commandments. He prayed that the insolent be shamed while those who fear the Lord will turn to Him.

Kaph

In verses 81-88 the psalmist says his soul longs for the Lord and wonders how long he will have to wait before the Lord vindicates him. He claims to have remained true to the Lord's precepts despite facing intense persecution.

Lamedh

In verses 89-96 the psalmist declares the Lord's Word is fixed in heaven and established on earth. God's law delights him and has given him life.

Mem

In verses 97-104 the psalmist declares his love for the Law of God, meditating on it all day. It has given him more understanding and keeps him from evil.

Nun

In verses 105-112 the psalmist sees God's Word as light to direct his path and he vows to follow it. In his distress, he prays for the Lord to rescue him as he follows God's Law faithfully.

Samekh

In verses 113-120 the psalmist hates the double-minded but loves the Law because it is his refuge. He prays that the Lord will keep him safe as He destroys the wicked.

Ayin

In verses 121-128 the psalmist prays for God to not abandon him to the wicked, to save him, and teach him God's Law so he will know how to act



Pe

In verses 129-136 the psalmist says God's Word gives light and understanding. He prays that God will be gracious to him, keep iniquity from him, and redeem him from oppression.

Tsadhe

In verses 137-144 the psalmist declares the righteousness of the Lord. He expresses zeal for the Word that comforts him even in the midst of trouble and anguish.

Qoph

In verses 145-152 the psalmist asks the Lord to rescue him as he cries for help. The evil men who persecute him are closing in around him, yet he relies on the true Word of the Lord.

Resh

In verses 153-160 the psalmist calls on the Lord to deliver him in the midst of his anguish according to His promise. The wicked are far from salvation but the Lord's mercy is great.

Sin & Shin

In verses 161-168 the psalmist's heart is in awe of the Words of the Lord despite the princes who persecute him. He hates falsehood, but loves the Law, and prays for salvation as he meditates on the Law because he loves it.

Taw

In verses 169-176 the psalmist asks God to hear his cry and to deliver him according to His word. He will praise the Lord and longs for salvation because he delights in God's law.

What I Noticed Today (Psalms 120-131)

Psalms of Ascents

Psalms 120-134 are known as the Psalms of Ascents. They were sung as pilgrims ascended to Jerusalem for annual feasts. Four of the psalms are ascribed to David (122, 124, 131, and 133), one is ascribed to Solomon (127), and 10 are anonymous.

Psalm 120

Psalms 120 is a prayer for deliverance from liars.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist prays for deliverance from liars.

In verses 3-4 the psalmist prays for the Lord to destroy the liars.

In verses 5-7 the psalmist laments dwelling amidst those who hate peace while he wants peace.

Psalm 121

In verses 1-2 the psalmist says his help comes from the Lord.

In verses 3-8 the psalmist switches from “I” and ‘my’ to ‘he’ and ‘your’ as though someone is with him. He says God watches over his people and will protect them at all times.

Psalm 122

Psalm 122 is a psalm of David calling on everyone to pray for peace.

In verses 1-2 David says he is delighted to go to Jerusalem.

In verses 3-5 David speaks of Jerusalem as the spiritual center of Israel.

In verses 6-9 David asks the people to pray for peace for the sake of the people as well as for the sake of the city itself.


Psalm 123

In verses 1-2 the psalmist lifts up his eyes to heaven like a servant to a master.

In verses 3-4 the psalmist prays for mercy because the people have endured contempt and scorn.

Psalm 124

In verses 1-5 the psalmist praises God for protecting the people against the anger of the enemies who would have destroyed them.



In verses 6-8 the psalmist praises the Lord for not giving up on the people and helping them to escape from those who would destroy them.

Psalm 125

In verses 1-3 the psalmist says that those who trust in the Lord are secure. He says the Lord surrounds his people like the mountains surround Jerusalem.

In verses 4-5 the psalmist prays that the Lord will bless those who are good and lead away the evildoers.

Psalm 126

In verses 1-3 the psalmist speaks of the joy the exiles felt when the Lord brought them back.

In verses 4-6 the psalmist prays that the Lord will restore the people. He uses a metaphor of sowing and reaping (that their work in sowing would bring a joyful harvest) to depict the spreading of God's Word.

Psalm 127

Psalm 127 was written by Solomon and focuses on the futility of building or laboring without God.

In verses 1-2 Solomon says a builder builds and a watchman watches in vain without God.

In verses 3-5 Solomon refers to children as a reward and a blessing from the Lord.

Psalm 128

In verses 1-2 the psalmist says those who fear the Lord will be blessed.

In verses 2-4 the psalmist says the blessing includes having many children.

In verses 5-6 the psalmist calls for the Lord's blessing on those who fear the Lord and that they live long lives (see their children's children) in peace.

Psalm 129


In verses 1-4 the psalmist invites the people of Israel to say that though they have been afflicted they have not been overcome by their oppressors because the righteous Lord had cut off the wicked.

In verses 5-8 the psalmist prays that the enemies of Israel would be put to shame, turned away, and not receive the Lord's blessing.

Psalm 130

In verses 1-2 the psalmist cries out to the Lord for mercy.

In verses 3-4 the psalmist says no one with sin can stand before the Lord but



with God there is forgiveness.

In verses 5-8 the psalmist declares that he is waiting patiently for the Lord and encourages the people to put their hope in the Lord. Because of the Lord's love, He would redeem them from their sins.

Psalm 131

Psalm 131 is a psalm of David who speaks of his trust in the Lord.

In verses 1-2 David claims that he has not been prideful but that he had depended on the Lord.

In verse 3 David called on the people of Israel to put their hope in the Lord forever.

What I Noticed Today

(Psalms 132-138)

Psalm 132

Psalm 132 is a call to the people of Israel to remember David's vow concerning the placement of the ark.

In verses 1-5 the psalmist cries out to God to remember David's hardships and his promise to find a dwelling place for the ark.

In verses 6-10 the congregation remembers the ark in Ephrathah and in Jaar (1 Samuel 7:1-2) before it arrived in Jerusalem where the priests, clothed in righteousness, shouted for joy.

In verses 11-18 the psalmist restates the Davidic covenant; David's descendants would sit on the throne forever, the Lord had chosen Jerusalem as His dwelling place, and would abundantly bless His chosen people.

Psalm 133

Psalm 133 was written by David describing the goodness of brothers who dwell in unity.

In verses 1-3 David states it is good for brothers to dwell together in unity; comparing it to precious oil or the morning dew on Mt. Herman.

Psalm 134

In verses 1-3 the psalmist calls on the servants of the Lord to praise Him with hands lifted up asking the Lord to bless them.

Psalm 135

Psalm 135 is a praise song calling on the priests to praise the Lord.

In verses 1-3 the psalmist calls on the servants of the Lord (priests) to praise God because He is good.

In verses 4-18 the psalmist provides reasons for giving God the praise: God chose Israel, He is above all other gods, He is sovereign over all heaven and earth, He defeated Egypt and nations to bring the people to the Promised Land, and He endures forever.

In verses 19-21 the psalmist calls on all Israel to praise God from Zion who dwells in Jerusalem.

Psalm 136

Psalm 136 is a praise psalm similar to Psalm 135. The "Lord's loyal love" (or "steadfast love" depending on translation) is repeated in each of the 26



verses.

In verses 1-3 the psalmist calls on the people to thank the Lord who is the Lord of Lords.

In verses 4-25 the psalmist lists the reasons for praising the Lord: His wonders, His creation, His help to Israel bringing them into the Promised Land, and freeing them from their enemies.

In verse 26 the psalmist calls on the people to give thanks to the God of Heaven because of His enduring love.

Note: this is the only place in the Book of Psalms where the title “God of Heaven” is used.

Psalm 137

Psalm 137 reveals the torment of the nation Israel because the city of God had been destroyed.

In verses 1-4 the psalmist remembers how the exiles wept over the destruction of Jerusalem.

In verses 5-6 the psalmist promised to remember Jerusalem, his greatest joy.

In verses 7-9 the psalmist prays for God to remember the Edomites who rejoiced as the city of Jerusalem was destroyed and the Babylonians who dashed the children of Jerusalem upon the rocks.

Psalm 138

Psalm 138 is a psalm of David praising the Lord for his love and goodness in answering his prayer.

In verses 1-3 David promised to praise the Lord in the temple for His faithfulness in answering David’s prayer.

In verses 4-5 David prayed that all the earth would praise and sing to the glory of the Lord.

In verses 6-8 David says that the Lord looks after the lowly. God preserved his life in the midst of trouble and delivered him from his enemies because His steadfast love endures forever.

What I Noticed Today

(Psalms 139-143)

Psalm 139

Psalm 139 is a psalm of David composed of four strophes of six verses each.

In verses 1-6 David speaks of God's knowledge (omniscience). David says the Lord knows his every move and every thought before he even speaks.

In verses 7-12 David speaks of God's presence (omnipresence). David says there is no place that he can go that God is not already there.

In verses 13-18 David speaks of God's great power (omnipotence). David says God knit him together in his mother's womb, and that he is fearfully and wonderfully made. God's thoughts are precious to him.

In verses 19-24 David asks God to slay the wicked men who speak against God. David says he considers men who hate God as his enemies. He concludes asking God to search his heart and lead him in the way everlasting.

Psalm 140

Psalm 140 is a psalm of David in which he curses the wicked knowing that the Lord would bring justice upon them.

In verses 1-8 David called on the Lord to save him from evil, violent men who have set traps for him.

In verses 9-11 David cursed the wicked asking for them to be cast into the fire.

In verses 12-13 speaks of God's justice for the needy and that the righteous will praise His name and live in His presence.

Psalm 141

Psalm 141 is a psalm of David praying for spiritual protection.


In verses 1-2 David calls on the Lord in hopes that He will answer him quickly.

In verses 3-7 David prays that the Lord guard his lips keeping him from evil and that David would accept the rebukes of the righteous.

In verses 8-10 David focuses his eyes on the Lord, his refuge. He asks that God not leave him defenseless against the evildoers who have set traps for him.

Psalm 142

Psalm 142 is a psalm of David as he was hiding in the cave from Saul.



In verses 1-2 David cries out to the Lord pleading for mercy.

In verses 3-4 David praises God for being with him when his spirit was weak and it seemed that no one else cared for him.

In verses 5-7 David cries out to the Lord, his refuge, to deliver him from his persecutors for then the righteous will join him.

Psalm 143

Psalm 143 is a psalm of David as he prays for guidance and deliverance from his enemies.

In verses 1-6 David calls on the Lord to hear his prayer for mercy as his enemies pursue him and his soul is weak. He remembers the past days and the Lord's work as he prays for the Lord to meet the needs of his thirsty soul.

In verses 7-12 David prays for the Lord to answer him quickly because his spirit is weak. He asks the Lord to lead him, deliver him from his enemies, teach him to do God's will, and preserve his life. David fully expected God to crush his enemies because he was God's servant.

What I Noticed Today

(Psalms 144-150)

Psalm 144

Psalm 144 is a psalm of David in which he prays for God to give him victory in combat.

In verses 1-2 David praises God as his rock who had trained him for battle. God is his love, fortress, stronghold, deliverer, and shield.

In verses 3-11 David marvels that since life is short (like a vapor) God reaches out to help him. David prays that God will scatter his enemies, and rescue and deliver him from the hand of his enemies.

In verses 12-15 David describes the benefits of God rescuing the people; the people themselves will prosper as will the nation Israel because those whose Lord is God will be blessed.

Psalm 145

Psalm 145 is a psalm of David which he titled “A Song of Praise” and the only one in the book of psalms with that title.

In verses 1-7 David vows praise the Lord every day. The Lord would be praised from one generation to another because of his majesty as they speak of His works, meditate on them, sing of them, and celebrate His goodness.

In verses 8-16 David speaks of God’s compassion and love and the saints who praise Him. He tells the congregation about God’s faithfulness who upholds those who are falling and raises up those who are bowed down.

In verses 17-21 David praises the Lord for being righteous and near to those who call on Him. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him and saves those who cry out to Him as he destroys the wicked.


Psalm 146

Psalm 146 is a psalm of praise to Creator God who is faithful to the His people.

In verses 1-4 the psalmist vows to praise the Lord all his life and instructs the congregation to trust in the Lord, not in man.

In verses 5-6 the psalmist calls a blessing on those who place their trust and hope in the Lord because He is the Creator and remains faithful to His people.

In verses 7-10 the psalmist describes ways in which the Lord helps His people: He helps the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, releases prisoners, gives sight to the blind, raises up the defeated, loves the righteous, protects



the traveler, and provides security for widows and orphans. The psalmist concludes saying the Lord reigns forever to all generations.

Psalm 147

Psalm 147 is a psalm praising God for His greatness and grace while calling on the congregation to also praise the Lord.

In verses 1-6 the psalmist says it is good, pleasant, and fitting to praise the Lord because the Lord built up Jerusalem and restored those who turned to Him.

In verses 7-11 the psalmist calls on the congregation to praise the Lord in music because of His creation. God delights not in the mighty but in those who trust Him.

In verses 12-20 the psalmist calls on Jerusalem to praise the Lord who gave them peace. The Lord commands the earth. By His word he controls the snow, frost, hail, ice, and breezes. It is God's statutes that rule over Israel.

Psalm 148

Psalm 148 is a psalm of praise calling on all of heaven to praise the Lord.

In verses 1-6 the psalmist sings praise to the Lord and calls on all of heaven to join in singing praises to the Lord.

In verses 7-14 the psalmist calls on all the earth and all the creatures of the earth to sing praises to the Lord for He is to be exalted.

Psalm 149

Psalm 149 is a psalm of praise in which the psalmist calls on the nation of Israel to sing praises to the Lord.

In verses 1-3 the psalmist praises the Lord. He calls on Israel to praise the Lord in a new song and to rejoice in their maker and king with dancing and musical instruments.

In verses 4-5 the psalmist says the people should praise the Lord because He gave them salvation.

In verses 6-9 the psalmist called on Israel to praise the Lord as they take a sword in their hands to execute vengeance on the enemies of the Lord.

Psalm 150

Psalm 150 is a psalm of praise to be made in the sanctuary with musical instruments.

In verses 1-2 the psalmist calls for praise to be given in the sanctuary in recognition of what He has done because this is the dwelling place of God.

In verses 3-5 the psalmist asks for the praise to be given using trumpets, harps, lyres, tambourines, stringed instruments, flutes, and cymbals, as well as with dancing.