

Psalms Notes

Book Five: Psalms 107–150

107. *God Satisfies the Longing Soul*

Theme:

God's dependable love

Summary:

1-3 A call for thanksgiving

4-9 God satisfies the longing soul

10-16 Man the prisoner, God the deliverer

17-22 Man the sufferer, God the healer

23-32 Man the sailor, God our pilot

33-43 Observe the wonderful works of God

Capsule Thought:

This is a plea to thank God for all the wonderful works He does. O that man would observe and understand the love of God.

Thought Questions:

How come only the wise observe the loving works of God?

108. *Awake Early and Praise the Lord*

Theme:

Assurance of God's deliverance

Summary:

1-5 Praise the LORD

6-9 God has spoken

10-13 A prayer for help

Capsule Thought:

David praises the LORD at all times, for the word He has spoken and for the deliverance that will come.

Thought Question:

Why did David trust in God treading down his enemies, when he speaks of God casting them off and not going out with Israel's army?

109. *Song of the Slandered*

Theme:

A plea for God's judgment on accusers

Summary:

1-5 David's enemies

6-20 A curse on David's enemies

21-31 An appeal for God's help

Capsule Thought:

Being falsely accused, David casts a harsh curse upon his enemies and asks God for help.

Thought Question:

Is this curse of David's an example we should follow? Why or why not?

110. *The Coming of the King*

Theme:

The Messiah

Summary:

1-3 The king as warrior

4-7 The king as priest

Capsule Thought:

This is the most quoted psalm in the NT, It is one of the most clearly messianic psalms.

Thought Question:

How can a son of David be greater than David himself?

111. *Praise for God's Tender Care*

Theme:

A personal praise for God

Summary:

1-9 God's mighty works

10 The beginning of wisdom

Capsule Thought:

This is a personal praise to God with a whole heart for the wonderful works of God.

Thought Question:

What works of God does this psalm mention specifically?

112. *The Blessings of Those Who Fear God*

Theme:

The blessings of the righteous

Summary:

1 A beatitude

2-9 The righteous person's response and reward

10 The wicked person's response and punishment

Capsule Thought:

This psalm describes the righteous person's character and reward as contrasted to the wicked person's. It is a description of the beatitude given in vs 1.

Thought Question:

How do the desires of the righteous and the wicked differ? Why?

113. *The Compassionate Grace of God*

Theme:

Praise for God's glory and care for the lowly

Summary:

1-3 Praise the LORD

4-9 The majestic God humbles himself to care for the lowly

Capsule Thought:

The God of heaven who is worthy to be praised forever bows low to care for the humble.

Thought Question:

What does God do for the humble?

114. *In Praise for the Exodus*

Theme:

Understanding the power of God

Summary:

1-6 The LORD reigns

7-8 Tremble at the presence of the LORD

Capsule Thought:

The exodus of Israel from Egypt demonstrated the awesome power of God to create something out of nothing.

Thought Questions:

Describe some of the miracles of the Exodus?

115. *To God Alone Be the Glory*

Theme:

God contrasted to idols

Summary:

1-2 Where is Israel's God?

3-8 God is in heaven not made of silver and gold

9-18 O Israel, bless the LORD

Capsule Thought:

The worshipers of idols can't see Israel's God who dwells in the heavens because they have made their God's after their own image.

Thought Questions:

How did the psalmist answer the mocking of the pagans?

116. *Love the Lord for What He Has Done*

Theme:

Personal thanksgiving to God

Summary:

1-11 The LORD has heard my distress call

12-19 The psalmist's response to God's care

Capsule Thought:

The psalmist professes his love for God because God hears him and is gracious to him. He wonders how he can repay God for the deliverance he received.

Thought Questions:

How did the psalmist resolve to repay God for His goodness?

117. *The Praise of All Peoples*

Theme:

All people should praise the LORD

Summary:

1-2 A call to praise

Capsule Thought:

Even the gentiles should praise the LORD for his loving mercy.

Thought Questions:

What is the point of this shortest of psalms?

118. *Better to Trust God than Man*

Theme:

Give thanks for God's eternal mercy

Summary:

1-4 Say His mercy endures forever

5-20 The Lord is with me, what can man do to me?

21-29 Praise the LORD for the Stone

Capsule Thought:

This psalm calls on three groups to praise God for His eternal mercy. It speaks of the nations surrounding this person but they will be destroyed by this person because the LORD is with him.

Thought Questions:

What ideas found in this psalm are used of Jesus in the New Testament?

119. *An Acrostic in Praise of the Scriptures*

Theme:

How excellent is the Word of God

Summary:

1-176 An acrostic poem delighting in the law of God

Capsule Thought:

This acrostic poem is broken into 22 groups of 8 verses each. The first letter of each verse in each group begins with the same letter. The 22 groups go through the Hebrew alphabet.

Thought Questions:

How does the word of God help us?

120. *A Cry in Distress*

Theme:

Deliverance from lying lips

Summary:

1-2 Deliver me from lying lips

3-4 The reward of the false tongue

5-7 Woe is me

Capsule Thought:

This is the first of a group of psalms (10-134) titled A song of Ascents. This title likely refers to songs that were sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem at their three appointed feasts.

Thought Questions:

What was the problem the psalmist had with living in Meshech?

121. *God Is Our Keeper*

Theme:

Trust in God

Summary:

1-2 God is my help

3-8 God stands guard for you

Capsule Thought:

Where can someone find help? His help comes from the maker of heaven and earth.

Thought Questions:

What is God protecting and from what is He protecting it?

122. *“Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”*

Theme:

The joy of going to the house of the LORD

Summary:

1-2 Going to Jerusalem

3-5 Why Jerusalem is built

6-9 Pray for peace in Jerusalem

Capsule Thought:

David rejoiced when God’s people were gathering at Jerusalem, at the house of the LORD.

Thought Questions:

Why was Jerusalem built?

123. *Plea for the Mercy of God*

Theme:

Relief from others contempt

Summary:

1-2 Looking to God for mercy

3-4 Needing mercy from others scorn

Capsule Thought:

This psalm speaks of our need for God's mercy because of the ridicule of proud and arrogant people.

Thought Questions:

What kind of mercy would God give that would relieve us from this kind of suffering?

124. *God Is on Our Side*

Theme:

A song of Thanksgiving

Summary:

1-5 God gives the victory over our enemies

6-8 Blessed be the LORD

Capsule Thought:

If the LORD was not on Israel's side, she would have been destroyed.

Thought Questions:

How is this psalm applicable to believers today?

125. *Trust in the Lord and Abide Forever*

Theme:

The protection of the LORD

Summary:

1-3 Those who trust in the LORD

4-5 Do good Lord to the good and take away the evil persons

Capsule Thought:

To those who are good God will do good for them, but to those who practice perverse things God will take them away.

Thought Question:

Why are God's people likened to Mount Zion?

126. *"Sow in Tears ... Reap in Joy"*

Theme:

The complete restoration of God's people

Summary:

1-3 The Lord has done great things for us

4-6 A plea for continued revival of Israel

Capsule Thought:

After returning from captivity, they plead for the nation's prosperity to return also.

Thought Question:

What does the person who brings in the sheaves do beforehand?

127. Children Are God's Heritage

Theme:

Depend on God

Summary:

1-2 On building a house

3-5 On building a family

Capsule Thought:

Human effort will result in nothing without the work of God behind it. We need to acknowledge His involvement and listen to His advice.

Thought Question:

How do children bring happiness to mankind?

128. Blessing on the House of the God-Fearing

Theme:

God blesses the faithful

Summary:

1-2 Happy is the man who fears the LORD

3-4 Prosperity upon his family

5-6 A benediction – a prayer for blessings

Capsule Thought:

Someone who fears the LORD respects God and His teachings, and shows that by living the way God has taught.

Thought Question:

What is promised to the person who fears God?

129. Plea of the Persecuted

Theme:

Israel prevails against her enemies

Summary:

1-4 Persecuted but preserved

5-8 A curse on their enemies

Capsule Thought:

Israel often suffers because of her own sins but God protects Israel from being destroyed.

Thought Question:

What image is used to describe Israel's persecution by their enemies?

130. “My Soul Waits for the Lord”

Theme:

A plea for forgiveness

Summary:

1-2 Out of the depths I cried to You

3-4 The grace of the LORD

5-6 Waiting for the LORD

7-8 Israel's, hope is in the LORD

Capsule Thought:

If God would not forgive iniquities then no one would be able to stand, yet because God is merciful then the psalmist has hope for salvation as does the nation of Israel as well.

Thought Question:

What is the condition of the one making supplication?

131. A Childlike Faith

Theme:

Trust in the LORD

Summary:

1-3 Content like a young child with his mother

Capsule Thought:

This psalm speaks of the contentment one feels with his place in life and a call for all of Israel to place their hope in the LORD.

Thought Questions:

What is the source of the contentment the psalmist feels?

132. Trust in the God of David

Theme:

David's desire for a house of the LORD

Summary:

1-5 King David's desire for a house for God

6-9 The LORD and the ark arise to go to their resting place in Jerusalem

10-18 The LORD has chosen David in Zion

Capsule Thought:

This psalm reminds the hearers that the Temple of God in Zion came from the desire of King David and that God's blessings were promised to flow from Zion, His resting place.

Thought Questions:

Why did pilgrims remember David as they went to worship at the Temple of Solomon?

133. Beauty of the Unity of the Brethren

Theme:

Unity of Brethren

Summary:

1-2 The goodness of unity

3 The blessing of the LORD

Capsule Thought:

The unity of family said to be a blessing like water that flows down to Zion where God proclaimed a blessing of life eternal.

Thought Questions:

What is unity described to be like?

134. Praise the Lord in the Evening

Theme:

May the LORD bless you

Summary:

1-2 Bless the LORD

3 May the LORD bless you

Capsule Thought:

The last of the ascent psalms pictures the pilgrims now standing around the sanctuary being urged to pray and bless the LORD. It ends with the benediction asking God to bless the worshippers who have come to the sanctuary.

Thought Questions:

What does lifting up hands mean?

135. God Has Done Great Things!

Theme:

Praise of God

Summary:

1-4 Praise the LORD

5-14 Why we praise the LORD

15-18 Foolishness of idols

19-21 Bless the LORD You servants

Capsule Thought:

This psalm spells out why we should praise the LORD and why He is greater than all the idols of man's hand.

Thought Questions:

How are idol worshippers like the idols they make?

136. *God's Mercy Endures Forever*

Theme:

Eternal mercy of God

Summary:

1-3 Give thanks

4-9 God and creation

10-26 God and Israel

Capsule Thought:

This psalm speaks of God's mighty works in creation and for Israel that have come because of the everlasting mercy of God toward man.

Thought Questions:

What does God's mighty works for Israel mean for us?

137. *Tears in Exile*

Theme:

Grief in exile

Summary:

1-6 By the rivers of Babylon

7-9 A curse on their enemies

Capsule Thought:

As the psalmist speaks from near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers he curses himself if he should ever forget his homeland. He then curses the neighbors of Judah, specifically Edom, for their joy in Jerusalem's destruction.

Thought Questions:

Why should Babylon be cursed for doing what God called them to do?

138. *God Answered My Prayer*

Theme:

Thanksgiving to God

Summary:

1-3 I will praise and worship you

4-8 May all kings praise you

Capsule Thought:

David praises God for His love and truth as well as for the care He gives to the lowly?

Thought Questions:

When are all the kings of the earth going to praise God?

139. *“Search Me, O God”*

Theme:

God is All Knowing

Summary:

1-6 God’s unlimited knowledge

7-12 God’s universal presence

13-18 God created us

19-24 God the judge of all

Capsule Thought:

God knows everything there is to know about all mankind. He made us and watches over us and will someday judge us for the way in which we walk.

Thought Questions:

What are some implications of God’s perfect knowledge of us?

140. *Preserve Me from Violence*

Theme:

Prayer for deliverance

Summary:

1-8 Deliver me from evil men

9-11 Let the plans of evil men fall upon them

12-13 God is just

Capsule Thought:

While praying for God to deliver him, David asked for God to pour out the plans of the wicked men upon them and ended with his thanks for God’s righteous justice

Thought Questions:

What were the characteristics of David’s enemies?

141. *“Set a Guard, O LORD, over My Mouth”*

Theme:

Keep me from the snares of iniquity

Summary:

1-2 Prayer as worship

3-4 Keep me from the iniquity of the wicked

5-10 Help me escape the snares of the wicked, while they fall into them

Capsule Thought:

This psalm is similar to the previous one where David is asking God to keep him from the snares of iniquity that wicked men have set, and let them fall by their own traps.

Thought Questions:

What did Jesus ask God for in His model prayer that is similar to this psalm?

142. *“No One Cares for My Soul”*

Theme:

Prayer for God’s help

Summary:

1-4 I have no help or refuge from my enemies

5-7 God is my refuge

Capsule Thought:

When David was on the run from Saul, hiding on caves, he had nobody to help him or give him refuge from Saul’s attempts to capture him.

Thought Question:

How was David feeling when he cried out these words?

143. *“Teach Me to Do Your Will”*

Theme:

Deliver me, teach me, and revive me

Summary:

1-2 A cry for help

3-6 I remember before I was crushed down

7-12 His request to God

Capsule Thought:

David needed a speedy answer from God because he said his spirit had failed within him.

Thought Question:

What had David’s enemies done to him?

144. *“What Is Man?”*

Theme:

Joy in God’s protection

Summary:

1-2 The Lord prepares His people

3-4 Why do you care for man?

5-8 Come and rescue me from lying people

9-15 Happy are the people of the LORD

Capsule Thought:

David may not know why God cares for man, but he knows that God does.

Thought Question:

How does God protect his people?

145. *Testify to God's Great Acts*

Theme:

Praise of God

Summary:

1-3 A promise to praise God

4-7 The glorious works of God

8-9 The compassion of God

10-13 The kingdom of God

14-21 The faithfulness of God

Capsule Thought:

This is an acrostic poem going thru the Hebrew alphabet. We learn God's kingdom is an everlasting one that goes through all generations.

Thought Question:

What do we learn about God's faithfulness to mankind?

146. *"Do Not Put Your Trust in Princes"*

Theme:

Hallelujah – "Praise Jehovah"

Summary:

1-2 Praise Jehovah

3-4 Don't trust in man, even a great man

5-9 Trust in God

10 Concluding praise

Capsule Thought:

In all of the last five psalms each begins and ends with the Hebrew word hallelujah or alleluia. These are often referred to as hallelujah psalms. They go through many reasons we ought to praise Jehovah.

Thought Question:

In what ways does God care for mankind?

147. *God Heals the Brokenhearted*

Theme:

Praise Jehovah for His word and providence

Summary:

1-6 Great is God who builds Jerusalem

7-11 God's care for His creation

12-20 God of winter and spring

Capsule Thought:

God is the one who brings the difficulty of winter and the beauty of spring. God is everywhere in His creation and we need to be sensitive to that and praise God for His work.

Thought Question:

Why is Jehovah building up Jerusalem?

148. *All Creation Praises the Lord*

Theme:

All creation should praise Jehovah

Summary:

1-6 Praise Him in heaven

7-14 Praise Him in the earth

Capsule Thought:

This is a call to everything in the heavens and earth to praise the LORD of creation.

Thought Questions:

Does this psalm give us any direction to the creation of angels in the heavens?

149. *“The LORD Takes Pleasure in His People”*

Theme:

Praise Jehovah for His salvation and righteous judgment

Summary:

1-4 Rejoice in the salvation of the King

5-9 God’s judgment on the enemies of His kingdom

Capsule Thought:

This psalm calls for a new song, meaning some dramatic shift has taken place. Israel who had been beaten and battered for so long has been saved by God and they will reign over the nations. Doesn’t this sound very similar in thought to New Testament concepts?

Thought Questions:

How do the saints of God execute justice on the nations?

150. *“Praise the LORD”*

Theme:

Let everyone praise Jehovah!

Summary:

1 Where we praise God

2 Why we praise God

3-5 How we praise God

6 Who should praise God

Capsule Thought:

What an appropriate conclusion to the collection of psalms. A simple message to praise God for all He does with all we have. The first psalm begins with God’s blessing the righteous man and the last psalm concludes with all creation blessing God.

Thought Questions:

Where is God’s sanctuary that we can praise Him there?