

Psalms Notes

Book Three: Psalms 73–89

73. *The Perspective of Eternity*

Theme:

The problem of evil

Summary:

1-3 I almost became like the wicked when I saw their prosperity

4-14 The darkness of doubt

15-28 The light of faith affirmed

Capsule Thought:

It often seems as if the wicked do not have any problems. However, it isn't until we see things from God's perspective that we can understand their end

Thought Questions:

How do we come to terms with the ungodly person's prosperity?

74. *Request for God to Remember His Covenant*

Theme:

A prayer for redemption

Summary:

1-3 The people's lament

4-8 Destruction of God's Temple

9-11 No Prophet in the land

12-17 God is still King

18-23 A prayer for remembrance and redemption

Capsule Thought:

The people do not understand how God could cast them away and let ungodly people trample His holy place. They ask for God to remember the covenant and redeem them.

Thought Question:

What is the most likely scene of this psalm?

75. *"God is the Judge"*

Theme:

The judgment of God

Summary:

1-3 God's acts

4-8 God's message

9-10 In praise of God

Capsule Thought:

God is the judge of all people, and he will destroy the wicked and exalt the righteous.

Thought Question:

What two wrongs are addressed in this psalm?

76. *The Glorious Might of God*

Theme:

Praise the glory of God

Summary:

1-6 God in Salem

7-12 God in Judgment

Capsule Thought:

When God comes to bring judgment, all people are gripped in fear.

Thought Question:

What response should we have to God's awesome wrath?

77. *When Overwhelmed, Remember God's Greatness*

Theme:

Hope in the Midst of Trouble

Summary:

1-10 Their present trouble

11-20 Their hope is based on God's grace

Capsule Thought:

The psalmist speaks of three mighty acts of God: creation, the thunderstorm and the exodus from Egypt.

Thought Question:

What is the psalmist's reason for hope?

78. *God's Continued Guidance in Spite of Unbelief*

Theme:

Israel's disobedience in spite of God's care

Summary:

1-66 Lest we forget what we and God have done

67-72 God's choice of Judah

Capsule Thought:

God was gracious to his people in spite of their rebellion and ingratitude. This was for the sake of His covenant He made with Abraham.

Thought Question:

What applications can we make from the history lesson in this psalm?

79. *Avenge the Defilement of Jerusalem*

Theme:

The Destruction of Jerusalem

Summary:

1-7 Jerusalem lay in rubble

8-9 Forgive our sins

10-13 Avenge us O Lord

Capsule Thought:

In this psalm we see lament for the destruction of Jerusalem, the defilement of God's Temple, a plea for atonement of sin, a call for vengeance upon Israel's enemies, and a promise to praise God.

Thought Question:

Why does this psalm of the destruction of Jerusalem end with praise to God?

80. *Israel's Plea for God's Mercy*

Theme:

A plea for the restoration of Israel

Summary:

1-3 Restore us Shepherd of Israel

4-7 Restore us LORD God

8-19 Restore the Vine you brought out of Egypt

Capsule Thought:

This is a plea for God's restoration of His people, the psalmist refers to God as Israel's shepherd and as the LORD of hosts, He also refers to Israel as God's vine that He brought out of Egypt.

Thought Questions:

Why should Israel be revived and restored by God?

81. *God's Plea for Israel's Obedience*

Theme:

A call to obedience

Summary:

1-4 Sing with joy to the Lord on this Feast Day

5-10 God brought them out of Egypt

11-12 My people would not listen

13-16 If only they would listen to Me

Capsule Thought:

This psalm begins at the Feast of Trumpets, and then reminds Israel of their history and lack of obedience to God.

Thought Questions:

What is the lesson being taught to God's people?

82. *Rebuke of Israel's Unjust Judges*

Theme:

A call for God's judgment upon unjust judges

Summary:

1-4 The heavenly court

5-8 God is the judge of all the earth

Capsule Thought:

The one true living God will judge among all the nations and will judge their so called gods.

Thought Questions:

According to this psalm what is the source of injustice on the earth?

83. *Plea for God to Destroy Israel's Enemies*

Theme:

A national prayer for God's help

Summary:

1-8 A national crises

9-18 A curse upon their enemies

Capsule Thought:

This psalm asks God to deliver the nation and gives past examples of God's help over Israel's enemies.

Thought Questions:

What is the purpose of remembering God's past deliverance?

84. *The Joy of Dwelling with God*

Theme:

Dwelling with God in His Tabernacle

Summary:

1-4 Blessed are those who dwell with God

5-9 Blessed are those are traveling to Zion

10-12 Blessed are those who trust in the LORD

Capsule Thought:

This psalm speaks of the blessings of being with God in Zion, for the LORD is the sun and shield for those who walk uprightly.

Thought Questions:

Why is it better to be a doorkeeper in the house of God rather than the owner in a wicked house?

85. *Prayer for Revival*

Theme:

A prayer for Revival

Summary:

1-3 God's favor in the past

4-7 Revive us again

8-13 The Lord will give good things to His saints

Capsule Thought:

God had brought back the captivity but the prosperity in Judea had not yet been restored to its former glory.

Thought Questions:

What promise does God make to his saints?

What does God warn the people about?

86. *“Teach Me Your Way, O LORD”*

Theme:

A cry for help in time of trouble

Summary:

1-7 A prayer for deliverance

8-13 A note of Praise

14-17 A plea for God's strength

Capsule Thought:

David has evil men seeking to kill him. He asks God to hear him, have mercy upon him and give him strength.

Thought Questions:

What character qualities does David say God is full of?

87. *Glorious Zion, City of God*

Theme:

The City of God

Summary:

1-3 Zion, the city of God

4-6 Zion, the birth place for all believers

7 Zion, the source of all blessings

Capsule Thought:

Zion is God's city of choice for all His believers. They are born there and are sustained by its springs.

Thought Questions:

What does Zion represent to God's saints?

88. *Crying from Deepest Affliction*

Theme:

A cry of despair

Summary:

1-9 Prayer in suffering

10-18 Why do you hide your face from me?

Capsule Thought:

The psalmist is on the brink of death praying to God. He is suffering from illness, social rejection and his perceived rejection by God. He wonders why God would want him dead since he cannot be faithful or praise him from the grave.

Thought Questions:

What can we learn from this psalm, why does it not end with any hope expressed?

89. *Claiming God's Promises in Affliction*

Theme:

Remembrance of Davidic Covenant during national defeat

Summary:

1-4 Remembering the covenant of David

5-18 The power of God to rule over heaven and earth

19-37 The covenant of David is elaborated upon

38-51 Has God forsaken His covenant with David?

Capsule Thought:

The Davidic king is defeated and his crown and throne are lost, so where is God's promise that the seed of David would sit on David's throne forever?

Thought Questions:

What are the essential points of the covenant God made with David?