

INTRODUCTION TO PSALMS

The Structure

7. See what you can find out about the inscriptions that precede many of the psalms.
 - Accompany all but 34 psalms
 - Ancient in origin
 - Superscriptions or subscriptions
 - Vary in length and content

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The Structure

7. See what you can find out about the inscriptions that precede many of the psalms.
 - Usual content
 - Musical direction
 - Nature of the psalm
 - Author
 - Incident inspiring the hymn

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The Structure

8. The word “selah” appears throughout the Psalter. What are some theories of its meaning and use?
- A musical punctuation or direction (perhaps a forte, crescendo, or repeat)
 - A call for an audience response of praise
 - A part to be sung along with the text, comparable to “amen”
 - A call to pause and meditate on the message

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Benefits

9. From each passage or set of passages, what reason or value do you see for our time spent in Psalms?
 - a) Rom. 15:3-4
 - For learning, encouragement, and hope
 - b) 1 Cor. 10:11-13
 - To see the examples provided for our learning

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Benefits

9. From each passage or set of passages, what reason or value do you see for our time spent in Psalms?

c) 2 Tim. 3:14-17

- To find wisdom and faith leading to salvation
- They are inspired scripture and in them there is profit
- To be fully equipped and complete

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Benefits

9. From each passage or set of passages, what reason or value do you see for our time spent in Psalms?

d) Lk. 24:25–27, 44; Jn. 5:39; Acts 2:22–36; 1 Cor. 15:3–4

- In them we learn about Jesus

e) Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Jas 5:13

- To learn how we should sing

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Benefits

9. From each passage or set of passages, what reason or value do you see for our time spent in Psalms?

f) Ps. 33:1b; 92:1b; 147:1

- To learn how to praise the Lord

g) Ps. 72:20; Inscriptions of Psalms 17; 86; 90; 102; 142

- To learn how to pray



The Steadfast Love of God

“GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD OF GODS,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OF LORDS,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.”

Ps. 136:1-3 (ESV)

“For His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”

- A repeated refrain, not only in Psalms.
- Recorded for us at some very special occasions
- A phrase special indeed to we who have seen its culmination (Jn. 1:16-17; Eph. 3:14-19)
- Psalm 136... “Great Hallel” in Jewish tradition
- Likely written as a call and response
- Psalm 106 bookended with discussion of steadfast love.
- Psalm 107 begins with the phrase and has the word scattered throughout.

*The Steadfast
Love of God*

“For His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”

1. From each passage listed, what was the occasion or setting in which this phrase was recorded?
 - a) 1 Chr. 16:34, 41
 - As the ark is brought to Jerusalem.
 - b) 2 Chr. 5:13; 7:3, 6
 - Reaction to Jehovah’s glory filling the temple.
 - c) 2 Chr. 20:21
 - As God gave victory to Jehoshaphat and Judah.

*The Steadfast
Love of God*

“For His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”

1. From each passage listed, what was the occasion or setting in which this phrase was recorded?
 - d) Jer. 33:10-11
 - God’s promise of restoration through Jeremiah.
 - e) Ezra 3:11
 - The foundation is laid as the rebuilding of the temple begins.

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“For His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”

2. Who is called to praise and thanks because of His steadfast love and His covenant?
- a) 106:1-3, 44-48
- Those who observe justice and righteousness
 - Those in exile
- b) 107:2, 15-16, 21-22, 31-32, 43
- Those the Lord redeemed
 - The wise will consider God’s steadfast love

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Love of God*

“For His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”

2. Who is called to praise and thanks because of His steadfast love and His covenant?

c) 118:1-4

- Israel, Levites, all who fear Jehovah

d) 135:1-4, 19-20

- The servants of the Lord worshipping in the courts of the temple
- All Israel and those who revere or fear the Lord

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