

1. Psalms 74, 77, 79, 80 - These Psalms are all found in book 3 of the Psalter, and show some evidence of being “exilic”.
2. Psalms is a 5-volume collection of hymns and choruses that evolved along with the worshiping community of Israel.
3. Psalm 74 - written after the Babylonians had burned the Temple and broken down the walls of Jerusalem
  - A. “Why are you still angry with us?”
  - B. “Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the fold of your garment and destroy them!”
4. Psalm 74 uses evocative words:
  - A. Jerusalem is full of “everlasting ruins.”
  - B. The Temple was destroyed by “men wielding axes.”
  - C. The invaders burned “every place where God was worshiped in the land.” (He should only have been worshiped at the Temple!)
  - D. “No prophets are left to us.”
5. Psalm 77 probably comes from the same period of time. “...Will the Lord reject forever?”
6. Psalm 79 is a very explicit description of the destruction and death in Jerusalem when they were invaded.
7. Psalm 80 - “...at your rebuke your people perish.”
8. These are songs of the exile, cries of help based on 4 things:
  - A. The mercy of God - they have hope because God’s anger will not last forever. They are claiming the promises of Scripture found in the books of the prophets.
  - B. The justice of God - His holiness demands that He will judge those He used to bring judgment on His people.
  - C. The honor of God - They are sure that He will move to vindicate His honor (Psalm 74)
  - D. The past actions of God - They have faith that He will act on behalf of His people again. (Psalms 74, 77, and 80)
9. Our prayers in times of trouble boil down to 2 realities:
  - A. A knowledge of who God is: a God of mercy who is committed to justice and the defense of His own glory
  - B. A remembrance of what He has done: A God who delivers His people from their enemies based upon the covenant He has established through them
10. A prayer to be prayed over our church and our country - from Psalm 80: “Restore us, O Lord God Almighty, make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.”

1. Psalms 81-85: The first 2 are not prayers addressed to God. They are written to God's people and to the rulers and judges of the earth.
  
2. Psalm 81: The Lord Himself is speaking to the people. He is sharing His heart and His passion.
  - A. A call to the people of God to keep the Feast of the Tabernacles
  - B. A reminder to the people of the mighty acts of God
  - C. Verse 10: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it." "I want to bless you!"
  - D. Abraham, the Israelites, and us - we are "blessed to be a blessing."
  - E. "But Israel would not accept the blessing...", God says. (In Luke 13:35 Jesus said the same thing as He wept over Jerusalem.
  
3. Psalm 82 is addressed to the rulers or judges who govern God's people in His stead.
  - A. The Psalm's setting: "God presides in the great assembly..."
  - B. "...He gives judgments among the gods." The rulers are called "gods." This term is used to remind rulers that rule in God's place and are answerable to Him.
  - C. Jesus used this Psalm to diffuse the anger of the teachers when He said, "I and my father are one" - and they wanted to stone Him.
  - D. It reminds the ruler that their primary task is to protect the weak and see that justice is done, and be like "the light of the morning at sunrise..."
  
4. Psalm 83 - a "help" Psalm
  - A. It recalls the deliverance of God during the time of the judges, particularly Gideon and Deborah
  - B. It is also an imprecatory Psalm.
  
5. Psalm 84 - "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked."
  
6. Psalm 85 - another "help Psalm":
  - A. "Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us."
  - B. The condition for this restoration is true repentance.
  - C. The result of this repentance: "Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven."
  
7. The promise is simple: God really wants to bless us if only we would let Him.
  
8. Praying through the Psalms is a tremendous way to build and strengthen our own lives of prayer and understanding of who we are before a mighty God of love.

1. Psalms 86, 87, 89 - the finish of the third volume of the Psalms.
  
2. The Psalms are for singing.
  - A. Psalm 89: "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever..."
  - B. Psalm 87: "Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion city of our God..."
  - C. Psalm 86 from the Old Scottish Psalter
  
3. Psalm 86: We cannot attach it to a specific event in David's life.
  - A. Verse 11: "Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." This what Know the Word is all about.
  - B. There are strong similarities between this Psalm and Psalm 119.
  
4. Psalm 87:
  - A. A song of thanksgiving, celebrating the glories of Zion, because the name and favor of the Lord rest upon her.
  - B. Gentile nations are going to acknowledge the Lord and be integrally connected to Zion.
  - C. God had said that all nations of the earth would be blessed through Abraham.
  
5. Psalm 89:
  - A. The author was an "Ezrahite" - but we do not know what an "Ezrahite" was.
  - B. He was concerned about the covenant that God had made with David, that a descendant of his would sit on the throne of Israel forever.
  - C. David's sons had forgotten to obey and had brought God's wrath down on the nation.
  - D. The Psalmist understands this but he wants to know when the exile will end and when a son of David will sit again upon the throne.
  - E. The Psalmist:
    - 1) Claiming the promises of God
    - 2) Asking God not to forget what He had promised
    - 3) When we pray God's own promises back to Him, we can pray in faith believing.

1. Psalms 91-95 move us into the fourth section of the Book of Psalms, and a change in atmosphere. These are Psalms of Praise (Wow), and Thanks.
2. As you read each Psalm:
  - A. Decide whether it is a “help”, “thanks” or “wow” Psalm (or none of the above in rare instances).
  - B. Look for the key verse or verses.
  - C. Memorize them.
  - D. Give the Psalm a title that summarizes it for you.
3. Psalm 91: Key verses - 9 and 10
  - A. “If you make the Most High your dwelling, even the Lord who is my refuge, then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.”
  - B. Confidence and assurance for the believer; God does not always deliver “from” the difficulty, but sometimes delivers “through” it (Romans 8:28, 29).
4. Psalm 91:11ff
  - A. “For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways...” Satan quoted these words to Jesus during the temptation experience.
  - B. Jesus quoted Scripture right back: “You shall not the Lord your God to the test.”
5. Psalm 92: A “thanks” Psalm, whose essence is in verse 1
  - A. “It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High,”
    - 1) We should praise Him for the work of His hands.
    - 2) We should praise Him for the deliverance He has provided for us personally.
  - B. How? With music - instruments and singing - morning and night
  - C. An identical thought to Psalm 1 - the righteous are like a strong, fruitful tree.
6. Psalm 93: A “Wow” Psalm - the Psalmist has contemplated God’s work in nature and his reaction is, “Praise the Lord.”
7. Psalm 94: Key verses - 18 and 19
  - A. “When I said, ‘My foot is slipping, your love, O Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.’”
  - B. It starts as a call for justice and ends with thanks.
8. Psalm 94:7-10: God does see, and though He may delay His judgment, giving opportunity for repentance, He will judge.
9. Psalm 95: Key verses - 6 and 7: “Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture.”
  - A. The Creator/creature distinction
    - 1) We are totally dependent upon Him.
    - 2) We are accountable to Him.
    - 3) Therefore, we need to be in relationship with Him.
  - B. The second half of the Psalm looks to the history of Israel as a good example of what happens when we forget the Creator/creature distinction.
  - C. Hebrews quotes directly from Psalm 95.

1. Psalms 97, 98, 102, 103 - next we will go to the Book of Hebrews.
  
2. Psalm 97 - a “wow” Psalm of worship
  - A. Rooted in the psalmist’s experience of God in nature
  - B. “The heavens declare His righteousness and all the peoples see His glory.”
  
3. Psalm 98: a “thanks” Psalm
  - A. The worshipers in the Temple are called to praise Him.
  - B. The nations surrounding Israel are called to participate.
  - C. All creation will join in the praise. (Revelation 5)
  
4. Psalm 102: a “help” Psalm
  - A. Written after the destruction of Jerusalem
  - B. Confidence - “The Lord will rebuild Zion and appear in glory.”
  - C. Verse 18: “Let this be created for a future generation that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.” This is why the Psalmist was writing.
  - D. Verses 25 and 26: The created world in which we live is temporary. (Hebrews 1)
  
5. Psalm 103: a 21-verse Psalm (one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet - meant to be memorized)
  - A. “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”
    - 1) He forgives all your sins and removes them as far as the east is from the west.
    - 2) He heals all your diseases. (Matthew 8; Isaiah 53)
    - 3) He redeems our life from the pit - changes our eternal destiny.
    - 4) He crowns us with love and compassion. Count your blessings.
    - 5) He satisfies our desires with good things - personal blessings.
  - B. What God has done flows directly from His character.
    - 1) He is compassionate and gracious. God is love.
    - 2) “The Lord - compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” - (Exodus 34 - ‘This is who I am.’).
  - C. The Psalmist’s description of our shortcomings:
    - 1) Sin - to fall short of the mark
    - 2) Transgression - rebellion, defiance
    - 3) Iniquity - twistedness
  
6. We need God’s compassion because:
  - A. We are fallen.
  - B. We are finite.
  
7. We need to be in relationship with our Creator who is full of compassion and graciousness and who offers us His love through the work of His Son.