

Talks For Growing Christians

Study Guide for  
Psalms 1-41

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## Lesson 1

# The Contrasting Description of the Godly and Wicked Person & God's Declaration that the Kingdom of our Lord will be Established Psalms 1 & 2

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. The secret of true happiness is bridle and Bible.
2. Nothing can prevent or thwart Christ's kingdom on this earth.

### practical application

1. Let the Lord know your way!
2. Have you experienced the best R&R available?

### questions

1. How many of the Psalms were written by David?
2. What sort of information is often included in the title of a psalm?
3. What does the word "blessed" mean?
4. How do we know that Psalm 2 is written by David?
5. What kind of psalm is Psalm 2?
6. What do we mean when we speak of Christ's kingdom?

**answers**

1. David wrote about half of the book of Psalms. If he wrote some of the anonymous psalms without titles, then he can be credited with more than half of the book.
2. The author, the occasion, the type of psalm, etc.
3. It means “happy.”
4. This psalm is quoted in Acts 4:25, and David is credited as the author.
5. Psalm 2 is a Royal Psalm. Since it is ultimately fulfilled in the king of God’s choosing, the Lord Jesus Christ, it is also a Messianic Psalm.
6. We do not mean the Christian Church now! We mean the literal kingdom of Christ on this earth in the future.

**discuss\ consider**

1. The wicked say if you want to be truly happy you need to break free from all restraints. Yet the Bible teaches us that blessing and happiness comes through self control. Read Psalm 1. How do you see these truths lived out in society today?
2. Discuss Christ’s future earthly kingdom. When will this kingdom take place? Where will the kingdom be based? How will the nations oppose this kingdom? But nothing can prevent or thwart Christ’s kingdom on this earth.

**challenge**

Rest and Relaxation is good. But the best R&R is to Rejoice and take Refuge in the Lord! See Psalm 2:11-12.

**memorize**

*“Blessed is the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.” Psalm 1:1-2*

*“You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” Psalm 2:7*

## Lesson 2

### David Calls on God for Help from Distress Psalms 3 & 4

#### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### doctrinal points

1. Believers can sleep in peace because the Lord is their shield.
2. Believers can sleep in peace because the Lord is their security.

#### practical application

1. Let the Lord take revenge!
2. Give me God's gladness over grain!

#### questions

1. When was Psalm 3 written?
2. What does the word "Selah" mean?
3. Explain the taunt in Psalm 3:2.
4. What New Testament passage echoes the message of Psalm 3:7-8?
5. What kind of psalms are Psalms 3 and 4?
6. Explain Psalm 4:2-5 if the opposition was not some pagan outside nation, but opposition from within David's kingdom.

**answers**

1. This was written when David fled from his son Absalom, when Absalom usurped the throne. See 2 Samuel 15-18.
2. "Selah" is a technical term used 71 times in the Psalms. It probably means to pause and reflect on what's been written and may be an indication of an interlude when the psalm was sung or put the music.
3. People were saying that God was not on David's side any longer, otherwise this would not have been happening to him.
4. Romans 12:19 says that we should never take our own revenge, because vengeance belongs to the Lord. He will repay the opposition and bring blessing to us.
5. They are both psalms of individual lament where David is calling on the Lord for help from distress.
6. David is exhorting this internal opposition to change their ways and change their minds about him. They need to realize that he, and not Absalom, is God's anointed king. He exhorts them to be angry for righteous causes and to stop sinning. He encourages them to be still and think through their actions, and then turn back to the Lord.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Discuss the emotions David may have felt as his son attempted to usurp the throne. Yet David says he was able to sleep in peace. Discuss a time in your life when your emotions could have overtaken you, but the Lord gave you peace.
2. Even those who were with David and in support of him were complaining and saying discouraging things (see Psalm 4:6). Do you have any friends like this? They always picture the worst scenario! Discuss the balance between encouraging them to look to the Lord for security and distancing yourself from their discouragement in your time of distress.

**challenge**

David declared that the gladness and joy he experienced from the Lord was greater than the gladness one experiences after a great harvest. If you had the choice, would you choose God's gladness in your heart over the thrill of becoming wealthy?

**memorize**

*"But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head." Psalm 3:3*

*"I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8*

### Lesson 3

## David Rejoices in God's Righteousness and Protection In the Midst of Enemy Opposition & David Acknowledges God's Righteous Discipline Psalms 5 & 6

#### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### doctrinal points

1. Godly believers pray in line with the Word of God.
2. Godly believers acknowledge the discipline of God.

#### practical application

1. Pray every morning!
2. Let the Lord turn the tables!

#### questions

1. How does internal opposition to the work of the Lord usually occur?
2. How did David respond to the internal opposition he faced?
3. At what time of day should you pray?
4. What kind of psalms are Psalms 5 and 6?
5. In his prayer of confession, on what does David base his hope of restoration (Psalm 6:4-5)?

**answers**

1. It is usually through unreliable words or subtle flattery to manipulate.
2. He brought his problems before the Lord every morning and then waited for God's answer.
3. You should pray all throughout the day. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to "*Pray without ceasing.*" The morning is an especially good time to bring the day's problems and responsibilities before the Lord and ask for His help.
4. They are both psalms of individual lament, and both were put to music. Psalm 6 can also be considered a penitential psalm, since David recognizes that his sickness or injury was allowed by the Lord to be used as discipline in his life as king.
5. David is confident that he will be restored based on God's mercy and lovingkindness. Also, if David had died, he would not be able to praise the Lord from the grave.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Read through Psalm 5 and discuss how David's prayer was not simply based on what he wanted, but it was in the line with the Word of God. How can you ensure that your prayers are in line with God's Word?
2. Not every illness or injury is a form of God's discipline! But the Lord can use illness and injury as discipline. Discuss the important step of recognizing when you are under discipline. In what ways do you repent and seek restoration?

**challenge**

What better way to start your day than with prayer? Why not pray in the morning?

**memorize**

*"My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up."* Psalm 5:1

*"Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; for the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer."* Psalm 6:8-9

## Lesson 4

# David Desires God's Righteousness Over All Psalm 7

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. Godly believers desire righteousness, even if it brings hurt to themselves.
2. Godly believers desire righteousness, which explains their cry for the hurt of others.

### practical application

Don't fall into your own pit!

### questions

1. What do we learn from the title of Psalm 7?
2. What was the consequence of this slander against David?
3. Is David willing to be wrong?
4. Discuss the two truths implied when you are willing to be wrong.
5. What does "imprecate" mean?

**answers**

1.
  - The author – David
  - The type of psalm – a “Shiggaion,” a Hebrew word which probably means a song of lament
  - The occasion – a response to the slander of Cush, a Benjamite
2. These lies fueled King Saul’s paranoia that David was trying to usurp the throne. As a result, Saul pursued David in the wilderness and sought to kill him.
3. Yes, David is willing to be caught and killed if he is in the wrong (verses 3-5)!
4.
  - 1) You’ve examined your actions and attitudes, and you are convinced before God that you are in the right.
  - 2) You desire God’s righteous standard to be upheld at all costs – even at the cost of your own reputation and honor if you are guilty in any way.
5. Imprecate means to curse.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Do you desire God’s righteous standards to be upheld at all costs? Think of some examples of what this would look like in real life.
2. Discuss imprecatory psalms, which call down God’s judgment on the unrighteous. When is it appropriate to pray this type of prayer? When would it not be appropriate?

**challenge**

God allows the wicked to catch themselves in their own traps. Are you scheming against a fellow believer or wishing them misfortune? Don’t fall into your own pit!

**memorize**

*“The LORD shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me. Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the just; for the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.”*  
*Psalms 7:8-9*

## Lesson 5

# A Hymn of Praise to God for His Wonderful Works of Creation and His Wonderful Plans for Mankind Psalm 8

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. The Lord is majestic in His works of Creation.
2. The Lord is marvelous in His plans for mankind.

### practical application

Remember the big businessman and his baby illustration!

### questions

1. What type of psalm is Psalm 8?
2. Which New Testament passages quote Psalm 8?
3. What does it mean that man was made a little lower than the angels?
4. What is the answer to David's question in verse 4?
5. When will we see the fulfillment of verse 6?

**answers**

1. Psalm 8 is a wonderful Hymn of Praise. It is also a Messianic Psalm, quoted three times in the New Testament in reference to Christ.
2. Matthew 21:16, 1 Corinthians 15:27, and Hebrews 2:6-8
3. Man was created in the image of God, but right now man is subjected to limitations that angels are not.
4. From the divine perspective, mankind is very significant and important. We have been created in the image of God and crowned with glory and honor. Mankind has been given dominion over the other works of God's creation.
5. When the Perfect Man, Jesus Christ, returns to the earth in power and glory, He will show forth all that God intended for man on this earth. All believers will share in that glorious reign of Christ where all things will be in subjection to Him.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Discuss how Creation is a testimony of our powerful and awesome Creator. What causes people to deny the overwhelming amount of intricate design in the universe?
2. Discuss mankind's dominion over God's creation. What are the implications of this responsibility?

**challenge**

Remember the big businessman and his baby illustration!

**memorize**

*"O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!" Psalms 8:1,9*

*"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?" Psalms 8:3-4*

**Lesson 6**

**The Establishment of the Lord's Righteous Throne Forever &  
The Elimination of All Unrighteousness Forever  
Psalms 9 & 10**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. The righteous throne of God will be established forever.
2. The unrighteous triumphs of men will be eliminated forever.

**practical application**

Take heart, the days of the terrorists are numbered.

**questions**

1. What is the Septuagint?
2. What type of psalm are Psalms 9 and 10?
3. List several reasons Psalms 9 and 10 naturally go together.
4. What are the marvelous works for which David praises God?
5. What is a "theodicy"?

**answers**

1. It is the Greek translation of the Old Testament.
2. They are alphabetic acrostic psalms. Together they contain two verses for each of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet (except a few letters that are skipped in the middle).
3.
  - They are combined in the Septuagint.
  - Together they form an alphabetic acrostic.
  - Psalm 10 does not have its own title, because it naturally ties to Psalm 9.
4. They are God's marvelous works of destroying the wicked, conquering the enemy, and setting up His righteous throne.
5. A theodicy is a vindication of God in the face of the existence of evil. That is what David is looking for in Psalm 10. He wants to know "why" many things are as they are.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Read through Psalm 9 and identify where David praises God for past, present, and future deliverance.
2. Do you ever want to ask God "why" as David does in Psalm 10? It is not wrong to ask these questions. Find the answer that David comes to beginning in verse 12.

**challenge**

Ultimately only the return of the Lord will put an end to all terrorism. Be encouraged that His return is getting closer. The days of the terrorists are numbered.

**memorize**

*"And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You."  
Psalms 9:10*

*"But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless." Psalms 10:14*

## Lesson 7

# David Turns to the Lord as His Refuge & David Contrasts the Empty Words of the Wicked with the Pure Words of the Lord Psalms 11 & 12

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. When the temptation to run arises, the faithful turn to the sovereign Lord.
2. When the words of this world fail, the faithful turn to the enduring Word.

### practical applications

1. Remember, the Lord reigns and rains.
2. Think of the Bible as pure silver!

### questions

1. What was the occasion when Psalm 11 was being written?
2. Discuss Psalm 11:3. How is this verse commonly used? What is its interpretation in context?
3. What verse in Psalm 11 is the basis for David's hopeful perspective?
4. How does the story of Elijah relate to Psalm 12?
5. Review the three characteristics of worldly words.

**answers**

1. This was probably some time when King Saul attempted to kill David, and David's friends urged him to flee for his life.
2. Some people use this verse to say that when the moral fabric of society is gone the righteous might as well give up, because there's nothing anyone can do to save or remedy the situation. In context, the point is not that the situation is hopeless. This is actually part of the wrong counsel of David's faint-hearted friends.
3. Verse 4: The Lord is still on His throne and in His holy temple. He sees and knows all. In fact, everything is under His close scrutiny.
4. Elijah, like David, felt like he was the only faithful one left in Israel. The Lord had to rebuke Elijah and tell him that there were 7,000 other believers that had not bowed their knees to Baal (1 Kings 19).
5. The words of this world are characterized by falsehood, flattery, and freedom (from restraint).

**discuss\ consider**

1. In Psalm 11, David comes to a different conclusion than his friends who were prophesying doom. When the foundations of society are crumbling, David turns to the Lord! Think of a situation you have encountered that may have seemed hopeless, until you viewed it from the Lord's perspective.
2. Discuss how the media is often an example of worldly words characterized by falsehood, flattery, and freedom from restraint. How can the pure words of the Lord build us up in these times?

**challenge**

The Bible is free from any impurity. No lies. No flattery. No deceit. No error. Praise God for His Word to us!

**memorize**

*"The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven." Psalms 11:4*

*"The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Psalms 12:6*

## Lesson 8

# David Trusts in the Lord to Answer His Questions & David Describes the Fool, who says There is No God Psalm 13 & 14

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. *"How long, O Lord?"* is a biblical prayer.
2. People are not basically good.

### practical applications

1. Get rid of your doubts by counting your blessings.
2. Do you yearn for righteousness or riches?

### questions

1. What prompted David to ask the Lord "How long?"
2. What was David's attitude when he asked the Lord "How long?"
3. How did David get rid of his doubts in Psalm 13?
4. What is a fool in Scripture?
5. What New Testament passage quotes Psalm 14?
6. When will David's desire be realized (Psalm 13:7)?

**answers**

1. David wrote this psalm when he was facing a prolonged period of oppression and discouragement, probably during his long wilderness sojourn to escape the pursuit and anger of King Saul.
2. He was not demanding an answer from God with a rebellious heart. Rather, he was concerned that he wouldn't hear from God before he died, and that his unrighteous adversaries would be boasting that they had won, which would not bring glory to God.
3. By counting his blessings
4. A fool is a person who is morally insensitive and lives like there is no God.
5. Romans 3:10-12 is a quotation from Psalm 14:1-3.
6. David's desire for righteousness will be realized when the Lord returns and establishes His righteous kingdom here on this earth. The restored Israel will be returned to the land and the Lord will reign with righteousness.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Have you ever wanted to ask the Lord "How long?" Discuss how you can ask this question with a right or wrong attitude.
2. How would you respond to the claim that people are basically good? Refer to Psalm 14:1-3 and Romans 3:10-12.

**challenge**

Start counting your blessings! Think of the worst situation from which God has preserved and protected you. Do you ever thank the Lord for saving you from what could have been?

**memorize**

*"How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?" Psalms 13:1*

*"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Psalms 14:1*

## Lesson 9

# The Moral Qualities that Should Characterize Those who are Guests of God Psalm 15

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. The guests of God will dwell in the Lord's earthly kingdom.
2. The guests of God exhibit the highest moral qualities.

### practical application

Would we die rather than lie, or would we lie rather than die?

### questions

7. How does Psalm 14 contrast with Psalm 15?
8. What is the Lord's tent or tabernacle referred to in verse 1?
9. Review David's desire in Psalm 14:7.
10. What is similar about the three moral qualities of the guest of God in verse 3?
11. What is the meaning of verse 5 concerning usury or interest?

**answers**

7. Psalm 14 describes the characteristics of the godless fool. Psalm 15 describes the characteristics of the godly guest of God.
8. This is the tent that David erected on Mount Zion in Jerusalem to house the Ark of the Covenant until the Temple was built.
9. David desired for Israel to be restored to the Lord and for the righteous kingdom of God to be established on this earth. This will be realized when the Lord returns to this earth at His Second Coming.
10. They all concern our words. Words are powerful and we are held accountable for what we say as well as what we do. Read James 3:1-12.
11. This refers back to the Law where God's people were to loan money to fellow Jews who were in need and not charge them interest (Exodus 22:25 and Leviticus 25:35-37). As Christians who are no longer under the Mosaic Law, the principle is that we should not take advantage of the poor, but should try to help them in their financial struggles.

**discuss\ consider**

Review the moral qualities that characterize the guests of God. As a believer, are you characterized as someone who has fellowship with the Lord?

**challenge**

The righteous person does the right thing and does not compromise the truth even to the point of death. What about you?

**memorize**

*"LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart." Psalms 15:1-2*

**Lesson 10**

**A Prediction of the Resurrection of Christ  
Psalm 16**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Faithful believers appreciate their present fellowship.
2. Faithful believers appreciate their spiritual inheritance.
3. Faithful believers appreciate their eternal security.

**practical applications**

1. Turn your problem of insomnia into a program of instruction.
2. Let the Bible define your standard of excellence!

**questions**

1. Psalm 16 is "A Michtam of David." What does this mean?
2. Describe the three types of Messianic psalms.
3. What type of Messianic psalm is Psalm 16?
4. Explain the meaning of verses 5-6.
5. What is the Bible's standard of excellence?

**answers**

1. We don't know exactly what this word means, but because the word "michtam" is related to the verb meaning "to cover," it may indicate that this is a psalm relating to God's cover of protection over David in the midst of danger.
2.
  - Pure-prophetic Messianic Psalms – The psalm is all about the Messiah and does not concern the experience of the psalmist. Like other messianic prophecies in the Old Testament it is straight prophecy. See Psalm 110.
  - Typical-prophetic Messianic Psalms – The experiences of the psalmist are in view, but the psalm goes beyond to the experiences of the Messiah. The psalmist becomes typical of the coming Messiah.
  - Combination Messianic Psalms – Part of the psalm is pure-prophetic and part is typical-prophetic.
3. It is a combination Messianic psalm. Throughout most of the psalm David is speaking out of his own experiences of trust in the Lord, and everything he says is typical of Christ, the perfect Man and Son of God, trusting in God the Father. But the second half of verse 10 is pure-prophetic. This could not be said of David in any way.
4. David likened his spiritual inheritance to land being divided up by drawing lots, as the Promised Land was divided between the tribes of Israel. David trusted in the sovereignty of God and he knew God's eternal plans were perfect.
5. Righteousness (See verse 3.)

**discuss\ consider**

1. Do you have both vertical and horizontal fellowship? Vertical fellowship is with the Lord and horizontal fellowship is with fellow believers. Read Psalm 16:1-4. Why are both types of fellowship important to your life as a believer?
2. Discuss the doctrine of eternal security. What is the difference between believing in your eternal security, and appreciating it?

**challenge**

What do you do when you can't sleep? David used this time for prayer and meditation on God's Word. We should do the same.

**memorize**

*"I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved." Psalms 16:8*

*"For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy one to see corruption." Psalms 16:10*

**Lesson 11**

**The Believer's Greatest Protection for This Life &  
His Greatest Prospect for the Life to Come  
Psalm 17**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. The eye and wings of the Lord are the greatest protection for the believer.
2. The face and likeness of the Lord are the greatest prospect for the believer.

**practical application**

Let Scripture keep you from slipping.

**questions**

1. What was the cause for David's prayer in this psalm?
2. Are verses 1-3 proof of salvation by good works?
3. What does David mean when he asks to be the apple of the Lord's eye?
4. How does David contrast himself with the wicked in verses 13-15?
5. How was David kept from the path of the violent? How was he able to stay in the steps of the Lord?

**answers**

1. David prayed for deliverance from the danger that was immediately threatening him. He was urgent in his call for help, because his need was pressing.
2. No! In context David is calling on God to vindicate him and rescue him from the forces that are surrounding him. David is not claiming that he is perfect, but he is blameless and just in this situation while the enemy is wrong and unjust.
3. The apple of the eye is the pupil, which is the source of sight. David is asking for the Lord not only to keep a watchful eye on David, but to make David the focus of His attention.
4. The wicked live for this life only. They are satisfied with the temporal and transitory things that God allows them to have in this life. But David is looking forward to the ultimate satisfaction of enjoying the Lord's presence forever when he would be completely righteous.
5. By the Word. The Word of God is the answer to the problem of backsliding. Scripture will keep you from slipping.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Discuss the word picture of being the apple of God's eye and under the shadow of His wing. Which appeals to you more at this time in your spiritual life?
2. David looked forward to being in the Lord's presence. How can you develop and strengthen this attitude in your own life? How is this attitude affected by your focus on temporal and transitory things?

**challenge**

Do you get a steady diet of Scripture every day? Scripture is the secret for sanctification. Let Scripture keep you from slipping.

**memorize**

*"By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer." Psalms 17:4*

*Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings." Psalms 17:8*

**Lesson 12**

**The Greatness of God is Emphasized –  
in His Character, in His Deliverance, and in His Blessings  
Psalm 18**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. God is great in His character.
2. God is great in His deliverance.
3. God is great in His blessing.

**practical application**

Don't expect God to answer your ungodly prayers.

**questions**

1. Which other Old Testament passage parallels Psalm 18?
2. What type of psalm is Psalm 18?
3. List the metaphors that emphasize the greatness of God's character (verses 1-3).
4. Which New Testament passage echoes the moral principle of verses 25-29?
5. Why didn't God answer the prayers of the enemy (verse 41)?

**answers**

1. Psalm 18 is essentially the same as 2 Samuel 22.
2. It is a typical-Messianic psalm, because it concerns David's experiences while looking forward to the life of the Messiah, the greater son of David.
3. rock, fortress, shield, horn, and stronghold
4. Galatians 6:7
5. These people were not calling out to Him in repentance and wanting forgiveness. Rather, they wanted help in their ungodly ways.

**discuss\ consider**

Read through Psalm 18 and show how it follows the sequence of the life of our Lord.

- Verse 4 and following – His death
- Verse 16 and following – His resurrection
- Verse 20 and following – His exaltation
- Verse 31 and following – His Second Coming
- Verse 43 and following – His glorious future kingdom

**challenge**

Don't expect God to answer your ungodly prayers. Ask yourself if your prayers are in line with His Word and His will.

**memorize**

*"As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?" Psalms 18:30-31*

*"The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted." Psalms 18:46*

**Lesson 13**

**David Speaks about Two Ways God has Revealed Himself –  
Through Creation and Through Scripture  
Psalm 19**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. God has spoken with general revelation.
2. God has spoken with special revelation.

**practical application**

What is our response to the books of Revelation?

**questions**

1. How does God reveal Himself according to Psalm 19?
2. What is the difference between general revelation and special revelation?
3. What New Testament passage addresses God's general revelation?
4. Discuss the two Hebrew names for God used in this psalm.
5. How did David respond to God's great glory and holiness as revealed in His creation and His Word (verses 12-14)?

**answers**

1. Through Creation and through Scripture
2. The Creation is God's general revelation, because it has been given to everyone. The Scriptures are God's special revelation because they are specifically given to certain people and they contain revelation of the one true God that cannot be determined from general revelation.
3. Romans 1:20
4. In verses 1-6 the name is El, meaning "the strong one." This describes the power of God. In verses 7-14, the name is Yahweh or Lord, which stresses God's covenant relationship with His people.
5. David desired righteousness in his own life.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Recall a time when the general revelation of creation has testified to you about the existence and character of God. What feelings did this inspire within you?
2. For David, the Word of God was the most valuable and most satisfying treasure he owned. Discuss how you can develop this attitude about the Word in your own life.

**challenge**

Review David's response to God's revelation in verses 12-14. How will you respond?

**memorize**

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." Psalms 19:1*

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer." Psalms 19:14*

## Lesson 14

# Battle Songs Psalms 20 & 21

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. Prayer and assurance bring victory.
2. Rejoicing and confidence follow victory.

### practical applications

1. Go with confidence in the name of the Lord.
2. Get ready for the showdown!

### questions

1. What type of psalms are Psalms 20 and 21?
2. Why should it be encouraging for believers to think of the Lord as the God of Jacob rather than the more common title of the God of Abraham?
3. What is the meaning of "*help from the sanctuary*" in verse 2?
4. What battle might David be referring to in these psalms?
5. Which verses in Psalm 21 are typical-messianic?

**answers**

1. They are both battle songs set to music and singing. Psalm 20 is a psalm of prayer before the battle and Psalm 21 is after the battle. Both psalms have typical-messianic implications.
2. Because although Jacob was not perfect, God was pleased to bless him.
3. David is asking for help from the Lord Himself, whose presence is in the sanctuary.
4. These psalms may refer to his war with the Ammonites and Syrians as recorded in 2 Samuel 10 and 12.
5. Verses 4-6 look forward to the risen and exalted Messiah. Verses 10-13 look forward to the end times when all the Lord's enemies will be defeated and subdued and the Lord will be exalted and praised.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Discuss some of the things we as humans put our trust in for our security and well being. Are these things worthy of our trust? Read Psalm 20:7. How would your life be different if your confidence was in the name of the Lord?
2. Review various showdowns between God and the enemy in Scripture. When will be the ultimate showdown?

**challenge**

Go with confidence in the name of the Lord. When you pray to the Lord and have the assurance that He hears and will answer, then you can go with confidence – regardless of the outcome.

**memorize**

*“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” Psalms 20:7*

*“The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!” Psalms 21:1*

**Lesson 15**

**An Amazing Messianic Psalm  
Psalm 22**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. The Lord experienced the requirements of substitution.
2. The Lord experienced the sufferings of crucifixion.
3. The Lord experienced the blessings of resurrection.

**practical application**

Are you in Psalm 22?

**questions**

1. Why did the Lord seem so far away from David in his situation?
2. Why did the Lord Jesus cry out on the cross, *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*
3. Why did the Father forsake His Son on the cross?
4. What is amazing about Psalm 22’s prophecy concerning the sufferings of Christ?
5. What is the perspective of the end of verse 21 through the end of the psalm?

**answers**

1. God ordained that David would go through these experiences because the greater David, the Lord Jesus Christ, would go through the experiences of the cross. David's writings in Psalm 22 are a typical-Messianic psalm, although some sections are purely-prophetic.
2. Because Christ was really going through the experience of being forsaken by His heavenly Father. This was not just a quotation; it was truly His experience.
3. God is holy and He must judge sin (verse 3). He had to forsake His only Son when the Lord Jesus became our substitute on the cross.
4. Psalm 22 was certainly written well before the time of Christ, as proven by its inclusion in the Dead Sea Scrolls. And yet verses 14-18 describe crucifixion – a Roman way of execution unknown in Old Testament days. Stoning was the Hebrew way of crucifixion under the Law.
5. This is written from the perspective of the resurrected Messiah. The Lord is no longer forsaken by the Father. His cry was heard and answered.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Discuss the Lord's role as your substitute for sin. See 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:24. Have you ever willingly taken the punishment that someone else deserved? Although Christ was perfect and never sinned, He took on our sin for us.
2. Revisit the sufferings of the Lord during His crucifixion. Think about Christ's attitude toward you that prompted such a sacrifice.

**challenge**

Read Psalm 22:30-31. Are you in these verses? Are you serving the Lord and sharing about His righteousness and finished work?

**memorize**

*"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Psalms 22:1*

*"They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Psalms 22:16-18*

*"I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You." Psalms 22:22*

**Lesson 16**

**The Wonderful Relationship Between God and His People  
Pictured as the Close Relationship Between a Shepherd and His Sheep  
Psalm 23**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. The Lord is my Shepherd in His provision for me.
2. The Lord is my Shepherd in His protection for me.
3. The Lord is my Shepherd in His program for me.

**practical application**

Can you say, "The Lord is my Shepherd?"

**questions**

1. If the Lord is the Shepherd, who are His sheep?
2. What is the theme of Psalm 23?
3. What does the Lord provide for us, the sheep?
4. How does the shepherd use his rod and staff?
5. Describe the analogy of anointing a sheep's head with oil.

**answers**

1. The Lord is a shepherd to us as individual sheep and to His flock, the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and the Church in the New Testament.
2. Being a sheep in the flock of the greatest Shepherd
3. He provides us with spiritual nourishment and spiritual provision.
4. The rod of the shepherd protects the sheep by being used to fight off wild beasts. It can also be used to discipline the sheep. The staff of the shepherd protects the sheep by keeping the stray sheep in line and away from danger.
5. A sheep's head was anointed with oil to protect it from pesky insects. Our great Shepherd knows how to protect us from big, fearsome enemies as well as small, bothersome enemies.

**discuss\ consider**

1. The theme of the Shepherd and His sheep is a theme that runs throughout the Bible. Recall various passages in the Old and New Testaments about the Lord as our Shepherd.
2. Have you ever walked through the Valley of the Shadow of Death? Describe your experience and whether you knew the Lord was right there with you.

**challenge**

Many people admit that Jesus was a great moral teacher and leader. Do you go beyond this to recognize the Lord as your personal Savior and Shepherd?

**memorize**

*"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness or His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever." Psalms 23*

**Lesson 17**

**The Return of the Lord to this Earth in Victory  
Psalm 24**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Only the clean and the pure are qualified to enter the Lord's holy place in righteousness.
2. Only the King of Glory is qualified to enter the gates of Jerusalem in victory.

**practical application**

Have you opened the gates of your heart to the King?

**questions**

1. What was the possible occasion for this psalm?
2. How does verse 1 relate to the Land of Israel?
3. What does it mean to have clean hands and a pure heart?
4. Explain the meaning of verse 9.
5. What will be the Lord's first task when He returns to this earth?

**answers**

1. David may have written it when he brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem. The Ark indicated God's presence in the midst of His people, and therefore it pictures Christ in the midst of His people.
2. God is the Owner and Creator of the earth and all it contains. He gave a certain portion of the Middle East to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
3. In the context of the Old Testament, this was the person who was bringing the required sacrifices under the Law and seeking to live a righteous life. In the context of the New Testament, this is the person who has come to Christ for salvation and is living a godly life.
4. Here the gates of Jerusalem are pictured as having their heads down, but they are lifted up as the gates are opened and the Lord enters in triumphal victory.
5. His first order of business will be conquering and judging those who have been against His people, the godly remnant of Jews and the saints of the Tribulation Period. Then, after total victory and judgment of the wicked, the Lord will enter Jerusalem in triumphal victory.

**discuss\ consider**

Discuss how Psalms 22, 23, and 24 go together to show three aspects of our Lord as the Shepherd of the sheep:

Psalm 22 – He is the Good Shepherd – John 10:11

Psalm 23 – He is the Great Shepherd – Hebrews 13:20

Psalm 24 – He is the Chief Shepherd – 1 Peter 5:4

**challenge**

When the gates of Jerusalem are opened as the Lord ascends His earthly throne, every knee will bow to Him as sovereign Lord. Have you opened the gates of your heart to the Lord before you have no choice?

**memorize**

*“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.” Psalms 24:3-4*

*“Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.” Psalms 24:10*

## Lesson 18

# David Looks to the Lord for Needs in His Life Psalm 25

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. Committed believers look to the Lord for guidance and forgiveness.
2. Committed believers look to the Lord for instruction and deliverance.
3. Committed believers look to the Lord for comfort and protection.

### practical application

Praise the Lord for Psalm 25:7.

### questions

1. What type of psalm is Psalm 25?
2. What is the structure of Psalm 25?
3. On what basis does David ask the Lord not to remember his former sins (vs 6-7)?
4. Summarize verses 8-15.
5. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
6. What should you do when you face opposition from your enemies?

**answers**

1. Psalm 25 is an alphabetic acrostic psalm, where each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
2. The first seven verses and the last seven verses are prayers to the Lord. The verses inbetween (vs 8-15) are about the Lord and the blessings of those who trust the Lord.
3. On the basis of God's compassion, lovingkindness, and goodness
4. The obedient and committed believer can depend on the Lord for instruction and deliverance.
5. It means to honor and show reverence to God, who is all-powerful and holy.
6. You should turn to the Lord, as David did. He did not take his own revenge, rather he trusted the Lord to vindicate him, based on His righteous character.

**discuss\ consider**

1. David beseeched the Lord not to remember his former sins. As believers, we can pray this with more assurance now that Christ has come and died for our sins. Read 1 John 1:9. Discuss how our sins affect our fellowship with the Lord.
2. Remember a time when you felt extreme loneliness. Discuss Psalm 25:16-18 and Hebrews 13:5. When we look to the Lord and confess our sins, our fellowship is restored and our loneliness is removed, as we experience the comfort of the Lord.

**challenge**

Aren't you glad that the Lord doesn't remember the sins of your youth? Thank Him for this!

**memorize**

*"To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me." Psalms 25:1-2*

*"The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way." Psalms 25:9*

*"Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You." Psalms 25:21*

**Lesson 19**

**David's Integrity in Life &  
His Confidence in the Lord  
Psalms 26 and 27**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. The lives of believers should be characterized by integrity.
2. The lives of believers should be characterized by confidence.

**practical applications**

1. Follow Psalm 26:3 for integrity.
2. What one thing would you ask of the Lord?

**questions**

1. Is David claiming to be perfect in Psalm 26 and teaching salvation by good works?
2. What does it mean to “wash your hands in innocence” (v 6)?
3. Does a Christian ever need to pray Psalm 27:9?
4. List some of the factors of David's confidence from Psalm 27.
5. What “one thing” did David ask of the Lord?

**answers**

1. No, David is not claiming that he lived a perfect life, but he is claiming that in this situation he is innocent.
2. This means to take definite action to separate from that which defiles and a determination not to get mixed up in unrighteousness. David did not want to be associated with sinners, knowing that there would be a coming day of judgment.
3. No. David was praying this in Old Testament times. All Christians now have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, so we do not have to pray that the Lord will not abandon us.
4. David was looking to the Lord and not to himself. David desired to worship the Lord and fellowship with Him in the Lord's house. David had sure hope in God's sovereign plan for his life.
5. David wanted to know and experience the presence of the Lord more. He desired close fellowship with the Lord more than anything else in life.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Discuss the two things that will characterize our lifestyle if we claim a life of integrity:
  - We will be separate from sin and sinners.
  - We will be separate unto the Lord and His people.
2. As with anything in life, we will only spend time in communion with the Lord if we make time for it and make it a priority. Have you seen, as David, that this desire to worship the Lord can give you courageous confidence? Discuss why this may be.

**challenge**

Will you be "separate from" and "separate unto" this week?

**memorize**

*"Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity." Psalms 26:1*

*"I will wash my hands in innocence." Psalms 26:6*

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalms 27:1*

*"Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!" Psalms 27:14*

## Lesson 20

# David Distinguishes Himself from the Wicked & David Praises the Lord for His Power and Strength Psalms 28 & 29

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. There is a time and place for imprecation.
2. God is sovereign over storms.

### practical applications

1. Praise the Lord for being our SSS.
2. Let's not complain about the weather!

### questions

1. Why is it important to remember the timeframe of these Scriptures?
2. What is imprecation?
3. What three "Ss" describe our Lord in Psalm 28?
4. Who are the "sons of the mighty" or "mighty ones" in Psalm 29:1?
5. What inspired David to write Psalm 29?

**answers**

1. Because as Old Testament Scriptures, they were written before the coming of Christ and before the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in every believer. As New Testament believers, we do not have to request that the Lord not turn a deaf ear to us or that we will not be dragged away with the wicked (Psalm 28:1-3). We have assurance that God hears our prayers and that heaven is our future home.

2. Imprecation comes from a word meaning “to curse.” Certain Psalms are called imprecatory psalms because they call for God’s judgment on the unbeliever.

3.

- The Lord is our strength – verses 7,8
- The Lord is our shield – verse 7
- The Lord is our shepherd – verse 9

4. This probably refers to angels, who are called upon to give glory unto the Lord and worship Him in the beauty of holiness.

5. A mighty storm as it moved in from the Mediterranean Sea and swept inland to Lebanon and Syria north of Israel.

**discuss\ consider**

1. What is the appropriate time and place for imprecation? Compare Matthew 5:44, Galatians 1:8-9, and 1 Corinthians 16:22. Discuss how biblical imprecation is not a call for personal revenge.

2. Losses and changes in our life can be like storms. God is sovereign over the storms and life and can use them to teach us and accomplish His purpose in us. Discuss your most recent storm. What did God teach you through this?

**challenge**

How will you think of the Lord this week, as your strength, your shield, or your shepherd?

**memorize**

*“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.” Psalm 28:7*

*“Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones; give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.” Psalm 29:1-2*

**Lesson 21**

**David Rejoices in the Lord in This Life  
Psalm 30**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Believers should praise the Lord when they are healed from sickness.
2. Believers should praise the Lord while they are still alive.

**practical applications**

1. Are you ready for the Lord's answer to all your questions?
2. Remember, night does not last forever.

**questions**

1. Discuss the title of this psalm, "A Song at the dedication of the house of David."
2. What does this psalm teach us about prayer during times of sickness?
3. What is the teaching of verse 9?

**answers**

1. One possible scenario is that this psalm was written for the dedication of the site of the temple, soon after the plague on Israel was stopped and the land was healed. David himself may have also been healed and raised up from near death.
2. It is right and biblical for believers to pray for those who are sick. And it is equally important to praise when God does heal.
3. If David were to die and go down to the pit, or grave, then he would not be able to praise the Lord and give testimony to the Lord's faithfulness.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Read 1 Chronicles 21-22:1. Read through Psalm 30 and show how the verses parallel David's experience during this time.
2. Can you tell of someone who used their sickness during this short time on earth as an opportunity to praise the Lord? How can you develop this attitude in your own life?

**challenge**

Are you experiencing a "night" of sorrow right now? Remember, the night will not last forever. The morning will come with the Lord's return.

**memorize**

*"Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:4-5*

## Lesson 22

# David Calls on the Lord to Deliver him out of Physical Distress and Danger & David Thanks the Lord for Answering his Prayer Psalm 31

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. The experiences of David in Psalm 31 have personal applications.
2. The experiences of David in Psalm 31 have prophetic implications.

### practical application

Let's stop bowing to idols!

### questions

1. How could we outline Psalm 31?
2. What is the possible occasion for this psalm?
3. What terms does David use to describe the Lord as his security?
4. How does Luke 22:31-32 relate to this psalm?
5. What verse from this psalm did the Lord quote on the cross?

**answers**

1.

- verses 1-6: Prayer for Deliverance
- verses 7-8: Praise for Deliverance
- verses 9-18: Prayer for Deliverance
- verses 19-22: Praise for Deliverance
- verses 23-24: A call for all believers to praise the Lord

2. This was probably written during the time of Saul's persecution of David, while he was besieged in Keilah (1 Samuel 23).

3.

- My refuge – verse 2
- My stronghold and fortress – verse 2
- My rock – verse 3

4. In verses 7-8, David praises the Lord that he has not been handed over to the enemy, similarly to Peter in the Luke passage. Thank the Lord for keeping you out of the hands of Satan, who would just love to get hold of you and destroy your faith.

5. Verse 5, see Luke 23:4-6

**discuss\ consider**

Reading this psalm of David is like traveling through valleys and mountains with him. This psalm has a lot of personal application, because life consists of highs and lows. Are you in a valley or on a mountaintop in your Christian life right now? Which verses in this psalm are most encouraging to you?

**challenge**

Are you completely trusting the Lord for your care, protection, and guidance? Where is your trust for yourself, your family, and your future?

**memorize**

*"In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness." Psalm 31:1*

*"But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand." Psalm 31:14-15*

**Lesson 23**

**A Psalm of Confession and Forgiveness  
Psalm 32**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Godly sorrow results in repentance and salvation.
2. Godly instruction results in direction and joy.

**practical application**

Keep short accounts with God.

**questions**

1. In this psalm, David speaks of keeping silent about a sin that he had committed. What sin was this?
2. What other psalm is similar to Psalm 32?
3. In what way does godly sorrow result in salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10)?
4. When David confessed his sin, were all his problems resolved?
5. Explain the illustration about the horse or mule (verse 9).

**answers**

1. It was likely David's sin of committing adultery with Bathsheba and then having her husband Uriah killed in order to cover up the evidence.
2. Psalm 51, which was written soon after the prophet Nathan confronted David with his sin.
3. In the case of an unbeliever, godly sorrow will lead to repentance and eternal salvation from the penalty of sin. In the case of a believer, godly sorrow will lead to repentance and salvation or deliverance from the discipline of God.
4. No, David still had to face the consequences for his sin, but his fellowship with the Lord was restored.
5. We should not be like a horse or mule which must be led by a bit and bridle, rather we should willingly seek out godly instruction.

**discuss\ consider**

1. David's unconfessed sin affected him mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. Have you ever experienced this anguish when you tried to cover up sin in your life? What happened when you finally confessed that sin?
2. There were still consequences for David's sin, but his confession restored his fellowship with the Lord. Why is it important to distinguish this? Discuss how the restored fellowship equipped David to face the consequences ahead.

**challenge**

Keep a short account with God, so your fellowship with Him will not be disrupted. It does you no good to hide and cover up your sin.

**memorize**

*"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Psalm 32:1*

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye." Psalm 32:8*

**Lesson 24**

**Praise the Lord for His Dependable  
Care and Control over all Things  
Psalm 33**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Believers should praise the Lord for His sovereign care of creation.
2. Believers should praise the Lord for His sovereign control of history.

**practical application**

1. Rejoice in the standards of God.
2. Rejoice in the sovereignty of God.

**questions**

1. What should praise songs be about?
2. What is meant by a “new song” in verse 3?
3. Which verses in this psalm support God’s creation week rather than the evolutionary process?
4. What is the teaching of verses 10-11?

**answers**

1. Praise songs should be about the Lord – who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. Our praise should not focus on ourselves, but on the Lord.
2. The idea is that our praise should be fresh and not stale. The truth is not new or changing, but the appreciation of our redemption and the Lord's faithfulness should bring new and fresh praise from our hearts. See Lamentations 3:22-23.
3. verses 6 and 9
4. No matter what the peoples and nations of history have planned with their political power and military strength, it comes to nothing if it is not in line with God's plan for history.

**discuss\ consider**

1. *"The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD."* Psalm 33:5 Recall a time when you have enjoyed God's goodness through His creation. Recall the sights, sounds, and smells. How did these testify to you about God?
2. Psalms 33:16-18 makes it clear that every battle in history has been under the sovereign control of God. Recall examples of this from biblical battles. Can you think of any modern day examples? There are many from the modern State of Israel.
3. Discuss what it means to rejoice in the standards of God. Do you think there is a difference between tolerating God's moral standards and obeying them?

**challenge**

Knowing that God controls all things should give you great confidence as a believer. Do you rejoice in the sovereignty of God?

**memorize**

*"For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD."* Psalm 33:4-5

*"Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy."* Psalm 33:18

**Lesson 25**

**A Song of the Saved  
Psalm 34**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Believers should themselves praise the Lord for His goodness and deliverance.
2. Believers should teach others to praise the Lord for His goodness and deliverance.

**practical application**

Allow for the fuller meaning of Scripture.

**questions**

1. What type of psalm is Psalm 34?
2. What was the occasion for the writing of this psalm?
3. What does it mean to boast in the Lord?
4. Who is the Angel of the Lord (verse 7)?
5. What are the three commands for fearing the Lord in verses 12-14?
6. How does the hermeneutical principle “Allow for the fuller meaning of Scripture” apply to verses 20-22?

**answers**

1. It is an alphabetic acrostic psalm, based on the Hebrew alphabet.
2. David wrote this psalm when he was fleeing from King Saul, and pretended madness before King Achish of Gath (1 Samuel 21).
3. To boast in the Lord means to talk about what the Lord has done in your life and not just talk about yourself.
4. The Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament was the preincarnate Christ. So the Lord Himself is our defense and security.
5.
  - 1) Control your tongue
  - 2) Separate from evil and do good
  - 3) Pursue peace
6. In the context of Psalm 34, these verses are a general expression of God's protection of the believer. But under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John applied this in a literal way to the Lord's crucifixion (John 19:36).

**discuss\ consider**

1. Discuss the emphasis on "themselves" in the doctrinal point "Believers should themselves praise the Lord for His goodness and deliverance." In what way do we tend to rely on others to praise the Lord for us? How can we be more personally involved in praising the Lord?
2. Read Psalm 34:17-19. Like David, believers will experience troubles in this life. Discuss how believers are not delivered from troubles, but out of troubles. Compare John 16:33.

**challenge**

This week how will you teach others to praise the Lord?

**memorize**

*"I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1*

*"Ob, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8*

**Lesson 26**

**David Prays for Deliverance & Personal Vindication  
Psalm 35**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Prayer for vindication is based on righteous living and not on personal revenge.
2. Prayer for vindication is based on divine justice and not on personal triumph.

**practical application**

Let the Lord be magnified when we're vindicated.

**questions**

1. What was the occasion of the writing of this psalm?
2. What is an imprecatory psalm? Was it wrong for David to write this?
3. On what basis was David requesting vindication?
4. What is the prophetic application of Psalm 35?

**answers**

1. Most likely it was when David was escaping from King Saul who was wrongly chasing David in an attempt to kill him.
2. To imprecate means to curse. David was not praying for personal revenge, but rather calling for God's judgment on the wicked so that God's standards and divine justice will be maintained.
3. It was based on David's own personal integrity and righteous living. David knew that he was in the right, while Saul was in the wrong.
4. This imprecatory psalm will certainly apply to the persecuted godly remnant of the future Tribulation Period. They will cry out for vindication based on divine justice, and God will answer.

**discuss\ consider**

Recall a time when you have really wanted personal revenge. Did you take matters into your own hands, or did you let God bring the vindication? What was the outcome either way?

**challenge**

When the Lord vindicates you, will you give Him the praise? Take this opportunity to magnify the Lord, rather than gloating in yourself.

**memorize**

*"Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive with me; fight against those who fight against me." Psalm 35:1*

*"Vindicate me, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me." Psalm 35:24*

**Lesson 27**

**The Principles of the Ungodly are  
Contrasted with the Life and Experience of the Godly  
Psalm 36**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. The SOP of the ungodly is to not follow and not fear the Lord.
2. The SOP of the godly is to experience and enjoy the attributes of God.

**practical application**

1. Come to the fountain of life.
2. Pray for your preservation with the right philosophy.

**questions**

1. What can we learn from the title of Psalm 36?
2. What is the theme of Psalm 36?
3. Outline this psalm.
4. What does SOP stand for?
5. Discuss the attribute of God often translated "lovingkindness."

**answers**

1. Psalm 36 is a psalm of David written for the Chief musician or choir director. This means it was set to music and used at the Temple for worship.

2. There is a great contrast between the way the ungodly thinks and acts, and the way God's thoughts and actions are directed toward blessing the believer.

3.

- The Wickedness of the Wicked – verses 1-4
- The Graciousness of God – verses 5-9
- The Confidence of the Christian – verses 10-12

Or

- The Sinner – verses 1-4
- The Savior – verses 5-9
- The Saint – verses 10-12

4. Standard Operating Procedure

5. This hard-to-translate Hebrew word is sometimes rendered "love" or "mercy." It speaks of God's love as steadfast, faithful, protective, righteous, and loyal.

**discuss\ consider**

1. Ungodly people live their lives with no fear of God. Discuss how unbelievers, and believers as well, become desensitized to sin.

2. Compare 1 John 1:7 to Psalm 36:9, "*In Your light we see light.*" How do you gain insight and understanding in life?

**challenge**

Have you come to the fountain of life? Like the woman at the well in John 4, the Lord is offering you living water so you will not thirst.

**memorize**

*"Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep." Psalm 35:5-6*

**Lesson 28**

**Do not Fret about the Prosperity of the Wicked,  
Rather, Trust in the Sovereign Ways of the Lord  
Psalm 37**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Believers should not fret about the success of the wicked.
2. Believers should not lose faith because of the success of the wicked.

**practical application**

Psalm 37:4 is not a blank check for all believers!

**questions**

1. What type of psalm is Psalm 37?
2. What age-old question was raised in Psalm 36?
3. How is Psalm 37 a natural follow-up to this question?
4. Why shouldn't we be envious of the prosperity of wrongdoers?
5. When will the righteous receive the inheritance of the land (verse 29)?
6. What is the key for stability in this life (verses 30-31)?

**answers**

1. It is an acrostic, based on the Hebrew alphabet.
2. Why do the wicked seem to prosper more than the righteous?
3. Here the believer is exhorted not to fret about the prosperity of the wicked. Just continue to trust the Lord and rest in His sovereign ways.
4. Because their prosperity is only temporary.
5. In the future earthly kingdom of our Lord, and in the New Heavens and New Earth for eternity
6. To know and speak the Word of God

**discuss\ consider**

1. In what way have you see the wicked prosper in this life? Read through Psalm 37 and discuss why this should not cause you anxiety.
2. David testifies in verses 25-26 that he has never seen the righteous go begging. Even though they may not be as prosperous as the wicked, they always have enough so that they can even give to others. How have you seen this to be true in your life?

**challenge**

When you delight yourself in the Lord, your desires become more in line with the Lord's desires. Understand this when you read Psalm 37:4!

**memorize**

*"Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity." Psalm 37:1*

*"Delight yourself also in the LORD and He shall give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4*

*"Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land." Psalm 37:34*

**Lesson 29**

**The Consequences of Sin &  
The Shortness of Life  
Psalms 38 & 39**

**background notes**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**doctrinal points**

1. Believers should acknowledge the fact that there are consequences to sin.
2. Believers should accept the fact that life is short.

**practical applications**

1. Expect to be lonely when you sin.
2. Live as if you only had six more months!

**questions**

1. What type of psalm is Psalm 38?
2. What sin was David mourning in Psalm 38?
3. Why does David focus on the shortness of life in Psalm 39?
4. Who was Jeduthun?
5. What was David requesting in Psalm 39:4?

**answers**

1. Psalm 38 is a penitential psalm, expressing sorrow because of the consequence of sin.
2. Probably his glaring failure to discipline his family at the time of Amnon's rape of Tamar and the subsequent murder of Amnon by Absalom.
3. Because he is under the hand of God and experiencing disciplinary sickness
4. Jeduthun was one of the choir directors, appointed by David to lead public worship.
5. He was not praying that the Lord would reveal to him how he would die or how much time he had left, but rather that the Lord would help him to appreciate the brevity of human life.

**discuss\ consider**

1. David did not try to make excuses for his sin or vindicate himself in any way. Discuss how this allowed him to regain fellowship with the Lord. Do you think making excuses for our sin prolongs the painful consequences?
2. Even in the midst of his suffering, David was careful to be a good witness for God. He did not complain about God's ways in his life, lest the wicked find fault with God's ways. And he requested relief from God's heavy hand, so that unbelievers would not gloat over David's situation. Discuss whether you would have a mindset like this in the midst of suffering.

**challenge**

What would you do if the Lord told you that you only had six more months to live?

**memorize**

*"O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down." Psalm 38:1-2*

*"LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am." Psalm 39:4*

## Lesson 30

# Two Typical-Messianic Psalms Psalms 40 & 41

### background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### doctrinal points

1. The deliverance and dedication in Psalm 40 are typical in reference to Christ.
2. The blessing and betrayal in Psalm 41 are typical in reference to Christ.

### practical application

1. Wait patiently for deliverance.
2. Watch what you say about the sick!

### questions

1. What is a typical-Messianic psalm?
2. How does Psalm 40 change in verse 11? What is David's attitude?
3. Why does Psalm 40:6 differ from its quotation in Hebrews 10:5?
4. Where are Psalms 40 and 41 quoted in the New Testament?
5. What troubles was David facing in Psalm 41?
6. Who were David's enemies in this psalm?

**answers**

1. It is an account of the experiences of David, but some of these experiences are illustrative or typical or the greater David, the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. A new situation arises where David again looks to the Lord for deliverance. He is confident that the Lord will deliver him even though he realizes that many of his troubles are because of his own sins.
3. The author of Hebrews quoted the verse from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament.
4. Psalm 40:6-8 is quoted in Hebrews 10:5-7. The Lord quotes Psalm 41:9 in reference to his betrayal by Judas in John 13:17-18.
5. sickness and enemies
6. These were close associates of David in the royal court (verses 5-9). They were waiting and hoping for David to die as they slandered him behind his back.

**discuss\ consider**

1. In Psalm 40, David praises the Lord for deliverance from some distressing situations. From what has the Lord delivered you recently? Read through verses 1-10 and use them to praise the Lord for His deliverance.
2. There are many causes of sickness. Some sickness is God's discipline, some is from the devil, but through any sickness God can be glorified. So watch what you say about the sick. Your presumptions could be devastating to a sick person.

**challenge**

Are you willing to wait patiently for the Lord? God does hear your cries for deliverance and He does care. Wait on the Lord.

**memorize**

*"I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth – Praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD." Psalm 40:1-3*

*"By this I know that You are well pleased with me, because my enemy does not triumph over me." Psalm 41:11*