

One of the most beloved passages of the entire Bible is Psalm 23. It has been read and quoted countless times, and provided strength and comfort to countless souls. It is a beautiful Psalm of David that demonstrates what it truly means to trust in God. While we typically focus on the 'shepherd' aspect of the Psalm, there are actually three distinct pictures David paints for us. Here is a brief outline to help you think through and meditate on this wonderful Psalm:



The Shepherd and the Sheep (vv. 1-3)

Sheep are some of the most helpless animals in the world. They have difficulty even finding good grazing pastures without the guidance of a shepherd. Likewise, we are helpless to find eternal peace or the way of righteousness apart from the guidance of the true Shepherd, Jesus.

The Guiding Companion and the Traveler (v. 4)

Green pastures and still waters sound wonderful—but sometimes life's journey takes us through dark and shadowy places. Yet we can still have courage if we our guide and companion is the Lord!

The Host and the Guest (vv. 5-6)

The Lord is not only a shepherd and companion, He is a gracious and benevolent host. He seeks to offer us eternal security, peace, and provision. Knowing this, we can't help but see the Lord's goodness and mercy as we look forward to the day when we shall dwell in His house forever!

Since many of the Psalms are short and poetic, they lend themselves to memorization. So instead of questions this week, why not try memorizing a Psalm? You can do this individually, or try memorizing a psalm together as a family. Pick out a Psalm from this week's reading, and try to memorize it in its entirety by the end of the week. Good luck!

*"I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you."
- Psalm 119:11*

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



Psalms 1-41

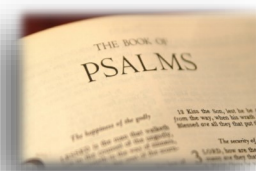
The Psalms: Book 1

Overview

For the next few weeks, our reading plan will take us through a portion of Psalms. This section of Scripture is one of the most cherished and well known of all the Bible. Psalms is a unique book. Much like the Bible itself, Psalms is not really a "book" in the traditional sense. Psalms is a collection of books, more like a library than a single book. Or, more familiar to us, Psalms is like a songbook. Psalms is a collection of 150 different songs, poems, and prayers. The Hebrew title of Psalms is *Tehillim*, which means 'praises.' While written by many different men across many centuries, the Psalms have a harmonious message—the great power, love, and holiness of God. The Psalms teach us much about God—thus they help us know Him better, encourage us to trust Him more, and they exemplify what it means to truly praise our heavenly Father.

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Psalms 1-9
Tuesday: Psalms 10-17
Wednesday: Psalms 18-25
Thursday: Psalms 26-33
Friday: Psalms 34-41



Who Wrote Psalms?

The individual Psalms were written by several different men. Moses wrote at least one (Ps. 90), and some Psalms indicate they were written during the Babylonian captivity or shortly thereafter. If so, Psalms was compiled over roughly 1,000 years! Many Bible historians believe that Ezra was the one who finally compiled the Psalms in their final order. Here are the various authors:

David: 73 Psalms

Asaph: 12 Psalms (50, 70-83)

Sons of Korah: 10 Psalms (42, 44-49, 84-85, 87)

Solomon: 2 Psalms (72, 127)

Moses: 1 Psalm (90)

Heman: 1 Psalm (88)

Ethan: 1 Psalm (89)

Anonymous: 48 Psalms

Fun Facts

Most people say that Psalms is the longest book of the Bible. But is it? Here's a few fun facts about the book of Psalms that might come in handy during a trivia night sometime!

Longest Book? If using chapters or verses, Psalms is the longest book in the Bible. But those really aren't the best measurements. If you compare word count in the original Hebrew, Psalms is only the 3rd longest book in the Bible. Jeremiah is the longest, and Genesis places 2nd.

A Couple of Records: Psalms may not technically be the longest book, but it does contain the longest chapter in the Bible. Psalm 119 has 2,362 words (using the ESV), or 1,690 Hebrew words. Two chapters before this, Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter of the Bible with only 28 words in English (ESV), or 21 Hebrew words!

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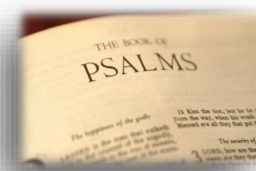
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