

Prayer in Psalms

God has always communicated with mankind, and has always offered man the ability to speak to Him. Through prayer, we can approach God's throne to thank Him, praise Him, and ask for His help. Prayer displays our trust in God, and offers a means to commune with God together (public prayer) and alone (private prayer). Many of the Psalms are prayers, and reading them helps us understand the nature and beauty of prayer. Not all prayers are the same, nor are prayers always offered for the same reasons. As situations change, so do our needs and so should our prayers. Below are a few of the prayers offered throughout Psalms. Re-read some of these Psalms and see what they can teach you about prayer!



Prayers Of:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Praise to God | 100; 113; 117 |
| Communal Thanksgiving | 67; 75; 136 |
| Individual Thanksgiving | 18; 30; 32 |
| Communal Request | 79; 80; 123 |
| Individual Request | 3; 55; 86 |
| Communal Sorrow | 44; 74; 137 |
| Individual Sorrow | 5; 6; 120 |
| Anger | 35; 109; 140 |
| Confession | 6; 32; 51 |
| Faith | 11; 16; 23 |

God in Psalms

From beginning to end, Psalms tells us about God. Since the Psalms are written by different people and in different situations, we see many different facets of God's nature. Here are a few characteristics of God we find in the Psalms:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| All Knowing | 139 |
| Creator | 8; 104; 148 |
| Good & Generous | 34; 81; 107 |
| Sovereign | 33; 89; 96 |
| Holy | 66; 99; 145 |
| Loving & Faithful | 23; 42; 51 |
| Merciful & Forgiving | 32; 111; 130 |
| Powerful | 76; 89; 93 |
| Willing to Speak to Man | 1; 19; 119 |

*Charts adapted from Tynedale Handbook of Bible Charts & Maps

“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Psalms 73-106

The Psalms: Books 3 & 4

Overview

We are going to spend one more week in the Psalms, reading the third and fourth collections or books (we will come back to the fifth and final book of Psalms later on in our reading plan). With seventeen Psalms each, books three and four are the shortest of the five books of Psalms. If comparing the books to the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible), these books correspond to Leviticus and Numbers. Book three is where we find many of the Psalms of Asaph, and book four breaks the mold with many unattributed Psalms. Many of the Psalms in these sections are not as familiar or well known, but that might be because of their messages. These Psalms tackle some very difficult and deep concepts—concepts that often makes men uncomfortable. But mankind should be uncomfortable when contemplating God. Compared to the holiness of God, our righteousness is like a filthy rag (Isa. 64:6). Compared to the power of God, man isn't even an ant. Currently bound by time, man cannot fully comprehend God's eternal existence. Yes, truly thinking about God and eternity can be an uncomfortable thing, but it also brings us to the realization that we must trust in and rely on God. These Psalms help us learn that lesson, and point us towards our awesome Creator, Father, and God.

Suggested Reading Schedule

| |
|-------------------------|
| Monday: Psalms 73-77 |
| Tuesday: Psalms 78-83 |
| Wednesday: Psalms 84-90 |
| Thursday: Psalms 91-101 |
| Friday: Psalms 102-106 |

Asaph



Aside from Psalm 50, all of the “Psalms of Asaph” are found in the third book of Psalms (73-83). It is debated whether the attributions mean Asaph was the author, or whether these were specific Psalms used by Asaph in his services as a leader of music-worship. If this is the same Asaph as was closely associated with David, then it seems likely he would also have been a writer of spiritual psalms.

We know little about Asaph, but he seems to be an important leader of musical worship during the time of David. When David brought the Ark to the tabernacle, Asaph was one of the men appointed as a singer before the Ark, and one of three men who played the cymbals. He was a part of the daily worship that took place before the Ark (1 Chr. 6, 15, & 16). His musical prowess and leadership shows through years later, for long after his death the Levite singers are called “the sons of Asaph” (2 Chr. 35:15; Ezra 2:41; Neh. 7:44; 11:22). It seems Asaph also served David as a prophet (1 Chr. 25:1-2). Clearly, this was a spiritually minded man who served God, and thankfully we have several of his Psalms that can help us learn about serving God today!

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