

The Bible Companion Series

THE CHRISTIAN'S DEVOTIONAL

**"Let every thing that hath breath praise the
LORD. Praise ye the LORD."**

Psalm 150:6

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

AV 1611 Bible Companion

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Table Of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
STUDY INTRODUCTION	4
PSALM 1	6
THE BLESSED MAN	6
PSALM 2	9
THE HEATHEN MAN.....	9
PSALM 3	12
THE TROUBLED MAN.....	12
PSALM 4	14
THE DISCOURAGED MAN.....	14
PSALM 5	16
THE SERIOUS SAINT.....	16
PSALM 6	19
THE WEAK SAINT	19
PSALM 7	21
A CHRISTIAN'S CONFIDENCE	21
PSALM 8	24
THE EXCELLENCY OF OUR LORD	24
PSALM 10	30
PERCEPTIONS	30
PSALM 11	33
WHY STAY PUT?.....	33
PSALM 12	35
THE GODLY MAN.....	35
PSALM 13	39
SILENT AGAIN.....	39
PSALM 14	42
THE FOOL.....	42
PSALM 15	45
CHARACTER DEFINED.....	45
PSALM 15	48
THE KIND OF CHRISTIAN GOD IS LOOKING FOR.....	48
PSALM 16	50
CRY OF CONFIDENCE	50
PSALM 17	52
PRAYING AGAINST THE ENEMY	52
PSALM 18	54
PURSUING YOUR ENEMIES.....	54
PSALM 19	56
THE GLORY OF GOD.....	56
PSALM 20	59
CHRIST'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER	59
PSALM 21	61
PSALM 22	62
JESUS ON THE CROSS	62
PSALM 23	66
THE WORK OF THE SHEPHERD.....	66
PSALM 24	69
THE RETURNING SHEPHERD	69
PSALM 25	70
LIFTING UP MY SOUL	70
PSALM 26	72
JUDGE ME	72
PSALM 27	73
HANDLING FEAR	73
PSALM 28	74

EARNEST PRAYER 74

PSALM 29..... **76**

 THE MIGHTY VOICE OF THE LORD 76

PSALM 30..... **78**

 WHY EXTOL THE LORD..... 78

PSALM 31..... **79**

 SWEET SURRENDER 79

PSALM 32..... **82**

 THE BLESSINGS OF SALVATION 82

PSALM 32..... **84**

 THE JOYS OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY 84

PSALM 33..... **85**

 THE BEAUTY OF PRAISE..... 85

PSALM 34..... **88**

 GOD IS SO GOOD!..... 88

PSALM 34..... **90**

 HOW TO GLORIFY THE LORD 90

PSALM 35..... **92**

 OUR ADVOCATE..... 92

PSALM 36..... **94**

PSALM 37..... **95**

 THE SEVEN STEPS OF A GOOD MAN 95

PSALM 38..... **98**

 THE WAGES OF SIN 98

PSALM 39..... **101**

 LEARNING HOW FRAIL I AM 101

PSALM 40..... **105**

 TESTIMONY OF A GREAT SINNER’S SALVATION 105

 THE FOUR NECESSARY TESTIMONIES OF A CHRISTIAN..... 107

PSALM 40..... **107**

 CONSIDERING THE POOR..... 111

SUMMARY QUESTIONS **114**

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

THE CHRISTIAN'S DEVOTIONAL

Study Introduction

Focus Verses: Psalm 150:6; Col 3:16; Eph 5:19

I. Some Preliminary Information

A. The Title of the Book.

1. The name of this book in the Hebrew is "*The Book of Praises*." The English word "Psalms" is from the New Testament (Col 3.16) and so would be translated "The Book of Songs."
2. It is part of the set of books called **Wisdom Books** - Books that create wisdom, and intelligence because they force you to THINK (i.e., Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, etc). Jesus refers to this entire section - which includes Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes - as simply "the psalms" in Luke 24:44.
3. It is THE devotional book for the saints of all time. It is the repository, the castle, the bomb shelter, the supply centre, and the hospital to which they repair when wounded and bleeding, crushed by the world, the flesh, or the devil. The Psalms have plenty of doctrinal meat in them, as we shall see. However, they are often aimed at the "heart," and this will be manifest very quickly.

B. **Authors.** Primarily David, but also Solomon, Moses, Asaph, Ethan, Heman, and the sons of Korah. These were all godly "singer-songwriters" unlike today's ones!

C. **Its Placement.** The most remarkable thing about the Psalms are their placement in the English Bible against the "original Hebrew" order, for in all the Hebrew Bibles, the Psalms follow Malachi instead of Job. The AV order gives:

1. 2 Chronicles for the dispersion of Israel (matching 70 A.D.)
2. Ezra for the regathering of Israel (matching 1918 A.D.)
3. Nehemiah for the rebuilding of Jerusalem (matching 1948 A.D.)
4. Esther, matching the marriage of the Lamb in Revelation 19:7
5. Then Job - on the ground in Uz, seven days and nights (matching the Tribulation). Job is the clearest type of the Jew going through the Great Tribulation found in either Testament
6. He is followed by "The Blessed Man" (Ps. 1) who is to reign over the "kings of the earth" (Ps. 2) as God's begotten Son. The order of the *King James Bible* is pre-millennial. The order of books in the "original" is not.

There is more material on the Second Coming of Christ in the Psalms than there is in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John combined!

D. **Its Style.** The book of Psalms, as nearly all the wisdom books (Job-Song of Sol.), is written in Hebrew poetic form - i.e., like a song to be sung - with metre. Not like some of the other Scriptures:

1. Historical (Gen, Ex, Num, Deut, Josh, Judg, etc... Matthew - Acts)
2. Doctrinal - teaching, line upon line (Lev, Deut, Romans - Jude)
3. Prophetic (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc... Revelation)
4. Poetic - to be sung or read aloud - does not mean it is not to be taken literally, or believed as being the word of God (2Tim 3:16)

E. **Date of Writing.** The writing of the Psalms covers a very lengthy period of time in the history of the nation of Israel (1500 B.C. - 500 B.C.). Moses was probably the first Psalmist (and he may have been preceded by others), the Psalms extended through eleven centuries.

F. **Its Theme** - "Why and How to Worship the Lord"

1. The theme of the entire Bible is **Jesus Christ**. The Bible is like a Family Picture Album, full of pictures of God's Son!
2. Everything in the Bible points to Jesus Christ and his redemption of mankind at the cross. These are called "types" or "pictures." David, and the other authors instruct the Christian about:
 - a. Handling our enemies
 - b. Our Emotions
 - c. Our relationship with God

- d. The greatness of our salvation
 - e. The steps of growth that leads to maturity for the Christian
 - f. The steps of decline that leads to defeat for the Christian
 - g. The heart and mind of Christ (Philp 2:5)
3. Prophetically, the Book of Psalms explains a lot about *the Second Coming of Jesus Christ* - as would be true in most books of the Bible! Repeatedly, over and over, the first and second coming of Jesus is mentioned and described in the same Psalm, as well as the Tribulation, and the Millennium.
 4. Practically, it defines:
 - a. The spiritual nature of our hearts - not just from our minds, or chemicals interacting, or out of balance
 - b. The spiritual attack that Christians will encounter, and how to defeat them
 - c. The strength that is found in the presence of an Almighty and loving God

G. Its Importance and Significance.

1. Jesus sang from it
2. Referred to in Lk 20:42; 24:44; Act 1:20; 13:33; 1Cor 14:26; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)
3. David wrote it to be sung in the Temple, and in our Church
4. God meant it as the balm for the Christian's heart

II. Interesting Information.

- A. Our English text contains 150 chapters, divided into 5 smaller books or sections. These five sections are:
 1. Psalm 1 through Psalm 41
 2. Psalm 42 through Psalm 72
 3. Psalm 73 through Psalm 89
 4. Psalm 90 through 106
 5. Psalm 107 through Psalm 150
- B. David's name is given as the author of seventy-three of the Psalms (almost half).
- C. The book of Psalms contains (by far) the longest chapter in the Bible (Ps. 119), running 176 verses. It is not surprising to find that longest chapter in the book deals with the BIBLE. Psalm 119 is about the "word of God" from start to finish, and it is written in "acrostic" form, with each section of eight verses beginning with a different letter in the Hebrew alphabet; then every verse in the eight *under that letter* begin with the same letter. That is, the first eight verses all begin with "**Aleph**," the second eight verses all begin with "**Beth**," and so forth.
- D. There are 101 quotations and references to statements made in the Book of Psalms, by the authors in the New Testament.¹ It is a highly referred to book for proof that Jesus is the Christ, for comfort, and stability.

III. Conclusion

A. So, What are We Going to Find in the Book of Psalms?

1. Food for the heart - spiritual nourishment
2. Real prayer - how to pray from the heart IN every situation, and get the answers you need, not that you want
3. Information on
 - a. The heart of God
 - b. The anti-christ
 - c. The spiritual warfare between Christian and demonic forces
 - d. The way to worship from the heart
 - e. How to be honest with God

B. Answer the following questions from memory:

1. Name three authors of the Book of Psalms?
2. When was this Book written?
3. Give the THEME to this Book:

¹ The Bible Handbook, by Samuel G. Green, 1912, pg 249.