

# **Psalms – Study of Categories and Types**

## **Lesson 2**

**Apr 6 & 13, 2014**

### **A. Favorite Psalm Of The Week**

Nancy Mansour; Psalm 103

### **B. Eight Categories of Psalms – Lesson 2**

#### **1. Nature Psalms – 8, 19**

- Commonly referred to as “Psalms of the Creator”
- God’ power and glory are shown through His creation
  - Specifically addresses the heavens, humans, all animal life
- Describes the beauty of nature
- Man is made to rule over nature
- Man ascribes praise and honor to God through the appreciation and wonder of nature
  - Be careful here, this is not worship “Of Nature”, but worship of the creator
  - God is clearly evident for all to see

#### Psalm 8

1 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. 2 Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. 3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet, 7 all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, 8 the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. 9 Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

#### **2. Character Psalms – 1, 15, 119**

- Describes the kind of character that faithful people who love God should have:
  - God’s people seek to serve Him
  - God’s people continually strive to develop
  - Mediate on the law of the Lord day and night
  - Seek to know God’s will
- Often times it will contrast godly and wicked traits
- Righteous people are to receive God’s blessing
- Righteous people react negatively to evil
- Righteous people will “prosper”
- Encourages correct living that ensures “wholeness of life”

#### Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. 4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

#### Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? 2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; 3 whose tongue utters no slander, who

does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; 4 who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; 5 who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

### **3. Praise Psalms – 50, 66, 103, 107**

- God is above all and worthy of our praise
- Praise God for the wonderful way He worked in history through Moses
- God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love
- Praise God for the way He relates to His people
- Requirement of believers to be holy, ask for forgiveness of sin to have relationship
- God listens to His people

#### Psalm 66

1 Shout for joy to God, all the earth! 2 Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. 3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. 4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name.” 5 Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! 6 He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him. 7 He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations— let not the rebellious rise up against him. 8 Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; 9 he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. 10 For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. 11 You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. 12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance. 13 I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you— 14 vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. 15 I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats. 16 Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. 17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. 18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; 19 but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. 20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

### **4. Assurance Psalms – 23, 27, 46, 90, 121, 125, 126**

- Comfort in times of need and trouble
- Lord has spoken to people through the ages
- Lord as the shepherd, rock, mighty fortress, our redeemer through all troubles
- Christians should have no fear, but faith in God’s plan for them
- God will not fail us, ever

#### Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. 5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. 7 The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. 8 Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. 10 He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” 11 The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

#### Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

### **5. Messianic Psalms – 2, 22(Crucifixion Prophecy), 110**

- Prophecy referring to Jesus Christ

- Refers to His power and coming on earth
- Ultimate Son of God will rule eternally
- Enemies will be crushed in the end
- We can take refuge in the Savior

### Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, 3 “Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.” 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. 5 He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 “I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.” 7 I will proclaim the Lord’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father. 8 Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You will break them with a rod of iron Or will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” 10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. 12 Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

### **6. Lament Psalms – 142, 143**

- Recognition of the Lord power and supremacy over our lives
- God is our only refuge, no one else can provide relief
- Desperate cry for help
- Recognition that our enemies are stronger than ourselves, humbleness

### Psalm 142

1 I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. 2 I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. 3 When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me. 4 Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life. 5 I cry to you, Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” 6 Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. 7 Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me.

### **7. Enthronement/Royal Psalms – 47, 93-99**

- The “Lord Reigns” over all
- Pictures God as the enthroned Deity
- See words and attributes such as majesty, strength, security, ever-lasting presence
- Celebrates His kingship, power and rule

### Psalm 93

1 The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength; indeed, the world is established, firm and secure. 2 Your throne was established long ago; you are from all eternity. 3 The seas have lifted up, Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. 4 Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea—the Lord on high is mighty. 5 Your statutes, Lord, stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days.

### **8. Psalms of Vengeance - 137**

- Reflect genuine bitterness and anger
- These Psalms provide the most difficulty interpreting
- Expressions of real feeling experienced by people, not by God
- Bible records all feelings of life, not because it is correct or acceptable to God
- Many times these are temporary feelings that moderate over time
- Expressed before God’s more complete revelation of His nature through Christ
- Based on the law of retribution, not on law of love taught by Christ
- Bitterness and hatred have not place in the life of a Christian

### Psalm 137

1 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. 2 There on the poplars we hung our harps, 3 for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. 6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy. 7 Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. "Tear it down," they cried, "tear it down to its foundations!" 8 Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is the one who repays you according to what you have done to us. 9 Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.

### **C. Personal Testimony Section**

#### ***Forgiveness and Mercy the Lord Shows Us in Dealing with Sin in Our Life***

Dawn Matheson; Psalm 32:1-5

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

### **D. Group Reading of Psalm**

Psalm 51:1-4, 10-12

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge....10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

### **E. Questions for Small Group Discussion**

1. In Psalm 8, describe how it compares the "beauty of heavens" to human beings?
2. In Psalm 19, which aspects of nature are highlighted?
  - a. What in the natural world has made you aware of the greatness of God?
3. In Psalm 1 and 15, discuss the character traits listed; Are these equally important in today's society?
  - a. How can we better live these traits?
4. How would you describe the "blessing promised" in Psalm 1 & 15? What is this talking about?
5. How can we achieve "wholeness of life" through living out these Godly traits?
6. Why is it important to read and praise God as described in Psalm 66? What does this do for our soul?
7. Have you relied on "Assurance Psalms" like 46, 121 in your life? What did they do for you? How did they impact your situation or event in your life?
  - a. How do we learn to rely on these Psalms to help us in our troubled lives?
8. Have you cried out in desperation as in Psalm 142? Have you felt the end of the road on your life situation with nowhere to turn? Describe the comfort in using this type of Psalm?
9. Discuss the "Vengeance Psalms" like 137, what do you think about this? Is it applicable today as an eternal truth of the bible? A sinful feeling of Gods people at that time? How should we read these types of Psalms today and understand their meaning?