

Psalms – Perfection and Praise of the Word of God (God in Focus)
Lesson 7 - Psalms 107-150 (Book 5)
July 13 & 20, 2014

A. Favorite Psalm Section

Cheryl Cruse

Psalm 139:1-12; 23-24

B. Perfection and Praise of the Word of God (God in Focus)

I. Deuteronomy Section; Book 5 is composed of Chapters 107-150

- Written by Moses with great retrospect in the plains of Moab
- Remnant of Israel is seen prophetically gathered and ready to enter the promised land
- Looking back over their age long experiences and how God led them, dealt with them, humbled them, preserved and kept them
- Believers of all ages have shared experiences just as the Israelites did

II. Psalm 111 – Hallelujah for the works of God

1 Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. 2 Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. 3 Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. 4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate. 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. 6 He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations. 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. 8 They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness. 9 He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— Holy and awesome is his name. 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

- Known as the Hallelujah Psalm for the Works of God
- Praise for His Works and Creation of all things
- Act of Redemption
- Old Song is of Creation, New Song is of Redemption
- We all need to respect and fear as described in Vs 10

III. Psalm 121 – The hills of Judea come into view for the Pilgrims

A song of ascents.

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.

- Psalm 120-134 are called “A song of degrees or ascents”
- Martin Luther called these, the gradual Psalms, songs of the higher choir
- Also known as “Homeward marches”, these were traveling songs originally used while going into captivity in Babylon, but mostly used as people traveled back to Jerusalem multiple times each year

as required for worship; They would start with 120 on the first day and then end up with 134 as they were in Jerusalem standing in the sanctuary of God.

- 120 - Living conditions of the Pilgrim
 - 121 - Sees the hills of Judea
 - 122 - Comes into sight of Jerusalem
 - 123/125 - Sees the temple, Mount Zion and stands at security of Jerusalem
 - 126 - Joy of their return from Babylonian captivity
 - 127 - Vanity of the building of God
 - 128 - Home Sweet home
 - 120/130 – Burned but not consumed
 - 131 – Childlike faith and simplicity of the pilgrim
 - 132 – Messianic forward looking to time Christ will be King
 - 133 – Rejoicing in fellowship with believers
 - 134 – Final Song of Praise
- Represents a beautiful message to us today about coming to Christ

IV. Psalm 142 – Beginning of David’s Suffering

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.

- Psalm of instruction in which we can learn
- Great prayer of David most likely when he was hiding in the cave of Adullam when he left Israel the first time to escape King Saul
- Laid out everything in his heart, which is the way we should pray
- “Tell God” written by Fenelon French Roman Catholic Archbishop 1651-1715

V. Psalm 150 – Grand Finale of the Hallelujah chorus

1 Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, Praise him with the harp and lyre, 4 praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

- Worship is divine intoxication
- Our worship should consist of three main components:
 - Prostration
 - Creates within our hearts a different attitude
 - Place our souls down on our knees before God
 - Not the position of the body, but the attitude of the heart
 - Adoration
 - Term of endearment
 - Love and passion of the heart and soul

- Spontaneity, tenderness and eagerness, not a stoic mannequin
- Exaltation
 - Worship of the Creator
 - Bow down before Him and bring our little souls into the harmony of heaven

C. Summary Review

- Historical Perspective
- Categories and Types
 - Nature
 - Character
 - Praise
 - Assurance
 - Messianic
 - Lament
 - Enthronement/Royal
 - Vengeance
- Theology of Psalms
 - Confessional and expression of the individual
 - Main Doctrine
 - God is Omnipotent and Sovereign King
 - God is Holy, Sinless and will triumph over Evil
 - God Loves and Cares for His People; Uses them in His Plan and Will
- Book 1 Psalm 1-41
 - The Blessed Man Contrasted to the Ungodly
- Book 2 Psalm 42-72
 - Ruin and Redemption, Israel in Focus
- Book 3 Psalm 73-89
 - Sanctuary in Focus
- Book 4 Psalm 90-106
 - Sin, Mortality and Man in Focus
- Book 5 Psalm 107-150
 - Perfection and the Praise of the Word of God
- Psalm Personal Testimonies (Kim Brown, Dawn Matheson, Barbara Lile, Glenda McKee, Stewart Matheson, David Peyton)

D. Group Reading of Psalm

Psalm 40 1:5

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. 4 Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! 5 You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

E. Questions for Small Group Discussion

1. In Psalm 111, discuss the following:
 - a. What should we be doing in our everyday life to “remember first” and then worship on creation and our personal redemption?
 - b. In verse 10, what type of “fear” is this talking about? Can someone gain wisdom if we are not saved and humbling ourselves? Contrast the type of wisdom expressed verses worldly wisdom?
2. In Psalm 121, discuss the following:
 - a. Discuss the annual pilgrimages that the Israelites made to Jerusalem; the sacrifice and commitment to make this happen for families and individuals
 - b. Discuss the progression of the “Ascenting Psalms” and how you can feel the excitement and praise building as they approach God’s sanctuary in Jerusalem
 - c. In a microcosms, relate this to our trek to worship or a individual day at Church, what should we be learning and apply in our spiritual lives?
3. In Psalm 142, discuss the following:
 - a. Have you ever been at this personal point in your life? Have you been in exile, crying to get back with God, family or friend?
 - b. Ultimately in Verse 4, is there anyone other than God who cares while we are here on earth? Even family? Differentiate what we feel for loved ones verses what this verse is addressing.
 - c. Discuss how this should affect our prayers and approach to God; are we holding anything back from our relationship?
4. In Psalm 150, discuss the following:
 - a. Talk about each of the 3 main components that are required to achieve “true” worship; Prostration, Adoration and Exaltation
 - b. Do you agree with those points?
 - c. Discuss how this challenges us to prepare for “real worship”, not just at church but anywhere
 - d. Does our church service encourage or prohibit reaching this point?