

Psalms
Book 5
Ps 107 - 150

<u>Book of Psalms</u>	<u>Book of Moses</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1 (Ps 1-41)	Genesis	mankind – fallen depraved redeemed
2 (Ps 42-72)	Exodus	redemption
3 (Ps 73-89)	Leviticus	worship God’s sovereignty faithfulness holiness
4 (Ps 90-106)	Numbers	wandering
5 (Ps 107-150)	Deuteronomy	Word of God

Ps 107

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: A Word to the Wise

a Word for

1. the Wanderer (v1-7)
2. the Rebel (v8-14)
3. the Fool (v15-20)
4. those Riding Out a storm (v21-30)
5. All men...the proud and the humble (v31-41)
6. the Wise (v42-43)

1. A Word for the Wanderer

v1 a good word: give thanks to the LORD because He is good and merciful

v2-3 the wanderer who can give thanks to the LORD is a “Gomer”
one purchased out of the slave market after their wandering/whoring around left them
worthless and undesirable to all...and restored in full!

enemy: “opponent” or “a tight place, trouble, tribulation”
here, a better interpretation would be “trouble” because the same Heb word is so
translated in v6, 13, 19, 28

no matter where they are, the LORD gathers the wanderers from...

v4 a dry and thirsty place...a desolate and isolated place....
here they found no rest and no protection

because they

- strayed from the Good Shepherd
- vacillated between two gods (1 K 18:21)...

v5 in that place, they were hungry and thirsty...both miserable conditions

basic needs in short supply, their life waned, grew weary

v6a Then: as good as “But God...”!

THEN they “shrieked” to the Lord...not a whimper, but a deep despair of surrender

v6b-7 upon hearing the despair of surrender, the LORD

- “snatched” them out of their despair...when the LORD moves, He moves quickly
- led them in His way...the Bible is our Guide Book to the straight way (Matt 7:13-14)
- led them to rest and protection...His

a Word to the wanderer: Ps 42:1-5

You cannot wander too far from the long arm of the Lord...but why do you want to?

Look around you...

Do you see any good thing?

Do you have rest and protection?

What is the “reasonable” lure out there in the desert?

v8-9 a “**bridge**” between Words

- a modified version of v1:
praise = “give thanks”
for the Master’s “kindness” and His work on our behalf...who is man that
You should be mindful of him?
- a statement that applies to the Word above and the Word below:
He alone is where we can find peace and contentment...
He fills (!) us with His goodness!

Ps 34:8 taste and see the Lord is good

Ps 119:103 thy words are sweeter than honey

John 10:10b life and it abundantly

Eph 3:20 able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think

2. a Word for the Rebel

v10-11 That is, those who

- choose to live in misery, ignorance, wickedness
- walk on the edge of the cliff...with no regard for consequences of their ways
- are miserable, shackled like a POW

(2 Tim 2:24-26)

they are miserable because they have

- rebelled against the Word of God (“EI”)
- scorned, despised, even blasphemed the advise (Repent!) of He Who reigns on the highest

v12 So...God Almighty humiliated them...let them carry the load of “life”...their choices

Prov 1:29-31

The toil and worry and sorrow was a weight too heavy to carry...
they fell down and could not get up

v13-14 Then...there’s that word again!

Being crushed by the burden of life, they cried out to the LORD...so they prayed, even if they didn’t think it would help

and the LORD who is good and merciful

- saved them (He honors any measure of faith directed at Him)
- gave them a way of escape out of their misery and self-destructive lifestyle...Jesus Christ (1 Cor 10:13)...

God can save you wherever you are

- broke the chains of bondage

a Word for the rebel: Gal 6:7-8, Prov 14:11-13, Prov 28:13

v15-16 another **bridge** between Words

- same modified version of v1
- a statement that applies to the Word above and the Word below

the prison cells and gates are broken...

John 8:32, 36!

He has set the prisoners free!

3. a Word for Fools

v17-18 Who are miserable because of their sin and their disdain for spiritual food...
they don't even have enough sense to eat breakfast!
(my 1st day at Lusardi!)

As a result of their folly, they are flirting with eternal death...and don't even know it...

Until something happens to "snap them out of it"

v19-20 that causes them to shriek for the LORD's help

and the LORD

- saves them just as He did the rebel...God's long arm of salvation can reach any fool that looks to Him
- sent His Word...food, which...
- healed them...nourishing, strengthening, restoring them
- "snatching" them from their self-destructions
(Ps 119:9, 35, 71, 105, 133)

The Word for the fool: Prov 1:7

v21-22 a 3rd **bridge** between Words

- a modified version of v1
- a statement for both the Word above and the Word below

let the fool and the one riding out a storm offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving

Lev 7:11-15

(shares to God, priest, family)

Lev 22:29 (willingly)

give loud testimony of The Master's work on your behalf

4. a Word for those Riding Out a storm

v23-27 riding on a ship during a very bad storm...the Perfect Storm scenario

Those on board have done everything they can...and it is not enough.
Help is desperately needed!

v28a Then...when all else has failed...then they cry out to the LORD, Maker of heaven and earth who sets boundaries on the seas

v28b-30 Upon hearing their cry, the LORD

- led them out of the storm
- calmed the raging sea...how?
With the spoken Word
- gave them peace
- guided them to safe harbor

This is also a prophetic word and the disciples of Jesus
Christ were the very fulfillment!

Mark 4:35-41

A Word for those riding out a storm:

- Prov 3:5-6
- know the answer to the question in Mark 4:41
- The LORD is our shelter...run to Him
- Jesus walks above the storm...walk with Him

v31-32 a 4th **bridge** between Words

- a modified version of v1
- a statement for the Word above and for the Word below

Exalt the LORD!
PTL!

5. a Word for all...both the proud and the humble

v33-38 for the proud, say good-bye to

- the water supply
- the crop yield

for the humble, blessings of

- abundant water
- bountiful harvests
- flourishing herds
- safety

v39-41 and when the humble are again oppressed by the proud, God will

- shame the proud
 - lift up the humble and multiply them
- (Matt 5:3)

a Word for the proud and the humble:

Luke 14:11 whosoever exalts himself shall be abased and he that humbles himself shall be exalted

6. A Word to the Wise

v42 a Promise

v43 An Exhortation: the wise man will

- guard these words in his heart and understand the mercy of the LORD
- make the LORD his 1st Line of Defense instead of his Last Resort
- live at the beginning of God...for at the end of Self is the beginning of God
- live within the safety of Divine boundaries

a Last Word: Ps 23

a good psalm to read when “the shoe fits”

Ps 108

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Timely!

v1 A song of David...a song of praise for the God our Help

My heart is fixed:

established, steadfast...David is determined...regardless of circumstances

I will sing and give praise, even with my glory:

I will sing and play a musical instrument with

- everything I have...and he was a gifted musician
- my entire being...a man after God's heart

v2 I will do so with the firstfruits of the day...the best of my time and energy

This is a reasonable sacrifice unto the Lord every day:

- a determined heart
- praising Him with every fiber of our being
- the firstfruits...the best we have

v3-5 "I will praise You

- to us...the people
- to them...the nations of the world

because Your mercy and truth are over all

the sacrifice of worship in v2 is reasonable because

His truth

His mercy towards us

are immeasurable in scope, scale, and value

all glory and honor is His...

- for the things He has done
- the things He is going to do
- because...

v6 Hear me and act on my/our behalf...save me/us with Your strength...
so Your beloved will be rescued

these are words of faith, no doubting

James 1:5-8

David is speaking

- personally, of a trial he was facing...but also
- prophetically, inspired by the Holy Spirit, of his people, Israel, and a future trial...one that is upon them today!

Note: From the next verse to the end of the psalm, David repeats Ps 60:5-12

v7-9 the holy God who cannot lie has spoken:

1. I will rejoice...over the salvation of My people (v6)
2. I, the God of division, will divide Shechem...man will not!

Shechem is a significant place...where

- Jacob bought a parcel of land
(Gen 33:18-19)
- his daughter Dinah was raped by Shechem the Hivite...and was brutally avenged by her brothers, led by Simeon and Levi
(Gen 34)
- Joseph's brothers were tending Jacob's flocks when Jacob sent him... a journey that ended in Egypt
(Gen 37)
- a city of refuge
(Num 35)
- on the border of Ephraim and Manassah...Joseph's sons
- before he died, Joshua gathered the nation together to renew the Covenant with the Lord
(Joshua 24...v15)
- Joseph is buried
(Joshua 24)
- Rehoboam rejected by the 10 tribes
- about 10 miles north of Shiloh, very near Nablus...
PLO territory on West Bank

3. I will measure the valley of Succoth...Jordan River valley?
(hold that thought)

4. Gilead...in modern day Jordan...is Mine
5. Manasseh...half of which is in modern day Jordan...is also Mine
6. Ephraim is My helmet
7. Judah is My scepter...where the Messiah will reign
8. Moab...an ancient enemy of Israel east side of Dead Sea in modern day Jordan...is where I wash my feet
9. Edom...an ancient enemy of Israel southeast of the Dead Sea in modern day Jordan...I disdain (Mal 1:1-3)
10. I will triumph over Philistia, an ancient enemy of Israel...Gaza, Ashdod,...

Note: who is calling the shots in Gaza today?
 Egyptian military, not Palestinians, in an attempt to control Hamas
 terrorists

v10-12 Who will bring me...lead me:
 to Bozrah/Petra...in Edom/Jordan?

When all the nations of the world stand against Israel
 (C. Rice: it cannot be Gaza only)...

When the help of man is empty and useless
 (USA, old line Christian denominations, EU)...

Who will protect us?

The God of AI&J...Jehovah-nissi...will personally!!!!
 The LORD our Banner
Ex 17:8-16

v13 through God we shall do valiantly:
when the world stands against Israel...
when Russia leads an invasion force against Israel...

the OVERWHELMING odds are with...Israel!

Ezk 38-39

Joel 3:1-2

Is 63:1-6

Gen 12:1-3

2 Chron 32:7-8

Rom 8:31

In those days...the safest place on earth will be the place God calls "Mine"...
Israel

Is your heart determined like David's was?

Will you praise the Lord with every fiber of your being?

Will you give the Lord the firstfruits of every aspect of your life?

Do you stand with or against the nation of Israel?

Are you ready to leave earth?

Don't "get" ready..."be" ready!

a good psalm to read when read/watch the news these days

and, by the way...God is bigger than any problem you will ever have, too

Ps 109

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic

Probably during Absalom's coup attempt when David was old (2 Sam 15-18)

David's trial is, unbeknownst to him, a shadow of the Son of David's trial
these are David's words...and perhaps a prayer of the Son of David

v1-3 "Say something, please!"

which means, "Do something, please"
because when God speaks, things happen! (Gen 1)

David...and later Jesus...is being

- falsely accused
- encircled by men who hate Him
- attacked for no just reason

John 15:18-25

John 18:19-23

v4-5 "I do them good, they do me evil...I love them, they hate me."

David was a man after God's own heart...he had the heart of a Shepherd
he lovingly, tenderly cared for the people

Yet, they so quickly sided with Absalom!

Likewise, the words and works of Jesus were those of compassion for the lost sheep of
Israel...feeding, healing, loving them without rest

However, He always had biting words for the self-righteous religious leadership!

Both David and Jesus say, "All I can do with this pain of rejection and betrayal is the best
thing to do...turn to prayer."

the proper response to persecution? Prayer!

For those him who betrayed him...Ahithophel...David cries out...

For

- Him who betrayed Him...Judas
- who reject God's provision for salvation

Jesus Christ prays:

v6-7 "Let him be RIGHTLY accused by a peer...

Let Satan RIGHTLY accuse him.

When it is time to sentence him, condemn him.

May his prayer, coming from an utterly corrupt heart, be offensive and vile to You, O God."

v8-15 these words of David are very quite personal to him...

and prophetic concerning Judas Iscariot...prayed by Jesus at the time of fulfillment

- his days be few: suicide cut his life short
- another take his office: Acts 1
- children become orphans and wife become a widow: upon his suicide
- children, shunned by believing and unbelieving Jews, ever as beggars
- extortioner: creditors "repo" all his stuff and plunder his assets
- become a pariah like Cain, disdained by all ("You Judas!")
- children be the end of his line and his name blotted out of the Book of Life
- the sins of his parents not ever be forgotten
(prayed by Him who would say, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do.")

v16 why would David and the Son of David pray like this?

Because, those who reject God's gift

- have no mercy...so give them no mercy

Matt 5:7

- do not forgive...so do not forgive them

Luke 6:37

- preyed upon the helpless...let the predator deal with the God of the helpless

Ex 22:21-24

Deut 27:19

Zech 7:8-14

v17-19 “You put the choice of blessings or curses before him
(Deut 28)...he picked curses.”

“Cloth...saturate...permeate...him with Your curses.”

v20 “Bottom line, let the above be the wages paid to My/Your enemies...they most certainly
have earned them.”

v21 “Speak/do...answer...me for Your name's sake, not for my sake.
(pleading the name of God)

Save me because you are merciful.”
(pleading the nature of God)

v22-25 the prayer of David/Son of David now turns inward...

David in the wilderness beyond the Mount of Olives,

Jesus...after a Triumphal Entry down the Mount of Olives...during the agony in
the Garden and on the Cross

“I am poor (humble) and needy...My heart is broken.

I am “fading to black”...I am thrown aside like a locust on a cloak.

I am losing physical strength

I am a reproach to my enemies...they despise me.”

Neh 5:13

v26-27 turning Godward again...

“Save Me according to Your mercy.
Save Me for Your glory.”

v28-29 focused on God...

“They curse Me, You will bless Me.
They will be ashamed, I will rejoice.”

v30-31 Good News for us!

God will be the strength of the poor in spirit...
God will save us from our enemies

Rom 8:31

a good psalm to read when persecuted and with the next Psalm...

Ps 110

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic...of the Son of David

v1 the LORD said unto my Lord:

The self-existent, eternal Jehovah God of the Covenant with AI&J said to
David's Master, Sovereign King, Messiah...
the Messiah is David's son...and David's Lord

sit thou at my right hand until:

Sit in the place of power and authority...on the Throne...
until I make those who hate You Your footstool
(at Throne was a footstool)

Ps 99:5

Ps 132:7

Jesus quotes this verse to confound his enemies

Matt 22:41-46

After

- a parable about His Marriage Feast
- answering "trick questions" about
 1. taxes
 2. resurrection and marriage
 3. the greatest commandment

Jesus asked the Jewish religious leadership an honest question:

How is the Son of David David's Master and King...Messiah?

They had no answer...but I'm sure they remembered

(later priests were saved...Acts 6:7)

The answer is: by the promised supernatural virgin birth, the Seed of the Woman,
the Son of David, the Jewish Messiah came to His people Israel

Acts 2:22-39

this verse is quoted in:

1. Matt 22:44 by Jesus Himself
2. Mark 12:36 “
3. Luke 20:43 “
4. Acts 2:35 by Peter
5. Heb 1:13 by Paul
6. Heb 10:13

plus the “original”, this promise appears 7 times in Scripture

v2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength:
the LORD will send the might and power of the Sovereign King...
Son of David...Messiah,
to rule His enemies from the throne of David in Jerusalem with a rod of iron
(Ps 2:1-9)

the Messiah will descend from one Throne to ascend another throne

v3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power:
The Messiah’s people Israel will willingly, gladly accept Jesus Christ as their
Messiah in the Day He comes to establish His reign

the Lord is

- of Israel...
- to Israel...
- over Israel (Is 49:5-6)

they will choose to

- agree with God
- submit to God
- to receive and respond to God’s love and grace

vs choose to

- disagree with God
- rebel against God
- reject God’s love and grace

Note: “power” could also mean “army”

The Lord doesn’t draft anyone into His army.
His is an all-volunteer army.

beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning:
when the magnificence and majesty of the Lord's holiness...
as represented by the white linen of His righteousness, His Wedding Feast garb...
it will truly be a New Day dawning!

v4 the LORD has sworn and will not repent:
Jehovah of the Covenant has spoken a promise...
His promise is absolutely unchanging

Thou a priest forever:
Thou...the Lord at His right hand, the Sovereign King, the Jewish Messiah
a priest...representing God to man and man to God...fully God and fully man
forever...the Sovereign King, the Messiah is also eternal and self-existent!

By the Word of the LORD, the Son of David, the Messiah, is God!

after the order of Mel:
Heb 6:13 – 7:3, 11-28 (Gen 14:18-20)

the Messiah is a King-Priest
2 separate offices in the Law

v5 the Lord at thy right hand:
“Lord” is a different Heb. word than the “Lord” in v1
this Heb. word is used only as a proper name of God...
i.e. the Master, Sovereign King, Messiah at the right hand of Jehovah of the
Covenant with AI&J is...God!

strike through kings:
He will smash and crush rebellious and defiant rulers in the Day He returns to
earth in power and wrath

v6 He shall judge...He shall wound:
That Day is a day of reckoning...of settling accounts...
when He smashes and crushes all opposition
on that Day, Jesus Christ will set up a New World Order...a Theocracy

v7 drink of the brook in the way:
Living Water (John 7:37-39)
by The Way (John 14:6)
a narrow way (vs a wide path)
a way blessed with Living Water

shall he lift up the head:
He Who was so horribly humiliated will be in that Day highly exalted

Phil 2:5-11

a good psalm to read when you think the wicked are winning

Ps 111

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallelujah/Praise psalm (Ps 111-113)

Theme: the works of the LORD

Note: These Psalms are for me tonight...you just happen to be here
Amazing how the LORD makes me “live” the passage being studied...

v1 Hallelujah! I will PTL with my whole heart...with complete devotion...
not with a half-heart or a divided heart, “torn” between the True and Living God
and a false god (1 K 18:21)

I will do so with like-minded people, the family of believers
I will give testimony!

v2 the works of the LORD...like

- creation
- redemption
- sanctification

- healing...the infirmed
- helping...the needy
- providing...for all our needs
- holding...like a father onto his frightened child

the works of the LORD are: (8 things in this Psalm)

1. great...far exceeding anything man can do or think
2. sought out by those who delight in Him

I delight to look at the stars...and see the handiwork of the LORD
I delight in hearing a testimony of His work in the lives of His children...
it comforts and encourages and strengthens me
I delight in walking by faith vs by sight because His love and majesty and
faithfulness are displayed...

and He has so worked in our family and in this fellowship this week!

- v3 the work of the LORD is:
3. honorable: majestic
 4. glorious: beautiful, breath-taking

his righteousness

- is forever, eternity without end
- is mine, by grace thru faith
- is what I need (Phil 3:7-11)

- v4 the works of the LORD are:
5. to be remembered
- e.g.: Communion, as a memorial of the sacrificial, selfless love, compassion, and grace in the LORD's work of redemption... for me!
- Only such a God would do such a work
- e.g. personal memorials of when the LORD worked in your life... reminders of the hope we have in a faithful God Whose thoughts for us are more numerous than the sand

- v5 our God provides food for those who revere Him...
He will never forget!

Matt 6:24-34

God is faithful to provide

This verse and this passage have a new personal dimension of understanding and appreciation this week...

- v6 the works of the LORD are:
6. powerful
- He delivered His people out of Egypt with a mighty hand
 - He fought for them in His land
 - And someday soon...Rev 11:15 and us with Him!

v7a the works of the LORD are:

7. verity: trustworthy...He is able, He is willing...
He has repeatedly shown this to us!

8. judgment

How will God judge others?

We don't know, but we do know He will be absolutely fair

v7b-8 the Word of the LORD is:

- sure...permanent (Matt 24:35)
- unchanging (Ps 119:89)
- accomplished in trustworthiness and justice (Matt 5:18)

v9 His promise of redemption...purchasing...will stand forever (eternal security)

by His works and His words, the name of the LORD is

- holy
- revered

the name of Jesus is the sweetest name there is

Acts 4:12

v10 "fear of the Lord" = Scripture

Prov 1:7

you cannot understand this life or even understand the Word of God unless you first
believe...

what you believe is seen in what you do...

(James 1:22)

so...do as the Word says...and you will be given understanding

and you will praise Him Who gave it to you!

a good psalm to read when

- feeling helpless and hopeless
- are at the end of yourself...aka the beginning of God!

Know

- God has not forgotten you
- His work on your behalf are
 1. great
 2. what you need to seek
 3. majestic
 4. breath-taking
 5. to be remembered
 6. powerful
 7. trustworthy
- His Word

this flows right into Ps 112...

Ps 112

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallelujah/Praise psalm (Ps 111-113)

Theme: the blessed man/good man

picks up right where Ps 111 leaves off

- v1 Oh how happy is the man that
- reveres the LORD
 - delights wholly in His Word (evidenced by doing)

Ps 1:1-3

- v2 the blessed man's
1. children will be mighty and blessed
- God blesses obedience...curses disobedience

- v3 the blessed man's
2. family ("house") will be wealthy
 - Eph 1:3 spiritual riches in heavenlies
 - Luke 12:15 life not consist of possessions
 3. "well-pleasing to the LORD" stands forever
 - Ps 111:3

- v4 to the just...a Light arises in the darkness...
the Light of the World...the LORD Who is
- gracious
 - compassionate
 - "well-pleasing to the Father"

- v5 a good man is
4. generous
God is unspeakably generous to me!
He expects me to be to others

Deut 15:7-11

5. conducts his affairs rightly, with justice

- v6 the good man
6. will not be wavered or dislodged by the trials of life

2 Cor 4:5-10

7. remembered forever...by the LORD God

- v7-8 the good man

8. will not fear evil tidings
faithful believers are not immune to the afflictions of life
 - sickness and disease
 - accidents
 - financial distress
 - deathbut we need not fear them...

for the LORD has overcome the world...

therefore...

9. heart is confident in the LORD...Who faithfully, repeatedly has shown us
Rom 8:28

10. heart is steadfast...until his troubles are removed by the LORD

his eyes, mind, and heart are focused on the LORD, not the circumstances

2 Cor 12:9-10

- v9 the good man
11. is generous...giving of himself to the needy
 12. is exalted with honor...forever

v10 a marked contrast to the blessed man...the good man...is the wicked man

Ps 1:4-6

These are good psalms to read when you are

- afflicted
- suffering
- distressed
- discouraged

they remind us of the works of the LORD...that are

1. great
2. sought out
3. honorable
4. glorious
5. to be remembered
6. powerful
7. trustworthy
8. judgment

they remind us of oh how happy is the man that

- delights wholly in the LORD
- has a whole...undivided...heart for the LORD
- reveres the LORD
- is confident the LORD will lead him thru his trial
- has faith...not fear

and they remind us that there are some good men in this building!

Ps 113

Author: un known...perhaps David

Type of Psalm: Hallelujah/Praise psalm (Ps 111-113)

v1-3 Hallelujah! Praise...

Who: the LORD...the God Who keeps His promises

By who: God's bondservants

What: the name of the LORD

When: all day long...from this moment and for all eternity

v4-6 Why:

- the Lord is high above...reigning over...all nations
(Dan 2:20-22)

Israel...USA...Russia...Egypt...Iran...
- His glory is greater than the heavens...which cannot be measured
(Ps 19:1)
- He is holy...separate from all others...unique
(Is 44:6-8, Is 45:21-22)
[hold this thought for Ps 115:4-7]
- The LORD is so awesome...He must humble Himself to just look upon His creation
(But He does...because He cares!)

v7-9 PTL because

- He rescues the poor and needy
Matt 5:3
the rich man and Lazarus
- He then sets them with princes
1 Cor 1:27-29
2 Sam 7:8
- He makes the barren fruitful
(children...plural. Sweet!)

Ps 37:4-5

Let the weak man say I'm strong...
Let the poor man say he's rich
Let the blind man say I can see
It's what the LORD has done in me
Hosanna (oh save!)

a good psalm to read when you are sitting on the dunghill of life...
the LORD's plan of redemption is right on schedule!

- while a stranger in this place...working all things for our good
- taking out of here
- changing us in the twinkling of the eye

Ps 114

Author: unknown...perhaps Moses

Type of Psalm: a break in the Praise Psalms...

It has an abrupt beginning and an abrupt ending...suddenly

v1-2 setting: the deliverance of His people out of bondage in Egypt

v3-4 He parted waters of the Red Sea to lead them out of the world...
He parted the Jordan River to lead them into their inheritance...
Both trivial compared to the parting of the waters in Gen 1:6-7

And the earth moved!

v5-6 Why did the waters flee and the earth move?

v7-8 they trembled in the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel
priceless advise for men, too

another signature work: providing water for His people from a Rock
He did that...He can provide for me and you in this place!

a good psalm to read when overwhelmed by circumstances

Ps 115

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallelujah/Praise psalm (Ps 115-117)

v1 give glory only unto the LORD...His name is Jesus

1 Cor 1:31

Is 42:8

Give him glory because of His

- Mercy...loving kindness to the unlovely
- Trustworthiness...to a bunch of flakes

do not seek glory, it all belongs to the Lord.

What I deserve is ignominious death

(Rom 3:10, 23 and Rom 6:23)

v2 when things get rough...when bad things happen to...
a Christian, the unbelievers love to ask a question:

Where is your God now?

What good is your God?

Why is He doing this to you?

v3 But...our God is sovereign...His will be done, not ours

Eph 2:10

Phil 2:13

Job 1:20-21

Job 2:9-10

v4-7 the unbeliever mocks the God of Israel...yet he worships a ridiculous god

- physical, worldly
- works of their own hands
- dumb
- blind
- deaf
- sense-less

people these days are more sophisticated than that...yet idols remain

- money
- pleasure
- sex
- intellect
- houses, cars
- careers...

he who worships an idol worships

- a devil (1 Cor 10:20)
- himself...what kind of a god is that?

When you worship an idol, you are proclaiming yourself as god.

1 Cor 2:14

Rev 9:20

v8 a man becomes like the god he worships

you can know a man's god by watching him

v9-11 trust in the LORD

1. Israel...His people
2. Levites...His priests
3. All the fear...whosoever

He is the Provider, He is the Protector

Acts 2:21

v12-13 the LORD

1. remembers us
2. WILL bless...
His people...
His priests...
whosoever fears Him

v14-16 His blessings are a reflection of His

- glory...the heavens declare His glory
- mercies...they are new every morning
- trustworthiness...God be true and every man a liar

what an awesome thought!

Why would He care about me?

I am so insignificant in this universe

v17-18 death does not silence the praise of believers but it does silence the noise of the unbelievers

Once you are dead (in your sins), your opportunity to PTL is gone forever
if you are born-again, you will PTL forever...will you now?

for most...John 5:40

for the remnant...PTL because you can!

Because He is merciful and true.

a good psalm to read when being hassled by unbelievers

Ps 116

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallelujah psalm

v1 I cried (v3-4)...He heard
He loves me...I love Him (1 John 4:19)

What is more encouraging than answered prayer?
“The LORD heard and answered...me!”
“Who am I that He is mindful of me?!”

v2 the psalmist has a relationship with the LORD
it’s a dialogue, not a monologue

we love the LORD because of Who He is...The Blesor
not because of what He does for us...the blessings

e.g. the multitudes followed Jesus because of the miracles
(healings, multiplying of fishes, etc)

but when those things “dried up” when he was arrested, they turned on Him...
they did not love Him, The Blesor...they loved the blessings

The LORD (I AM) is all we need and want...
His nature draws us into a relationship with Him

His answers to our prayers are consistent with His nature
v5

v3-4 the psalmist is, perhaps suddenly, in the midst of a terrible trial...and cries out

“Oh LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul!”
beseech = “Oh, now!”

an “Aware prayer”
aware of your need...aware He is right there
e.g. Nehemiah

neither long nor eloquent...just fervent, exploding out of his heart

The LORD is able and willing...and

- v5 the nature of our God...I AM...
- gracious
 - righteous/just
 - merciful/compassionate

His help is

- gracious
- righteous/just
- merciful/compassionate

- sufficient

so it is folly to not call on Him and “go it alone”

2 Cor 12:7-10

- v6 He is the God of the
- humble
 - helpless
 - hopeless...

He is my Protector and Provider

- v7-8 delivered...past tense.
He has done it before...in glorious ways and just-in-time!
He will do it again

Remember the other trials...
re-examine the LORD's track record

Answered prayers of the past give me hope in the present for an answer in the future

so...settle down...the Great I AM is here!

Ps 42

Ps 43:5

Is 26:3-4

Troubled...discouraged?
Get in the Word of God and He will

- encourage you
- strengthen you
- comfort you

Look to The LORD...

- Light of the world
- Anchor of our soul
- Author and Finisher of our faith

Don't look within...there are no answers there.
And don't listen to the liar!

v9 will walk: continuous present tense
living: also continuous present tense

my soul can be settled because the matter is settled...
the LORD is the God of the living, not the dead
Matt 22:23-32

I will walk with Him there (this world is the land of the walking dead...
we are just visitors)

v10 Quoted by apostle Paul in 2 Cor 4:13

God has promised...He cannot lie
now it is up to us to respond...proper response is belief
then will we be rescued
Ps 119:71

We must know we need help in order to ask for help
We must know He is our only help in order for Him to help
(He will not share His glory with another!)

We must know we are dead in order to receive life
We must know we are lost in order to be found
We must know we are condemned to be saved

v11 Rom 3:4

philosophy and religion: traditions of man...lies

philosophy (e.g: psychology...the religion of Self

many churches today are tickling the ears of people by preaching “feel good about yourself” fluff

the Bible says that the only thing a man can feel good about himself is Jesus Christ

a personal relationship with the LORD...a walk with the LORD
is NOT all about me...it is ALL about the LORD, The Blessor of v5

religion: work to be acceptable to God

but I cannot help myself...God must help me

Gen 3:21

Is 64:6 vs Is 61:10

the religion of my youth told me God was very angry with me and was going to make me pay for my sins after I died...before He might let me into heaven
every religion is help-less and hope-less

v12 How can I pay for all the blessings the LORD has showered upon me?

I cannot...my Self is poor and wretched (Rom 7:18)

but I can give Him what He desires...my

- praise
- worship
- thanksgiving
- gratitude
- service

- my heart
- me...all of me

v13 God initiates...man responds

the cup is being extended...just reach out and take it!

a gift is being offered...just receive it!

His help is available...humble yourself, surrender to His will and ways, and just ask!

v14 if, in your desperation, you make a vow to the Lord, He expects performance

better Jesus' way: Let your "Yes" be "Yes" and your "No" be "No"
because He alone is able to perform!

Ps 22:25...by the suffering Messiah

Now...with v3 in mind...

v15 What is the worst thing that could ever happen to a believer?

To leave this place and go home to sit in Father's lap!

2 Cor 5:8

This is the Father's perspective on that!

So...even if this trial is unto physical death...PTL!

because it is the appointed time to come home...

time for the Lord to decorate His house with His children, one child at a time!

Phil 1:21-23 (a very encouraging book to read...)

For a believer,

- death has no sting and is a gateway into the Father's presence
- a funeral is a celebration, a homecoming
e.g. Steve's father-in-law

For an unbeliever, it is a great tragedy...

- the cup extended was refused
- the gift offered was scorned
- the help of Almighty God was ignored

- v16 a key lesson from trials:
“Whatever, Master!
Your will be done...for your will is
- gracious
 - righteous/just
 - merciful/compassionate
- Your plan for me is good and perfect.”

another critical lesson: regarding my identity

1. in the LORD Jesus Christ (John 8:32, 36)
2. bondservant...having nothing but my Master
3. steward (1 Cor 4:1-2)

blessed is the child who has bondservants of God as his/her parents!

v17 appropriate responses to trials

1. Thanksgiving (vs Adam's ingratitude)

James 1:1-8

2. dependence upon Him

Joel 2:32

Acts 2:21

Rom 10:9-13

v18-19 v14 repeated

PTL for His deliverance and salvation!

It is His work...not ours.

Give Him all the glory, honor, and praise

an awesome place to say, “Thank you, LORD!” is in the empty tomb in Jerusalem...

a place of

- gratitude and thanksgiving
- celebration, not tragedy

a good psalm to read when going thru a trial...even one unto death
or see another going thru one, so you know how to pray

Ps 117

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallelujah

shortest chapter in the Bible

v1 all nations – none today but during the Reign of Jesus Christ, ALL will

Zech 14:16-19

v2 Praise the Lord for

- His faithfulness
- His self-less, sacrificial love...that graciously gave us His life

this psalm is simple yet profound...

1 John 4:4	greater is He...
Rom 8:1	no condemnation
Lam 3:22-24	His mercies are new...

Rom 5:20-21	grace more abounds, reigns
Eph 3:20-21	more than we can think/ask
Phil 3:20-21	citizenship, change our body

a good psalm to read...worthy of extensive mediation in light of God's Plan of Redemption

Ps 118

Author: generally thought to be written by David
Type of Psalm: Hallelujah/praise

definitely has a song “feel” to it

a song about “The LORD”

- 28 times (in 24 of the 29 verses)
- 22 = Jehovah, the self-existent God
- 6 = Jah, a contraction of Jehovah

v1-4 give thanks unto the LORD:

this phrase appears 7 times in Psalms

- the opening line of 6 Psalms
(92, 105, 106, 107, 118, 136)
- the closing of 1 Psalm
(this one)

his mercy (endureth) forever:

this phrase appears 39 times in Psalms

- 40 = judgment
- 39 = mercy

the “chorus” is

- v1 the Psalmist
- v2 the LORD’s chosen people
- v3 the priests
- v4 whosoever will

v5 I called upon the LORD in distress...large place:
sounds very much like Ps 18...and 2 Sam 22

written when David was in a tight spot...in real trouble...
and the LORD (Jah) delivered him

answered me...in a large place:

either “answered me largely” ala Eph 3:20
or the LORD is the large place...can any place be larger than “in Christ”?

oh the comfort and encouragement of answered prayer!

v6-7 the LORD is on my side:
what a statement!
Rom 5:9
1 John 4:19
Rom 8:31, 35-39

because...I am on the LORD's side

the LORD taketh my part:
He stands with me...on my behalf...whether men

- are for me...great fellowship
- are against me...no problema

a man of God with God is always a majority

v8-9 it is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in

- men...any man
- princes..."powerful" men

Ps 146:3-5

v10-12 but in the name of the LORD:
will I destroy my enemies, even though they

- have me surrounded ("compassed" 4 times...every side)
- swarm around me like angry bees

they are but thorns in the fire of the LORD's judgment...
burning quickly and consumed, leaving no ash

v13-14 Thou hast thrust sore at me:
addressed to his enemies:

“No matter how hard you try to get me, the LORD will help me just like He always has!”

the LORD (Jah) is my: (personal)

- strength (or “praise”)
- song
- salvation/deliverance

Ex 15:1-3

Is 12:2

v15-16 the voice of:

the sound of rejoicing and salvation is heard in the dwelling places of the righteous...the blameless...the acceptable...believers

how? By the power of God
to Him be glory and praise...exalt His name!

v17-19 LORD: Jah

- mercifully delivered me from death
- corrected and instructed me (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- made His righteousness available to me...

v20 the gate of the LORD:

elsewhere in Scripture:

the gate of the LORD’s house...the Temple

...making it possible to enter into His presence

v21 I will praise thee:

David, a man after God’s own heart, will praise the LORD in His presence because

- God heard his cry
- God became his Salvation...the Savior is God Himself (Is 43:3)

v22 the stone...refused...corner:
quoted twice by Peter
Acts 4:11
1 Peter 2:7-8

v23 the LORD's doing:
the all-knowing God knew Who the cornerstone would be and how He would
become so...
it was His plan from before the foundation of the world

v24 the day the LORD hath made:
THE appointed day, established before the foundation of the world

rejoice: rejoice in the perfect plan of God
we sing this line!

Note: 11/21/95 with Matthew in the hospital, this seems like a pretty rotten day,
but it is a day the Lord has made and given to me. I should
rejoice! Sometimes, like Love, Rejoice is an act of the will, not a
feeling

v25 Save now, I beseech:
David feels a great urgency to "break out"
4 times in 1 thought he pleads for "now"

v26 Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the LORD:
if it had not before, this psalm now takes on a distinct Messianic flavor

Luke 19:38-40

"out of" the house of the LORD could be translated:
"above" the house of the LORD

the Temple and all its contents were shadows of the Substance to come...
Jesus is greater than the Temple

in Luke 19, He came

- on the very day appointed in Dan 9
- the very way foretold in Zech 9:9

v27 showed us light:
the LORD

- opened our eyes (John 9)
- healed us to walk with Him (Acts 3)
- revealed God to man (1 John 1:5)
- revealed Himself to be God

yet before the week of His Triumphal Entry had ended...

bind the sacrifice with cords:

He also revealed why He came!

- to take away the sins of the world...as proclaimed by

LORD to Adam and Eve (Gen 3)

David 1000 years earlier (Ps 22)

Isaiah 700 years earlier (Is 53)

His forerunner 3½ years earlier (John 1:29)

- to be our salvation
(v10-12, 14, 21 with Acts 4:12)
- to destroy our enemies
(v10-12, 15-18 with [1 Cor 2:7-8](#) and [Heb 2:14-16](#))
- to make reconciliation with God possible
(v19-20 with Matt 27:50-51 and Rom 1:16-17)
- to save us by grace thru faith
(v8-9 with [Rom 10:9-13](#))
- thereby putting us in a large place...
the Throne Room of God (v5)

v28 Thou art my God:

Therefore, He is our God, worthy of all praise and to be lifted high

faith in Jesus Christ is the most rational thing a person can do

2 Tim 1:7

v29 the psalm ends as it begins

a good psalm to read when you are in a tight spot

Ps 119

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: acrostic

longest chapter in the Bible

22 stanzas of eight verses

one stanza per letter of the Hebrew alphabet...each of the eight verses start with that letter

an acrostic psalm/song to teach the Hebrew children

1. the Hebrew alphabet (“ABC...now I know my ABC’s”)
2. about the Word of God

the human “author” of this extraordinary piece of literature is unknown, but usually attributed to Ezra, a post-captivity scribe instrumental in the return of the Jews to their land and heritage

perhaps the LORD used Ezra to re-establish the Word of God in the daily lives of His people

Hebrew poetry: the beauty of the thought expressed by repetition

The Word of God:

1. Law
2. testimonies
3. ways
4. precepts
5. statutes
6. commandments
7. word
8. judgments

the LORD is either specifically addressed or referred to in every verse (all 176)

the study of this psalm was difficult, daunting, intimidating.

Much of its beauty is lost

- in translation from Hebrew
- in an under-appreciation for a form of poetry different than ours (beauty of words using rhyme and cadence)

The subject is evident;

The psalmist’s passion for the LORD and the Word of God is also apparent;

But a “flow” to the psalm is not evident to me

There does, however, seem to be a different emphasis of the Word of God with each stanza. So that will be the perspective from which we will examine this Psalm

“From 50,000 feet”, this psalm comes into play in three important ways

1. How do I avoid Matt 26:41 and then 1 Peter 5:8?
Feed the Spirit (depending on which one o feed, either the flesh or the spirit is stronger)...Matt 4:4 and James 4:7
2. Ezk 33:10 = Hab 2:4 + Rom 10:17
3. John 1:1-3, 14 with John 6:29

v1-8 **ALEPH** (1st letter)

first and foremost...

obedience

- blessed are those who keep...do...guard...the Word of God (Ps 1:1-3)
- blessed are those who seek...keep their eyes fixed on...
the LORD with a whole heart...who desire to do, not just hear
James 1:8, 22
- submission, the result of whole-hearted love...never from obligation
John 15:12-14
- diligent...yet justified by faith in LORD's performance, not our own)
Phil 2:12-13
2 Peter 3:14, 18
- never ashamed
Rom 1:16-17
2 Tim 1:12
- coachable...willing to be instructed and changed the Bible is the Owner's
Manual...contains the answer to every question I have

What has obedience done in your life? Disobedience?
Is the Word your guide in every situation?

v9-16 **BETH** (bay-th) (2nd letter)

Purity...by

- keeping (1 Thes 4:1)
- guarding your heart and mind with
- seeking
- standing firm and remaining focused
- storing up treasure...getting the Word in
- reading, meditating (renewing of the mind), studying (2 Tim 2:15)
- sharing
- delighting...placing value on
- desiring to be taught
- remembering

keep you relationship with the LORD pure by abiding in Christ, in God's Word

In so doing, will be able to say, "I
have sought You
hid Your Word in my heart
have declared Your Word (words if needed)
have rejoiced in Your way (Is 55:8-9)
will meditate on Your Word
will respect Your ways
will delight in Your Word
will not forget Your Word."

To which we would most certainly hear,
"Well done good and faithful servant."

Is your relationship with the LORD pure?

v17-24 **GIMEL** (3rd letter)

Preservation...by

- grace
- revelation
- faithfulness
- humility
- Divine intercession
- meditation on God's ways vs way of the world (renewing of the mind)
- delight in the (entire) counsel

a servant desires his Master's Word at all times, in every circumstance...
and knows the peace of God

v25-32 **DALETH** (4th letter)

Teach me

- life
- answers
- understanding
- to share
- to rely on Your strength
- truth
- grace
- to make right choices
- freedom (enlarge my heart, freed from bondage and imprisonment)
John 8:32, 36

We are all students...are you "starving"?

v33-40 **HE** (5th letter)

Change me

- teach me
- give me understanding
- lead me
- change my lifestyle
 mind
 heart
 eyes
 desires
 life

John 3:30

The Word of God is both the path to reward and the reward itself

Gen 15:1

How has the Word changed you?

v41-48 **WAW** (6th letter)

Fruit

- love
- salvation...freedom...liberty (John 8:32, 36)
- answers (Is 55:8-11)
- hope...not a “wish” but awaiting an assurance (Titus 2:13)
- boldness...never shamed of absolute truth...
 before Presidents or captains of Industry
- rejoicing...living a life led by absolute truth
- worship & praise...of God revealed in the Word
- strength...to live d2d until we see Him F2f (Ps 18:1-3)
- renewing of the mind (Rom 12:1-2)

Is your life fruitful? (John 15:1-8)

v49-56 **ZAYIN** (7th letter)

Comfort

- in affliction (v71)
- in persecution
Acts 4:10-12, 17-21a, 29-33
Acts 5:27-32, 40-42
VoM publication
- in every difficulty of my sojourning
- in obedience...
 submission to His will
 surrender to His LORDship in my life
- in like-mindedness with the LORD

Do you need comfort from the God of all comfort?

v57-64 **HETH** (8th letter)

obedience...again

1 Sam 15:22-23a

- immediate
- springing from the goodness of God (vs goodness of my heart)
- preferred to my way, which leads to destruction
 (Prov 16:16-18, 25)
- yields favor
 grace
 “24x7” fellowship
 faithfulness
 a desire for a more intimate relationship with the LORD

in other words...I want more!

Wedding on Fri and Sat...observed and heard things and I had a chance to think about them yesterday...

Am I faithful to my calling?
Am I even sure what my calling is?

Then...the Lord spoke to me and brought clarity again

- something said last night
- study time this morning
- OBG radio show this morning

My calling:

- Love the Good Shepherd's flock
- Protect the flock from wolves
- Feed the flock so grow up healthy and strong
- Get the Word out...to stimulate a love for the Word...

1. So the Word can change us...can accomplish what God pleases in all of our lives individually and corporately
2. So that you would want more of Jesus!
 - If none, some right now
 - If little, more
 - If much, even more

How?

- Matt 16:24
- John 3:30
- John 13:12-15 (lead by example)

To love the LORD is
to obey the LORD is
to know the LORD is
to want to love and obey and know Him even more!

I want more!
Do you want more?

v65-72 **TETH** (9th letter)

Value of the Word

- wisdom
- knowledge...Prov 1:7
- understanding...after believing

- truth...John 17:17, John 8:32
- discernment

- correction
- instruction...because we learn the hard way
2 Tim 3:16-17

Prov 7:1-5 to keep us away from the lure of the world...and its destruction
Prov 8:8-11

Priceless!

The Word of God is my MVP...most valuable possession in my stewardship

What value do you place on the Word of God?

How should one treat this MVP, a gift from God?

2 Tim 2:15

Bible will keep you from sin...sin will keep you from the Bible

v71 And trials and tribulation are valuable, too.

They are very effective teaching tools to solidify the truths and value of God's
Word in our mind

v73-80

YODH

(10th letter)

The Owner's Manual

Design Specifications and Purpose
Installation procedures

Proper operating instructions
in foul weather
in hostile environments
in stressful conditions
on "Chamber of Commerce" days
at rest

Fueling and Cleansing procedures
PM and Service schedules

Recall procedures
Troubleshooting techniques
FAQs

Warranty
Redemption Center
Manufacturer's Contact Information

no disclaimers...no small print

Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth...to be obeyed...

v81-88 **KAPH** (11th letter)

during persecution and despair, the source of

- hope
- comfort
- continued strength and usefulness
- perseverance
- truth and proper perspective
- faithful help
- loving encouragement
- life

Acts 20:16-24, 28-32

Acts 21:8 – 22:2...

Acts 22:21-30

Acts 23:10-11

Last Words of Jesus (most important)

John 14:15-18, 27

John 16:33

Matt 28:20

- Go...observing all things I have commanded you
- I AM with you always, even unto the end of the world

v89-96 **LAMEDH** (12th letter)

Forever

- settled/fixed
- faithful
- established...certain
- continuing...never ending
- sovereign
- alive
- power of God unto salvation
- perfect
- sufficient

Matt 7:13-14

Matt 7:24-27

Matt 5:18

Matt 24:35

O drowning man, want a life saver?
Take hold of God's Word

v97-104 **MEM** (13th letter)

How I love the Word of God!

For with it, I have...More

- wisdom than my enemies
- understanding than my teachers and than the (foolish) old men
- self-control from temptation
- faithfulness than the uncoachable
- sweetness than honey
- discernment of truth than the "learned"

v105-112 NUN (14th letter)

Light...a lighted path

- for every day (v105-106, 109) from the common to the unexpected parts of
- for times of affliction (v107) how to respond/witness in word and deed
- for giving (v108) cheerfully...not grudgingly or out of duty
if sow sparingly, will reap sparingly...
if sow bountifully, will reap bountifully
2 Cor 9:6-7
stewardship vs ownership
Ps 24:1
1 Cor 4:2 (faithfulness required)
- for instruction (v108)
inspired words profitable for (2 Tim 3:16)
Proverbs
- for dangerous situations (v110)
facing a giant...whatever/whoever yours is...
1 Sam 17:45-47)
in an inferno
Dan 3:16-18
in the midst of lions
Dan 6:20-22
1 Peter 5:6-11
- for the future...forever (v111-112)
Rev 21:23

“This book will keep you from sin and sin will keep you from this book.”

Bunyan

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

The Word of God is my

- Light
- eyes
- guide

in this strange land

v113-120 **SAMEKH** (15th letter)

Refuge

- from foolish and empty thinking (v113)
fools despise wisdom/instruction (Prov 1:7)
- from confusion (v113)
1 Cor 14:33, 40
- from evil (v115)
ourselves (Gen 6:5, Jer 17:9, Rom 7:18)
others (John 3:19-21)
- from “downers” (v116-117)
circumstances
people
- from predators (v118-119)
- from the holy and just wrath of God (v120)

v121-128 **AYIN** (16th letter)

servant...faithfully holding onto the Word...is

- protected...saved...made righteous (v121-123)

John 10:7-15

John 6:37-40

Ps 23

- given mercy (v124)
because Rom 3:23

- loved and instructed (v124)

Deut 4:1

John 15:9-10

- given knowledge and understanding (v125)

right from wrong

acceptable from unacceptable

safe from unsafe (boundaries)

edifying from destructive

Who's driving, who's a passenger

- “covered” and compensated (v126)

John 6:29

James 2:14-26

Rom 2:5-13

- loves/hates what the Master loves/hates
(v127-128)

v129-136 **PE** (17th letter)

Intrinsically

- profound yet simple (v129-130)
- life-giving and love-giving (v131)
- a steady path away from the slippery slope (v132-133)
- hated by most, treasured by few (v134-135)
- heart-revealing and heart-breaking (v136)

Matt 21:42-44

Fall on the LORD Jesus Christ...you don't want Him to fall on you!

He is

- Light
- Life
- Love

He is our

- Light
- Refuge
- Shepherd

v137-144 **TSADHE** (18th letter)

Everlasting righteousness

- upright...straight and pleasing (v137)
Matt 7:13-14
Ps 5:8
“Anything goes” is destructive
- faithful (v138)
Lam 3:22-23
- consuming zeal (v139)
our innate sense of justice loves truth...
a gift from a jealous God (Deut 4:24)
- purity (v140)
challenged by Satan...”Did God say...”
opposed by Self
- “competitive advantage” for the disadvantaged...
the faithful remnant (v141)
- true/truth (v142)
5x in Ps 119
- calm above the storms (v143)
2 Cor 4:7-10
- personal...words for me to live by (v144)
2 Cor 4:16-18
Mal 3:2-3

v145-152 **QOPH** (19th letter)

First

- in my heart
- line of defense/refuge
- “order of business” every day...
- and last every night...
- and forever

v153-160 **RESH** (20th letter)

the heart of God

- to deliver the afflicted (v153-154)
- to revive the dead (v154, 156, 159)

as seen in the life of: Paul

- to save whosoever believes/obeys (v155-156)
- to be merciful to the needy and imperfect

as seen in the lives of: Noah, Daniel, Job

- to defend the accused (v157-158)
- to steady the embattled

as seen in the life of: David

- to divide with a sword (v159-160)
- unchanging and absolute truth
- the sum total of truth (John 17:17, John 14:6)

as seen in: Jesus Christ

v161-168 **SIN/SHIN** (21st letter)

Extreme

- awe in the face of great injustice (v161)
Matt 10:28
- treasure...hidden in plain view (v162)
Matt 13:9-17
- polarity...no shades of gray (v163)
- devotion (v164)
- peace (v165)
Phil 4:4-9
- obedience...founded in love (v166-167)
- nakedness (v168)

v169-176 **TAW** (22nd letter)

Let

- my cry for understanding be heard (v169-172)
- my plea for deliverance be answered... Your way
my lips will praise Your name...
my tongue will speak Your Word

- Your hand be ready to help (v173-176)
- Your Word help me
I delight in the “safe confines” of home...
I need my Shepherd to seek me when I wander and lead me home
Ps 23

The Alpha (v1-2)

Blessed are they that

- obey
- seek the LORD with a whole heart

The Omega (v175-176)

Praise Him Who

- revives us
- helps us
- seeks us with His whole heart

The middle (v89)

The Word of God rules forever!

a good psalm to read in bite-sizes to meditate upon

Ps 120

Ps 120-134 Psalms of pilgrimage...sung while on ascent to Jerusalem
3 times per year for the Compulsory Feasts
(Deut 16:16-17)

Ps 120 1st of 15 Songs of degrees

Author: unknown but many think it to be David

along with Ps 52, written when snatched out by Doeg the Edomite,
forcing him to flee Saul by leaving Israel and going to the Philistines in Gath
(1 Sam 21-22)

v1-2 his distress is from the danger to his life posed by a liar, forcing him to live among enemies

v3-4 Q & A: What is the end of the liar seeking the death of God's anointed?

- the sharp arrows of the (all) mighty...the wrath of the Almighty God, the God of AI&J, the God of Israel...
- coals of juniper: produces fervent heat for a very long time (Lake of Fire)

v5-7 David wrote while living among the Philistines...yet these are very contemporary words

Woe is me...that I (Israel)

- sojourn (just passing thru) in Mesech:
Meshech...the north country...Russia (Gen 10:2, Ezk 38 & 39)...
Islamic provinces/nations
- live with the Bedouins, the sons of Ishmael
- have neighbors that hate peace...
living arrangement ever since Gen 16...
that will persist until the arrival of the Prince of Peace

(Ps 122:6 will come to pass when Jesus Christ sits on the Throne of David)

the PLO/Palestinians are not about living in peace with Israel...

Islam (neighbors) is not a religion of peace and love

- do not worship the God of AI&J...
but a different, unknowable, angry god
- is OK to lie to an enemy
- convert or die...Jew first, then the Christian
- committed to the destruction of Israel

the President of Iran was honest in his proclamation to wipe Israel off the map

Israel has repeatedly bent over backwards

- taking the “higher ground” morally...a reflection of their Scriptures
- going the extra mile to give peace a chance

only to be taken advantage of every time...by enemies and now by “friends”

yesterday Condi Rice forced a Gaza crossing
agreement upon Israel that is hostile to Israel
(heads-up USA!)

when they defend themselves, the world objects...
seeing them as the oppressor and aggressor

Yet...what awaits those who seek her death?

- sharp arrows of her Husband, the Almighty God of Israel...
her Defense and Refuge
(Gen 12:1-3)
- Lake of Fire

this is a very contemporary Psalm...has been for

- 4000 years (Hagar and Ishmael)
- 3000 years (when written)
- 57 years (back in the land as a sovereign nation)

a good psalm to read when listening to the news coming out of the Middle East from CNN etc...
life in Israel is not as you see it on the news

Ps 121

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: 2nd of 15 Songs of degrees...

songs of ascent to be sung when going up to Jerusalem

Regarding Ps 120, Israel, the Wife of Jehovah, should be singing this song...
but they are not...yet!

And the Bride of Christ should be ever-mindful of this Psalm, too!

I even hear Naomi sharing this with Ruth...

v1-2 a song...can you hear it?

my help...the psalmist's personal Protector (Husband) is the Creator of the universe...
is more than enough help for any problem I will ever have

v3-8 your help, too!

- John 10:30 Father and I are One
- Rom 11:24 grafted into Israel

v3-4 He will not let your foot slip...He will not let you fall
He keeps you...is your hedge (with thorns!) of protection
He is never "off duty"

He keeps Israel ("governed by God") always...never

- falling asleep from drowsiness
- a "slacker" (2 Peter 3:9)

He is not like Baal! (1 K 18:27)

v5-6 the LORD is the Keeper of Israel, He is your keeper...your

- defense
- "shadow" to protect from the burning sun and the numbing cold of night

("umbra" in the Latin Vulgate, from which we get "umbrella")...

v7-8 the LORD will “preserve”...a promise!
same Heb word translated “keep”/“keeper” in v3-5

He will protect you

- from ALL evil
- more than just physically
- wherever you go...forever!

Does this sound like Eternal Security?

We are “kept” people!

John 17:11-16

Phil 4:4-7

2 Thes 3:3

Jude 24-25

This Psalm is a...Keeper

Good to read during difficult or fearful circumstances...
to remind you that you are a “kept woman” or a “kept man”

Ps 122

Author: David

Type of Psalm: 3rd of 15 Songs of degrees, Songs of ascent

this is about a pilgrimage to the Tabernacle in Jerusalem

Note: remember, the Temple was built by Solomon

v1 I was glad...an understatement I think!
As I am glad to come here...and go to Israel!
What about you?

into the house of the LORD, the Tabernacle...into the presence of God

v2 he rejoiced to physically stand in Jerusalem

those who have done so know what David is saying
those going in March will know what this means...

- when you stand on Mount Olives, overlooking the Kidron Valley to the eastern walls of Jerusalem...
- when you descend the Mount of Olives, cross the Kidron Valley, and enter into Jerusalem thru one of the gates!...
- then you will know that there is something about just being there, in the city God picked for Himself!

Nonetheless...it is a corrupted city now

So take the feeling of just being in Jerusalem and multiply it by orders and orders of magnitude to attempt to get a sense of standing within the gates of New Jerusalem!

v3-4 in David's time, Jerusalem consisted of an Upper City and a Lower city
(a scale model of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus will crystallize this)
but the city was "joined together"...a unified one

with [1 Peter 2:5](#) in mind...[Eph 4:11-16](#)

and to Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel, would ascend the 12 tribes of Israel...
to give thanks unto the LORD before the "testimony of Israel"

- the Law...within
- The Ark of the Covenant...within
- The Holy of Holies...within
- The Holy Place...within
- The Tabernacle
- All the jurisdiction of only the High Priest

v5 thrones...on the other hand...were the jurisdiction of judges and the King

High Priest, Judge, King...all offices of the LORD

v6 God commands us to pray for "shalom" for Jeru-shalom

Now, Jerusalem is a burdensome stone for the world...

[Zech 12:3](#)

"searching" for a peace that is false

[1 Thes 5:2-3](#)

those who pray for the true peace of Jerusalem will be

- blessed (Gen 12:1-3)
- tranquil...safe...secure

v7-9 true peace in Jerusalem will happen when the Prince of Peace sits on His Throne, the Throne of David...

Then there will be absolute

1. safety within her walls
2. security and abundance within her citadel (where The King abides)

the peace of Jerusalem is good for both Jew (Naomi) and Gentile (Ruth)

then we, too, will be glad to go into the house of the LORD...a house of prayer and worship

until then...we pilgrimage to Israel to bless Israel and to be blessed by Israel

a good psalm to read when you think of Jerusalem or of peace

Ps 123

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: of Assent

v1 right away get an important perspective:
the LORD God is bigger than me, bigger than my needs

v2 servants on their masters, maidens on their mistresses, we on the LORD our God...

- are totally and completely dependent

breath (Dan 5:23)

the next heartbeat (otherwise would never wake up when lay down to sleep)

every meal (sends the rain and the sun, causes a planted seed to die and produce abundant life)

clothes (SoM)

shelter

a job (Eccl)

children (opens/closes the womb)

salvation from death and hell (Job 40:6-14)

everything (James 1:17)

- need mercy...forgiveness...lovingkindness

v3-4 in a position of utter weakness and helplessness, all we can do is plead for His mercy...

- we are overflowing with the contempt of the haughty and proud...
- we are haughty and proud

consider the response of a righteous man grouped with special companions
(Ezk 14:14, 20)

Job 38:1-3 ff

Job 40:1-5

Job 42:1-6

Are you angry with God?

Do you think He has failed you?

What does He owe you?

How do your circumstances compare to Job's

Why is your response to your circumstances not like Job's to his circumstances?

Job 1:20-22

Job 2:10

If you are angry with God, there are 1-2-3 things you need to do

1. Answer all 80 questions God asked Job in Job 38-41
2. Read Ps 1-2-3
3. Repent

Ps 124

Author: David

Type of Psalm: of Assent

v1-2 If the LORD had not have “had our back”...

v3-5 ...the nations would have destroyed us (Is 57:20)

v6-7 PTL, Who kept us from annihilation from

- the Moabites
- the Ammonites
- the Philistines
- the Assyrians
- the Babylonians
- the Persians
- Haman
- The Romans
- The Roman Catholic Church
- Hitler
- Stalin
- Islam

v8 so, in the future, the LORD is our refuge from the nations

the LORD has fought for them, defending His Name and

Word

- repeatedly
- in spite of their unfaithfulness
- to this very day
- will again in Ezk 38-39
- and again in the Battle of Armageddon (the ultimate “2 Chron 20:12”)
- until He makes Israel high above all the nations

Deut 26:18-19

Deut 28:1-13

Deut 30:1-10

Is there really One, True, and Living God, Maker of heaven and earth?
Just look at a Jew!

A good psalm to read when

- doubt the faithfulness of God
- don't know if you should come worship and bow down and kneel before the LORD
our God, our Maker
- question the veracity of Rom 8:31
- think the nations are going to swallow and destroy Israel
(The Lord takes sides!!!)

Ps 125

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: of Assent

v1 Because from Zion the LORD will rule His world-wide kingdom on this earth

Is 37:35-36

Is 38:4-6

past promise...kept
(referenced in advance by David in Ps 124)

Micah 4:1-7

future promise...certain

v2 Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains on S, E, W
only from the north could an enemy attack...why the Romans built the Antonio Fortress
there

v3 God is

- fair...not a respecter of persons
- holy and just...judge of all sin
(70th Week is end of judgment of Israel for her gross sin)

v4-5 the wicked to be judged are those who refuse to walk on His narrow path the leads to
life...Jesus Christ
(Matt 7:13-14)

God's way is as wide as Jesus..."whosoever believes"

The path of the wicked leads to

- death
- hell
- Great White Throne
- Lake of Fire

"shalom" is only possible on God's terms...Jesus Christ and Him crucified

Eph 2:1-10

So Israel will finally have shalom when

Zech 12:8-11

Hosea 5:15 – 6:3

see Jesus of Nazareth as their ONLY

- Friend
- Savior
- Prophet (Deut 18)
- High Priest
- King

the Gentiles are grafted into Israel by faith in Jesus of Nazareth, the

- Son of David
- Jewish Messiah
- Prince of Peace
- The mighty God
- The everlasting Father
- The Holy One of Israel

And Ps 126 will erupt in meaning for both Jew and Gentile

a good psalm to read when need a healthy sense of security

Ps 126

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: 6th Song of Assent

context when written: coming back from 70 years of captivity in Babylon

v1-2 “Babylon was like a dream...a very bad dream.
But now, coming back home, it is like a very sweet dream!”

Due to her rebellion and disobedience, Israel had been like a proverb to the nations

Deut 28:32-37

1 K 9:6-9...

But now a wonder!
And the God of AI&J is praised as Wonder-full

v3 for them and for us!

Don't forget!

v4-6 sowed with tears of humility and brokenness
now...will joyfully reap a bountiful harvest...in their own land

the promises given to Israel are tied to the land...a land God calls His own

now in the context of Ps 125 (as mentioned last week)...

- they are in the land again...after being brought back again, having rebelled again
- but this time they are not coming out of the land!
- their border will not shrink, they will expand to the Nile and Euphrates as promised to Abraham
- they will be lifted high above all the nations...
- their King will be the King of kings!

a good psalm to read when life is a bad dream...another “dream” is coming!

Ps 127

Author: Solomon...wisest man to ever live

Type of Psalm: 7th Song of Assent

Jesus Christ, the Son of David, is not only King of Israel...He is King of His family...
every family

Purpose: While ascending to the House of the LORD, the pilgrims are to reflect on what is
really important.

So when they get to the House of the LORD, their perspective will be in harmony
with His

v1 Except the LORD build the house:
unless the LORD is the LORD of the “family”, the “wanna-be LORDs” labor in
“uselessness and destruction”

except the LORD keep the city:
unless the LORD “protects” the “safe place”, the “wanna-be LORDs” are alert to
no avail

the head of the household is...the LORD

- of the marriage (Eccl 4:12)
- of the children
- of the family

the Protector of the family is...the LORD

ascending to the House of the LORD, we must define “family” according to God’s Word

John 1:12

Matt 12:46-50

When we accepted Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior

- we were adopted into God’s family
Rom 8:15, Gal 4:5, Eph 1:5
- we changed families...Jesus changes everything

in God’s social order, He is the Head, He is the King

Who is building your family?

What part does Jesus play?

Prov 24:3-4 also written by Solomon

v2 bread of sorrows: toil, work

putting your career before your spouse and children and family...
getting to work early and staying late to “get ahead” or to make more money...
is “destructive” to God’s family, God’s social order

Husbands, work!

God has given you a job to do (Gen 3:17-19), it is a blessing from the LORD

But do not work yourself to the point of neglecting your health

- Physical: your body needs sleep for the LORD to refresh and renew your strength

I am guilty of this
Eccl 5:12...also by Solomon

- Emotional: Quality and Quantity of your time is needed by your wife and kids

Avoid dinners/sporting events/golf with clients...go home!
Clients place a higher value on and trust more a man of integrity and stability than a schmoozer

After 25 yrs in work force, I can say this!

- Spiritual: “Don’t have time for...
devotions, prayer, Men’s Study, the assembly of the believers”...
our relationship with the LORD is the most important thing in our lives

Wives, the LORD has also given you a job...raise a family
(Gen 3:16).

Do not work outside the home if

- it is to the detriment of your ministry at home...husband and children
- if doing so is disruptive to the godly functioning of your family

Given the demands of motherhood, very few women have the wherewithal to be both a great mom and a great employee

Husbands/Wives (2 =1), are you depending upon yourself or upon the LORD?

v3 children are the “inheritance” of...the LORD!
Not of mom and dad

make sure you have God’s perspective on “your” children

they are “salary, compensation”

Are you working

- seasonal demands?
- for a title?
- for promotion...power and influence?
- to build “net worth”?
- for things of the world?
- for self-esteem?
- because “being mom” is too demanding? (For Whose strength?)
boring? (Do you despise God’s wisdom and blessings?)
- for the LORD? (Col 3:14-24)

children are His compensation

v4-5 a quiver “full”...obedience is not “add” or “replace”, but “multiply” (Gen 1, Gen 9)

those who obey

- will not be “disappointed”
- will be strengthened

many couples stop having kids because “cannot afford any more”
this perspective is backwards...the children are the reward, not the burden

to my boss at TI: “I’d rather have kids than money.”

Her reaction, simultaneously

- thought I was nuts
- was green with envy

I work

- unto the LORD...not at His expense
- for my wife and children and family...not at their expense

a good psalm to read when struggling with “success”

Ps 128

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: 8th Song of Assent

v1-4 “Oh how happy”...who doesn’t want to be?
are they who

1. fear the LORD
2. obey His ways

God showers blessings for obedience to His Word

Deut 28:1-14

v5-6 when you obey the Word of the LORD, it will go well for you in the land

a phrase that appears 5 times in Scripture...all of them in Deuteronomy

1. Deut 4:40 – when obey His statutes
2. Deut 5:16 – when you honor your father and your mother
3. Deut 12:25 – when you do not eat blood (Gen 9)
4. Deut 12:28 – when you obey all God’s words
5. Deut 19:13 – when you do not pity the murderer but deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood (Gen 9)

a good psalm to read when struggling with Ps 127

Ps 129

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: 10th Song of Assent

- v1-2 this tiny nation has survived all these years against all odds.
The world has always tried to beat Israel down...they keep ascending
nationally, they can say [2 Cor 4:8-9](#)
- v3 the plowers: those that relentlessly sow hatred of the Jews and their God, the God of
AI&J
- v4 But the LORD is just...justice is His
He has always broken the chains of Israel's oppressors
- v5-7 Israel's enemies have always been and will be
ashamed and destroyed
e.g. in the past
[2 K 19:15-28, 32-35](#)
in the future
[Ezk 38:1-4](#)
[Micah 4:11-13](#)
- v8 Israel stands alone among the nations of the world...
the nations of the world stand against her
yet the LORD of hosts stands with Israel
He did... [Deut 7:14-21](#)
He will... [Jer 3:10, 35-37](#)
He is faithful to His promises...
[Gen 12:1-3](#)
therefore we are comforted by His promises to us

President of Iran's desires will never happen:

- "Wipe Israel off the map."
- "Move Israel to Europe or USA or Canada or Alaska."
- "Holocaust is a myth."

Jer 20:11

The Church's view of Israel is false

- forfeited the promises of God
- play no part in the prophetic future of God

Israel will be pushed aside by no man

a good psalm to read when hearing all the rhetoric on the news

Ps 130

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: 11th Song of Assent

v1-2 Can the LORD hear you “in the depths” of trouble?

Ps 139:7-12

If you cannot hide, you can never be out of earshot

v3 does this verse sound familiar?!

If God recorded all my sins in a book and asked me to carry the book, it would be too heavy to carry!

My sins, not God, would knock me down and keep me down.

If He were only a just God, it would be all over for us

Rom 3:23

The LORD owes us nothing.

v4 But (a huge word!) He is not only just!

Ps 103:8-18

Ps 51:1-4 and **Ps 32:1**

v5 waiting is a learned “skill”

one of the reason God allows trials into our lives is to teach us to wait on Him...
to lay down our ways and our plans/timing

v6 those who watch for the morning: those on watch, a military connotation

at that time it is the darkest and coldest...and the watchmen are eager for their “shift” to end so they can go home

Be eager...have great expectation and high anticipation...

but wait...His timing is perfect!

the servant’s will is the will of his Master

v7-8 Let Israel hope on the LORD their God...not in

- themselves
- USA
- counterfeit Christ

only with the LORD their God is there

- mercy
- redemption/freedom
- forgiveness
- hope

nationally, Israel committed adultery like David

at the moment, they are hoping in themselves, not in the LORD their God

they have a terrible trial ahead of them...Jacob's Trouble...

when they hope in a counterfeit christ only to be butchered by him

yet they will never be so deep in trouble that the LORD their God cannot hear them when
they do cry out to Him

and when they do, He will be merciful, forgiving, and a Mighty Deliverer

then, Israel will again be Israel...governed by God

personally, we are given the admonishment of Scripture that says pre-emptive action on
our part can have disastrous results

- Abraham and Hagar
- Israel and counterfeit christ

The lesson: wait...and hope. It's worth the wait!

a good psalm to read when in trouble

Ps 131

Author: David

Type of Psalm: 12th Song of Assent

v1 **Ps 103:1-5** and **Ps 139:1-6**

not just Dirty Harry, every man needs to know his limitations

“I have learned my limits. I see my finite-ness and now appreciate Your infinite-ness.”

My failures and my inabilities...seen honestly...deflate my pride
God's words and deeds exalt Him
So I will humble myself before my God

v2 with the revelation of Self and the revelation of the Almighty LORD God...
be still and know He is God

v3 Amen!

a good psalm to read when deflated...know He is God

Ps 132

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: 13th Song of Assent...Messianic

v1-10 a plea to remember David

- the afflictions of David
- the vow of David
- the LORD's promise to David...the Son of David

v11-18 the LORD's promise to David

Let me say: the LORD's timing is always perfect...that we would be at this point in Psalms on this week

v:1 remember David's afflictions:

at the hands of Saul

after the kingdom was taken from Saul and David was anointed king but before Saul died...

many, agonizing, life-threatening afflictions...

during which time David was absolutely faithful,

waiting on the LORD, trusting in the LORD

“LORD, remember Your faithful servant.”

v2-5, remember David's vow:

(Heb word “mighty” is used when speaking of God

...”Mighty of Jacob” is the LORD)

David's sincere, servant's desire to please his LORD by building a permanent house to replace the portable tent

2 Sam 6:17

2 Sam 7:1-2

Note: as heart-felt as it is by a man after God's own heart, this is still a silly vow

1 K 8:20-27

v6-7 heard of it...found it:

A reference to the Ark of the covenant?

(2 Sam 6:9-15)

For the God who dwells between the cherubim (atop the mercy seat), the Ark would be His footstool

A reference to the Son of David?

Ephratah is Bethlehem

(Ruth 4:11, Micah 5:2)

Both?

And both literally and prophetically?

And both prophetic words and prophetic shadows of The Substance?

v8-10 remember Your promise, the Son of David:

a reign characterized by

- rest/peace
- Almighty strength
- righteousness
- joy
- faithfulness (Divine, implied because Israel was not)

v11 the LORD responds to the pleas:

“Truly I have promised David.”

(2 Sam 7:8-16 and 1 Chron 17:4-14)

The LORD is saying,

“My Word is good.

I AM trustworthy.

I do remember, I cannot forget.

I will keep My vow.

I will not change My mind.”

v11b-18 are words spoken by the LORD to David

The KJV translation of the first statement to David is the most interesting...
more revealing

NKJV: I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.

NASB: Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne.

ESV: One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

NIV: One of your own descendants I will place on your throne.

KJV: Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

A. Will the LORD set a son of David on David's throne?

B. Is the LORD the promised Son of David and will He set on David's throne?

(A comma...punctuation added to a language devoid of punctuation...
adds a whole new dimension)

C. Will the LORD do both?

v12 this might clarify the other translations of the above statement:

“David...If...your sons are faithful and obedient, their sons will ALSO sit on your throne...forever.”

(“their sons shall also” lends credence to A...the LORD will set a son of David on David's throne)

However...David's son was NOT faithful!
Solomon disobeyed and fell into idolatry

The “If” condition of this verse was almost immediately broken!

Resulting in

- a divided house...two thrones
- the raising up of enemies
- the royal line of David being cursed by God
(Jer 22:28-30)

and that is why the KJV translation of v11b is the most interesting and most revealing...

- of the fruit of thy body
vs “sons”...”fruit” does not exclude the promise coming thru a woman

Joseph came thru the royal line of David

Matt 1:1, 6, 16

Mary came thru another line

Luke 3:23

actually the genealogy of Mary.

Joseph was the son of Heli by marriage to Mary...

Heli's son-in-law.

Luke 3:31

the Son of David is also the Seed of the Woman (Gen 3:15)...
both fulfilled by the virgin birth

Is 7:14 is **necessary/essential** doctrine to

- a. to keep the “promise” to Satan
- b. to keep the promise to David
- c. to uphold the curse on the royal line of David

- will I set upon thy throne
the Son of David is the LORD Himself...to keep the promise to David, the
LORD
Himself must become the Son of David

(B. and C.)

v13-14 the LORD's words to David continue:

the city David conquered...the City of David...will be the site chosen by the Sovereign
LORD to be the place of His Throne during His kingdom on earth when He
fulfills the promises to David and Israel

Note: therefore, the historicity of David was fervently challenged by Israel's enemies...
until 1993 when an inscription of “House of David”
(dynasty of David) and “King of Israel”
(personal) was found at a site in Dan
and 1995 when “House of David” was found on the Moabite stone

Note: Israel is strategic land...at the crossroads of 3 continents (get a much greater
appreciation of the strategic nature of the land when you tour it)

v15-16 continuing His words to David, the LORD says, “I will

- bless Israel’s provision (“game for hunting”)
- fill her poor with bread (physical and spiritual)
- clothe her priests with salvation...righteousness (v9) by faith (Gen 15:6, Hab 2:4)
- cause the people to rejoice

v17-18 and finally, words regarding His promise, the Son of David

- I will make the Horn of David (Messianic title) to “sprout (Is 11:1-2)

The Son of David will reign on earth from David’s throne in Jerusalem

- I have ordained a lamp for My anointed (Messianic title)

The Son of David is
the Word of God that became flesh
the Light of the world
the Lamp unto our feet

This is also the season of Hanukkah and the
lighting of the 8-candled menorah...
lit by the shamash (“helper”) candle

John 8:12 I AM the Light of the world
Matt 5:14 You are the light of the world
because...

Heb 13:6 the LORD is my helper and I will not fear what man shall
do unto me

- I will shame/confuse/destroy His enemies and His crown will
“twinkle”/blossom

A great Psalm to read to reflect upon the Reason for the Season

Ps 133

Author: David

Type of Psalm: 14th Song of Assent

v1 how pleasing and how delightful is it for brethren to live together in unity...
in the LORD vs opposed to him ala at Babel

brethren: Matt 12:50

to live together:

- marriage
- family
- roommates
- this fellowship
- The Church

in unity:

where there is unity, there is
like-mindedness
forgiveness

Eph 4:29-32

2 Cor 2:10-11

peace

Rom 5:1

Heb 12:15

grace
self-less love

this is Jesus' prayer for us (**John 17:20-23**)

unity...like-mindedness...is

- as stable as the Rock...not as unstable as sand
- founded upon the truth...never accomplished at the expense of truth

The Word of God is the truth (John 17:17, Ps 119:160)

Jesus Christ is The Word of God, the Truth (John 14:6)

We cannot live together in unity if

- there is no agreement on essential truth

deity of Jesus Christ

the virgin birth, suffering, death, burial, resurrection of Jesus Christ
salvation by grace alone thru faith

- The Word of God is not the Final Authority

Sola Scriptura...

traditions of men make the Word of no effect
experiences can be deceiving

v2-3a a unity...based on the timeless and absolute truth of the Word of God...is

- a sweet fragrance upon the lives dedicated to serving the LORD
- a blessing...water for a thirsty soul

Living in peace and unity is a blessing from God.

Man, in and of himself, is not capable of doing so.

v3b the blessing...eternal life...was “put in order” upon the mountains of Zion...

Mount Moriah...Calvary...where

- The Word of God suffered and died
- The Lamb of God shed His blood
- The Truth defeated the liar and deceiver
- “It is finished!”

unity is possible only by faith in Jesus Christ...

the Jesus Christ of the Bible...not of Book of Mormon or NWT

not in Church traditions

not in humanistic philosophies (psychology)

...and surrender to His LORDship

the parts of the Body in submission to the Head

His will...His ways

hence...our new AFN ad

We preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified... God's terms
We teach the entire counsel of God...God's truth

This ad says who we are and what we do.

Come if you are like-minded...how pleasing and how delightful is will be to dwell
together in unity

A good psalm to read to set your bearings.

Ps 134

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: 15th and Final Song of Assent

in light of Ps 133...

v1 PTL!

All you servants (bondservants) of the LORD

Who...when in adversity...stand on the Truth, the Rock that cannot be moved

v2 Worship Him!

Rejoice in Him!

Note: after 40 years of

- Roman liturgy
- powerless Protestantism

I was initially very uncomfortable in Calvary Chapel when people lifted up their hands during worship

As the LORD ministered to me...stretching my faith and softening my heart...
I heard Him say, "Look to Me, not at them. Lift your hands to Me."

Now, it is quite "natural", a reflex

Palms "out" to give Him honor and praise

Palms "open" to receive from Him

The LORD gave me a lesson in worship...

but not a license ala

- barking like a dog
- "holy laughter"
- racing around like a wild animal...

1 Cor 14:40...governed by the Truth

v3 We are blessed from Zion...where He paid the highest of prices for us, redeeming us from the slave market

a good psalm to read when preparing to gather in His name

Ps 135

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallel

v1-2 Hallelujah!

All His bondservants praise the

- position: high above all others
- authority: absolute
- character: to be developed...

of the self-existent LORD

v3-5 Hallelujah

- the LORD is good...He Alone is good (Matt 19:16-17)
- His name is sweet!
- He has chosen Israel to be His special people
- By His sovereign will He has chosen us
(by faith in Him, we are grafted into Israel)
- The LORD is great!
- He is above all

I know the above because

- He has revealed Himself to me in His Word...
- His Word is truth...
- the truth has set me free...to be a willing servant

In His Word He is revealed to be...

v6-7 the LORD is the Creator who created all things for His good pleasure (Rev 4:11)

deep is the pre-Flood, subterranean water system, the fountains of the deep

v8-9 the LORD is the Deliverer, breaking the chains of

- bondage of sin
- oppression of the world

v10-12 the LORD is our Warrior (Ex 15:3).
The battle belongs to Him.
He destroyed the idolatrous nations in the land He promised to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3)
He slays the giants in the land.

v13 the LORD is eternal

v14 the LORD is holy and just...and will judge every sin
and...
the LORD is merciful, compassionate, longsuffering, gracious to forgive sinful man...
if ransom is paid

v15-18 an idol...a false god...is

- mute
- blind
- deaf
- dead...life-less...

as are the idol-makers/idol-worshippers

Who is more rational:
the idol or the idol-maker/idol-worshipper?
It's a tie!

Who is greater:
the idol or the idol-maker?
The idol-maker

Idolatry is worship of

- Self...of creature vs Creator
- demons (Rev 9:20)

in contrast to the LORD, the man-made idols

- are not good
- do not chose
- are not sovereign
- created nothing
- never delivered any man of anything
- never fought the battles for any man
- are not eternal
- neither judge nor forgive sin
- ransomed no man

v19-21 Bless the LORD

- Israel...God's chosen people...a peculiar people
- House of Aaron...a chosen subset
- House of Levi...Cohen, Kohn, Cohn (DNA)
- whoever fears Him...a peculiar people chosen by Him (1 P 2:9)

The LORD is the One, True, and Living God, Maker of heaven and earth.
He is good, He is great, He is above all gods.
We willingly serve Him
Hallelujah!

a good psalm to read when the world is looking pretty good...

Ps 136

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Worship

God's action: His love endures forever
our reaction: Give thanks, be grateful

much like Ps 135 (PTL! Hallelujah!)
with Ps 135, Praise and Worship

v1-3 O give thanks...“worship”

1. the LORD: the Self-Existent, eternal Jehovah
2. the God of gods: Elohim (Is 45:5-6)
3. the Lord of lords: Adoni, the Sovereign Master

for:

- He is good...He alone is good (Matt 19:17)
- His mercy...not giving us what we deserve...
is forever...beyond time, eternal, unchanging

A truth repeated 26 times in this Psalm

v4 He alone has the power to do things that are
too mighty,
too high,
too difficult
for mere man

He is supernatural, outside the natural universe

v5-9 He is Creator

the universe reveals a design, which declares a
Designer

Gen 1:1

Gen 1:14-19 Day 4

The earth, sun, moon, and stars are things He created to reveal Himself and His
glory to us...

Yet man is so quick to worship the created things instead of the Creator

v10-15 He is the Deliverer

He sent the plagues upon the false gods of Egypt, showing His incomparable power

Culminating in the death of the firstborn, breaking the will of the oppressors

He drew out His people from the very midst of the most powerful nation on earth...who was powerless to stop Him

He provided a way of escape by dividing the Red Sea...for the Creator who (Gen 1:6-7), this was small potatoes...

And then re-gathered it to destroy His enemies

v16-22 He is a Warrior

He slew powerful kings...He humbled the haughty and gave their land to His people...

just as He had promised Abraham 400 years earlier

v23-25 He is Redeemer and Provider

He is mindful of the humble...He exalts them

He is the Creator Who provides for the needs of His creatures

Matt 6:25-33

v26 Worship the "Almighty", the all-powerful God of heaven

Natural man is captivated by power and is easily seduced by its lure

- Religions/cults are the power plays of ambitious men to have control and power over many men...by stepping between man and God
- The love of money is the pursuit of power
- Every form of government of man is corrupted by the love of power

Man's lust for power is delusional and destructive

Man has repeatedly proven that he is incapable of handling power... he instead corrupts it

a good psalm to read when

- getting full of yourself
- feel the lure of power
- worried

Ps 137

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: a lamentation

Written during the Babylonian captivity

v1-3 by the Tigris and Euphrates, the captive Jews sat down and wept, lamenting over Jerusalem.

Yet their heavy-handed captors demanded a light-hearted song from them

Oppressor to oppressed: “Entertain us! Rejoice!”

v4 How can we do that?

How can we see for joy...sing unto the LORD...in this place and in these conditions?

Note: Don't tell the Apostle Paul! (Acts 16)

How?

- recognize the “captive” opportunity to witness to unbelievers... they are watching you!
- by keeping your eyes on him and not on your circumstances... He is looking after you!

v5-6 If I forget Jerusalem, may my right hand forget how to play a musical instrument and may my voice be silenced

v7 Thinking of their captors, the psalmist is reminded of their cousins the Edomites (Esau) who cheered Neb on when he came to lay siege against Jerusalem.

Obadiah 1a, 10-14, 18

v8-9 turning his thoughts back to the Babylonians, the psalmist declares

- their certain destruction
- they will be treated as they have treated the Jews

Matt 25:31-46 divide sheep from goats
hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, in prison
inherit the kingdom or cursed: unto the least of these,
My brethren

with
Gen 12:2-3

a good psalm to read when oppressed...
knowing that vengeance belongs to the LORD

Ps 138

Author: David

Type of Psalm:

v1 I will praise thee: “worship” (Ps 136) vs “hallel/praise” (Ps 135)

with my whole heart:

a united heart, not divided between

- God and mammon (Matt 6:24)
- The LORD and Baal (1 K 18)
- The LORD and Self (Matt 16:24)

A heart firmly establish vs James 1:8

Before the gods I will sing praise:

“magistrates” or “judges”...the “powers that be” as in **Mark 13:6-9**

This is misinterpreted by LDS to conform to their theology

v2 I will worship: “bow down”
and praise: “worship”

what: thy name

why: your lovingkindness and your truth

thou hast magnified

thy word

John 17:17 thy Word is truth

Ps 119:160 true and enduring

Ps 119:140 the Word is pure

above

thy name...and He is jealous about His name!

Ex 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god:
for the LORD, whose name *is*
Jealous, *is* a jealous God:

Ezk 39:25 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD;
Now will I bring again the captivity
of Jacob, and have mercy upon the
whole house of Israel, and will be
jealous for my holy name;

and...the Word has a name! Jesus Christ

v3 God is faithful...He hears, He will

- respond
- “embolden” me with “boldness”

Acts 4:8-12, 18-31

v4-5 all the kings of the earth shall “worship” thee and will sing of Your ways

we do now because of the Gospel...the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16-17)
kings will in the Millennial reign because of a rod of iron (Ps 2)

v6 the LORD will regard the lowly, depressed, humble...and cast off the proud

a universal truth:

God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (James 4:6)

v7 even though I walk in the midst of tribulation, You will save me

v8 the LORD will complete His purpose for me...

Phil 1:6

He will not forsake the works of His hands...me,

Matt 28:20

Heb 13:5b

who am fearfully and wonderfully made

Ps 139

a good psalm to read before witnessing of Jesus Christ
(current HoF series: Contend for the faith)

Ps 139

Author: David...who had a heart

- of a shepherd
- after God
- revealed by trials

Type of Psalm: Devotion

Because of the “Contend for the faith” series on Sunday night, I have been thinking about the god of

- Joseph Smith: an exalted man who is continuing to progress in wisdom...
a god of his imagination
- Charles Taze Russell: a god controlled by the Watchtower...
a god of his pre-conceived theology
- Mohammed: a capricious, unknowable, unapproachable God...
the god of this world
- The Roman Church: The God of AI&J, but He was always angry with me and I
needed to ask his mom or dead people when I needed help

The Bible reveals

- The True God
- The true nature of God

Such as in Ps 139...

v1 the LORD’s examination of us His beloved creatures is a deep, invasive search

Jer 17:9-10

Ps 94:9-11

Ps 44:20-21 knows the secrets of the heart

1 Chron 28:9 passing on this wisdom to his son

the LORD knows us better than we know ourselves

He knows me and you and every person...He knows everything

- v2 He knows
- everywhere I go
 - everything I see and hear
 - everything I think
 - the motive for everything I do
- v3 He surrounds me while I go about my day...
He watches over me while I sleep...and is there when I awake (v18b)
- v4 He hears and knows everything I am going to say...BEFORE I even start to speak!
- v5 He's got my back!
He's "on point", clearing the way!
He has placed His hand on me...Acts 17:27-28, Rom 8:31
- v6 knowing all this...blows my mind!
- The LORD is too awesome, too big for my finite brain to process
- v7 my experience tells me that if something is too good to be true...it is
- the LORD's knowledge of me...
His presence with me...
seems too good to be true.
- Is it?
- What if
- I wandered away and couldn't find my way back to Him?
 - I wanted to play hide-and-seek and He could not find me?
 - I tripped or slipped and fell into a hole?
 - I have a tantrum and "run away from home"?
 - My world "caved in"?
 - I had a stroke...or got Alzheimer's?

What are the "boundaries" of this "too good to be true" stuff I read in v1-6?

v8-12 Wow! I cannot

- hide from Him
- escape from Him

Because

- He is everywhere
- He is LORD of all places
- He holds onto my hand...my safety is not dependent upon me holding His hand!

Unlike anything in the world, unlike any other god, my God is NOT too good to be true!

I'm thinking Jonah should have meditated on the Psalm before he found himself the belly of a whale!

I'm thinking that if you are looking for loopholes in your relationship with the LORD, you are going to be very frustrated

I'm thinking that if you are in a trial, this Psalm will make you rejoice!

I'm thinking that if someone told you that they don't love you any more, the love of the LORD will heal and protect your heart

v13 the LORD has always been with me!
He protected me in my mother's womb.

In the greatest demonstration of love humanly and Divinely possible...

- setting aside His glory
- making Himself of no reputation
- taking on a form like mine
- humbling Himself
- being obedient unto death, even to worst death on the Cross

He purchased my mind...which is not to be conformed to the world but transformed, renewed by the Word of God (Rom 12:2)

v14 I know very well that I am reverently and marvelously made
Because my Creator is marvelous and to be revered.
He was involved in every cell division of mine!

just consider

1. the functionality and complexity of

- the brain
- the eyes
- the hands/fingers
- the cardiovascular system

2. our individual uniqueness

- fingerprints (even identical twins...are not!)
- toe prints
- palm prints
- sole prints
- iris pattern
- voice print
- DNA

How do the evolutionists deal with unique fingerprints, etc?

v15-16 my body was not concealed from Him while I was being “embroidered”...
with fanciful details...in the womb

while I was yet incomplete and being fashioned as clay in the hands of a Potter, the
LORD

- kept track of all my parts
- knew me...

Jer 1:5

All of my dimensions, characteristics and unique identifiers were recorded by the
LORD...and that blows my mind because the LORD is the Ultimate Bookkeeper

He has books of

- The Law...which I cannot keep
- Idle words (Matt 12:36)
- Wars (Num 21:14)
- Judgment (Dan 7, Rev 20)
- Life (Ex 32:33, Rev 20:15)
- Remembrance (Mal 3:13-18)

v17-18 Why all the detailed records above?
Because He's crazy about me!

He loves me so much He cannot stop thinking about me

Jer 29:11 He has thoughts of peace toward me

Is 55:8-9 His thoughts are higher than mine

Ps 40:5 echoes v17-18...thoughts toward me are innumerable

If I tried to count them, I couldn't...kinda like the grains of sand in the vials

v19-20 Because He loves me that much, He will slay the wicked who are trying to slay me

in reality, they don't hate me, they hate the LORD

John 15:18-25

v21-22 the servant loves what his Master loves and hates what his Master hates

- pride and lies (Prov 6:16-19)
- the wicked that love violence (Ps 11:5)
- divorce (Mal 2:16)
- idolatry (Deut 12:29-31)
- religion (Is 1)

v23-24 I want to be right with You...so

- Search me! Examine me!
- Know my heart and my thought!
- I lay myself wide open to you...reveal to me what I do not know about myself.
- See if there are ANY idolatrous ways in me...
- save me from myself...
- correct and direct my steps

Jer 10:23-24

Ps 37:23 the steps of a good man are
ordered by the LORD, and He
delights in his way

Prov 16:9 a man's heart devises his way
but the LORD directs his
steps

1 Peter 2:21 Christ also suffered for us,
leaving us an example, that
we should follow His steps

- You are my Shepherd...lead me...by Your Word
Heb 4:12 the Word is the discerner of
the thoughts and intents of the
heart

a good psalm to read when feeling unloved and unimportant

Ps 140

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Plea for protection

v1-3 **Ps 139:19-22** servant's enemies are God's enemies

David is crying out for deliverance from

- evil men
- violent men (cruel, false, oppressive, after unjust gain)
- men who concoct afflictions and calamities for others (Gen 6:5)
- men whose tongues are as sharp as their swords

who are enemies of God because they are

- friends of the world (James 4:4)
- deceived by the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4)
- really spiritual powers (Eph 6:12)

the most violent men are not necessarily the rapists and murderers in maximum security prisons...

they can be the backbiters, slanderers, liars, false accusers, and false teachers roaming freely in our society

James 3:1, 5-8

Rom 1:18-24, 28-32

2 Tim 3:1-5

v4-5 "Be a hedge about me, LORD.

The proud (equated with evil and violent men) lay traps for me."

Prov 1:10-16

v6-7 a man after God's own heart, whether in trouble or at peace, categorically aligns himself with God

- The Self-Existent Jehovah, God of Promises
- The Almighty God
- Adoni Jehovee
- The strength/power of our salvation
- our coving in battle

Eph 6:10-18 That battle never ends this side of eternity

v8-11 “Foil the plots of the wicked.
May the wicked not prosper.
Send confusion to the camp of the enemy so that they turn on themselves.”

Prov 1:17-19

Gal 6:7-8

v12-13 KNOW...not just wish or feel...know the LORD is the God of the defenseless

Ex 22:22-27

Hab 2:4

PTL!

a good psalm to read when need to be reminded...

Depend upon the LORD your God to deliver, guard, keep, and cover you until evil has
been allowed to run its course

Also a good psalm in reverse: to remind us to NOT be a violent man
(wicked, evil, proud)...with our tongue

Ps 141

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Prayer for sincerity of relationship

v1-3 in keeping with Ps 140, David lifts up another desperate cry/prayer...
in the morning with the incense offering
in the evening with the burnt offering

that the LORD would guard his tongue!

Is the LORD the LORD of your tongue?

v4 “Don’t let my heart do any evil thing...don’t let my tongue speak any evil thing!
Don’t let me sit in the counsel of the ungodly!”

Ps 139:23-24

Ps 1

David knows that the tongue speaks that which is in the heart and the feet are directed by the heart.

v5-6 Let the righteous smite me

2 Sam 24:14

Heb 12:3-11

“May my tongue be used for sweet words!”

Prov 27:6 faithful are the wounds of a friend but
the kisses of an enemy are deceitful

2 Tim 3:16-17

Heb 4:12

David had Nathan (Bathsheba) and Gad (census)

v7-10 David had complete confidence in the protection of the LORD

He knew he would “altogether escape”...
escape without a scratch because the LORD was his way of escape

1 Cor 10:13

2 Chron 20:10-24

a good psalm to read when times are tough...

Is evil pressing hard against you?
Are enemies besieging you?
Are you at the end of your rope?

Keep your eyes on the LORD...the battle is His.
Get out of His way, see what He will do, give Him all the glory.

Ps 142

Author: David

Type of Psalm Prayer:

Prayer is a time to pour out yourself to the Lord...to lay it all at His feet...a time of surrender.
Then the Lord works so He gets the glory

a prayer when David was in a cave:

David was in 2 caves

1. 1 Sam 22:1-2
 - when fleeing Saul
 - fed by Ahimelech the priest and getting Goliath's sword
 - spied by Doeg the Edomite
 - acting crazy before the king of Gath
 - in the cave of Adullam, his family and a motley crew gather to him

2. 1 Sam 24
 - still fleeing Saul
 - at En-Gedi
 - ratted out
 - Saul enters the cave to take care of business...when done...
 - David proclaims his innocence...
 - and Saul acknowledges David's righteousness

I tend to think it is the first instance...
in the cave of Adullam when he is all alone

v1-3 David poured out his heart to the LORD...
Who already knows and sees everything...
but He desires that we come to him, crawl up in His lap, and pour out our hearts
to Him

v4 “Enemies everywhere I go.
No one cares about me.
I am all alone.”

Is David having a “pity party”?
I don’t think so...besides this is a shadow...

Did the Son of David ever feel this way?
Unlike any man ever has!

Jesus Christ in His last hours was

- surrounded by rabid dogs
- betrayed with a kiss by a friend
- abandoned by all His disciples
- made sin...and separated from the Father...

v5 in that place of utter isolation, the LORD brings David

- his family
- like-minded men

the LORD met David in that place

when we are in such a place, the LORD meets us too

- He is our Hiding Place
- He never forsakes us (Matt 28:20, Heb 13:5)

v6-7 “I am

- oppressed
- outnumbered
- weak

Ever been where David is?
Paul was...
We have all been in that place

2 Cor 12:9-10

David knows that, has experienced it many times.
And he has been promised to be king

So he does not question God’s ability or willingness or
faithfulness...he knows the LORD will rescue him

a good psalm to read when you are overwhelmed with trouble

1. Call on the LORD
2. Pour out your heart to Him
3. Know He is near
4. Know He is faithful to deliver you

Ps 143

Author: David

Type of Psalm:

Some believe this was written when, as an old king, David was fleeing from his son Absalom...
I can see that (v5)

Others think it was written at the same time as Ps 142...
I can see that (v3-4)

But what I see most clearly is God's grace

v1-2 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and answer

- according to Your faithfulness...not mine
 - according to Your righteousness...not mine
 - not according to what I deserve...Your justice
- Rom 3:10,23

v3-4 sounding very much like Ps 142:3

- enemies all around
- here I am living in a cave, as if it were my tomb
- all alone
- no one cares about me

v5 but now, a shift of scenes...

away from the current physical circumstances to David's mind

"I

- remember times past
- meditate on what You've done in the past
- muse the awesome works on my behalf."

"I look back and see

- Your fingerprints all over my life
- how Your plan for my life is unfolding
- how You have used all things for good
- that You are always near."

v6-7 “I consider the works of Your hands...so I reach out my hands to You.
I need You again...right now!
I know you are here...I feel all alone but I KNOW You are here.”

v8 “Because I look back and see Your lovingkindness to me, help me to hear You now.
Because I look back and am comforted, I look forward in order to follow You.
I trust You.”

v9-11 With eyes forward...not looking over your shoulder...

1. deliver me...
 from my enemies
2. hide me...
 You are my hiding place
3. teach me...
 to do Your will...
 for You are God, You are good
4. lead me...
 my Shepherd
5. quicken me...
 for Your name's sake and for Your righteousness' sake...
 not because of my name or my righteousness (v2)

v12 the inverse of v2

“According to Your mercy, judge my enemies.
I am Yours and You are mine (v10).”

A good psalm to read when overwhelmed with trouble

- Look back...look forward...reach out...follow
- Cry out to Him...rest in Him and His
 1. faithfulness (v1)
 2. righteousness (v1)
 3. works (v5)
 4. lovingkindness (v8)
 5. mercy (v12)
- Trust His grace...His grace is sufficient for us, His servants

Ps 144

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Steady On...

v1-2 Subject:

- the LORD
- the Self-Existent, Eternal God of the covenant
- revealed in His Word to be the One, True, and Almighty God

David has a relationship with the LORD... "my":

1. strength... "rock"
2. goodness... kindness, mercy
3. fortress... stronghold
4. high tower... inaccessible place, safety
5. deliverer... rescuer
6. shield... protector
7. confidence... trustworthy

Because he is man after God's own heart... a man with a shepherd's heart...

David has many enemies

Therefore, the LORD has taught David how to fight and make war

The LORD, Who is a God of order and not the author of confusion, has also "ordered"
His nation Israel beneath David their king (His selection)

v3-4 subject: man, the son of man

- man: "adam"
David of himself
- son of man: "enosh"... mortal
men collectively, mankind, you and me

echoes of **Ps 8:3-4**...

Who am I... who are we... that the LORD would

- know us?
ala Gen 18:19a
- value us, have regard for us?
value of His Son's blood

Rom 5:8

not just David, but “whosoever will”
even those living in great evil ala Gen 19

after all...in this tent, we are

- emptiness
- a vapor (James 4:14)
weak
needy
helpless

v5-8 what kind of help is David requesting...
what kind of help do we need?

1. bow thy heavens: extend, let down Your abode
2. come down: step off Your throne and descend to me/us
3. touch the mountains: demonstrate Your great power and authority
4. cast forth lightning: wield Your flashing sword
5. shoot out thine arrows: release Your thunderbolts
6. send thine hand: reach down from the Most High
7. rid me, deliver me: deliver me, deliver me...snatch me out of great waters

“great waters” and “strange children”

(foreigners, the heathen) are equated here and in [Is 57:20](#)

so perhaps “the mountains” in v5 are governments/kingdoms (Daniel and other places)

the heathen are characterized by

- speaking evil, ruin, idolatry (diff Heb word for vanity than in v4)
- their strength is deceit

v9-10 But David knows his LORD is

- LORD of lords and King of kings
- the Rescuer from evil who gives His own deliverance, safety, and victory

v11 v7-8 repeated

v12-14 Because the LORD is our salvation, we are blessed

1. our sons: will grow up healthy and blessed
2. our daughters: will be prominent and carved like palaces
3. our granaries/barns: full of all sorts of foodstuffs
4. our sheep: will be exceedingly fruitful and will fill our fields
5. our oxen: will be strong
6. there will be peace: from thieves and enemies within and without
(vs Is 57:21)
7. our streets: free from crying/mourning

v15 Blessed are the people in such a condition...
Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD

living within the safe confines of the LORD's will,
living within the secure boundaries of the LORD's ways, results in blessings, no matter
what may be happening "outside the walls"

the LORD is our

- high tower (safety)
- fortress (stronghold)

we see the heathen churning all around us...
we hear their deceit and their murderous evil...
we are surrounded by them...
we are more obviously becoming their targets
in Muslim countries
in Roman Catholic countries
in USA...where people have freedom of religion...
unless you are a born-again Christian

numerically, we are vastly outnumbered
politically, we are “incorrect”
the heathen are stronger than we...

but the LORD values us and is with us (Rom 8:31) !
we are like Elisha (2 K 6:11-18)

we are in a very real fight...but the battle belongs to the LORD
He teaches us to fight and to wage war
2 Cor 10:3-5
Eph 6:10-18

The LORD is King of kings and Lord of lords...
we are His children (John 1:12),
the sons and daughters of the King

SURELY the world hates us
SURELY we are not greater than our Master
SURELY it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God, as our enemies will

SURELY salvation is ours...

SURELY we will be snatched away from evil as Lot was snatched away (twice)

SURELY 1 John 4:4
John 16:33

a good psalm to read

- when feeling persecuted
- before and after reading Gen 19 (this Sunday)

Ps 145

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Praise

v1-2 I will extol thee:

“I will lift You up,
I will hold You up,
I will make You pre-eminent in all things.”

my God, O king:

notice the personal pronoun...
David claims the LORD as his own...
David has a personal relationship with Him

And King David hails the LORD as King...of kings.
Since when is the kingdom of God a democracy?
Ever seen a democratic flock of sheep?
The Church in USA is confused by our national form of government, so
“proud” of it

I am neither Republican nor Democrat...I am a Monarchist!

I will praise thy name:

A different Heb word: “to boast”...“to rave”...“to celebrate”

“I will boast of You...rave about You...celebrate You with my life and my words.”

v3 Great...unsearchable:

the LORD is great...so great that He cannot be

- fully examined
- enumerated
- deliberated
- “boxed”
- captured in a formula

by finite man

but He can be vehemently praised by us!

v4 One generation...to another:

One generation will commend the works of the LORD to another...

the responsibility of parents (Deut 6:4-9) and supported by the
Children's Ministry

Teaching the Word of God to your kids is praise!

- God's will and ways
- awesome things He has done for me/us

v5-6 I will speak:

I will...personally...it's not up to someone else

"With my own lips I will speak of

- the glorious magnificence of Your majesty
- Your wonderful works...

"works" appear 5x in Ps 145

this is a diff Heb word...

"a word"

"a matter spoken of"

"commandment"

the wonderful Word of God...

thru which He accomplishes

His wonderful works

- The awesome strength of Your fearful deeds
- Your greatness

v7-9a The LORD is:

the nature of God (God of OT = God of NT)

1. good...His goodness is great!
2. righteous
3. gracious
4. full of compassion
5. slow to anger...longsuffering
6. of great mercy...kindness
7. good to ALL...Who makes the sun to rise and rain to fall on both the just and the unjust

this is exactly why Jonah was so angry!

Nature of God seen in 7 passages of Scripture

1. Num 14:18 (Moses: spies' report giants)
2. Jonah 4:2 (Nineveh repents, Jonah angry)
3. Nahum 1:2-3 (Nineveh return to vomit)
4. Joel 2:13 (call whole hearted repentance)
5. Neh 9:17 (refusal...now rebuilding)
6. Ps 103:8 (not dealt according to our sins)
7. Ps 145:8 (LORD is great...word/work)

v9b His tender mercies over all His works:

over:

- above
- governing

His tender kindness...is His motive!

God does according to His nature...His nature is His motive

Motives count (SoM)...He knows ours!

v10-12 All thy works shall praise thee...thy saints...They shall:

Who is “they”?

- works
- saints
- both...because each of us is a miracle of the LORD!

the works of the LORD testify of Him and His great goodness

John 5:31-37

John 9:4

John 10:23-25, 37-38

John 14:6-12 (v12 with John 9:4)

And the saints...we...shall:

- speak of the glory of His Kingdom...
Luke 17:20-21...not we do...He does
John 10:10
- testify of His power
- preach/teach/declare to all men of His Word/works and the majesty of His kingdom

His nature is the motive for His works.

His works include us.

His works motivate our works...which are His works (Phil 2:13).

He works on us, then in us, then through us.

John 9:4 is for us also...and we accomplish it only by His power
(John 15:5, Phil 4:13)

Then He rewards us for Him doing His works through us !

But we cast our crowns at His feet...for He alone is worthy of honor and praise and glory.

We will praise Him!

We will speak of His glory!

We will make known His wonderful deeds!

We will make known His kingdom!

v13 everlasting kingdom:
His kingdom is without end...
there is never a change of administration...he is not voted out of office...
no power can overthrow Him

He alone can govern (Is 9:6-7)...man has never been able to govern himself

v14 The LORD upholdeth...raiseth up:
In accordance with His nature and His motivation, the LORD

- props up, takes hold of, His own who stumble and fall
- comforts those who humble themselves before Him (James 4:6-10)

the humble shall be exalted...
this universal truth is found throughout Scripture

v15-16 The eyes of all wait upon thee:
wait: “to expect with hope and patience”

all creatures wait on the Creator...expecting

- food by His hand right on time
- all needs to be supplied by the loving Creator and Sustainer

That includes us!
The proud resist this...
The humble embrace it.

v17 The LORD is:
we can expect those things because the LORD is righteous and holy...
as readily seen in His

- nature
- motives
- ways
- works

v18 The LORD is nigh unto all that call upon Him:

Deut 4:4-8

...for all who

- call by faith (James 1:6-8)
- walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7)

v19 He will:

the LORD WILL fulfill the desire of those that fear Him...

The LORD WILL hear their cry...

the LORD WILL save them

faith in the LORD is well-placed faith...

the ONLY well-placed faith

Testimony: Suburban repair and the IRS

v20 The LORD preserveth:

the LORD guards and protects ALL who love Him

Note: love is a noun, not a verb...love is a choice, not a feeling

but all the wicked:

But the God of great goodness is nobody's fool and He is not mocked (Gal 6:7-8)

those who

- do not
believe
obey
- do
rebel
mock
- say
"My will be done, not Yours!"
"Leave me alone!"

will most certainly be destroyed by a righteous and holy God

v21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD:
so...every man must make a choice
Joshua 24:15

But no man can choose to not bend the knee and confess with the tongue that
Jesus is LORD
(Phil 2:10-11)

I choose to do so

- today
- every day
- voluntarily
- with thanksgiving and rejoicing

a good psalm to read when facing troubles

Ps 146

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallel

146-150 Hallelujah/Praise Psalms
all begin and end with "Hallelujah!"

39 times "praise" appears (39 = mercy)

146 In Whom do you trust (a personal commitment)

v1-2 I will PTL as long as I live!
With every breath, I will PTL.

v3-4 believers in USA:
Do not trust in George Bush or in any political leader
Do not trust in the Pope or any religious leader
Do not put your trust in your boss, your friends, or yourself

nation of Israel:
Do not put your trust in USA
Do not trust the UN
Note: HQ in Jerusalem is on the "Hill of Evil Counsel"

Beware! John 5:43

v5 Do not trust in ANY dirt clod...no matter how intelligent, capable, or charismatic
Do not trust in any life described as a "vapor" or "grass"

Trust only the Eternal, Living God

v6-10 Why should you trust only the LORD?

Because He is

- The Creator (honestly consider the evidence for creation and absence of evidence for evolution)
- The unchanging, absolute Truth
Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8
vs the “progressive revelation” of LDS, JW, Islam, Roman Catholicism
- The Helper of the oppressed and The Judge of oppressors
- The Provider of every creature’s need
- The Breaker of chains of bondage (sin)
- The Light of the world (John 9)
- The Exalter of the humble and The Humbler of the proud
- The Father of all those who believe His Word
- The Preserver of sojourners (Phil 3:20, Heb 11:13-14)
- The Protector of the defenseless
- The Enemy of the wicked (unbelief)
- The One who makes right all wrongs
- The Sovereign King who reigns forever

Can any mortal man be all those things?

So the conclusion is obvious, isn’t it? Hallelujah!

Ps 147

Author: unknown
Type of Psalm: Hallel

v1 It is good to PTL!
It is “sweet”!

v2-3 is happening today...yet in unbelief
Dov, Shagmar, city of Tel Aviv

v4 the Lord knows every man, of whom there have been many billions since Adam and Eve,
by name!

With all our sophisticated science, man cannot count the stars.
There is a single, precise number of stars!
Only God knows it.

Therefore, He is able to accomplish v2-3

v5 a natural conclusion to the above thought

kids to parents: “But you don’t understand!”
translated: “You are not giving me what I want, I am not getting my way!”

Don’t we talk to our Father that way sometimes?!

v6 characteristic of the Kingdom of God (SoM)
Matt 5:5

v7-9 citizens of the Kingdom sing of our King and Provider

v10-11 Matt 5:3-4, 7-8

v12-14 as we have witnessed in our recent Tour

v15-19 Is 55:10-11

the prince of the power of the air is on a leash...
the all-powerful Creator is in absolute control

v20 Israel is a special nation of people to the Sovereign God
Who choose them for a special purpose...even though they are a stiff-necked
people

PTL for His

- mercy and kindness
- longsuffering
- faithfulness
- righteousness

Hallelujah!

Ps 148

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallel

v1-4 a heaven-bound command to PTL

- heavens: sky, outer space, His habitation
- heights
- angels
- armies
- sun, moon, and stars
- water vapor in the sky

v5 all the things worshipped by the pagans praise their Creator
Rom 1:19-20

v6 polluted, they will burn with fervent heat and then be
created again...all things will be new in Christ Jesus, pure and undefiled
Rev 21:5

v7-12 an earth-bound command to PTL

- sea creatures and seas
- earth, wind, and fire
- all life: plant and animal
- all men: great and small, old and young, male and female

v13 Ps 8:1

His name and His glory are greater than this “simple” creation

v14 He is praised by people near to Him, near to His heart...
Israel and those grafted into them by faith

Hallelujah!

Ps 149

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallel

v1 Why PTL and sing to Him a new song?
We must go to the Throne Room of God to get those answers

Rev 5

- v1 Title Deed of the whole earth...
surrendered by Adam in Garden of Eden
- v2 Who is able to restore all things?
Who can right make all wrongs?
- v3 NO man...to open or even think about opening the book (Rom 3:23)...
NO man could pay the price to buy it
- v4 no son of Adam can undo what Adam did and self confirmed
- v5 Good News!
Jesus of Nazareth has overcome the world, the devil, and death
God had to become a man to undo what the 1st man did
By faith in Him, we are also overcomers
(1 John 5:4-5)
- v6 there, in the midst, stands the Lamb of God
(John 1:29)...as He had been slain!
He stands there as all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful LORD and Savior
- A heart-stopping, breath-taking scene
weeping for joy...weeping for shame
- v7 the Book belongs to Him...He purchased it with His sinless blood
- v8-10 Ps 149:1...as we fall down, overwhelmed in worship
- v11-12 the angels, who have been watching the drama unfold over the centuries
and longing to understand, join in

an echo in

Is 42:1-12

Salvation (by faith in Jesus of Nazareth) is of the Jews (the Messiah is Jewish) and He is given to the Gentiles also

v2-3 Is 43:1

Israel: “governed by God”

The only nation not from the Tower of Babel dispersion

they rejected Him as their King (1 Sam 8) but they will soon receive Him as their King and will rejoice in Him

Zech 12:1-3, 8-11

they will weep as Joseph’s brothers wept when he revealed himself to them
they will dance as David danced when the Son of David reveals Himself to them

v4 this should absolutely set you on your heels:

The LORD takes pleasure in His people

- stiff-necked/stubborn
- unfaithful
- rebellious
- double-minded
- divided-heart
- proud
- blind

and we are just like them!

But the Good News is all about Jesus of Nazareth, the LORD God Almighty.
It is not about us.

Salvation comes by the grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ...

- His blood an acceptable payment for our deeds and to remove our condemnation
- His holiness blotting out our wickedness
- His grace being sufficient to heal us
- His love willing and able to transform and conform our ugly depravity into the glorious image of His Son

Jer 29:11

Ps 35:27

Phil 1:6, 2:12-13

Eph 1:3-5

Rev 4:8-11

In meekness (His meekness), we are beautified by His salvation

These filthy, stinky rags are transformed into radiant garments of praise...
talk about a makeover!

v5 How else could we react?
Who could NOT rejoice at the top of their lungs?

we will sing

- sinners transformed into saints
- lumps of common coal into precious diamonds
- clumps of more common clay into priceless vessels

v6 the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, will be ever-present with us...
written on our hearts
what is in the heart comes out the mouth

v7-9 what will we do with our Sword?
Rule and reign with Him

Rev 1:5-6

1 Peter 2:9

1 Cor 6:3

A shadow in Num 25:1-13

sin will not be tolerated during the LORD's 1000 year reign from His Throne in
Jerusalem...
sin will be non-existent in eternity

Hallelujah!

Ps 150

Author: unknown

Type of Psalm: Hallel

v1-2 PTL everywhere...for everything...for His nature...in all circumstances (PS Guide)

v3-5 7 instruments...with everything that makes a joyful noise

PTL with every form of worship

- every musical instrument
- every voice
- dance

v6 a summary of Ps 148...the perfect ending to the Book of Psalms

Eccl 12:13-14

every living creature will PTL...he alone is worthy of praise...the Lamb Who was slain

Rev 5:13-14

the Last Word in Israel's Song Book: Hallelujah!