

**Psalms:  
Some of David's greatest hits  
Bible-studies**

Many of the Psalms that we have in the bible were written by King David. In these psalms we get a glimpse into the life and experience of God's chosen king ('Messiah') as he journeys through times of despair and hardship through to times of God given triumph and joy.

These Psalms point us to the life and experience of Jesus, the true and better David (cf. 2 Samuel 7), who reigns as God's chosen king forever.

Jesus then gives these Psalms to his people as we suffer with him and join with him on his journey to triumph.

*"The Psalms catch us up in the life of the messiah and by accompanying him on his journey of suffering and glory we enthroned God on our praises."*

(Andrew Shead and Andrew Cameron,  
"Singing with the Messiah in a foreign land" pp158-180, in:  
Andrew Shead (ed.) "Stirred by a Noble Theme: the book of  
Psalms in the life of the church", (Apollos: 2013), p180.)

## Study 1: Psalm 3

A psalm of David when he fled from his son Absalom.

***LORD, how my foes increase!***

***There are many who attack me.***

**<sup>2</sup> *Many say about me,***

***"There is no help for him in God." Selah***

**<sup>3</sup> *But You, LORD, are a shield around me,  
my glory, and the One who lifts up my head.***

**<sup>4</sup> *I cry aloud to the LORD,***

***and He answers me from His holy mountain. Selah***

**<sup>5</sup> *I lie down and sleep;***

***I wake again because the LORD sustains me.***

**<sup>6</sup> *I am not afraid of the thousands of people  
who have taken their stand against me on every side.***

**<sup>7</sup> *Rise up, LORD! Save me, my God!***

***You strike all my enemies on the cheek;***

***You break the teeth of the wicked.***

**<sup>8</sup> *Salvation belongs to the LORD;***

***may Your blessing be on Your people. Selah***

### Comprehend

1. When was this originally sung, and think about why?  
(2 Samuel 15 for the full story)
  
2. The psalm is broken into 4 sections by the word 'Selah'.  
How does David's mindset change across the 4 sections?
  
3. Absalom is David's son and he tries to usurp David's rule. How does this help us understand the Psalm?
  
4. Who does David expect to save him?

**Consider**

5. When might Jesus have reflect on this psalm?
6. When was Jesus surrounded by enemies, saying “there is no help for him”?
7. What was God’s answer to this?
8. When did God bring salvation and blessing to his people?

**Connect**

9. Why can we sing this psalm today?
10. Where does the psalm direct us to look for help?
11. How have you seen salvation and blessing from the Lord?
12. Why can we say with the psalmist that we are not afraid?

**Study 2:  
Psalm 8**

**For the choir director: on the Gittith. A Davidic psalm.**

***LORD, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth!***

***You have covered the heavens with Your majesty.***

**<sup>2</sup> *Because of Your adversaries,***

***You have established a stronghold from the mouths of children and nursing infants,***

***to silence the enemy and the avenger.***

**<sup>3</sup> *When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place,***

**<sup>4</sup> *what is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him?***

**<sup>5</sup> *You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor.***

**<sup>6</sup> *You made him lord over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet:***

**<sup>7</sup> *all the sheep and oxen, as well as animals in the wild,***

**<sup>8</sup> *birds of the sky, and fish of the sea passing through the currents of the seas.***

**<sup>9</sup> *LORD, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth!***

**Comprehend**

1. When was this originally sung, and think about why?
2. What reasons does David give for praising God in this Psalm?
3. What is the place of humanity in this Psalm?
4. What does God use to silence his enemies?

**Consider**

5. When might Jesus have sung this Psalm?
6. Does the psalmist consider God or the creation to be more magnificent?
7. David speaks in verse 5 of people having glory and honour. Where does this honour come from?
8. Have we done anything to deserve the honour that God give us?

**Connect**

9. Why can we sing this psalm today?
10. How does Jesus embody this Psalm
11. What reasons do you have to Praise God?
12. How does Jesus enable us to sing this with him?

Study 3:  
Psalm 18

For the choir director. Of the servant of the LORD, David, who spoke the words of this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

*I love You, LORD, my strength.*

*<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my mountain where I seek refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

*<sup>3</sup> I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I was saved from my enemies.*

*<sup>4</sup> The ropes of death were wrapped around me; the torrents of destruction terrified me.*

*<sup>5</sup> The ropes of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.*

*<sup>6</sup> I called to the LORD in my distress, and I cried to my God for help.*

*From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry to Him reached His ears.*

*<sup>7</sup> Then the earth shook and quaked; the foundations of the mountains trembled; they shook because He burned with anger.*

*<sup>8</sup> Smoke rose from His nostrils, and consuming fire came from His mouth; coals were set ablaze by it.*

*<sup>9</sup> He parted the heavens and came down, a dark cloud beneath His feet.*

*<sup>10</sup> He rode on a cherub and flew, soaring on the wings of the wind.*

*<sup>11</sup> He made darkness His hiding place, dark storm clouds His canopy around Him.*

*<sup>12</sup> From the radiance of His presence, His clouds swept onward with hail and blazing coals.*

*<sup>13</sup> The LORD thundered from heaven; the Most High projected His voice.*

*<sup>14</sup> He shot His arrows and scattered them; He hurled lightning bolts and routed them.*

***15 The depths of the sea became visible,  
the foundations of the world were exposed,  
at Your rebuke, LORD,  
at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.***

***16 He reached down from on high and took hold of me;  
He pulled me out of deep waters.***

***17 He rescued me from my powerful enemy and from  
those who hated me,  
for they were too strong for me.***

***18 They confronted me in the day of my distress,  
but the LORD was my support.***

***19 He brought me out to a wide-open place;  
He rescued me because He delighted in me.***

***20 The LORD rewarded me according to my  
righteousness;***

***He repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands.***

***21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD  
and have not turned from my God to wickedness.***

***22 Indeed, I have kept all His ordinances in mind  
and have not disregarded His statutes.***

***23 I was blameless toward Him  
and kept myself from sinning.***

***24 So the LORD repaid me according to my  
righteousness,***

***according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.***

***25 With the faithful You prove Yourself faithful;  
with the blameless man You prove Yourself blameless;***

***26 with the pure You prove Yourself pure,  
but with the crooked You prove Yourself shrewd.***

***27 For You rescue an afflicted people,  
but You humble those with haughty eyes.***

***28 LORD, You light my lamp;  
my God illuminates my darkness.***

***29 With You I can attack a barrier,  
and with my God I can leap over a wall.***

***30 God-- His way is perfect;  
the word of the LORD is pure.***

***He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.***

***31 For who is God besides the LORD?***

***And who is a rock?***

***Only our God.***

***<sup>32</sup> God-- He clothes me with strength  
and makes my way perfect.***

***<sup>33</sup> He makes my feet like the feet of a deer  
and sets me securely on the heights.***

***<sup>34</sup> He trains my hands for war;  
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.***

***<sup>35</sup> You have given me the shield of Your salvation;  
Your right hand upholds me, and Your humility exalts me.***

***<sup>36</sup> You widen a place beneath me for my steps,  
and my ankles do not give way.***

***<sup>37</sup> I pursue my enemies and overtake them;  
I do not turn back until they are wiped out.***

***<sup>38</sup> I crush them, and they cannot get up;  
they fall beneath my feet.***

***<sup>39</sup> You have clothed me with strength for battle;  
You subdue my adversaries beneath me.***

***<sup>40</sup> You have made my enemies retreat before me;  
I annihilate those who hate me.***

***<sup>41</sup> They cry for help, but there is no one to save them--  
they cry to the LORD, but He does not answer them.***

***<sup>42</sup> I pulverize them like dust before the wind;  
I trample them like mud in the streets.***

***<sup>43</sup> You have freed me from the feuds among the people;  
You have appointed me the head of nations;  
a people I had not known serve me.***

***<sup>44</sup> Foreigners submit to me grudgingly;  
as soon as they hear, they obey me.***

***<sup>45</sup> Foreigners lose heart  
and come trembling from their fortifications.***

***<sup>46</sup> The LORD lives-- may my rock be praised!  
The God of my salvation is exalted.***

***<sup>47</sup> God-- He gives me vengeance  
and subdues peoples under me.***

***<sup>48</sup> He frees me from my enemies.  
You exalt me above my adversaries;***

***You rescue me from violent men.***

***<sup>49</sup> Therefore I will praise You, LORD, among the nations;  
I will sing about Your name.***

***50 He gives great victories to His king;  
He shows loyalty to His anointed,  
to David and his descendants forever.***

### **Comprehend**

1. When was this originally sung, and think about why?
2. How does David begin his Psalm?
3. What picture is painted of God in verses 7-14?
4. Who does David Say God grants victory to?

### **Consider**

5. How do we see Jesus in this psalm?
6. When did God rescue Jesus from the hands of his enemies?
7. What do we learn about God in this psalm?
8. Verses 20-24 are fitting for Jesus to Say how might we say them? (cf. 1 Cor 1:28-30)

### **Connect**

9. Did being God's chosen king protect David from hardship?
10. Does God promise us that we will never experience trouble? (cf. John 16:32-33)

11. Should we expect God to protect us from hardship or help us in our hardship?
  
12. How can David's response to trouble help us in our times of trouble?

Study 4:  
Psalm 19

For the choir director. A Davidic psalm.

*The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.*

<sup>2</sup> *Day after day they pour out speech;  
night after night they communicate knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup> *There is no speech;  
there are no words;  
their voice is not heard.*

<sup>4</sup> *Their message has gone out to all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the inhabited world.  
In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.*

<sup>5</sup> *It is like a groom coming from the bridal chamber;  
it rejoices like an athlete running a course.*

<sup>6</sup> *It rises from one end of the heavens and circles to their  
other end;  
nothing is hidden from its heat.*

<sup>7</sup> *The instruction of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy,  
making the inexperienced wise.*

<sup>8</sup> *The precepts of the LORD are right,  
making the heart glad;  
the commandment of the LORD is radiant,  
making the eyes light up.*

<sup>9</sup> *The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether  
righteous.*

<sup>10</sup> *They are more desirable than gold--  
than an abundance of pure gold;  
and sweeter than honey--  
than honey dripping from the comb.*

<sup>11</sup> *In addition, Your servant is warned by them;  
there is great reward in keeping them.*

<sup>12</sup> *Who perceives his unintentional sins?  
Cleanse me from my hidden faults.*

**<sup>13</sup> Moreover, keep Your servant from willful sins;  
do not let them rule over me.**

**Then I will be innocent,  
and cleansed from blatant rebellion.**

**<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, LORD,  
my rock and my Redeemer.**

### **Comprehend**

1. Summarise each of the three sections of this Psalm:1-6, 7-11, 12-14
2. What is David telling us about creation?
3. What are the different ways David talks about the word of God?
4. What four things does the word of God do?

### **Consider**

5. How does David respond after his reflection on God's word?
6. Where do we encounter God's Word (cf. John 1:1-5, 2 Tim 3:16-17)
7. What are the four types of sin that David talks about?
8. How can we call God our redeemer?



## Study 5: Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

*The LORD is my shepherd,  
I shall not be in want.*

<sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

<sup>3</sup> *he restores my soul.*

*He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

<sup>4</sup> *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death,*

*I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my  
enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

<sup>6</sup> *Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my  
life,*

*and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

### Comprehend

1. This psalm is broken into 3 scenes, what are they?
2. Who is it that David says guided him through these scenes in his life?
3. Why would you want to feast in the presence of your enemies?
4. What is the end result for David?

**Consider**

5. When might Jesus have reflected on this Psalm?
6. How does John 10:11-18 change how we see this psalm?
7. How does Jesus prove he is the “good shepherd”?
8. When does Jesus get to sit at a victory feast?

**Connect**

9. How has Jesus lead you through these various scenes of your life?
10. When does Jesus invite us to a victory feast?
11. What makes Jesus a Good shepherd?
12. How has Jesus guided you through the darkest of valleys?