

## Union Chapel M.B. Church

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### **“Psalms”**

*(Study Material from Through the Bible & Illustrated Bible Survey: An Introduction)*

The book of Psalms is perhaps the best-loved book in all the Bible. The title “Psalms” comes from the Greek *Psalomi* and the Hebrew title comes from *Tehilim* meaning “songs of praise.” Our English word “*hallelujah*” comes from the Hebrew title. The Psalms are songs of prayer, praise, poetry, prophecy, and problems. It touches every human emotion, every experience, every yearning of the heart, and ushers us into the presence of an Almighty God. The book of Psalms covers approximately 900 years of covenant experience with the God.

#### **I. Theme of the Psalms**

- a. Psalms is five-fold Book of the Congregation to the LORD, as the Law is a five-fold Book of the LORD to the Congregation.

#### **II. Types of Psalms**

- a. *Hymns*: songs of praise that focus on the Lord’s eternal attributes and His great acts in creation and history, 8, 19, 100, 150
- b. *Lament*: prayers offered in times of trouble, pleading for God’s help, intervention, and deliverance.
  - i. Individual: 5, 17, 28, 56, 70, 88
  - ii. National: 12, 60, 79, 82, 94
- c. *Thanksgiving*: prayers expressing thanks to God for specific answers to prayer or for deliverance from danger.
  - i. Individual: 30, 32, 40, 41, 92, 107, 116, 138
  - ii. National: 65-68, 118, 124
- d. *Psalms of Confidence*: are expressions of trust in the Lord and praise to the Lord for the security He provides to those who trust in Him.
  - i. Individual: 3, 4, 23, 62
  - ii. National: 115
- e. *Royal*: prayers that celebrate the special relationship between the Lord and the house of the Davidic king, 2, 18, 45, 89, 101.
- f. *Kingship*: focus on the Lord’s kingdom rule over His creation, 47, 96, 98, 99.
- g. *Zion*: prayers that celebrate Mount Zion, the dwelling place of God, 48, 76.
- h. *Wisdom*: teach practical lessons about everyday living, 1, 14, 52, 53, 139.
- i. *Imprecatory*: prayers of extreme emotion and anger which call for God to bring down a curse upon His enemies, 35, 55, 69, 83, 140.

- j. *Songs of Ascent*: songs of praise the people sang as they made pilgrimage to Jerusalem, 120-134.
- k. *Acrostic*: each verse begins with a consecutive letter of the Hebrew alphabet for memorization 10, 25, 111, 119.

### III. Theology of Psalms

- a. Central theological concept – the kingship of God.
  - i. Majesty, sovereign power and His rule creation and history, 95:3-5.
  - ii. Justice, though the wicked appear to flourish, their evil will come back on them, 37:13, 37-38.
  - iii. Kingdom, Israel was redeemed as an embodiment of God's kingdom, 48:1-3.
  - iv. Compassion, God is swift to bring deliverance, 91:14-16.
  - v. Worship, man's response to God, 113:1-3.
- b. Messianic
  - i. The book of Psalms is the most quoted OT book in the NT Scriptures (over 100 references) and provide a picture of the life of Christ.

Ps 2:7	God's Son	Matt 3:17
Ps 8:4,5	Made lower than the angels	Heb 2:5-9
Ps 16:8-11	Raised from the dead	Acts 2:25-32
Ps 22:1	Forsaken by God	Matt 27:46
Ps 22:16	Pierced hands and feet	John 19:37
Ps 22:18	Casting lots for clothing	Matt 27:35
Ps 40:6-8	Came to do God's will	Heb 10:5-9
Ps 41:9	Betrayed by a friend	John 13:18
Ps 68:18	Ascended to heaven	Eph 4:7-11
Ps 110:1	His Deity	Matt 22:41-45
Ps 110:4	His priestly ministry	Heb 6:20

### IV. Application

- a. Worship involves the deepest responses of the human heart. One man said, "a psalm a day keeps worry away." Devote time to meditating in the psalms daily.
- b. Which psalms have you prayed/sang the most?
- c. *Next week*: write a psalm of your own to the LORD.

**Notes:**