

Old Testament Survey 2 – Lesson

Psalms

Psalm 19:14 & 145:21

Introduction: Of all the books in the Old Testament the Book of Psalms most vividly represents the faith of individuals in the Lord. The Psalms are the inspired responses of human hearts to God's revelation of Himself in law, history, and prophecy. Saints of all ages have appropriated this collection of prayers and praises in their public worship and private meditations.

The book of Psalms was the Hebrew hymnbook. The Book of Psalms is actually a compilation of five books of psalms, each ending with a doxology, and each corresponds to the five books of Moses. Most theologians agree that there are five different books represented but they differ on the how they books are divided. John Phillips divides them as follows:

- Book 1: Psalms 1–41—God's Sovereignty. The first book reflects the book of Genesis, the key thought being man and God's counsels concerning him.
- Book 2: Psalms 42–72—God's Salvation. In the second book the key thought is Israel. This book begins with Israel's cry for deliverance and ends with Israel's king reigning over the redeemed nation. Many of the psalms in this group reflect the teaching of Exodus.
- Book 3: Psalms 73–89—God's Sanctuary. The third book has the sanctuary for its dominant note and therefore parallels Leviticus.
- Book 4: Psalms 90–106—God's Sufficiency. These psalms clearly correspond to Numbers, the fourth book of Moses. This group of psalms begins with one written by Moses and ends with one that recounts Israel's rebellions in the wilderness.
- Book 5: Psalms 107–150—God's Sayings. The fifth book is linked with Deuteronomy, the prevailing thought being God's Word. The great Psalm 119 occurs in this section, a psalm devoted to the exalting of God's Word.

I. The author of the Book of Psalms

- A. Of the 150 Psalms, there is no means of determining the authorship of 50.
- B. David
- C. Asaph
- D. The sons of Korah
- E. Heman
- F. Ethan
- G. Moses

H. Solomon

II. The date of the Book of Psalms

III. The purpose of the Book of Psalms

A. The historical purpose.

1.

2.

B. The theological. Purpose.

1.

2.

3.

C. The Christological purpose.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

IV. The keys to understanding the Book of Psalms

A.

B.

C.

D.

V. The message of the Book of Psalms

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

VI. The application of the Book of Psalms

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

I.

J.

K.

VII. The facts found in the Book of Psalms

- A. Psalms is a book of praise to God (41:13; 72:18–19; 89:52; 106:48; 150:1–6).
- B. Psalms is a book of desperate pleas to God (3:1–8; 4:1–8; 5:1–12; 13:1–6; 22:1–31; 39:1–13; 40:1–17).
- C. Psalms is a book that teaches us to trust in the LORD (5:11–12; 7:1; 11:1–7; 16:1–5; 31:1–24; 36:7; 37:3–6).
- D. Psalms is a book that reveals the painful consequences of sin (31:9–12; 32:1–5; 38:1–22; 41:1–45:8).
- E. Psalms is a book that shows us how to approach God in times of suffering (22:1–31; 38:1–22).
- F. Psalms is a book that gives us hope in life's darkest hours (16:9; 31:24; 30:5; 33:22; 38:15; 39:7).
- G. Psalms is a book that teaches us how to trust God when facing opposition (3:1–8; 5:8–12; 7:1–17; 9:1–20; 17:1–15; 18:1–50; 27:1–14; 35:1–28; 41:1–13).
- H. Psalms is a book that includes the one of the greatest chapters of the Bible (23:1–6).
- I. Psalms is a book most frequently quoted by Jesus Christ (Mt. 5:35; 7:23; 13:35; 21:16, 42; 23:37; 27:46; Lk. 2:49; 23:46; 24:44; Jn. 10:34).