

Winter Bible Study ~ January 2022
PSALMS: The Character of GOD
(Author: Dr. Jerry Rankin – Missionary in Asia for 23 years.
Past-President, now President Emeritus, of International Mission)

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Character, noun, means, the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual...
[personality, nature, disposition, temperament, temper, makeup, attributes, qualities, identity]

Character, noun, in Greek language, is *charakter* (khar-ak-tare') meaning, an impression, representation, exact reproduction.

Why Study the Book of Psalms?

It expresses the heart and soul of **GOD** and of humanity. In Psalms is the whole range of human experiences. There are no 'cliches' ... "Hi, how are you?" "Fine." How are you doing Pastor, "I better say blessed!" "God is Good. All the time. All the time, God is Good!"

Good reasons for reading Psalms...

- To find comfort – Psalm 23
- To meet **GOD** intimately – Psalm 103
- To learn a New Prayer – Psalm 136
- To learn a New Song – Psalm 92
- To learn more about **GOD** – Psalm 24
- To understand yourself more clearly – Psalm 8
- To know how to come to **GOD** each day – Psalm 5
- To be forgiven for your sins – Psalm 51
- To feel worthwhile – Psalms 139
- To understand why you should read The Bible – Psalm 119
- To give Praise to **GOD** – Psalm 145
- To know that **GOD** is in control—Psalm 146
- To give thanks to **GOD** – 136
- To please **GOD** – Psalm 15
- To know why you should Worship **GOD** – Psalm 104

GOD'S WORD was written to be our Guide, to Study, to be understood and applied. We may turn to The Psalms for something, but sooner or later, we will meet **SOMEONE—GOD, JESUS CHRIST, The HOLY SPIRIT!**

Psalms testifies of **GOD**, moral order, we must *obey* somebody... **SOMEONE** or something is directing the universe and wants me (us) to behave in a certain way, urging to do right and making me feel uncomfortable when I do wrong.

Key Verse to The Book of Psalms...

"Let every thing that hath breath praise **The LORD**. Praise ye **The LORD**." (Psalm 150: 6)

Someone said, "we thank **GOD** for what **HE** does, but we worship **GOD** for **WHO HE is!**"

Remember, The Bible is...

- **GOD'S** *written revelation* of **HIS Will** to man. (II Timothy 3: 16-17; II Peter 1: 21)
- The Central Theme of **The Bible is JESUS CHRIST**. (I Timothy 3: 16)
- *The Old Testament* was written mostly in Hebrew. *The New Testament* was written in Greek. [Our Bible is a translation from these languages.]
- The word "*Testament*" means "*Covenant*" or *agreement*. *The Old Testament* is the *Covenant* **GOD** made with man about his relationship before **CHRIST** came. *The New Testament* is the agreement **GOD** made with man about his relationship with **The FATHER** after **CHRIST** came.
In the *Old Testament* we have the *Covenant* of The Law. In the *New Testament*, we have the *Covenant* of **GRACE** through **JESUS CHRIST**. (Galatians 3: 19-25 [3: 13-14])

Old Testament Books...

*First 5 – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy – **Pentateuch** – but redemptive and historical in nature.

***Next 12** – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, ii Samuel, I Kings, ii Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther. [12 in number and **Historical** in nature]

***Next 5** – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. [these are individual and experimental—dealing with human matters of the heart – **Poetry**]

***Last 17 Books are Prophetical** – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. [5 **Major Prophets**: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel]

***12 Minor Prophets**: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi]

OLD TESTAMENT – 39 Books

17 Historical	5 Personal-Experimental	17 Prophetical
5—Law, Moses, Pentateuch	Poetry	5 Major
12—Historical		12 Minor

The Character of GOD described in PSALMS

Is this **The GOD** you know...

- All-knowing and ever present – Psalm 139
- Beautiful and desirable – Psalms 27, 36, 45
- **CREATOR** – Psalms 8, 104, 148
- Good and Generous – Psalms 34, 81, 107
- Great and **SOVEREIGN** – 33, 89, 96
- **HOLY** – Psalms 66, 99, 145
- Loving and Faithful – Psalms 23, 42, 51
- Merciful and forgiving – Psalm 32, 111, 130
- Powerful – Psalm 76, 89, 93
- Willing to reveal **HIS Will**, Law, and Direction – Psalms 1, 19, 119
- **RIGHTeous** and **JUST** – Psalms 71, 97, 113
- **SPIRIT** – Psalms 104, 139, 143

The Book of PSALMS is composed of 5 Books...

1. Psalms 1-41 ... The Psalmists praises **GOD** for **HIS JUSTICE**, express confidence in **GOD'S COMPASSION**, recount the depravity of man, plead for vindication, ask **GOD** to deliver them from their enemies, speaks of the blessedness of the forgiven sinner, and portray **GOD** as a **Shepherd**. We should worship **GOD** with the same sense of adoration found in these Psalms.
2. Psalms 42-72 ... These Psalms include a Prayer of rescue, a call to Worship, a Confession of sin, an Encouragement to trust **GOD**, a Psalm for those hurt by friends, a Prayer for those who have been slandered, and a Missionary Psalm. These Psalms can help us remain a sense of wonder in our Worship.
3. Psalms 73-89 ... These Psalms celebrate **The SOVEREIGNTY of GOD, GOD'S Hand** in history, **GOD'S** faithfulness, and **GOD'S** Covenant with David. These Psalms remind us that our Worship of **The Almighty GOD** should be continual.
4. Psalms 90-106 ... These Psalms include a prayer of Moses, a Psalm about oppressors, and a Psalm praising **GOD** as our **KING**. These Psalms remind us that we should remember our place and be submissive before **The Almighty GOD**.
5. Psalms 107-150 ... These Psalms praise **GOD'S Works**, recount the Blessings of righteous living, thank **GOD** for deliverance, and praise **GOD** for **HIS Wonderful WORD**. These Psalms remind us that the most perfect sacrifice we can offer to **GOD** is a 'faithful and obedient life.'

Authors of the Book of Psalm...

David— 73 (3-9, 11-32, 34-41, 51-65, 68-70, 86, 101, 103, 108-110, 122, 124, 131, 133, 138-145)

Asaph (David's Choir Leader at Jerusalem – 12 – (50; 73-83)

Descendants of Korah – 10 – (42; 44-49; 84-85; 87)

Solomon – 2 (72; 127)

Ethan – 1 – (89)

Heman – 1 – (88)

Moses – 1 – (90)

Anonymous – 50 – There is reason to think David wrote some of these; example Psalm 2 is ascribed to David in Acts 4: 25.

This Study focus will be on...

Chapter 1 – **GOD** reveals **HIS Character** through **HIS SON** – Psalms 22-24

Chapter 2 – Experiencing **GOD'S COMPASSION** and Forgiveness – Psalms 32 and 51

Chapter 3 – **GOD** can be Trusted even in Dark Times – Psalms 42 and 43

Chapter 4 – **GOD'S** Goodness can be seen in **HIS JUSTICE** and Mercy – Psalms 73-83

Chapter 5 – **GOD'S PRESENCE** offered to all who turn to **HIM** – Psalms 84-88

Chapter 6 – **GOD'S Character** and Salvation Calls for our Praise – Psalms 113-118

Chapter 7 – **GOD** offers Hope to **HIS** People – Psalms 120-134