

COMMENTARY

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 35:

Feeling that he is in the right, the psalmist calls for God to uphold him and pay back his enemies. Then he will praise God and tell others of the righteousness of God.

Psalm 36:

This psalm contrasts a man who is living for his own evil pleasures with God who is loving, faithful and good and has blessed man so abundantly.

Psalm 37:

This is another acrostice poem. The writer says that people seem to be getting away with doing evil, but they really are not. He encourages the reader to continue doing good and being patient for God will abundantly bless.

Psalm 38:

The sin in the psalmists life has now resulted in physical and mental pain and anguish. Realizing that others are standing around judging, the writer admits his sins and cries to God for help.

Psalm 39:

The psalmist feels the presence of death and tries to control his thoughts and words, lest he dishonor God. He cries out to God to reassure, forgive him, and remove his troubles.

Psalm 40:

The psalmist is thankful for the way God has worked in his life and tells others what he has learned. He is still aware of the need for him to be dependent on God and appeals again for help.

Psalm 41:

Here the writer shares a lesson from life that he has been reminded of in his sickness and reliance on God: the man who helps those in need is truly happy for when he suffers, he finds that God is there to help.

Psalm 42,43:

These two psalms share the same theme and the same refrain (42:5,11; 43:5) and may have begun as a single poem.

The writer finds himself by godless men who ridicule him. He contrasts the happy past with the troubled present. He longs once again to feel the presence of God and now the faith and hope break through.

Psalm 44:

The nation mourns after being defeated. They are confused as they don't understand why this happened. They feel deserted and disgraced. Now they truly cry out from their inmost being for the help of God.

Psalm 45:

The actual occasion may have been when King Ahab or Israel married Jezebel, the princess of Tyre. If this is the case, then the reign of Ahab quickly took a turn for the worse.

The poet praises the king's majesty and godly rule. The poet also has words for the bride in all of her fine clothes.

Psalm 46:

This is the Psalm that Martin Luther based his famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God". This may have been written following Sennacherib's attack on Jerusalem (II Chronicles 32), some disaster or in anticipation of the events proclaiming the Messiah's coming. The psalmist glories in the fact of God being with His people and defending and protecting them so completely.

Psalm 47:

The psalm declares God as Israel's King and Lord. Everyone is told to rejoice and sing the praises of the Lord.

Psalm 48:

This is an outburst of relief and joy as the city finds a relief from the threat of invasion (II CHRONICLES 32).

Psalm 49:

This psalm teaches the same lesson as one of Jesus' parables (see: Luke 12:16-21). In the end, even the one who seeks the wealth of the world will perish and find that he can not buy life for himself.

Psalm 50:

God, here, warns His people that their offerings better come from the heart and not just be motions. God warns them that if they are just "pretending" that they will be punished.

Psalm 51:

The title of this psalm identifies it with the confrontation of David and Nathan concerning David's sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 12).

The psalm shows the feelings of one who loves God yet has fallen into sin. He has seen what God sees and is heart-broken. David makes no excuse but accepts the verdict and admits his guilt. All he can do now is to ask for forgiveness and the chance of a fresh start.

Psalm 52:

This psalm shows the guilt of man and the certainty of God's punishment of that individual. The writer then expresses his trust and thankfulness to God.

Psalm 53:

This is another version of the 14th Psalm; about the folly of man, trying to take on God.

Psalm 54:

This is David's appeal to God after the Ziphites betrayed his position to Saul (I Samuel 23:19ff).

Psalm 55:

The contents of this psalm would link it to the time of Absalom's rebellion against David (II Samuel 15-17), when David's most trusted adviser turned on him.

On top of all the troubles one has in life, to be betrayed by a friend is the last straw. The psalmist looks for a way out of the whole thing, yet seeks to see his enemies punished. He finally sees that even though friends may not be faithful, God will not turn on you.

Psalm 56:

The psalmist finds many things worrying him but realizes that God will see him through safely.

Psalm 57:

As bad as things might be, one who will fill his mind with the God will be able to praise Him through even the worst of times.

Psalm 58:

The psalmist, tired of the evil that abounds, calls for the punishment of God to fall upon all who sin.

Psalm 59:

This psalm is linked to I Samuel 19:11-17. The psalmist prays for protection and punishment from the Lord of all the nations.

Psalm 60:

The nation feels abandoned after defeat. They realize that they need to trust in God, to enjoy victory.

Psalm 61:

Realizing the unsettled times of his kingship, the king seeks the safety and security that only God can give.

Psalm 62:

Humbly, and trustingly, the psalmist commits his cause to God. Man is doomed to destruction and is of little value. All power belongs to God who mixes it with love and justice.

Psalm 63:

The psalmist desires to taste again of the joy and satisfaction of God's presence.

Psalm 64:

The psalmist finds himself in a threatening position and expresses his confidence that God will punish his adversaries as they deserve.

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 35:

1. Who did the psalmist want the Lord to contend & fight with?
2. Who does the Lord rescue?
3. Where would the psalmist praise and give thanks to the Lord?
4. What would he speak of?

Psalm 36:

5. What happens to the one who flatters himself?
6. What is priceless?
7. Who is God to continue his love & righteousness to?

Psalm 37:

8. What will happen to the evil and those who do wrong?
9. What are we to commit to the Lord?
10. What will the meek inherit and enjoy?
11. What is better than the wealth of many wicked and why?
12. HOW CAN ONE BE ASSURED OF ALWAYS LIVING SECURELY?
13. Why does the Lord deliver the righteous from the wicked?

Psalm 38:

14. What had overwhelmed David?
15. What was David troubled by?
16. What did David want the Lord not to do?

Psalm 39:

17. What did David want the Lord to save him from?
18. What does the Lord do to man, because of their sin?

Psalm 40:

19. Where did the Lord place David, after lifting him out of the mud?
20. What did God not desire?
21. What did David desire for his enemies?

Psalm 41:

22. What will the Lord do, for the one who regards the weak?
23. What had David's close friend, done?

Psalm 42:

24. Why could the writer put his hope in God?

Psalm 43:

25. What did the writer want God to do for them against an ungodly nation?
26. What did the writer desire to guide him?
27. What would the writer yet do?

Psalm 44:

28. What did God help Israel do, against their enemies?
29. What does the writer say God had rejected and humbled?
30. What did the writer say the people were considered, in vs. 22?

Psalm 45:

31. Whose throne would last for ever and ever and what would be that one's scepter?
32. What does this one love and hate?

Psalm 46:

33. Why would the writer not fear, even if the world was destroyed?
34. Why were the people to be still?

STUDY GUIDE

Psalm 47:

35. What did God ascend amidst of?
36. Why should we sing to our King?

Psalm 48:

37. What is the Lord, most worthy of?
38. What did the people do within God's temple?
39. What would God be to Israel, even to the end?

Psalm 49:

40. What is costly and there is no payment large enough for?
41. What would God redeem and take to himself?
42. What is a man with riches but no understanding, like?

Psalm 50:

43. Why did God have no need of a bull or goat from the people?
44. What did God say He would do if they called upon Him in the day of trouble?

Psalm 51:

45. What did David want washed and cleansed from him?
46. What did David want God to create and renew, in him?
47. What are the sacrifices of God, that He will not despise?

Psalm 52:

48. What will God do to the might man who trusted in himself?
49. Why would the writer praise God forever?

Psalm 53:

50. What does the fool say in his heart?
51. What has "everyone" done?

Psalm 54:

52. What does David want to do for him, according to vs. 1?

53. What had God delivered David from?

Psalm 55:

54. What was assailing David?

55. What will the Lord do for those that cast their cares on Him?

Psalm 56:

56. What did David do when he was afraid?

57. What did David want to walk before God, in?

Psalm 57:

58. Until when, did David take refuge in the shadow of God's wings?

59. What did David want to be over all the earth?

60. What is so great, that it reaches the heavens and skies?

Psalm 58:

61. What did David accuse the rulers of doing, in verse 2?

62. What will men say, when the righteous are avenged?

Psalm 59:

63. Who did David want the Lord to deliver him from?

64. Why would David sing of God's strength and love?

Psalm 60:

65. What did the writer want God to do with His right hand?

66. What was certain, if God be on their side?

Psalm 61:

67. What did David long to do, forever?

68. What did David want God to appoint to protect the king?

STUDY GUIDE

Psalm 62:

69. What did the soul of David find rest in?
70. What of Davids, depended on God?
71. How will God reward each person?

Psalm 63:

72. What is better than life?
73. Why did David sing in the shadow of God's wings?

Psalm 64:

74. What did David want his life protected from?
75. What will mankind do when God strikes down these men?
76. What are the righteous and upright, to do?