

COMMENTARY

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 65:

This is a song of thanksgiving to God. He is described here, as one who hears, forgives, blesses, satisfies and saves. He is the Creator and Controller of the universe and gives the harvest.

Psalm 66:

This psalm is composed of praise and worship from both a national perspective and that of an individual. God had delivered the nation in their early history up till that time and has shown his love and care for each person. For this they thank and praise Him.

Psalm 67:

This psalm tells that through God blessing His people, Israel, every nation will realize that He is God and will sing His praise.

Psalm 68:

This psalm was used as a processional hymn and was sung as the ark was carried into Jerusalem (II Samuel 6) and at ceremonies later, commemorating that event. The psalmist reminds the people of several situations where God has displayed His victorious power.

Psalm 69:

This psalm appears to have been written during the time of destruction of Judean cities but before the fall of Jerusalem, itself. The psalmist is in trouble, through no fault of his own. He is suffering for the sake of God and prays that God, in love, will relieve his suffering. He asks that his persecutors be punished for their guilt is clear and may he be set free to praise God.

Psalm 70:

The psalmist prays for God to come to his aid and relieve him from the trials that he is going through. [Compare this Psalm with Psalm 40:13-17]

Psalm 71:

The psalmist prays that the Lord will still care for and deliver him as He has in the past. He realizes that as long as God is with him there is hope and no reason for despair.

Psalm 72:

This last psalm in Book 2 was written by King Solomon. It looks not only at the golden age of peace, prosperity and power that Israel is enjoying but looks beyond it to the perfect ideal: an endless reign over the world, a rule of God's justice and righteousness and a time of unequalled blessing.

Psalm 73:

The psalmist feels that the world is "unfair". It seems that those who sin prosper and those who are righteous suffer. The writer feels that this makes it even harder to be righteous. Only as the psalmist turns to God, does he learn to look beyond appearances, and realizes that for the things that really matter, God's people are the ones who will be blessed and the wicked will be destroyed.

Psalm 74:

The temple has been destroyed and abused by the enemy and the psalmist wonders as to how long the Lord will allow this to go on. He realizes the power of God and pleads with the Lord to show His power and overthrow the enemy.

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Psalm 75:

Here the psalmist recognizes that God is the Judge and all Israel rejoices in His sovereign justice and power to judge all mankind.

Psalm 76:

Israel marvels at the power of God as He overthrows the power of the enemy and delivers His people.

Psalm 77:

The psalmist recalls the great things that God has done for His people in the past but feels that God has forgotten them and is not helping them in their present trials.

Psalm 78:

Ephraim is the term that many Old Testament writers use for the Northern Kingdom of Israel after they were split into 2 groups (Judah & Israel). The psalmist sees that the North (Ephraim) had broken God's laws and had failed to learn from the mistakes of others who had disobeyed and were punished. God therefore, chose Judah instead and allowed Ephraim to be overthrown.

Psalm 79:

Here the psalmist laments the fact that Jerusalem had been destroyed and many people slain. The people call on God to forgive them for their sin and to help them now, by destroying their enemy.

Psalm 80:

The northern kingdom here, pleads with God to restore them after being punished by God.

Psalm 81:

The people are summoned to come and celebrate the Feast of the Tabernacles. God reminds His people there, of all that He has done and all that He desires to do for them. They, in response, refuse and choose to do evil instead.

Psalm 82:

There appeared to be injustice in the courts of the psalmist, in those days; and God call the judges to account for their actions.

Psalm 83:

The people of Israel, fearing for their lives and certain that the surrounding nations are seeking to destroy them completely, turn to God, asking Him for help and deliverance.

Psalm 84:

This was a song sung by those travelling to Jerusalem for one of the yearly feasts. The people would sing with joy at the thought of worshipping God in His temple. They felt that the happiest people must be those who live there in Jerusalem and can worship there always.

Psalm 85:

Here the psalmist praises God for showing forgiveness in the past. He now asks to be restored after being punished. He is optimistic because of all that he has seen of God's love and faithfulness in the past.

Psalm 86:

Here the psalmist is going through trials, yet is confident that God will answer him and deliver him.

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Psalm 87:

This psalm contains a prophecy of Jerusalem's future. It is seen as a dwelling place for even those who were enemies at one time. Those in Old Testament times saw this as being here on earth, whereas those in the early church see it as coming to pass when Christ returns in power and might and gathers all His people together.

Psalm 88:

We see the writer feeling that his life is fading away and that the only relief he will find now is death. He sees nobody to turn to except God, whom He feels is the one oppressing him. He looks to God for help, in His darkest hour.

Psalm 89:

The psalmist sings of God's love and faithfulness to Israel and how He has kept the covenant that He had established with David. Yet the psalmist now sees God angry with His people and allowing them to be overcome.

STUDY GUIDE

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 65:

1. What did God do, when man was overwhelmed by sin?
2. What does God do for the land?
3. What shouts for joy and sings?

Psalm 66:

4. How great is God's power?
5. What did God bring the people to, after times of testing?
6. What had God not withheld from the psalmist?

Psalm 67:

7. What did the psalmist desire to be known on earth & among all nations?
8. What will result if all the peoples, praise God?

Psalm 68:

9. What did the psalmist desire for the righteous, in verse 3?
10. What is God to the fatherless and the widows?
11. What does our Lord, bear daily?
12. What does the God of Israel give to His people?

Psalm 69:

13. What is the psalmist worn out, from doing?
14. What consumed the psalmist?
15. What did the psalmist ask, concerning the place and tents of his enemies?
16. What will please God more than an ox or bull?

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Psalm 70:

17. What did the Psalmist want the lord to do, and to do coming quickly?
18. What did the psalmist say God was to him? (2 things)

Psalm 71:

19. From whose hand did the psalmist want to be delivered?
20. What did the psalmist do all day long?
21. In verse 16, what did the psalmist say he would proclaim?
22. What did the psalmist believe would happen to those who wanted to harm him?

Psalm 72:

23. How would the king, judge God's people and afflicted ones?
24. What would happen, in the kings day?
25. What will all nations call the one, through whom they would be blessed?

Psalm 73:

26. What had caused Asaph, to almost slip and lose his foothold?
27. What did Asaph begin to wonder, if he had done in vain?
28. What did Asaph understand, when he entered the sanctuary of God?
29. Where was Asaph convinced, that God would take him afterward?

Psalm 74:

30. What was burned by the enemies of Israel?
31. What were there "none" of, according to verse 9?
32. What did Asaph want the Lord to defend?

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Psalm 75:

33. What do men tell of?

34. What will happen to the horns (representing power) of the wicked & righteous?

Psalm 76:

35. Who alone is to be feared?

36. What brings God praise?

37. What does the Lord break and by whom is He feared?

Psalm 77:

38. What, of Asaph's, refused to be comforted?

39. What did Asaph say he would meditate and consider?

40. What does God perform and display, thus showing His greatness?

Psalm 78:

41. What does Asaph say, he would open his mouth in?

42. What does Asaph say they would tell the next generation?

43. What did Asaph not want the next generations to forget, but to keep?

44. According to verse 21, what happened when the Lord heard the complaining of Israel?

45. How did the Lord end the days and years of His people?

46. Because of God's mercy, what did He atone for?

47. What did the Lord do to His enemies, when He "awoke as from sleep"?

Psalm 79:

48. What does Asaph want the Lord to do to the nations?

49. What did Asaph say they would do, if the Lord payed back 7 times the reproach to their neighbors?

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Book of Psalms:

Psalm 80:

50. Why did Asaph want the Lords face to shine upon them?

51. What did Asaph promise that Israel would do, if the Lord revived them?

Psalm 81:

52. What instruments of music are mentioned?

53. What did the Lord remove from their shoulders and set their hands free from?

54. What did the Lord do, when Israel would not submit?

55. What would He do, if they would listen and follow?

Psalm 82:

56. Who does the Lord tell people to defend and rescue?

57. What is the Lord's inheritance?

Psalm 83:

58. What do the Lord's foes, want to destroy, according to Asaph?

59. What did Asaph want those that know the Lord, know?

Psalm 84:

60. Who is blessed, according to this psalm?

61. What does the Lord bestow and withhold, from those whose walk is blameless?

Psalm 85:

62. What had the Lord done?

63. What did the sons of Korah want the Lord to sho and grant them?

What goes before the Lord and prepares the way for His steps?

STUDY GUIDE

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 86:

65. What attributes of God, are mentioned in verse 5?
66. What will all the nations that God has made, do?
67. What did David ask the Lord to do, in verse 11?
69. What attributes of God are found in verse 15?

Psalm 87:

- 70.. Who will establish Zion?

Psalm 88:

71. Where did the writer feel, that God had put him?
72. What did the writer suggest, was his closest friend?

Psalm 89:

73. What did the writer say, he would sing about forever?
74. What of the Lord's do the heavens praise?
75. What are the foundation for the Lord's throne?
76. What goes before the Lord?
77. What can no man save himself from?