

COMMENTARY

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 119:

This is the longest psalm of all. This is an acrostic psalm with 22 sections of 8 verses each, each section begins with the next consecutive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The psalmist makes a series of statements about the "law" (God's teachings) and the individual. This is mixed with some prayers. In this psalm we see the writers desire to learn God's law and for it to rule his life. He found in it, peace and hope.

Psalm 120-134

In these psalms, are a collection of songs that are thought to have been sung as israelites made their way to Jerusalem for the 3 great annual feasts. These "Songs of Ascents" focus on the holy city itself.

Psalm 120:

We see that the wrongdoing of the tongue can do as much damage as actual actions of an individual.

Psalm 121:

The man who trusts in God, will always have a safe place to turn in times of trouble for God will protect and allow no harm to befall them.

Psalm 122:

The one making their journey prays for the peace of Jerusalem-- the center of worship and seat of the government of the whole nation.

Psalm 123:

This is a psalmist pleading for mercy after all they have suffered.

Psalm 124:

Here, God is praised for rescuing the nation, for had it not been for Him, they would not have been able to endure the attack of their enemy.

Psalm 125:

The wicked are to be warned for they will be punished but those who trust in God, will be safe.

Psalm 126:

This psalm is thought to have been written after the people return from exile and the hardships that they endured as they tried to start again. This psalm shows the peoples joy at God's blessing and the desire to experience that blessing again.

Psalm 127:

This poignantly expresses the futility of human effort without God.

Psalm 128:

The psalmist describes the "ideal" life of his day and mentions that these are the blessings that the one who will respect and obey God, will receive.

Psalm 129:

The psalmist prays that all those who have had a part in destroying and defeating God's people will be punished and overcome.

Psalm 131:

This is a psalm of prayer as the psalmist waits and hopes for God's redemption.

Psalm 131:

This calls for man to put aside cares of life and simply trust in God.

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Psalm 132:

This psalm was written to commemorate the bringing of the ark of the Lord into the city of Jerusalem. God promises a royal dynasty and Jerusalem will be the center of religion.

Psalm 133:

God's people are shown here, as being united, even as a family.

Psalm 134:

This is a psalm for those who keep watch at night at the temple.

Psalm 135:

God is to be praised for choosing Israel, for His greatness and mighty works. All the priests and people are called upon to sing God's praise.

Psalm 136:

This psalm declares the great works of God in creation and history. The people would reply after each section, with "His love endures forever."

Psalm 137:

The Israelites recall the sight of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple of God, and in bitterness cry out for the punishment of their foes.

Psalm 138:

The psalmist thanks the Lord for answering his prayer and is grateful for God's faithful love that reaches to mankind.

Psalm 139:

God is seen as being ever-present and all-knowing. The psalmist realizes that this allows God to always be there and to know him and to be able to help him.

Psalm 140:

When oppressed by those speaking evil against and plotting against, the psalmist turns to God calling for Him to protect him and punish his enemies. He knows that God will care for the right and will oppose the evil.

Psalm 141:

The writer prays that God will keep him from doing the things that he despises in others.

Psalm 142:

David is fleeing from Saul and on the run (1 Samuel 23:19ff). He cries out to God, who knows him, to be his refuge.

Psalm 143:

The psalmist can no longer endure. His only hope is God whom he calls to teach, deliver, lead and to bring him out of trouble.

Psalm 144:

Amazed that God cares for man, the psalmist recalls how God has come to the rescue on so many different occasions. He prays for the peace and prosperity of the future generation.

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Psalm 145-150

This group praises God and was probably intended for public worship. The Jews today, use them in their daily prayer. Psalms 146-150 each begin and end with an Alleluia [Praise the Lord!]

Psalm 145:

This is an acrostic psalm (the last half of verse 13 is used to fill in for a letter that had been omitted). This psalm praises God for His greatness, power, love, forgiveness, goodness, faithfulness, justice, kindness and for satisfying the needs of creation.

Psalm 146:

The writer praises God who is the hope and help of his people, utterly dependable and caring for all who are in need.

Psalm 147:

God who commands the universe and is far superior to man, loves man and takes pleasure from those that love and respect Him. He gives His word for them to live by.

Psalm 148:

This psalm calls for all of creation to praise the Creator.

Psalm 149:

This is a psalm that Israel sang when God gave them the victory over their enemies and the nations were judged by Him.

Psalm 150:

This is the grand conclusion of the songs of praise. All musical instruments and all creation are called to join together in praising God.

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 119:

1. Who is blessed, according to verses 1 & 2?
2. How can a young man keep his way pure?
3. In verse 66, what 2 things did the psalmist ask God to teach him?
4. In verses 98 & 99, what does God's commands and statutes make the psalmist more than his enemies and teachers?
5. What is God's word, to the psalmist in verse 105?
6. Why did the psalmist want to live, according to verse 175?

Psalm 120:

7. Who does the psalmist call out to, in dsitress?
8. What did he want the Lord to save him from?

Psalm 121:

9. What will the one who watches over you not do?
10. In verse 8, what will the Lord watch over and for how long?

Psalm 122:

11. Who did David rejoice with?

Psalm 123:

12. What had the people endured much of, and from whom had they received it?

Psalm 124:

13. What would have happened to Israel if God had not been on their side when men attacked them?
14. What was their help in?

Psalm 125:

15. Who will the Lord surround forever?
16. Whom did the psalmist want the Lord to do good to, and whom did he want him to banish with the evildoers?

STUDY GUIDE

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 126:

17. What did the nations say, when the Lord brought back the captives to Zion?
18. What will the one who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, return with?

Psalm 127:

19. To whom does the Lord grant sleep?
20. What are children, according to verse 4?

Psalm 128:

21. Who is blessed?
22. What did the psalmist wish upon such a person? (see verses 4-6)

Psalm 129:

23. What did the psalmist not want those passing by to say, to those who hate Zion?

Psalm 130:

24. According to verse 4, why is the Lord feared?
25. What will God Himself, redeem Israel from?

Psalm 131:

26. What isn't David, according to verse 1?

Psalm 132:

27. For whose sake, did the psalmist ask the Lord, not to reject His anointed one?
28. What was the condition given, for one of David's sons to sit on his throne forever?
29. What would God do for Zion, according to verse 15 and 18?

Psalm 133:

30. What is good and pleasant?

Psalm 134:

31. Who does the psalmist call, to praise the Lord?

STUDY GUIDE

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Psalm 135:

32. According to verse 3, why were the people to praise the Lord?
33. In verse 6, what does the Lord do, and where does He do it?
34. According to verse 14, what will the Lord do for His people?
35. What will happen to those who who make idols or trust in them?

Psalm 136:

36. What phrase is repeated over and over in this psalm?
37. Name 6 things that are mentioned in this psalm, that shows that His love endures forever.

Psalm 137:

38. In what place where the Israelites, when they remembered Zion?
39. Who does the psalmist say is happy in verses 8 and 9?

Psalm 138:

40. What had the Lord exalted above all things?
41. What does the Lord do for David, according to verse 7?

Psalm 139:

42. What is the Lord familiar with, in verse 3?
43. Why does David say he will praise the Lord, in verse 14?
44. What does David ask the Lord to do, in verses 23 & 24?

Psalm 140:

45. Who does David want the Lord to protect him from?
46. What does he not want the Lord to do for the wicked, lest they become proud?
47. What does the Lord do for the poor and the needy?

STUDY GUIDE

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 141:

48. What did David want to be like incense and the evening sacrifice?

49. What is a kindness and oil on his head, in David's mind?

50. What does David want the wicked to fall into?

Psalm 142:

51. What does David pour out and tell, before God?

52. Why would the righteous gather about David?

Psalm 143:

53. What would David meditate on and consider?

54. What does he want the Lord to teach him?

Psalm 144:

55. In verse 2, what does David say the Lord is?

56. What question does David ask in verse 3?

57. What are the people whose God is the Lord? (see verse 15)

Psalm 145:

58. What would David do every day?

59. How is the Lord described in verse 8?

60. In verse 13, what is the Lord faithful to?

61. Who is the Lord near to?

Psalm 146:

62. What does the Lord do for the: oppressed, hungry, prisoners, blind, those who are bowed down, and the righteous?

STUDY GUIDE

Book of Psalms:

Psalm 147:

63. What does the Lord call, each by name?

64. What does the Lord delight in?

65. To whom, has the Lord revealed His word, laws and decrees?

Psalm 148:

66. Why are all the items in verses 1-4 to praise the Lord, according to vs. 5?

67. What is above the earth and the heavens?

Psalm 149:

68. How was Israel to praise the Lord's name, according to verse 3?

69. What does the Lord take delight in?

70. What is to be in the mouths of the saints?

Psalm 150:

71. Where is God to be praised?

72. Why is God to be praised?

73. With what is God to be praised?

74. What is to praise the Lord?