

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**

**Psalm 107**  
**“Faithful Love”**

**Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; His love endures forever.**

**1. Let his people say so! Let them bear witness to God’s faithfulness. He who restored them**

**from their captivity and exile.**

- a. Whom He redeemed from the fire.
- b. Whom He gathered from the nations where they had been scattered and brought them home. (See Ps 106:47)

**2 Cor 1:3-4**

**2. Some wandered in desert wastes, they found no city in which to dwell.**

- a. Hungry and thirsty, their lives ebbed away.
- b. Then they sought (cried out) the LORD in their trouble and He delivered them from their distress.
- c. He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.
- d. Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and wonderful deeds for men.
  - He satisfies the thirsty
  - He fills the hungry with good things. (See Is 55:1-3)

**3. Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in chains, for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High.**

- a. So He subjected them to bitter labor, they stumbled and there was no one to help.
- b. So they cried to the LORD in their trouble and He saved them:
  - He brought them out of darkness and deepest gloom (*Deep darkness, “shadow of death,” used of distress or extreme danger.*)
  - He broke away their chains.
- c. Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds to men .
  - For He brakes down gates of bronze.
  - And cuts through bars of iron.

**4. Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities (“*guilt, sin, punishment*”).**

- a. They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. (Job 33:20)
- b. Then they cried to. The LORD in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress.
  - He sent forth His word and healed them;
  - He rescued them from the grave.
- c. Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men.
  - Let them sacrifice thank offerings
  - And tell of His works with songs of joy.

- 5. Others went out on (“down to”) the sea in ships; they were merchants (their “occupation” was plied on the sea.) on the mighty waters.**
- a.** They saw the works of the LORD, His wonderful deeds (“wonders”) in the deep.
    - For He spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.
    - Things got rough for them and they lost courage and were knocked about.
  - b.** Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble (“straits”), and He brought them out of their distress.
    - He stilled the storm to a whisper; and hushed the waves.
    - They were glad when it grew calm and they arrived in port.
  - c.** Let them give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love, and His wonderful deeds to men.
    - Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people.
    - Let them praise Him in the council of the elders.
- 6. In this next passage the psalmist exhorts us to consider the works of the LORD:**
- a.** He turned rivers into a desert, flowing springs into thirsty ground and fruitful land into a salt waste (because of the wickedness of those who lived there).
  - b.** [He turned] the desert into pools of water.
    - There He brought the hungry to live, they founded a city where they could settle.
    - They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest.
    - He blessed them and their numbers greatly increased, and He did not let their herds diminish.
    - Then their numbers decreased, and they were humbled by oppression, calamity and sorrow;
      - \* He who pours contempt on nobles made them wander in a trackless waste.
      - \* But, He lifted the needy out of their affliction and increased their families like flocks.
  - c.** The upright see and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths (See Ps 73).

**Whoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love (“lovingkindness”) of the LORD.**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
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**Psalm 108**  
*A Psalm of David*

**1. My heart is steadfast (“firm”), O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul (“even with my glory,” i.e., with all my heart)**

- a. Awake harp and lyre! This refers to musical praise: Ps 147:7, Act 16:25, 1 Cor 14:15, Eph 5:19-20, Col 3:16, Jas 5:13). By voice and/or accompanied.
- b. I will awaken the dawn. *David sought God as a priority. How do we begin our days? How can we prioritize our relationship with God? How can we seek Him?*
  - \* Through His word. *Read, listened to, thought about. It is powerful to change us. (1 Pet 2:2-3)*
  - \* Prayer. *Seek His will in the things that you face. Focused and intermittent. (Phil 4:6-7)*
  - \* Gathering. *God commands us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together (For worship and mutual encouragement. Heb 10:19-25)*
  - \* Service - *We are saved by God for a purpose (Eph 2:10, 4:12)*
  - \* Fellowship. *That is, mutual ministry/encouragement. (Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12:7).*

**2. I will praise You O LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.**

- a. For great is Your love, higher than the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Eph 2:7 - We will never exhaust the faithfulness, goodness and love of God. It is beyond our comprehension.
- b. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; and let Your glory be over all the earth.

**3. Save us and help us with Your right hand, that those You love may be delivered.** David here acknowledges that God rules over all. His will/word stands (Num 23:19, Is 40:8, 46:10)

- a. God has spoken from His sanctuary;
  - In triumph I will parcel out Shechem and measure off the valley of Succoth.
  - Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is mine;
  - Ephraim is My helmet, Judah My scepter.
  - Moab is My washbasin, upon Edom I toss my sandal;
  - Over Philistia I shout in triumph.
- b. Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom?
  - Is it not You, O God, You who have rejected us and no longer go out with our armies?
  - Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man its worthless. (Ps 118:1, 146:3)
  - With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down. Our enemies.

***David was a king and his concern was to protect his people.***

***He knew that God was his hope and strength.***

OK, a few things to take away from this brief but pithy Psalm:

1. How is your walk with God?

- Are you actively seeking Him? (In the Word, praying, fellowship, serving).
  
- Do you make praise and worship a priority? We need to think about what we're thinking about!
  - \* Praise Him from your heart with singing and music.
  - \* Even if you are alone. God knows your intent and doesn't care what it sounds like.
  
- Don't judge the vitality of your walk by your experience in any church. For example, if you are not seeking God through His word, if you are not faithful in prayer or serving, if you are not seeking to encourage other believers and be encouraged by them there will be a problem. The fellowship / companionship of God's people will likely seem dry to you. His word may be hard to process. You will not get out of worship what you could. It may even seem dry, boring and you can leave no different than you came. But if you are committed to seek Him, as imperfectly as we all are, Spending consistent time in the word, praying and seeking to be the church, rather than merely attending it - God will change us and worship will likely be sweet. Now I am painting with broad strokes here but this is generally true.
  
- Remember that God has a plan and we can trust in Him. His guidance and help are infinitely better than that of any human.
  - \* His word and will are firm and will accomplish what He has decreed.
  - \* He will aid us to do what He calls us to do. (Phil 4:13)

**PSALMS**  
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**Psalm 109**  
*A Psalm of David*

**1. O God, whom (“of”) I (“my”) praise, do not be silent, for wicked and deceitful men have opened their mouths against me;**

- a. They have spoken against me with lying tongues (Lit: “*with a lying tongue*”)
- b. With words of hatred they surround me;
- c. They attack me without cause.
- d. In return for my friendship, they accuse me, but I [am a man of] prayer.
- e. They repay (“*rewarded*”) me evil for good, and hatred for my friendship.

***David is reacting to the slander of malicious people who have done him wrong. He prays for God's intervention.***

**2. Appoint an evil man to oppose (“over him,” i.e. *Set a judge over him as corrupt and malicious as he is himself.*) him; let an accuser stand at his right hand.**

- a. When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and may his prayers condemn him. (Ps 66:18, Ecc 8:9-10, Is 1:15).
- b. May his days be few; and may another take his place of leadership. (Act 1:20)
- c. May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow. (Jer 18:18-23)
- d. May his children be wandering beggars; may they be driven from their homes. (Ruined/ desolate places).
- e. Many a creditor seize all he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor.
- f. May no one extend kindness to him or take pity on his fatherless children.
- g. May his descendants be cut off, their names be blotted out from the next generation.
- h. May the iniquities of his father’s be remembered before the LORD; may the sin of his mother never be blotted out. (Dt 24:16)
- i. May their sins always remain before the LORD, that He may cut off the memory of them from the earth. See James 4:11-12 - Who is the Judge?

***In his anger and pain, he cry to God for justice. Yet God's justice is not our weapon, it is our comfort. He is Judge and we are not. Jn 5:22-23, Jas 4:11-12, Prv 24:17-18***

**3. For, he never thought of doing a kindness, but hounded to death the poor and the needy and the brokenhearted.**

- a. He loved to pronounce a curse - may it come on him; he found no pleasure in blessing - may it be far from him.
  - He wore cursing as his garment; it entered into his body like water and into his bones like oil.
  - May it be like a cloak wrapped around him, like a belt tied forever around him.
- b. May this be the LORD’S payment to my accusers, to those who speak evil of me.

***David saw injustice and was grieved. He prays that the evil planned by this enemy would come back on them instead of on the innocent.***

**4. But You, O Sovereign LORD, deal well with me for Your name's sake; out of the goodness of Your love, deliver me.**

- a. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.
- b. I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.
- c. My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt.
- d. I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.
- e. Help me, O LORD my God; save me in accordance with Your love.
  - Let them know that it is a Your hand, that You, O Lord, have done it.
  - They may curse, but You will bless;
  - When they attack, they will be put to shame, but Your servant will rejoice.
  - My accusers will be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak.

***Ultimately, David understands that only God is his Helper. He has been seeking Him and prays for deliverance and blessing.***

**5. With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD; in the great throng I will praise Him.  
For He stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save his life from those who condemn him.**

***As he concludes, David looks to God's deliverance and knows that he will glorify Him for His help. He is expressing his confidence.***

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**Psalm 110**  
*A Psalm of David*

**The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”** Who is speaking here? And to whom? Look at the words of our Lord in Matt 22:44-45, Mk 12:35-37, and the words of the apostle Peter in Act 2:29-36, Psalm 8 and Heb 1:13, 2:5-9, 10:13. The “right hand” indicates the place of power, honor, authority (See Mtt 26:64, 28:18, 1 Cor 15:24-28)

1. The LORD will extend your mighty scepter (“rod, staff” see Gen 49:8-12) from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. (1 Sam 2:10, Ps 2, Rev 2:26, 27; 12:5, 19:15)
  
2. Your troops (“*people*”) will be willing (“*offer themselves willingly*”) on your day of battle (“*power, wealth, army*” - *this speaks of the muster of an army. His army*). See Rev 17:14/19:11-16
  
3. Arrayed in holy majesty (“*the splendor of holiness*”), from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth. *In holy splendor, the Lord our Messiah will come and his people will flock to Him like the falling dew.*
  
4. The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” (Gen 14:17-24, Heb 5:1-10, Heb 6:13-20, 7:1-28)
  
5. The LORD is at your right hand;
  - a. He will crush kings on the day of his wrath. (Ps 2, Is 9:6, Dan 2:34/44, 7:14, 27; 1 Cor 15:24, Rev 11:15)
  - b. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the earth. (Ps 98:8-9, Act 17:31, Ps 45:6, 67:4, 96:10, Joe 3/Rev 14:14-20,)
  - c. He will drink from a brook beside the way, therefore he will lift up his head.

**So - a few things to take away from tis wonderful psalm:**

- **Our Lord and Savior is victorious and will rule over all.**
- **His enemies will be unable (at all) to hold back His rule.**
- **He will rule in holiness and His people will serve Him willingly.**
- **His is the eternal priesthood of Melchizedek - a priesthood of faith not law.**

- He alone is the Judge - trust in Him.

**PSALMS**  
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**Psalm 111**

*This wonderful Psalm is written in a chiasmic form and is acrostic, that is, each line after the first line begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It exhorts us to praise the LORD and then gives us the reasons to praise Him.*

**I will extol (*“praise/give thanks”*) the LORD with all my heart, in the council of the righteous and in the assembly (*The gathering of God’s people for worship*)**

**1. Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered (*“sought, studied, pondered, followed”* etc.) by all who delight in them.**

- a. Glorious and majestic (or “honorable”) are His deeds, and His righteousness endures forever.
- b. He has caused His wonders (to be remembered; The LORD is gracious and compassionate.: Lit: *“To be remembered, He has made His works wonderful, He is gracious and compassionate”*).
  - He provides (*“has given”*) food for those who fear Him; (Ps 34:9, Prov 30:8, Phil 4:11, 1 Tim 6:8)
  - He remembers (or, *“is mindful of”*His covenant forever. (Deut 7:9, 1 Chr 16:15)
- c. He has shown His people the power of His works, giving them the lands (*“inheritance, possessions, property”*)of other nations. (Dt 4:38, 7:1-11)
- d. The works of His hands are faithful 859(*“true, firm”*) and just; all His precepts are trustworthy.
  - e. They are steadfast forever and ever, done in faithfulness (also, *“truth”*) and uprightness.
    - He provided (or *“sent”*) redemption for His people; (Ps 130:7)
    - He ordained (or*“commanded, appointed”*) His covenant forever-holy and awesome is His name.

**2. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, all who follow [His precepts] have good understanding. (Job 28:28, Prov 1:7, 3:7, 9:10, 14:6)**



***A brief outline of the Psalm's Hebrew form.***

<b>The psalmist praises the works of the LORD</b>	<b>Vs 1</b>
<b>The works of the LORD praised</b>	<b>Vs 2-4</b>
<b>The works of the LORD declared</b>	<b>Vs 5-9</b>
<b>The fear of the LORD and His praise shown as the way to wisdom and understanding</b>	<b>Vs 10</b>

**Are you grateful to God for His provision, help and presence?**

**How do you express this? (Eph 5:19-20)**

***Do you express this?***

**PSALMS**  
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**Psalm 112**

*This psalm, like its predecessor (111) is acrostic, and speaks to the blessedness of the one whose life reflects their regard and love for the Lord. It shows this in contrast with the wicked and unbelieving who will perish. An eternal legacy vs emptiness.*

**Praise the LORD**

- 1. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, [who finds] great delight (“who delights greatly”) in His commands.**
  - a. His children will be mighty in the land (“on earth”); the generation of the upright will be blessed.
  - b. Wealth (“sufficiency”) and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.
  - c. [Even] in darkness light dawns (“rises, comes forth”) for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. (Those who are becoming like their Father will be blessed). (1 Cor 2:14-16)
  - d. Good will come to him who is generous (“deals graciously, shows favor, is merciful”) and lends [freely], who conducts his affairs with justice. *i.e, He conducts himself/herself in dealing with others so as to do them no injury.*
  - e. Surely he will never (“forever-never”) be shaken; a righteous man (“he”) will be remembered forever. (Prov 10:7, 1 Cor 3:12)
  - f. He will have no fear of bad (“evil”) news; his heart is steadfast, trusting [in the] LORD.
  - g. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.
  - h. He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor.
- 2. The wicked man will see and be vexed, he will gnash his teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.**

*Read Gal 5:19-23, Ps 1:6*

*We are granted one life and opportunity to bear fruit. The choice? What kind of life and fruit will you bear?*

**PSALMS  
Book V  
(Ps 107-150)**

**Psalm 113  
Praise His Name!**

**Praise the LORD**

**1. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.\***

- a. Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore.
- b. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

**2. The LORD is exalted over all the nations, His glory above the heavens.**

- a. Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high? (Is 40)
- b. Who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

**3. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.**

- a. He seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. God isn't impressed by human pretensions. Be it wealth, status, achievements etc., what alone matters? See Jer 9:23-24, Ps 82, Rom 3:21-26. What matters? Salvation and its fruit.
- b. He settles the barren woman in her home was a happy mother of children (Is 56:1-8; Is 54).
  - In this there is a main point: Jerusalem, which was coming under judgment would be restored. For one example out of many, see Isaiah 49.
  - A second thing to point out is God's faithfulness to those marginalized by life choices etc. God is extravagantly generous in His restoration of those who seek and know Him.

**Praise the LORD.**

**Psalm 138:1-2** What is in a name? God reveals Himself through different names. They reveal aspects of His character to us. Through them He tells us who He is.

**YHWH - I AM - Also transliterated "Jehovah" (Ex 3:14)**

**Jehovah Shammah - The LORD is There (Ezk 48:35)**

**Jehovah M'Kaddesh - *The LORD Who Sanctifies (Makes You Holy) (Lev 21:8)***

**Jehovah Nissi - *The LORD Our Banner. (Ex 17)***

**Jehovah Jireh - *The LORD Will Provide (Or - The LORD Will See To It) (See Gen 22)***

**Jehovah Tsidkenu - *The LORD Our Righteousness (See Jer 23)***

**Jehovah Roi - *The LORD Who Sees. (See also Gen 16:14)***

**Jehovah - Rohi - *The LORD My Shepherd (Ps 23)***

**Jehovah Olam - *The LORD Eternal***

**Jehovah Rapha - *The LORD Who Heals You (Ex 15:26)***

**EI - God (Ex 15:2)**

**Adonai - Lord (Used all over the place in the O.T.)**

**EI Elyon - God Most High (Gen 14:17-22, Psalm 78:35)**

**EI Elohe Israel - God, the God of Israel (Gen 33:20)**

**Elohim - Which is a plural form used as a singular name/noun. (E.g., Gen 11:4)**

**EI Shaddai - God Almighty - often used in connection with His promises.**

**Elohim Jehovah (Ps 50:1) God the LORD**

**Emmanuel - God with Us.**

**Alpha and Omega, First and Last, Beginning and the End (Is 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Rev 1:17, 2:8, 22:13) - "In the beginning," He was there creating, in the end, He is there. He is uncreated, eternal, in short, He IS.**

**The Word - Specifically speaking of the Lord Jesus, He is eternal, with the Father and the Spirit, He is Creator and Sustainer. He is the Word: The expression to us of who God is and what He does. If you want to know what God is like, look to Him! (Jn 1:18, 10:30, 14:5-14)**

**Sounds almost like a song I know: "He's my Rock, My Sword, My Shield ..." These names are the tip of the "iceberg." There are so many more. A in-depth study of His names is a great thing to undertake. It will bless you greatly.**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 114**

**He Delivers: Either *from* or *through* life's hardships**

**1. When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,**

- a. Judah became God's sanctuary.
- b. Israel His dominion. (See Dt 7:8, Is 41:8-9, Jer 31:3, Mal 1:1-5)
- c. The sea looked and fled, the Jordan turned back, the mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.
  - Why? He is God, Creator, Sustainer and Covenant-Keeper.
  - Think about Israel as they departed Egypt.
    - \* For generations they had been there as slaves.
    - \* They had no governmental structure.
    - \* They left Egypt an unorganized rabble.
    - \* God Himself led them out, guided, provided, protected and interacted with them. (Ex 13:20-22)
    - \* And God transformed them *through* the process. (As He does us - Rom 5:1-11)

**2. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

- a. Who turned the rock into a pool,
- b. The hard rock into springs of water. (Ex 17:6, Num 21:11)

**3. Think about the way God led them and often leads us:**

- a. They were fairly comfortable in their slavery. They had homes, food etc. (See Num 11:5).
- b. God led them into the wilderness, the desert (as in *deserted*). They had to depend on God:

<u>EGYPT/SLAVERY</u>	<u>WILDERNESS/FREEDOM</u>
Hey, it was home	Wilderness
Customary food	Had to develop new tastes
Homes	Learned the nomadic life
Egypt's army defended Egypt	They had no human protection
Enslaved and oppressed	Freedom from slavery

It is often the case that when a person chooses to merely do the "safe" thing, they remain in a cage. Even a gilded one. How many times have you seen a person remain in a miserable situation rather than face change? God doesn't always deliver us *from* our troubles as He does

*through* them. He will deliver us, but we need to seek and obey. Phil 4:13

**PSALMS**  
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**Psalm 115**

**1. Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be (“give”) [the] glory, because of your love** (“lovingkindness, faithfulness, covenant keeping etc.”), **and faithfulness** (or “truth”).

- a. Why do the nations say, “Where is their God?” *At times we go through trials and discipline. But God has not abandoned us! People watch believers struggle with hardship and assume that God has abandoned them. See Rom 5:1-11*
- b. Our God is in heaven; He does whatever pleases Him.
- c. But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. (1 Sam 12:21, Is 44:9-20)
  - They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes but they cannot see; they have ears but cannot hear, noses but they cannot smell; hands but they cannot feel, feet but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats.
  - Those who make them will be like them, and so will those who trust in them.

**2. O House of Israel, trust in the LORD—He is their help and shield.**

- a. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD—He is their help and shield.
- b. You who fear Him, trust in the LORD—He is their help and shield.

**3. The LORD remembers us and will bless us:** (Dt 10:17, Rom 2:11, 1 Sam 16:7, Lk 16:15)

- a. He will bless the house of Israel,
- b. He will bless the house of Aaron,
- c. He will bless those who fear the LORD—small and great alike.

**4. May the LORD make you increase, both you and your children. May you be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

- a. The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth He has given to man. (Is 45:18)
- b. It is not the dead who praise the LORD, those who go down to silence; (*Praise Him now!*)
- c. It is we who extol the LORD, both now and forevermore.

**Praise the LORD.**

Eph 2:10, 1 Cor 4:7, Rom 12:3, 6, 1 Pet 4:10

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 116**

***In this psalm the writer gives thanks to God for His deliverance. From the text it seems that at a recent time he had been in danger, even close to death. Yet in his distress he called upon the LORD, trusting in His faithfulness.***

**I love the LORD, for He heard my voice,**

- a. He heard my cry for mercy ("my requests/plea for favor").
- b. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.

**The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me;**

- a. I was overcome by trouble ("distress") and sorrow.
- b. Then I called on the name of the LORD: O LORD save me!

**The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.** ("And yes, our God is compassionate"). (Ex 34:6-7; Ps 103:8)

- a. The LORD protects the simple-hearted; ("plain-hearted, frank, sincere")
- b. When I was in great need ("brought low, failing"), He saved ("delivered") me. (Rom 5:6-8)

**Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to** ("dealt bountifully with") **you.** (Phil 4:6-7)

- a. For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living. (Ps 27:13) *A word here is appropriate: God can and does deliver us from affliction but also through affliction (Job 36:15). And when we live seeking Him, our problems do not necessarily go away, but we are able better to deal with them. See for example 2 Cor 4:1-18.*
- b. I believed; therefore I said, "I am greatly afflicted."
- c. And in my dismay (perhaps "in my haste" etc. See Ps 73:12-15) I said, "All men are liars." *In his prior agitated state, he despaired of any human help.*

**How can I repay the LORD for all His goodness to me?** (Ps 103:2; Rom 12:1-2)

- a. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. *The psalmist here declares his intent to worship his God.*
- b. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people. *He is not ashamed!*

**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.**

- a. O LORD, truly I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant, You have freed me from my chains.
- b. I will sacrifice a thank offering to You and call on the name of the LORD.
- c. I will fulfill ("make good") my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the LORD—in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**Praise the LORD.**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 117**

**Praise the LORD, all you nations!** (Gentiles - and they will praise Him. Rom 15:7-13)

- Glorify God for His mercy.
  
- His mercy is our motivation for service! (Rom 12:1-2)

**Extol Him all you peoples!**

- (Jew and Gentile will praise Him together - Eph 2:11-18). There will be two groups of believers in heaven - Believing Israel and the Gentiles who placed their faith in God during the Old Covenant, and the church, made up all who trust in Christ as their Saviour.
- In our Savior, Jew and Gentile are one, "heirs together with Israel, members together of one body (the church) and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus." (Eph 3:6b).

**For great** ("*strong, mighty*") **is His loving devotion** ("Chesed" - His loving devotion, covenant love, faithful love, faithfulness, goodness and mercy), **toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever** (e.g., John 3:16, Rom 5:8, Col 1:21, Ps 110:5, Mk 6:30-44, Jn 4:34-38).

**Hallelujah!** Praise Him!

*Do you praise God for your salvation?*

*Does it matter to you that irrespective of your ethnicity, He wants you?*

*Does it matter to you that human stratification/caste does not matter in God's family?*

*The "wall" is down and the way to God is open for all because of our Savior.*

*Rejoice and praise Him!*



**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**119**

**Pt 1 (alef - dalet)**

**In Psalm 138:1-2** In this psalm, David praises God for His faithfulness (Heb. - chesed, that is, "lovingkindness, faithfulness, faithful love, goodness"), for His love and faithfulness (or "truth, reliability") For He has exalted above all things His name and word Or, (Lit: "above all your name, your word," or "thy word above all your name.") The idea being that God's faithfulness to keep His promises reflect His holy name. They are inseparable. See Ps 115:1, Is 42:21, 48:1-11.

**1. The Blessedness of Walking in the Law of God (1-8)**

**Aleph**

- a. For those who keep His statutes (His word, "testimonies") - *not describing a sinless life but rather, a life that seeks Him.* (See Ps 32, Rev 2:1-7, Phil 3:)
- b. Who seek Him with all their heart. (Dt 4:25-31)
- c. Whose lives are informed by His words (See Mal 3:17, Jas 1:19-27)
- d. Who seek to live in obedience to His commands ("do no iniquity, evil") - See Rom 6.
  - "Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obedience," (and thus, kept from shame).
  - The psalmist declares his will to praise God as he learns His righteous laws.
  - He concludes this stanza of the psalm by calling on God to stand by him (His obedient servant). See Heb 13:5

**2. The way to walk in holiness (9-16)**

**Beyt**

- a. Living in accordance with God's word. (See Lk 6:46-49)
- b. The psalmist declares his earnest seeking of God and asks Him to keep him on course.
- c. The writer has hidden God's word in his heart ("mind") as an anchor against sin.
- d. He concludes with praise and requests:
  - That God would teach him (See 1 Cor 2:14-16)
  - He will recount/confess God's laws and rejoice in His statutes. Humans chafe at yielding to God's control (Ps 2, Jer 5:5).
  - He delighted in God's decrees and is determined not to neglect it. (1 Pet 2:2-3)

**3. His response to God's goodness is to obey His word (Rom 12:1-2) (vs 17-24)**

**Gimel**

- a. He asks God to open His eyes to the truth in His word (1 Cor 2:14-16).
  - As an alien and stranger here on earth, he wants God's help in living in accordance with God's word. (Phil 3:20, 1 Pet 1:16-17)
  - His soul longed ("was crushed, breaking") for God's word.
- b. God will hold accountable ("rebuke") those who stray from His commands. (Heb 9:27)
- c. He asks God to keep him from the scorn ("reproach") and contempt of the ungodly.
- d. Come what may, he declares his intent to think on God's word and delight in it.

**4. In the low periods of his life, he calls on God to preserve his life according to His word. (vs 25-32).**

**Dalet**

- a. When His soul was sticking to the dust, he calls on God to honor His word (Rom 8:28-39, Jn 3:16, 5:24, 6:40)
- b. He had been honest with God re: his ways (Prov 28:13, Ps 51:17)
  - God had answered (see 1 Jn 1:9)
  - The psalmist desires that God teach him (His desire is to learn from his abasement).
  - He closes by stating that he chooses God's truth.

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**119**  
**Pt 2 (He - Heth) vs 33-64**

**1. Ask for help to know, understand and follow God's word. (vs 33-40) He**

- a. To be taught God's decrees.
  - Teach me the way of your decrees (laws/statutes) that I may follow.
  - Give me understanding that I may keep your law and obey it.
  - Direct me in the path of your commands - there I find delight.
  - Turn my heart toward your statutes, not toward selfish ("*unjust*") gain.
  - Turn my eyes (KJV - "heart," lit: *mind / will*) away from worthless things ("*emptiness, vanity*"), preserve my life ("*quicken, strengthen me*") according to your word. (Rom 12:2, Jas 4:4, 1 Jn 2:15-17). *He wanted God to help him follow.*
- b. Fulfill ("*confirm, establish, make firm*") your promise - so that you may be feared.
  - God is faithful, and absolutely keeps His promise/covenant - the writer seems to know this very well (vs 89-91). But he craves assurance.
  - Where does such assurance come from? See Jn 13:34-35, 1 Jn 3:11-21, Heb 5:11-6:12, 2 Pet 1:3-11)
- c. He prays that God will remove from him the disgrace he dreads (see vs 21-24, 1 Pet 2:11-12.), and to preserve his life. He knows he can't do it alone. (Rom 12:1-2)

**2. May His un failing law be our freedom and salvation (41-48) Waw**

- a. God's un failing love ("faithfull, covenant keeping, loyal and kind love) is our salvation (Is 9:6, Mal 1:2, Jn 3:16, 15:13; Rom 5:5-8). He keeps His promises. It is our security.
- b. May God's word, remain with us - and us with it.
  - It is the law that gives liberty/freedom (Jas 1:25, Rom 8:2).
  - It is worth upholding and telling.
  - Those who delight in and love His word are secure.

**3. God's word is our hope (Gen 15:6, Prv 30:5-6, Rom 8:28-39) (49-56) Zayin**

- a. God keeps His word, believers are secure in Him (Jn 3:16).
- b. Our faith can not depend on the opinions of mere humans, nor on our outward circumstances. (Job 23:11, Jn 16:33, Rom 7-8)
- c. Loyalty to His word by others blesses believers. Its opposite is oppressive.
- d. God's word keeps him focused. This world is not ultimate reality (Ps 4:4, 1 Pet 1:17-21).

**4. God is our portion - Gen 15:1 Who is yours? (57- 64) Heth**

- a. Cowboy humorist Will Rogers once quipped, "Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment." God disciplines His own for their good. The psalmist writes, "and have turned my steps to your statutes."
- b. The psalmist writes that he sought the Lord "with all my heart." What does this mean? Well, how badly do you desire to know Him?
- c. He was a friend to others who loved and sought God.
- d. The earth is full of God's goodness. (Ps 145:9).

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**119**  
**Pt 3 (Teth- Kaph) vs 65-88**

***In these next portions of this psalm, the writer deals with God's faithfulness in our afflictions. Heb 12:4-13***

- 1. Do [You have done] good to your servant according to your word LORD. Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands. 65-72. Teth**
  - a. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I follow your word.
  - b. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. (Heb 12:11)
  - c. **Though the arrogant have smeared (or, "plastered me over") me with [his] lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.**
    - Their hearts are callous and unfeeling ("as fat as grease," i.e., insensitive), but I delight in your law. (Deut 32:15, 31:20)
    - It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. (Ps 94:12, IS 38:15-17)
    - The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. (Ecc 7:12)
  
- 2. Your hands made and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands. 72-80 Yodh**
  - a. May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.
  - b. I know, LORD, that your laws are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. (Rom 5:1-11- His wounds can be trusted)
  - c. May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.
    - Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.
    - May the arrogant be put to shame for wronging me without cause; but I will meditate on your precepts. (*Ps 73 -the godly and godless will each have a different outcome*).
    - May those who fear you turn to me, those who understand your statutes ("laws, testimonies").
    - May I wholeheartedly follow ("let my heart be blameless regarding") your decrees, that I may not be put to shame. **What is our attitude toward His word? Do we see its commands as "advisory," or as truth to be obeyed?**
  
- 3. My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word. 81-88 Kaph**
  - a. My eyes fail, looking for your promise; I say, "When will you comfort me?"
  - b. Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget your decrees.
  - c. How long must your servant wait? When will you punish my persecutors? (Lk 6:37, Rev 6:10)
    - The arrogant ("insolent, rebellious") dig pits to trap me, contrary to your law.
    - All your commands are trustworthy; help me, for I am being persecuted without cause.
    - They almost wiped me from the earth, but I have not forsaken your precepts.
    - In your unfailing love preserve ("revive, cause me to live") my life, that I may obey the statutes of your mouth.

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**

119

**Pt 4 (Lamedh- Nun) vs 89-112**

- 1. Your word, LORD, is eternal (or “forever”); it stands firm in the heavens. 89-96**  
(Ps 36:5, 89:2, 146:6; Is 40:6-8) **Lamedh**
- a. Your faithfulness continues through all generations, you established the earth and it endures.
  - b. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you. (*Speaking of heaven and earth* - Rom 8:20-25)
  - c. If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction (or “*miser* / *poverty*”)
  - d. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life. (Jas 1:18, Rom 6:13)
  - e. Save me for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts. (Lam 3:31-33)
    - The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes (“*testimonies*”)  
(See 1 Sam 25:26, Lk 6:32-36).
    - To all perfection I see a limit, but your commands are boundless.

**God’s Revelation to Us is Complete**  
**2 Tim 3:15-17**

- 2. Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. 97-104 Mem**
- a. Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. (Dt 29:29)
  - b. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.
  - c. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts (or “*testimonies*”).  
(Deut 4:6, Dan 1:1-21)
  - d. I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.
  - e. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me.
  - f. I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. (1 Cor 15:33, 1 Thess 5:19-22)

**God’s Revelation to Us Changes Us**  
**Rom 12:1-2**

- 3. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. 105-112 Nun**
- a. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.
  - b. I have suffered much (“*I am very afflicted*”); preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.
  - c. Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws. (Heb 13:15)
  - d. Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. *Here the writer states that he is continually risking his life, yet he is determined to follow God.*
    - The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts. (See Dan 6:1-5)
    - Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
    - My heart is set (“*inclined, resolved*”) on keeping your decrees to the very end.

**With Light Comes Conflict**  
**Jn 1:5, 3:19**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**

119

**Pt 5 (Samekh- Pe) vs 113-136**

*In this portion of the psalm, the writer calls on God to act. He prays to be sustained, protected, and for God to judge the wicked. But God acts in His time and that time is always best.*

**1. I hate double-minded (“divided, half hearted”) people, but I love your law.**

(1 King 18:21, Jas 1:8, 4:8)

**113-120      Samekh**

- a. You are my refuge and shield; I have put my hope in your word. (Ps 32:7, Jer 17:14)
- b. Away from me you evildoers, that I may keep the commands of my God.
- c. Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed (or “be ashamed/disappointed” because of my hope).
- d. Uphold me, and I will be delivered (“safe”); I will always have regard for your decrees.
  - You reject (“toss aside, make light of,” from a word for “to tread on”) all who stray from your decrees, for their delusions come to nothing (i.e., *.it doesn't get them anywhere*).
  - All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross; therefore I love your statutes. (Ps 1:4-6)
  - My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws. (Job 28:28, Jer 5:21-23)

**2. I have done what is righteous and just; do not leave me to my oppressors.**

**121-128      Ayin. 1-11**

- a. Ensure your servant's well-being; do not let the [arrogant] oppress me. *The psalmist calls upon God for help.* (See also 2 King 20:1-11, Jas 5:13-18)
- a. My eyes fail, [looking for] your salvation, looking for your righteous promise (word).
- b. Deal with your servant according to your love and teach me your decrees.
- c. I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.
- d. It is time to act, LORD; your law is being broken (“regarded as void”). (Jer 18:23, Hab 1:1-4)
- e. Because I love your commands more than pure gold, and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path. (Ps 19:10)

**3. Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I (“soul, life”) obey them.**

**129-136      Pe**

- a. The unfolding of your words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple. (Neh 8:7-8)
- b. I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands. (Am 6:6, Ez 9:1-11)
- c. Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name. (See Ps 103:11-14)
  - Direct my footsteps according to thy word, (It is sufficient! 2 Pet 1:3-11)
  - Do not let sin (“trouble, sorrow, wickedness”) rule over (“master”) me.
- d. Redeem me from human oppression, that all might obey your precepts.
- e. Make your face shine upon your servant and teach me your decrees.
- f. Streams of tears flow [down] from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed. (Lam 3:48)

***If we demand that God execute judgement on others, we have to accept it for ourselves. No one has a “remote” for God - always remember that He is Lord and we are not. If it seems as if His justice is slow, remember that He is merciful. 2 Pet 3:9***

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**119**

**Pt 6 (Tsadhe-Resh) vs 137-160**

- 1. You are righteous, LORD, and your laws (or “*judgments*”) are right. The statutes you have laid down are righteous. They are fully trustworthy. 137-144 Tsadhe**
- a. My zeal wears me out (“*has consumed me*”), for my enemies ignore your words. (Ps 10:4)
  - b. Your promises (“*word*”) have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.
    - Though I am lonely (“*small, insignificant*”) and despised, I do not forget your precepts.
    - Your righteousness is everlasting (“*is righteous forever*”) and your law is true.
  - c. Trouble and distress have come upon (“*found*”) me, [but] your commands give me delight.
  - d. Your statutes are always (“*forever*”) righteous, and give me understanding that I may live (“*that I shall live*”).

***God’s revealed word is right and dependable (2 Pet 1:3, 12-21)***

- 2. I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD and I will obey your decrees.**

**145-152 Qoph**

- a. I call out to you, save me and I will keep your statutes. (*The psalmist cries to God for help in staying faithful in keeping His commands.*)
- b. I rise before dawn [of the morning] and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.
- c. My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises. *The idea here is that of making time in the word a priority.*
- d. Hear my voice [in accordance] with your love; preserve my life, LORD, [according] to your laws (“*judgment, ordinances, commandments*”).
- e. Those who devise (“*pursue, follow after*”) wicked schemes are near, but they are far from your law.
- f. Yet you are near, LORD, and all your commands are true.
- g. Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them forever.

***We are saved by and live by, God’s grace***  
***Eph 2:1-10***

- 3. Look on my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your law. (Ex 3:7)**

**153-160 Resh**

- a. Defend my cause and redeem me, for I have not forgotten you law. (Ps 35:1, 43:1, 1 Pet 2:18-25)
  - Defend my cause and redeem me; preserve (or “*sustain*”) my life according to your promise.
  - Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek out your decrees.
- b. Your compassion, LORD, is great; preserve my life according to your laws.
- c. Many are the foes who persecute me, but I have not turned from your statutes.
  - I look on the faithless (or “*treacherous*”) with loathing, for they do not obey your word.
  - See how I love your precepts; preserve my life LORD, in accordance with your love.
  - All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal

***He is our advocate***  
***Rom 8:34, 1 Jn 2:1***

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**119**

**Pt 6 (Sin and Shin - Taw) vs 137-160**

**1. Rulers (or, "princes, chiefs") persecute me without cause, but my heart trembles at your word.**

**161-168      Sin and Shin**

- a. I rejoice in your promises ("word, speech") like one who finds great spoil.
- b. I hate and detest falsehood but I love your law.
  - Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws ("judgments").
  - Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. (1 Jn 2:10, Prov 3:21-26, 4:10-17)
  - I wait for your salvation LORD, and I follow ("do") your commands.
  - I obey ("My soul has kept") your statutes, for I love them greatly.
  - I obey your precepts ("mandates, appointed laws") and your statutes" ("testimonies, solemn charges"), for all my ways are known to you.

**2. May my cry come before you, LORD; give me understanding according to your word.**

(Job 28, Ps 111:10, Prov 1:23, 4:1-9)

**169-176      Taw**

- a. May my supplication ("plea") come before ; deliver me according to your promise ("word"). It be that")
- b. May my lips overflow ("flow, bubble up") with praise, for you teach me your decrees.
  - May my tongue sing of your words, for all you commands are righteous.
  - May your hand be ready to help me for I have chosen your precepts.
- c. I long for your salvation, LORD, and your law gives me ("is my") delight.
- d. Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain (or "help") me.
  - I have strayed like a lost sheep. (Is 53:6, Dan 9:5, Mtt 9:36)
  - Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands. *Here, the writer prays for God's intervention.*

*Why should we rejoice in God's promises and word?*

*2 Pet 1:3-11*

*Jude 3, Mal 3:6, Jas 1:16-17*

*Jn 3:16, Rom 6:23, 10:5-13*

*2 Tim 5:1-10, Phil 3:21, Jn 14:1-3*

*Is 41:10, Heb 13:5*

*Heb 12:4-13, Lam 3:33*

*2 Tim 3:15-17, 2 Pet 1:12-21*

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 120**

**1. I call on the LORD in my distress, and He answered me.** *Although it may seem that no one at times understands or believes us due to the words of another, God knows (Matt 6:8)*

- a. Save me, LORD, from lying (“*fraudulent*”) lips and from deceitful tongues. (Ps 109:2).
  - *What is often our temptation when confronted with this? Tell “our side?” Retaliate? That will not be either wise or right (Prov 6:16-19, Prov 26:20)*
  - *Our Lord counsels us to leave things in God’s hands. (Lk 6:27-31, 1 King 22:24, Job 16:10).*
  - *Rom 12:14-21/Prv 25:21-22 gives us a “roadmap:” Think about what’s right, and make sure that if the conflict continues, that you are not the one stirring the pot. Seek peace and pursue it (Ps 34:14).*
  - *Pray for your enemies and do not rejoice in their troubles (Prov 24:17-18, Job 31:29, 1 Cor 13:6)*
- b. What will He do to (“*what shall be given*”) you, and what more besides, you deceitful tongue?
- c. He will punish you with a warrior’s sharp arrows, with burning coals of the broom bush (“*juniper*”).

**2. Woe to me that I dwell in Meshek, that I live among the tents of Kedar!** *Meshek and Kedar were aggressive, warlike people. The writer did not literally live between them (They lived a vast distance apart), but speaks of his enemies being like them.*

- a. Too long have I lived among those who hate peace;
- b. I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war. *Remember, for conflict or peace, it takes two (or more). When Jesus said, “Love your enemies,” He assumed that you’d have them. We cannot control what others do, but we can determine our response.*



**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 121**

**“A song of ascents”**

**I lift up my eyes to the mountains** (or “hills”) - **where does my help come from?** *The Pagan people of the land, and many unbelieving Israelites worshipped false gods. They often built places for such “worship” in groves of trees on the hilltops that surrounded them. People looked to false “gods,” seeking to manipulate their world more to their liking. The psalmist knows where help will be found. (e.g., Num 22:41, Jer 3:21-25, 19:1-6; Ezk 6:13).*

- a. My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of (“*who made*”) heaven and earth.
  - He will not let your foot slip (“*to be moved*”) - He who watches Israel will neither slumber or sleep (“*sleep or be drowsy*”). See Jude 24-25.
  - The LORD watches over you (“*is your Keeper*”) - the LORD is your shade at your right hand (Rom 8:28-39);
  - The sun will not harm (“*strike*”) you by day, nor the moon by night.
  
- b. [The] LORD will keep you from all harm (“*evil, bad*”).
  - He will watch over (“*preserve*”) your life. (Gen 28:15, Deu 31:6, Ps 1:6, 2 Tim 1:12, Jn 16:31-33).
  - The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more.

*How do you think of God? It is a safe thing to say that He is never surprised. He is omniscient (all-knowing). He knows what we need before we ask (Mtt 6:8). We are consumed by our mortality - we worry about what we need (e.g., food, shelter, health, clothing, finances, loved ones' needs, aging, etc.). Our tendency is to focus on the here and now as if it was the only thing that matters. That is certainly how this world thinks. But even as believers, it is hard not to act as if this world is “it.” But God calls us to think and act with an eternal perspective; to look beyond this present life. What we possess because of our Lord can never be taken from us or lost.*

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 122**

**1. I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”**

- a. Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem. (*They didn’t think about it, they did it*).
- b. Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.
- c. That is where the tribes go up - the tribes of the LORD - to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel. See Ex 23:14, 17; 34:23; De 16:16, 1 King 9:25
- d. There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

**2. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.** (God’s will cannot be thwarted - Zech 12:1-6)

- a. May those who love you be secure (or “*prosper*”)
- b. May there be peace (“*security*”) within your walls, and security (“quietness”) within your citadels. *Here David prays for physical security and peace from outside hostile forces and for peace within the palaces/fortresses. He prayed this for good reason: Hos 7:3-7*
- c. For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.” *An application for us would be found in not only praying for Jerusalem but also for our leaders (1 Tim 2:1-7, 1 Pet 2:13-17)*
- d. For the sake of the house of God, I will seek your prosperity. *Then the temple was the house of God. Today we are!*

Things to consider:

Is worship a joy or a burden to you?

Why do we do this anyway? See Heb 10:19-25

- We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus (We have such a privilege in prayer!), by a new and living way - the body of Jesus.
- We have a great high priest over the house of God.

So...

- Let us draw near with full assurance (from faith), having cleansed hearts.
- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope (*confidence*) we profess - God is faithful.
- Let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds.
- [Let us] not give up meeting together, as some as some are the habit of doing.
- [Let us] encourage one another (With some sense of immanence).

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 123**

*This Psalm records a cry for help and a declaration of dependance on God.*

**1. I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit enthroned (or, "who dwells") in heaven[s].**

- a. [Behold,] As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master[s], as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,

So -

- b. our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He shows us His mercy.
- *In this verse the expectation of a servant is used to illustrate our expectation of God's care, command and correction. Hebrew servants were to be humanely and generously cared for, and were participants in the family. Think of a small child. Who do they look to when they are thirsty or hungry? Who do they run to for protection? In the same way, we are to look to God. Ps 25, esp vs 15, Ps 141:8, 2 Chr 20:12*
  - *We are to look with expectation to Him who directs, protects and provides for His own. E.g., Ps 23:1 - [Because] the LORD is my Shepherd, I will not be in want.*

**2. Have mercy ("be gracious, show favor") on us, LORD, have mercy on us.**

- a. For we have endured no end of contempt ("for we are exceedingly filled with contempt"). *The idea here being that they have had it with the derision and contempt their neighbors are heaping on them. It is thought that the exiles were newly back in the land and were bearing the hostility and ridicule of their neighbors. And, like one who has over-eaten and is feeling bloated and ill, they couldn't see themselves enduring any more. Neh 4:4*
- b. We have endured no end of ridicule from the arrogant, contempt from the proud. *It just didn't seem to let up.*
- *Who do you look to in good times and bad?*
  - *Who do you look to for your needs? Ps 1, Matt 6.*
  - *Who do you look to in times of stress/uncertainty? Heb 1:12, Ps 102:23-28, Mal 3:6*

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 124**

*A Psalm of Ascents*  
*Of David*

- 1. If the LORD had not been on our side** (“for, or with us”) - **let Israel say - if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us, when their anger flared against us,**  
(2 Sam 5:17-25)
  - a. They would have swallowed us alive (“*quickly destroyed*”); the flood (“*waters*”) would have engulfed (“*overflowed*”) us.
  - b. The torrent (“*waters*”) would have swept (“*overwhelmed*”) us, the raging (or “*swollen*”) waters would have swept us away (“*gone over our soul/life/breath*”). *In this passage we have the picture of a flash flood. David pictures the assault by Israel’s enemies as being akin to a sudden flood. Yet God had been and was, faithful. See also Ps 18:1-18, 69:1-3, Mal 1;1-5/IS 43:1-7.*
  
- 2. Praise (“*Blessed*”) be [to the] LORD, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.**
  - a. We (“*Our soul*”) have escaped (“*slipped away*”) like a bird out of the fowler’s snare; the snare has broken (“in pieces”) and we have escaped (“*slipped away*”).
  - b. Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker (“*who made*”) of heaven and earth.
    - *He was the refuge, hiding place* (1 Sam 23:14, Ps 32:7)
    - *David rested in the kind, covenant keeping, loyal love of God. At times he was bewildered, but He knew in Whose hands he was, and was secure. See 2 Cor 4:7-18*
    - *And God keeps His covenant: See Mal 3:6, Is 1:21-31, 48:1-10, Ps 119:75, Prov 3:11-12*

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 125**

*A song of Ascents*

- 1. Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures** (“*abides, remains*”) **forever.** (Dt 28, Lev 26, Jer 24, Zech 12:1-5) God is big enough to protect His people. He keeps His covenant no matter what. (Phil 1:6)
- a. *God’s promise to Abraham (Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and confirmed through Moses) will stand.*
  - b. *But, it is not a “get out of jail free” card. Just being a Jew couldn’t save anyone even as merely being a nominal Christian cannot save.*
    - *It didn’t guarantee freedom from God’s judgment and discipline.*
    - *If His people rebelled and abandoned their God, there would be consequences.*
    - *BUT - He kept His word. A remnant was always preserved.*
  - c. *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people both now and forevermore. (Ps 34:7, 91; Is 33:20, 43:1-13; Zec 2:5, 12:1-5, Rom 8:28-39)*
  - d. *The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil. (Jer 29:4-14)*
    - \* *LORD, do good to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. (Ps 36:10/Jer 7:1-29)*
    - \* *But those who turn to crooked ways (“by-paths) the LORD will banish with the evil doers. (Jer 6:16, Ez 18)*

**2. Peace be on Israel**

***So, here we have the testimony of Israel to God’s faithfulness and holiness. How does this affect us? Well, in a very powerful way. Israel believed themselves secure as God’s “Chosen people.” They gave lip service to God but did what they wanted (Jer 3:1-5). Just being a descendant of Abraham wasn’t license to live for self. God is faithful and will judge His own.***

***Being a “nominal Christian” is no different:***

- ***Those who truly know Him are secure. He disciplines His own for His glory and their good.***
- ***Those who merely act the part but do not trust will in no way enter life.***

***Problem: What about a person who once manifested the fruit of faith but is now in rebellion? Are they saved or not?***

***Answer: If they are genuinely His (e.g., 1 Cor 5) God will deal with them one way or the other. If they are not, their sin will not likely bother them and they may not suffer immediate judgement (Heb 12:8, 2 Cor 13:5). But saved they are not.***

**The structure of the Psalm:**

**A. Those who trust in the Lord are secure**

**B. God surrounds His people**

**C. The wicked will not prevail**

**B. God is good to the good and will judge evil**

**A. Peace be on Israel**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 126**

*A song of Ascents*

**1. When the LORD restored (“brought back”) the fortunes (“captivity”) of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.** (2 Chr 36:22-23, Ezr 1:2-4).

- a. [Then] our mouths were (“was”) filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy (“Joyful singing, shouts”). *It must not have seemed real. For over 70 years (Jer 25:11-12, 29:10; Dan 9:2) the Jews exiled from Judah had lived in Babylonia. Most of the generation of the exiles had passed on. Their children and grandchildren were now able to return “home.”*
- b. Then it was said among the nations, the LORD has done great things for us (“with those”), and we are filled with joy (“joyful”), (Ps 98:2). *But rebuilding is not always an easy task. For the nation or for the individual, rebuilding can be a tough thing. In Judah’s case, they came back to a country in ruins, family property occupied by squatters who were not happy to see them return, and a huge task facing them. It must have seemed hopeless.*

**2. Restore our fortunes** (“turn again our captivity,” i.e., reverse our situation), LORD, like streams in the Negev. See Is 49:8-23). *The Psalmist calls to God for help.*

- a. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ezr 3:12, 6:16; Neh 12:27). *What was their situation? They were back in the land, a small population surrounded by hostile people who wanted them ... anywhere else, who opposed their efforts (Ezr 4-6, Neh).*
- b. Those (“He”) who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them. *The testimony of the psalmist is that those who rebuild, seek restoration, often do so in sorrow, but also in faith. Look up Is 40:31, Gal 6:7-10, 1 Cor 15:58)*

*What is the point of discipline? Growth, restoration, and healing. God takes no pleasure in our pain but wants better things for us than we all too often settle for. See Rom 5:1-5.*

*What are you going through? Seek the Lord and press on. It is a daily “walk.” A focus on the end goal is great, but a focus on your next step might serve you better.*

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 127**

**A song of Ascents**  
**Of Solomon**

1. **Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain (Lk 6:46-49). Unless the LORD watches (“guards, watches over”) the city, the guards (“watchmen”) stand watch (“stay awake”) in vain. (See 1 Sam 26, Is 30:1-5, 33:7-8; Jer 50:18-26, 51:24-35)**
- a. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat (“bread of sorrow/toil”) - for He grants sleep to those He loves (Ps 3:5, Mtt 6:24-26).
  - b. [Behold] Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring (“fruit of the womb”) a reward [from Him.]
    - Like arrows in the hand of a warrior so are children born in one’s youth. (What does God want? Mal 2:15)
    - Blessed [is] the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend (“speak, make their case”) with their opponents (“enemies”) in court (“At the gate”).

*So, at first glance this psalm seems disjointed. But look closer and it makes perfect sense. On what basis are we building our lives? What is our foundation? Looking at verse 2, are we wise or foolish? When the “storms” come will our house stand or fall?*

- *What are we working for? How much of our labor is wasted on wrong things that do not help?*
- *How (and what) are we pouring into our most valuable resource - our children?*



**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 128**

***A song of Ascents***

1. **Blessed** (“*happy*”) **are all who fear the LORD, who walk** (“*live*”) **in obedience to Him** (“*in His ways*”). *What does it mean to “fear the LORD? Job 28:28, Lk 12:1-12, Jn 12:42-43. Yes recognize Who He is, what authority He has and act accordingly.*
  - a. You will eat the fruit of your labor (“*labor of your hands*”); blessings and prosperity will be Yours. (Ecc 2:24-25, 3:12-14, 5:18-20, 9:7-10, 12:13-14).
  - b. Your wife [will be] like a fruitful vine within your house;
  - c. Your children [will be] like olive shoots (“*slips, plants/roots*”) around your table. *The idea here being that just as shoots spring up around the trunk of a tree, so your children will grow up around you. The picture here is of kids seated around the family table.*
  - d. Yes (“*Behold*”), this will be [the] blessing for the man who fears the LORD. (Or, “Behold, that thus blessed is the man who...”)
2. **[May the] LORD bless you from** (“*out of*”) **Zion; may you see the prosperity** (“*good*”) **of Jerusalem.**
3. **May you [live] to see your children’s children - peace be on Israel.** (Prov 17:6).

*Those who fear the Lord, who act on His word and live accordingly, will know His blessing. This is a general statement and one worth taking to heart. The fruit of a godly life is evident in families. Those who follow Him prosper (2 Cor 9:10, Prv 22:6).*

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 129**

***A song of ascents***

**“They have greatly oppressed (“shown hostility towards, treated with enmity, afflicted”) me from my youth,” let Israel say; now (or “often, exceedingly”)**

- a. “They have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but they have not gained the victory (“or had power over, prevailed, overcome”) over me. (Ps 124:1-8, 2 Cor 4:8-10)
- Plowmen have plowed my back and made their furrows long.
  - But, the LORD [is] righteous; He has cut [me free from] the cords of the wicked (See Gen 49:22-28, 50:15-21).
  - May all who hate Zion be turned back in shame (Ps 35:26, Prv 24:17, Mic 7:8, Rom 8:28-39).
- b. [May they] be like grass on the roof, which withers before it can grow.
- A reaper cannot (“does not”) fill his hands with it,
  - Nor one who gathers (binds sheaves) fill his arms.
  - May those who pass by not say to them, “The blessing of the LORD be on you; we bless you in the name of the LORD.

***God is far more concerned with our holiness and ministry to others than with our present comfort and convenience. Goodness trumps prosperity, popularity, comfort, convenience or present feelings. For examples see:***

**Gen 12:1-3**

**Gen 17:18**

**Gen 18:18-19**

**Jer 29:1-14**

**Jer 51:1-24**

**Obd 1**

**Mal 1:1-3**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 130**

***A song of ascents***

**1. Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;** (For all of us, things can get hard. See Lam 3:52-66)

- a. LORD hear my voice.
- b. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
- c. If you LORD, kept a record of sins, LORD, who could stand? (Rom 6:23)
  - *Our sins separate us from God* (Ps 76:7, Ez 9:15, Is 59:1-2)
  - *Everyone sins (“perversity, depravity, guilt”) and is guilty* (Ecc 7:20, Ps 143:2).
- d. But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can with reverence, serve you (Ps 32:1, 103:7-18).
  - *With God there is forgiveness* (Rom 4). *It is His work and is imputed to us by faith.*
  - *When God makes us worthy, we are free to serve Him* (See Lk 1:75, Rom 12:1).

**2. I wait for the LORD, my whole being (“*flesh, life*”) waits, and in His word I put my hope** (Rom 3:21-31, 8:1; 1 Cor 4:3-4, Eph 2:1-10).

- a. I wait for the LORD more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning (Rom 4:1-12, Ps 32).
- b. Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption (Rom 8:3-4).
- c. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

***At those times when our failings and rebellion cascade down onto us in conviction and guilt, where is your hope? Your confidence? Because it happens.***

***In what or Who is any confidence that you have?***

- *In your own goodness?*
- *In your own good works?*
- *In God who justifies the sinner?*

***It really is as simple as this. We have to choose, and to avoid the choice is to choose. In whom is our trust? Eternity hangs in the balance for us all.***

***And for those whose faith is in Christ-do you stand on this? Are you confident in this?***

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 131**

***A song of ascents. Of David***

**My heart is not proud** (*“exalted, lofty”*) **LORD, my heart** (*“mind, inner man”*) **is not haughty,**  
(*“High, exalted”*)

- a. I do not concern (*“busy”*) myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me (*“difficult to understand”*). *It may also mean that he doesn’t push himself forward, make pretensions or claims beyond what is true.* (Dt 29:29, Ps 139:6, Prv 25:2, Jer 45:5)
  
- b. But (*“surely”*) I have calmed (*“leveled,” - the idea being to relax, settle down*) and quieted (*“silenced” - the idea is of restful contentment*) myself,
  - I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content (*“is my soul”*).
  - Israel, put your hope (*“wait expectantly”*) in the LORD both now and forevermore. (Why? See Ps 130:7)

Gen 15:1 - God was Abram’s shield and great reward.

Deut 29:29 - The secret things belong to God, the revealed things belong to us. Which we can find frustrating (See Ecc 3:1-14).

Prov 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord and let Him lead.

Act 1:7 - Some things were not meant for us to know (e.g., Dan 12:9, Rev 10:4)

1 Tim 6:6 - Seeking God and being content with His provision is great gain.

**Rom 11:33-36**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 132**  
***A song of ascents.***

**LORD, remember David and (together with) all his self-denial (afflictions).**

**1. [How] he swore [an oath] to the LORD, he made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:**

- a. "I will not enter my house (my tent, the chamber of my house) or go to my bed, I will allow no sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." (2 Sam 7:5-16, 1 Chr 22:1, Hag 1:1-3, 9)
- b. [Behold, see, lo] we heard it in Ephratha, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:
  - "Let us go to His dwelling place, let us worship at His footstool, saying, "Arise, LORD, [and come] to your dwelling place, you and the ark of your might (1 Sam 6, 1 Chr 28:2).
- c. May your priests be clothed with your righteousness; may your people (godly ones) sing (shout, cry aloud) for joy." For the sake of your servant David, do not reject (or, turn away the face of) your anointed one.

**2. The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath (in truth) He will not revoke (turn from it),**

- a. "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne.
- b. If your sons keep my covenant and the statutes (testimonies, statutes,) I teach them, then sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever." (2 Sam 7:14, 1 King 8:25)

**3. [For, because] the LORD has chosen Zion, He desired it for His dwelling place, [saying],**

- a. "This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.
- b. I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor I will satisfy with food (or bread).
- c. I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her faithful people (godly) will ever sing (shout) for joy.
- d. Here (There) I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. (See also Lk 1:69).
  - I will clothe his enemies with shame,
  - But his head will be adorned with a radiant crown (But upon himself shall sparkle, gleam his crown).

**God keeps His promises**  
**He blesses those who follow Him**  
**His faithfulness results in praise and rejoicing**  
**It's not over yet (Nor will it ever be!).**

### **Some interesting things:**

Reading Gen 14, Salem (Jerusalem) was ruled in Abraham's day by Melchizedek. This guy was king of the city, and priest of God Most High. (See also Heb 7:1). He brought refreshment to Abraham and his men when they returned from rescuing Lot and the people of the "cities of the plain." He blessed Abraham and Abraham gave him a tithe of the goods that had been recovered. He was priest of God Most High. Abraham was the ancestor of the Jews and the man through whose line "all peoples on the earth would be blessed." Melchizedek was a ruler but also a priest of the Lord. I find it interesting that the Jebusites were apparently *not* eradicated after David conquered the city. David even paid Araunah for his threshing floor (1 Chr 21).

Jerusalem became the site of both David's capital and the place for the ark (later the temple).

It may well have been the site where God provided a substitute for Isaac (Gen 22).

God's people, plan and purpose all came together in God's place. No wonder it is constantly in the news and in the center of the whirlwind of global politics. (Zec 12:3)

It was the center of God's redemptive plan in the past and will be in future. Jesus will not return to rule and reign from Reno.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. (Ps 122:6)

And consider David's zeal for God and His temple:

What is His temple today? We are.

What are our priorities? Is the temple neglected or nurtured?

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 133**  
**A song of ascents. Of David**

1. **[Behold] how good and pleasant (“agreeable, delightful”) it is when God’s people (“brothers”) live together in unity (or, “live united together”).** E.g., Phil 2:1-4
- a. It is like precious oil [poured out] on the head,  
- running down on the beard, running down Aaron’s beard,  
- down on the collar of his robe.
- b. It is (“like”) the dew of Hermon falling on Mount(s) Zion. For there the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore. *Look at verse 1 again. It seems connected to verse 3. When believers live together in unity, God’s blessing is poured out.*

*Some things to take away from this short, wonderful psalm:*

1. *A direct result of our obedience to the gospel is our having a sincere love for one another* (1 Pet 1:22-2:3, 1 Jn 4:7-12, 19-21).
- a. It is an age-old command that people try to water down (See Lev 19:17-18/Matt 5:43-48). We need to “double down” on keeping it.
- b. Unity is not a state of things but a God-determined goal for His children. (Jn 17:20-22, Eph 4:4)
- c. Unity is based both on a shared commitment to Christ and His church as well as to the core doctrines of the faith. Absent one or both of these commitments there can be no true unity. In Eph 4:1-6 Paul urges the church to live a life worthy of their/our calling.
- To be completely humble (“with all” humility/“modesty”) and gentle.
  - To be patient (“long-suffering, forbearing”), bearing (“putting up with, enduring, suffering”) with one another in love.
  - To make every effort to keep (“guard, watch over”) the unity of the Spirit through (“in”) the bond of peace. (*Union with Christ = union w/ each other. E.g., 1 Cor 10:16-17, Eph 2:5-16, Col 3:15. Why? There is **one**:*
    - \* body (Rom 12:4, 1 Cor 12:12-13) - the church.
    - \* Spirit (1 Cor 12:12-13).
    - \* Hope (“expectation, confidence”) to which you were called (Eph 2:19, Phil 3:20).
    - \* Lord (Jn 14:6, Act 4:12, 1 Tim 2:5).
    - \* Faith (“belief, trust”) See Gal 1:6-9, 2 Tim 1:13, 2:1-2; Jude 3
    - \* Baptism (1 Cor 12:13, Eph 2:18, Matt 28:19).
    - \* God and Father (of all, over all, through and in all).

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 134**  
**A song of ascents**

**Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD.**

- a. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD. *A posture of prayer and praise (See Ps 63:4, 119:48, 141:2, 1 Tim 2:8).*
- b. May the LORD bless you from Zion, He who is the Maker of heaven and earth.

Wow, what a brief Psalm. Apparently there were Levites and Priests who ministered around the clock within God's temple (See 1 Chr 9:33). The crowds gone, they worshipped anyway.

- Ministry is not a performance. It is an act of devotion to our God. It is crucial that those who minister, be it preaching, teaching, music/singing, Sunday school, AWANA, Bible studies, nursery, etc. do so for Him.
- Participating in worship (singing) and in the worship of active listening should be an act of devotion to God. Otherwise, it doesn't please Him or help us. e.g., Ezk 33:30-33.
- Consider the music ministry:
  - \* It was organized. King David and the commanders (or *princes*) of the army (or *host*) organized the Levites.
  - \* Just as there were 24 courses of priests (1 Chr 24) there were 24 courses of Levites. They were divided into singers, musicians, gatekeepers, judges, treasurers, etc.
  - \* 1 Chr 25 - Those singing or playing instruments did so (at least initially) under the king's supervision. These prophesied (identified here as rendering thanksgiving and praise).

So if there is a "takeaway" from this passage it is this: 1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:23-25. Do all for His glory! Life is worship.

If you are not walking with God, "ministry" can easily become blasphemy at worst and "wood, hay or straw" at best (1 Sam 2:22, 1 Cor 3:10-15, 11:17-33, Jude 12).

So...what do you do? Maybe on the way to church you had a fight with your mate, or a coworker or relative, neighbor, etc. and your attitude reeks? Why drag it out? Pray, confess it to God and serve Him from your heart. I can't tell you how many times I have had to get alone during the Sunday School hour to pray and deal with something before I dared preach or teach. You don't honestly believe that I am exempt from the same struggles you have, do you?



**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 135**

- 1. Praise the LORD, praise the name of the LORD; praise Him you servants of the LORD.**
  - a. You who minister in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God. (1 Tim 4:15-16)
  - b. Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to His name, for that is pleasant.
  - c. For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be His own, Israel His treasured possession. (Ex 19:5-6)
- 2. I know that the LORD is great, that OUR LORD is greater than all gods. (Is 40:18-31)**
  - a. The LORD does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths ("*the deeps*"). (Dan 4:35)
  - b. He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; (See also Job 36:27-28)
    - He sends lightning with the rain
    - and brings out the wind from His storehouses.
  - c. He struck down the firstborn of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals. (Ex 12:12)
  - d. He sent His signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants. (Ex 8:19)
  - e. He struck down many nations and killed mighty kings - (Gen 15:12-16)
    - Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan and all the kings of Canaan.
    - He gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to His people Israel.
- 3. Your name, LORD, [endures] forever, your renown, LORD, through all generation.**
  - a. For the LORD will vindicate ("judge") His people
  - b. And have compassion ("*will repent Himself*") on His servants.
- 4. The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands. (Rom 1:21-23)**
  - a. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes but cannot see.
  - b. They have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths.
  - c. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. (Ps 115:8, Gal 6:7-8)
- 5. All you Israelites, praise the LORD; house of Aaron, praise the LORD; house of Levi, praise the LORD; you who fear Him, praise the LORD.**
  - a. Praise be to the LORD from Zion, to Him who dwells in Jerusalem.
  - b. Praise the LORD.

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalms 136**

*This psalm is one of the "Great Hallel" psalms and was associated with the Passover feast. It is said that it was traditionally sung at the end of the Passover meal. It recounts God's loving and faithful care for Israel. It is a good thing to remember how God has sustained you and to be thankful. As you look back on your life, how has He helped and cared for you? A unifying theme for the whole of this psalm is that of God's faithful love ("Chesed," - lovingkindness, goodness, faithfulness, covenant love, favor, kindness, loyalty - the word is rich). God keeps and fulfills His promises).*

**Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,**

- Give thanks to the God of gods, (Dt 10:17)
- Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

**His love endures forever.**

His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.

**To Him who alone does great wonders, (Prv 3:19)**

- Who by His understanding made the heavens,
- Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
- Who made the great lights:
  - \* The sun to govern the day,
  - \* The moon and the stars to govern the night,

**His love endures forever.**

His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.

**To Him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,**

- And brought Israel out from among them,
- With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, (Ex 6:6)
  - To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder,
  - and brought Israel through the midst of it,
  - and swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea,

**His love endures forever.**

His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.

**To Him who led His people through the wilderness,**

- Who struck down great kings,
- And killed mighty kings, (Num 21:32-35; 32:33)
  - \* Sihon king of the Amorites,
  - \* Og king of Bashan,
  - \* And gave their land as an inheritance,
  - \* An inheritance to His servant Israel,

**His love endures forever.**

His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.  
His love endures forever.

**He remembered us in our low estate,**

- And freed ("tore") us from our enemies,

**His love endures forever.**

His love endures forever.

**He gives food to every creature ("all flesh"),**

(Ps. 104:27-30)

**His love endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the God of heaven.**

**His love endures forever.**

Upon what is your hope/confidence based? (1 Sam 15:29, Mal 3:6, Tit 1:2, Heb 1:12, 13:8)

- What does it mean to you that His word can be absolutely trusted?
- What does it mean to you that He is immutable (unchanging)?
- What does it mean to you that you are at peace with God through Christ?
- What does it mean to you that in Him, we are secure?P

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalm 137**  
**“A Lament for Zion”**

*Have you ever gotten in trouble and were just torn up by the consequences but not by the actions that brought them on? In this psalm the author laments the defeat, exile and captivity of Judah. God used the Babylonians as instruments of judgment. The writer is crushed by the war, defeat and exile from a place that they loved. But, not (yet) by the rebellion that brought it on. May be you can relate? Likely we all can.*

**1. By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion.**

- a. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs,
  - our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
  - they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
- b. How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?
  - If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.
  - May my tongue cling to there roof of my mouth if I do not remember you; if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.
- c. Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. “Tear it down,” they cried, “Tear it down to its foundations!” (Ob 1:12)
- d. What actually put Judah in this position? - See Jer 21.

**2. Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction,**

- a. Happy is the one who repays you according to what you have done to us.
- b. Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.

OK,

The sentiment expressed here is savage. The writer cries out in their grief for revenge. But...to whom does the exaction of perfect justice belong? There is only One and He sees clearly. Our view at best will be flawed. That is why it says in Prov 25:21-22 and Rom 12:17-21 that vengeance belongs to the Lord, and not to us. It may be easy for one to take a life. But once taken we can not give it back.

When our enemies or persecutors come under judgment, endure reverses or hardship, how do we react? See Prov 17:5, 24:17-18, Job 31:29.

Do you wish to see God’s heart in the subject of retribution? Read Ez 18 or Jonah.

If I demand justice for others, I must be willing accept it for myself. Lk 6:27-36

As you partake in communion today, examine your heart. Are you bitter against another?

If you are dealing with hard times, examine yourself - what put you in this spot?

If you are harboring resentment against another, forgive! Don’t allow bitterness to poison you.

Rejoice in God’s grace, forgiveness and sovereignty.

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**(Ps 107-150)**  
**Psalms 138**  
**Of David**

**1. I will sing praise to you, LORD, with all my heart;**

- a. Before the “gods” I will sing your praise (e.g., Ps 82:1, 119:46). *David was not ashamed to honor God before his high officials, fellow rulers etc.)*
- b. I will bow down (or *worship*) toward your holy temple (“*palace, sanctuary, temple*”) and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness (or “*truth*”). *The temple would not be built for a generation. David here refers either to the Tabernacle that in his time remained at Shiloh, or to the tent for the ark that he had erected on Mt Zion.*
- c. For you have so exalted your name for your solemn decree (“*word, promise, speech*”) that it surpasses your fame (“*name*”).
- d. [In the day] When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me. (Or, “*made me bold with strength*”). See Jer 1:17 and Act 4:13

**2. May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD, when they hear what you have decreed.** (“*All the kings of the earth shall praise you...*”). Phil 2:10-11, Ps 2

- a. May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
- b. For the glory of the Lord is great.

**3. Though the LORD is exalted, He looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, He sees them from afar** (Is 57:15, Jas 4:6).

- a. Though I walk through the midst of trouble, you preserve my life (“*preserve me alive*”). E.g., Ps 23:4, Jer 45, Jn 16:33
- b. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.
- c. The LORD will vindicate me (lit: “*complete/perfect what concerns me/what He has begun*”). See Phil 1:6,
  - Your love LORD, endures forever -
  - Do not abandon the works of your hands.

## PSALMS

### Book V

#### Psalm 139

For the Director of Music, Of David, a Psalm

- 1. You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.** (Jer 11:20, 17:9-10)
  - a. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
  - b. You discern my going out ("way") and lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
    - Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.
    - You hem me in ("confine") behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
  - c. Such knowledge is too wonderful ("incomprehensible") for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- 2. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?**
  - a. If I go up to the heavens, you are there, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
  - b. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
    - even there your hand will guide me,
    - your right hand will hold me fast.
  - c. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me."
    - Even the darkness will not be dark to you; (Dan 2:22)
    - the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
- 3. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.**
  - a. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Ecc 11:5)
  - b. My frame ("substance") was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. (Ecc 11:5)
    - Your eyes saw my unformed body ("substance"); (Jer 1:5)
    - all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
- 4. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!**
  - a. Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand -
  - b. When I awake, I am still with you. (Is 55:9)
- 5. If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty.**
  - a. They speak of you with evil intent; you adversaries misuse your name. *Many people invoke God's name for their own ends.*
  - b. Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD and abhor ("loathe") those who are in rebellion against you?
  - c. I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.
- 5. Search me, God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts.**
  - a. See if there is any offensive way (any way of pain or grief) in me,
  - b. and lead me in the way everlasting.

## Ps 139

A bit of commentary is appropriate here:

1. The psalm begins with David's testimony regarding God's omniscience:

God searches and knows us. Completely. Even as our thoughts are forming He knows them.

This is intimate knowledge. Look at Matt 12:36-37, or Jer 17:9-10 .

This knowledge of us covers every aspect of our lives. What we do, where we go. All of it. He knows us thoroughly.

2. David then praises God for His omnipresence.

There is no place where God is not.

It is impossible to run from Him. Jonah tried.

3. David praises God for His intimate involvement in His creation.

Even in his conception and development God was at work.

God had a plan and everything unfolded accordingly.

4. God's vastness produced awe in David (as it should in us).

Morning and evening he pondered God and yet was in awe of His vastness. (Dt 29:29)

5. The conduct of those who defied God or tried to use His name for their own ends bothered David.

He wanted God to deal with them. But if we demand justice for others, we must accept it for ourselves.

6. Finally, David desired God to search his heart and help him identify "blind spots." A good thing to pray (Ps 4:4) as we all have them. Our growth in our relationship with God should be a lifelong thing.

## PSALMS

### Book V

#### Psalm 140

For the Director of Music, A Psalm OF David

- 1. Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers; protect me from the violent, who devise evil plans in their hearts and stir up war (“*battle*”) every day (“*continually*”).** (Is 10:12-19, Hab 1:11 - *those who respect and worship only their own strength and means*). *“Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.” Shakespeare (from Henry the IV pt 2).*
  - a. They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent’s. *(The idea here seems to be the slander of those seeking to manipulate things to their own advantage).*
  - b. The poison of vipers is on their lips. (See Matt 12:33-37, Eph 4:29-32)
  
- 2. Keep me safe (or “*guard, preserve*”), LORD, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from the violent who devise (“*purpose, planned, schemed*”) ways to trip my feet.**
  - a. The arrogant (or “*proud*”) have hidden a snare for me; they have spread out the cords of their net (the idea here is that they have “*baited their trap*”).
  - b. And have set traps for me along my path. *A hunter sets a snare/trap along the normal daily routes of their prey. David’s enemies were trying to ensnare him as he conducted his daily affairs. Some people are wearying to deal with as one has to be constantly on their guard. David is burdened by the strain and calls out to God for relief.*
  
- 3. I say (or “*said*”) to the LORD, “You are my God.”** (David here declares his dependence on the LORD.)
  - a. Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy (“*plea*” for favor).
  - b. Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer (“*strength of my salvation*”), you shield my head in the day of battle.
    - Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD; do not let their (“*his*”) plans succeed (and they “*exalt themselves*”).
    - Those who surround me [proudly] rear their heads; may the mischief (“*troublemaking*”) of their lips engulf them.
    - May burning coals fall on them; may they be thrown into the fire, into miry (“*watery*”) pits, never to rise. (Ps 36:10-12)
    - May slanderers not be established in the land; may disaster (“*bad stuff*”) hunt down the violent. (Ecc 8:9-13)
  
- 3. I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.**
  - a. Surely the righteous will praise your name,
  - b. and the upright will live in your presence. (Ps 1:6)

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 141**  
**A Psalm OF David**

**1. I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me; hear me (*“give ear to my voice”*) when I call to you.**

- a. May my prayer be set before you like incense; (The idea being: *As the altar of incense is stirred and incense offered before God each morning and evening, may my prayers rise up to Him*).
- b. May the lifting of my hands (*a posture of prayer*) be like the evening sacrifice.  
***May our prayers be both an act of worship and a plea for help***  
***Phil 4:6-7***

**2. Set a guard over my mouth, LORD, keep watch over the door of my lips.** (*A prayer all of us should frequently offer!*)

- a. Do not let my heart be drawn (*“incline toward”*) to what is evil so that I take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers; do not let me eat their delicacies. (e.g., Is 32:6, Jas 1:26-27). *David prays for strength to avoid compromise.* He doesn't want to do anything unwise or wicked in order to enjoy selfish pleasures.
- b. Let a righteous man strike me - that is a kindness; let him rebuke me - that is oil on my head. (2 Sam 12:7, Pr 9:8, 27:17; Gal 6:1-5)
  - My head will not refuse it, for my prayer will still be against the deeds of the wicked. (Pr 31:1-9) *The idea here being, “Keep me strong against the corrupting influence of the ungodly. I will keep praying against their wickedness.” We are to be in the world, but not of it.* (e.g., Jn 17:15)
    - \* Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs, (*Sooner or later the ungodly will “crash and burn,” reaping what they have sown.*)
    - \* And the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken. (*Then those mockers will listen.*)
  - They will say, As one plows and breaks up the earth, so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave. (For a similar expression of this see Prv 5:7-14.).

***Fighting “fire with fire” is not the way the kingdom operates***  
***Rom 12:9-21***

**3. But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign LORD (*“God [the] LORD”*) in you I take refuge - do not give me over to death** (Lit: *“leave me bare, naked, destitute”*).

- a. Keep me [safe] from the traps set by evildoers, from the snares they have laid for me.
- b. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by in safety (*“together escape,”* i.e., *“escape completely”*).

***Look to the Lord - He is faithful***  
***Phil 1:6, Heb 13:5***



So, a few “take aways” from this wonderful psalm:

Pray! Not just when things get hard, but as a regular focus in your life.

Seek the Lord in all things and pray/think *before* we respond to ungodly temptation / provocation.

- Be open to correction from godly people. We all have blind spots.
- During times of conflict, if we are hard pressed, the counsel of our spiritual family can be invaluable.

Remember that vengeance belongs to God, not to us. Seek His way in dealing with conflict.

Ask God for help and determine to lean on Him when people come against you.

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 142**

***A maskil*** (“a teaching poem”) **of David. When he was in the cave** (1 Sam 22:1, 24:3 or?)  
**A prayer**

**1. I cry aloud to the LORD;**

- a. I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy (“cry/plea for favor”).
- b. I pour out before Him my complaint (or, “musings/thoughts”), before Him I tell my trouble (“distress, straits”).

**2. When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way (“path”).**

- a. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me. (*Who could he trust? - He had to look to God alone e.g., 1 Sam 23:1-4*).
- b. Look and see, there is no one at my right hand, no one is concerned for me. *An ally, a protector would stand with him - he sensed that he was on his own.*
- c. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life (“soul”).

**3. I cry to you, LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. For God was at his right hand. (See Ps 16:8, Ps 23:4). And He is at ours (Heb 13:5)**

- a. Listen to (“attend,” “hear”) cry, for I am in desperate need (“brought very low”);
  - rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.
  - Set me free from my prison (Lit: “a dungeon”, meaning “*his circumstances, distress*”), that I may praise your name.
- b. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness (“dealing bountifully”) to me (i.e., *when God answers my prayer the righteous will join me in my rejoicing*)

What does leadership and courage look like? David sought and relied upon God. Everything good in his life flowed from that. Everything bad flowed from forsaking that.

David was:

In mortal danger. (1 Sam 20:3)

On the run. (1 Sam 21:10)

Outnumbered. (1 Sam 22:1-2, 26:2)

His former colleagues vied to win the king's favor by capturing or killing him. (1 Sam 2:9-23)

His wife given to another man. (1 Sam 25:44)

His family sent to a foreign country. (1 Sam 22:3)

He was always moving, never secure. (1 Sam 23)

His "army" a bunch of dissatisfied, indebted, in trouble, "losers." (1 Sam 22:1-2)

God took the weak and made them strong, the fearful and made them courageous, the timid and made them bold, the powerless and made them mighty. Think on the church (1 Cor 1:26-31, 2 Cor 5:17).

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 143**  
**A psalm of David**

**1. LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy (“supplication”), in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief (“answer, respond”).**

- a. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you (“Before your face”). (Ps 25:7, Ps 32, Ps 130:3, Ecc 7:20).
- b. The enemy pursues (or, “has chased, persecuted”) me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead. (Lam 3:6)
  - \* So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed (“desolated, appalled”).
  - \* I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.
  - \* I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched (“thirsty, weary, exhausted”) land. (Ps 28:2, 63:4, 88:9, 1 Tim 2:8) Selah

**Phil 4:8**

**2. Answer me quickly, LORD; my spirit fails.**

- a. Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit. (*The idea being, “Help me Lord, or I am finished.”*)
- b. Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. *It is a prayer for clarity. Does God abandon His own? No! But in our distress we do not always feel or rely on that.*
- c. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. (See Ps 32)
- d. Rescue (“deliver”) me from my enemies, LORD, for I hide myself in you. (1 Sam 23:16)
- e. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your Spirit lead me on level (“upright, smooth, level”) ground.
- f. For your name’s sake LORD, preserve my life (“revive, cause to live, refresh”); in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble (“distress”). (Ps 23:3, 109:21)

**Why does God act on our (believer’s) behalf?**

**3. In your unfailing love, silence (“put an end to, exterminate”) my enemies; destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.**

***A plea for aid based on relationship, not merit.***

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 144**  
**Of David**

- 1. Praise be to the LORD my Rock (or “cliff”) who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.** *David praises God for enabling him to lead, defend and administer Israel. What God calls us to do, He will enable us to do. Phil 4:13*
  - a. He is my loving (“lovingkindness”) [God] and my fortress,
  - b. My stronghold (or “high tower”) and my deliverer,
  - c. My shield, in whom I take refuge (or “shelter”),
  - d. Who subdues peoples (“my people”) under me.
  
- 2. LORD, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them (Ps 8:1-9).**
  - a. They are like a breath, their days are like a fleeting shadow. (Job 14:1-2, Jas 4:13-17)
  - b. Part (“bow”) your heavens, LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, so that they smoke. *David prays that God will come to his aid.*
  - c. Send (“flash”) forth lightning and scatter [the enemy]; shoot your arrows and rout (also “confuse them”)
  - d. Reach down your hand from on high; deliver me and rescue me from the mighty waters, from the hand[s] of foreigners
    - Whose mouths are full of lies
    - Whose right hands are deceitful (i.e. *their given word and oath means nothing*).
  
- 3. I will sing a new song to you, my God; on the 10 stringed lyre I will make music to you.**
  - a. To the one who gives victory to kings, who delivers (“rescues”) His servant David.
  - b. From the deadly sword deliver me (“who delivers His servant David from the deadly sword”)
  - c. Rescue me from foreigners whose mouths are full of lies, whose right hands are deceitful.
  - d. Then our sons in their youth will be like well-watered plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.
    - Our barns will be filled with every kind of provision.
    - Our sheep will increase by thousands, by tens of thousands in our fields.
    - Our oxen will draw heavy loads.
    - There will be no breaching of walls.
    - No going into captivity,
    - No cry of distress in our streets. (See 1 King 4:20-21)
  - e. Blessed is the people of whom this is true; blessed is the people whose God is the LORD.

David praised God for giving him what he needed, to do what God had called him to do. In Philippians 4:13 Paul says a similar thing: He had known both abundance and lack, yet God had used and cared for him throughout. Through Christ who strengthened him, he could do all things. That is, all things that God willed him to do.

What has God willed us to do? For what will He strengthen us and bless us in the doing?

- Husbands are called to love your wives as Christ loved the church. (Eph 5:22-33)
- Wives are called to love their husbands and children. (Tit 2:3-5)
- We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Mk 12:29-31)
- We are called to love our enemies. (Lk 6:35)
- We are called to be generous and willing to share. (1 Jn 3:16-21)
- We are called to care for one another. (Phil 2:1-4)
- We are called to gather together (Heb 10:25), not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.
- We are called to earn our bread / necessities. (1 Thess 4:11-12, 2 Thess 3:11-13, 1 Tim 5:8)
- We are called to be good citizens and pray for our leaders. (1 Tim 2:1-7, 1 Pet 2:13-16)
- We are called to serve where God has placed us and as He has gifted us. (Rom 12: 3-8, 1 Cor 12:7)
- We are called to be in the word and to seek our own growth. (Heb 5:11-6:12)

This isn't by any means a complete list- But it will get you started. A human tendency is to see God's directives for us and think, "I can't do this." But God will give us the strength to do what He commands us to do. But not necessarily *our* way. Do not approach obedience with a preconceived notion of how God will help. Pray, do your best and trust Him for the outcome.

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 145**  
**A psalm of praise. Of David**

- 1. I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. (Ps 107:1)**
  - a. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. (Dan 2:20, Rom 12:1)
  - b. Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.
  
- 2. One generation commends your works to another; they will tell (“declare”) of your mighty acts. See Psalm 78:1-8**
  - a. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty - and I will meditate on your wonderful (*“Astonishment and awe-producing works”*)
  - b. They celebrate (*“the remembrance of”*) your abundant goodness and joyfully sing (*“bubble up / pour out”*) of your righteousness.
  
- 3. The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. (Ex 34:6-7)**
  - a. The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made (*“all His works”*).
  - b. All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people (or, *“saints”*) extol you.
    - They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.
    - so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
  - \* Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. (Dan 2:44-45, 7:15-18)
  - \* And your dominion endures through all generations.
  
- 4. The LORD is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does.**
  - a. The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. (Ps 37:17, 24)
  - b. The eyes of all look to you (*w/ expectation*), and you give them their food at the proper time. Mtt 6:8 - *Our Father knows what we need and when.*
  - c. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Ps 37:4, 104:27; Mtt 6:26)
  
- 5. The LORD is righteous and faithful (*“full of lovingkindness”*) in all He does.**
  - a. The LORD is near (*“upholds”*) to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. (Ps 34:18, Jas 3:17)
  - b. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them. (1 Jn 5:14)
  - c. The LORD watches over all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. (Ps 1:6, 73:26)
  - d. My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
  
- 6. Let every creature praise His holy name for ever and ever. (Is 45:22-25, Phil 2:5-11)**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 146**

- 1. Praise the LORD, my God. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (Ps 104:33)**

***In the following verses the psalmist contrasts the help of people with the help of God and exhorts the reader to set their trust in Him rather than men.***

- 2. Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings who cannot save. (Ps 118:1-9, Is 2, Hos 10:1-4)**
- a. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
  - b. On that very day their plans (or "*thoughts*") come to nothing. (Ecc 2:17-21, Jas 4:13-17)
  - c. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.
- 3. He is the Maker ("*who made*") of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them - He remains faithful forever. He (the LORD):**
- a. Upholds the cause of ("*executes justice for*") the oppressed and gives food to the hungry (Ps 99:4-5)
  - b. Sets prisoners free. (Gen 41:39, Is 42:7)
  - c. Gives sight to the blind. (See Is 6:9-13/ Is 35:5/43:1-13, Jn 9:35-41)
  - d. Lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps 34:18, 37:23-24)
  - e. Loves the righteous. (Ps 1:6)
  - f. Watches over the foreigner (Dt 10:18)
  - g. Sustains the fatherless and widow
  - h. But ...He frustrates the ways of the wicked. (Ps 1:6)
- 4. The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.**



**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 147**

**1. Praise the LORD.**

- a. How good (or "*agreeable, pleasant*") it is to sing praises to our God.
- b. How pleasant ("*beautiful*") and fitting to praise Him! (Ps 92:1, 135:3)

**2. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; (See Ezra and Nehemiah)**

- a. The LORD gathers the exiles ("*outcasts, pushed out*") of Israel.
- b. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- c. He determines (or "*counts*") the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

**3. Great is our Lord and mighty in power;**

- a. His understanding has no limit (i.e., "*His understanding cannot be calculated*"). (See Ps 36:5-7, Is 40:12-14, Rom 11:33)
- b. The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. (*A general statement but clearly seen in the restoration of Judah after their exile (See Ezra and Nehemiah)*)

**4. Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.**

- a. He covers the sky with clouds;
- b. He supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow ("*spring up*", "*to cause to grow*") on the hills.
- c. He provides food for the cattle ("*beasts*") and for the young ravens when they call. (Ps 104:27)
- d. His pleasure is not in the strength of a horse, nor His delight ("*pleasure*") in the legs of a warrior (Ps 33:16-19).
  - The LORD delights in those who fear Him.
  - [In those] who put their hope (or, "*expectation*") in His unfailing love.

**5. Extol the LORD, Jerusalem, praise your God, Zion.**

- a. He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people ("*children*") within you.
- b. He grants ("*makes*") peace to your borders.
- c. And satisfies (or "*fills*") you with the finest of wheat.
- d. He sends His command to the earth; His word runs swiftly. (e.g., Is 55:6-11)
- e. He spreads ("*gives*") the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes.
- f. He hurls down ("*flings*") His hail like pebbles ("*fragments*"). Who can withstand His icy blast? (Or, "*Before His cold who can stand?*"). (Job 37:27-33, 37:1-13)
- g. He sends His word and melts them.
- h. He stirs up His breezes, and the waters flow.
- i. He has revealed His word to Jacob, His laws and decrees to Israel.
  - He has done this for no other nation; (Dt 4:32-40, *Those who trust in Christ are grafted into believing Israel.* Pet 2:9-12)
  - They do not know His laws (or, "*judgments, ordinances*").

**6. Praise the LORD.**

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalm 148**

**Praise the LORD.**

**1. Praise the LORD, from the heavens; praise Him in the heights above.**

- a. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him all His heavenly hosts.
- b. Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars.
- c . Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

**2. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at His command they were created.**

- a. And He established them forever and ever.
- b . He issued a decree that will never pass away.

**3. Praise the LORD from the earth,**

- a. You great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
- b. Lightning and hails, snow and clouds, strong winds that do His bidding;
- c. You mountains and all hills,
- d. Fruit trees and all cedars,
- e. Wild animals and all cattle,
- f. Small creatures and flying birds.
- g. Kings of the earth and all nations,
- h. You princes and all rulers on earth,
- i. Young men and women, old men and children.

**3. Let them praise the name of the LORD for His name alone is exalted.**

- a. His splendor is above the earth and heavens.
- b. And He has raised up for His people a horn, the praise of all His faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to His heart.

**PSALMS**  
**Book V**  
**Psalms 149-150**

**1. Praise the LORD.**

- a. Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of His faithful people. (Heb 13:5)
- b. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.
  - Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with timbrel and harp.
  - For the LORD takes delight in His people; He crowns ("beautifies") the humble ("poor, afflicted, meek") with victory (or, "salvation").

**2. Let His faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.** (Rom 8:18)

- a. May the ["high"] praise of God be in their mouths
- b. And a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples. (See Is 8:9, 41:1-16, Jer 51:20-24, Mic 4:11-13, Zec 12:3)
  - To bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, (Is 45:1-7)
  - To carry out the sentence written.
- c. This is the glory of all His faithful people.

**3. Praise the LORD.**

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**PSALMS**  
**BOOK V**  
**PSALM 150**

**1. Praise The LORD in His sanctuary.**

- a. For His acts of power;
- b. For His surpassing greatness.

**2. Praise Him with:**

- a. Sounding of the trumpet. ("Shofar, or ram's horn")
- b. Harp and lyre. (Stringed instruments)
- c. Timbrel and dancing (A percussion instrument, akin to the tambourine)
- d. The strings and pipe. (Stringed instruments and some type of flute/pipe)
- e. The clash of cymbals, with resounding cymbals.

**3. Praise the LORD.**