

Summer Bible Study: The Book of Psalms

Prayer

Memorization (Psalm 91, ESV)

- 91** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”
- ³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
- ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
- ⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.
- ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
- ¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
- ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.
- ¹⁴ “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.
- ¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.
- ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”

Introduction to the Psalms

“George Steiner says that if we are going to welcome a poem into the small granary of our feeling and understanding, much like greeting a stranger, we must extend to it ‘practices of courtesy.’ ‘Practices of courtesy’ is what Steiner also calls ‘philological reception,’ i.e. the lexical, grammatical, and rhetorical study that enables us to hear the poet accurately” (Saleska, xv).

“The Creator of the universe is an *artist*. The almighty God made the world for the love and delight of it. He made it as a gift—out of nothing—rather than out of grim necessity” (Saleska, 2).

“And they that speak these words to God and with God, this, I repeat, is the best thing of all. This gives the words double earnestness and life. For when men speak with men about these matters, what they say does not come so powerfully from the heart; it does not burn and live, is not so urgent. Hence it is that the Psalter is the book of all saints; and everyone, in whatever situation he may be, finds in that situation psalms and words that fit his ease, that suit him as if they were put there just for his sake, so that he could not put it better himself, or find or wish for anything better...When these words please a man and fit his case, he becomes sure that he is in the communion of saints, and that it has gone with all the saints as it goes with him, since they all sing with him one little song...But the Psalter holds you to the communion of saints and away from the sects. For it teaches you in joy, fear, hope, and sorrow to think and speak as all the saints have thought and spoken.” - Martin Luther

A Practice of Courtesy: Stepping toward a Deeper Understanding

Parataxis: lines or phrases of a psalm tend to be arranged independently in coordinate constructions. [oral, used when the speaker is emotional about something]

LSB 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

1. Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

5. City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM!

Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003071

Hypotaxis: use of subordinate clause upon subordinate clause, which may itself be subordinated to clauses before or after. [literary, used when a writer has been thinking calmly for a long time] (Saleska, 5-6)

TLH 626 O Happy Home Where Thou art Loved Most Dearly

1. O happy home where Thou art loved most dearly, Thou faithful Friend and Savior full of grace,
And where among the guests there never cometh One who can hold such high and honored place!
O happy home where all, in heart united, In holy faith and blessed hope are one,
Whom bitter death a little while divideth, Yet cannot end the union here begun!

4. O happy home where Thou art not forgotten When joy is overflowing, full, and free!
O happy home where every wounded spirit Is brought, O great Physician, unto Thee,
Until at last, when earthly toil is ended, All meet Thee in the blessed home above,
From whence Thou camest, where Thou hast ascended, Thine everlasting home of peace and love!

Meditation on the Psalms: Thoughts and Questions for Reflection

Our Goal: Grow closer to our Lord by engaging the text of God's Word.

How we get there:

1. Open the conversation rather than close it
2. Interact with the text
3. Reflect on the words and their effect on our hearts and lives
4. Discuss what we find and experience
5. Worry about right and wrong answers another time (but not right now)

Food for Thought and Discussion

- According to the speaker, where is God? Where do you see God?
- How does this psalm fit into the larger story of the Bible?
- How is this true for me? (or not true?)
- With whom do you identify? Is it hard to identify with the speaker?
- What do you notice?
- What do you value?
- When confronted with the words of the speaker, what should I do?
- What are you doing as you read?
- Am I agreeing, questioning, empathizing, confused, filled with joy, etc.?
- What does this psalm assume about the way the world is?
 - What key features of the world does this psalm try to deal with, respond to, make sense of?
- What does this psalm assume about the way the world should be?
 - What vision of the future animated its creator?
 - What new sense does it seek to add to a world that often seems chaotic and senseless?
- What does this psalm make possible?
 - What can people do or imagine, thanks to this psalm, they could not before?
- Conversely, what does this psalm make impossible? Or at least very difficult?
 - What activities and experiences that were previously part of the human experience become all but impossible in the wake of this new thing?

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man

who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
²but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Parallel Hymn:

LSB 705 The Man Is Ever Blessed

- 1 The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways, Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorners' place,
- 2 But makes the Law of God His study and delight Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.
- 3 He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root; Fresh as the leaf his name shall live, His works are heav'nly fruit.
- 4 Not so the wicked race, They no such blessings find; Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.
- 5 How will they bear to stand Before the judgment seat Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?
- 6 He knows and He approves The way the righteous go; But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.



©Trust for Ida Hart and John Hart. All rights reserved.

A DAY IS... AS A THOUSAND YEARS..



by Wiley.



6-15-97 JohnHartStudios.com

EVERYBODY DON'T ALL HAVE A FATHER.



©Trust for Ida Hart and John Hart. All rights reserved.

SOME, THERE ARE, WHOSE DADS HAVE PASSED ALONG.



THEN THERE'S SOME WHO COULDN'T GIVE LESS BOTHER



TO FAMILY SITUATIONS WOE BEGONE.



WITH DADS YOU CANNOT JUST REACH OUT AND 'NAB' ONE



TO PULL THE FAMILY OUT OF ITS DESPAIR—



BUT IF FOR SOME REASON YOU DON'T HAVE ONE,



THERE'S ONE ON DUTY, ALL THE TIME —UP 'THERE'.



Johnny Hart