



**Series: Summer of Psalms**

The Psalms reflect just about every emotion and mood of our human experience, from shouts of praise to wrestling with the hardest questions about suffering. Their voice is refreshingly spontaneous in conversation with the divine through poetry, prayer, and of course, song. This summer, we will celebrate the rich diversity of the Psalms, exploring major themes and how they can help us draw into closer relationship with an ever-present God. Come, let us join with God’s people throughout the ages in singing praise and heartfelt prayer as we experience a Summer of Psalms.

“Here at the very center of the Bible are songs, rising up like a tune from its heart.  
They capture the innermost thoughts and prayers of Old Testament people –  
and they still speak directly to our needs”  
(*NRSV Student Bible* with notes by Philip Yancey and Tim Stafford)

**Message description:**

The Psalms reflect about every emotion and mood of our human experience, from shouts of praise to wrestling with the hardest questions about suffering. Through poetry, prayer, and song, the Psalms capture a conversation with the divine that expresses our deepest pains, joys, sorrows, and hopes. Many of the Psalms were used in corporate worship as hymns of praise, liturgies, and enthronement psalms, which praise God for God's lordship over heaven, earth, and history (Psalms 8, 15, 19, 24, 29, 33, 84, 92, 93, 95-99, 100, 102-3, 111, 113-4, 115, 117, 118). These Psalms still guide our praise today of the Holy One; the One who forgives all our iniquity, who heals all our diseases, who redeems our lives from the pit, and who satisfies us with good things.

## **An introduction to the Psalms:**

The Psalms are a collection of ancient Hebrew poems, songs, and prayers that come from all different periods of Israel's history. They are divided into 5 books, divided by a similar doxology that serves as a conclusion to each section. Psalms 1 and 2 serve as introductory poems, introducing the two main themes throughout the Psalms: the study of Torah [God's covenant, faithfulness, provision] and the hope of the future Messianic king. **The book of Psalms was to serve as the prayerbook of God's people as they strived to be faithful to the commands of God's Torah and as they hoped and waited for the Messianic king.**

## **Structure**

Intro- Psalms 1 and 2

Book 1- Psalms 3–41

Book 2- Psalms 42–72

Book 3- Psalms 73–89

Book 4- Psalms 90–106

Book 5- Psalms 107–145

Closing- Psalms 146-150

**Video from the Bible Project:** <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/psalms/>

## **Key Scriptures**

*Psalm 103*

## **Psalms as Worship:**

Hymns of Praise, Worship, Liturgies (Psalms 8, 15, 19, 24, 29, 33, 84, 92, 102-3, 111, 113-4, 115, 117, 118)

*Used in corporate worship as songs and prayers.*

Enthronement Psalms (Psalms 93-100)

*Emphasize God's kingly reign over all things.*

Psalms for the Journey: Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-135)

*Psalms sung by pilgrims as they "ascended" Jerusalem on their way to attend major festivals.*

Psalms of Hallelujah! (Psalms 146-150)

*Serves as an conclusion to the whole book where all 5 psalms begin and end with an exclamatory "Praise ye the LORD!"*