

Psalms 1-41

An Introduction

Sunday 3rd April 2016

Date	Psalm	Chapter/Verse	What is God calling today?
1	1	1-2	
2	2	1-12	
3	3	1-7	
4	4	1-8	
5	5	1-11	
6	6	1-10	
7	7	1-17	
8	8	1-9	
9	9	1-13	
10	10	1-16	
11	11	1-12	
12	12	1-6	
13	13	1-6	
14	14	1-7	
15	15	1-13	
16	16	1-11	
17	17	1-15	
18	18	1-24	
19	19	1-14	
20	20	1-6	
21	21	1-13	
22	22	1-11	
23	23	1-6	
24	24	1-10	
25	25	1-14	
26	26	1-12	
27	27	1-14	
28	28	1-7	
29	29	1-14	
30	30	1-12	
31	31	1-14	
32	32	1-10	
33	33	1-12	
34	34	1-10	
35	35	1-12	
36	36	1-12	
37	37	1-37	
38	38	1-12	
39	39	1-12	
40	40	1-17	
41	41	1-12	

If you look in the *YouVersion* App and find Events, some very brief notes from this Talk will be there, but they will disappear at 12.30pm if you haven't saved them! These Talks will also be a Podcast on iTunes every week now too.

After looking at some of God's Attributes, what to do next? Reading a Psalm is often an important part of a Service - John Wright and now Alan Squires. Suggested Reading Plan is available in Church and online.

Interesting facts:

- Why *Psalms*?
- The Hebrew Bible calls this Book  *Tehillim* – Praises
- The Septuagint (*LXX*) calls this Book $\Psiαλμοί$ – songs sung to an instrument you twang or pluck. A lot of languages pronounce the “p”.

More Interesting facts:

- 5 Books
 - Bk1: 1-41
 - Bk2: 42-72
 - Bk3: 73-89
 - Bk4: 90-106
 - Bk5: 107-150

Even More Interesting facts:

- 5 Books
 - Bk1: 1-41
 - Bk2: 42-72
 - Bk3: 73-89
 - Bk4: 90-106
 - Bk5: 107-150
- 150 Chapters (12.6% of the total Bible)
- 2,461 Verses (7.9% of the total Bible)

Yet More Interesting Facts:

- Middle Chapter of the Bible: Ps.117
- Middle Verse of the Bible: Ps.103:1,2
- Longest Chapter in the Bible: Ps.119 (Has more verses than 13 OT bks and 16 NT bks.)
- Shortest Chapter in the Bible: Ps.117
- “Interesting” words: Selah etc

Selah (used 71 times) – like many words, the meaning isn't really known now. Could be “ponder what you've just sung/read whilst listening to music.” Pause and calmly think about it. Habakkuk uses it 3 times in his Chapter 3.

Can there be further Interesting Facts?

- Introductions: some give background, others how to sing it and others when to sing it.
- Authors: David, sons of Korah, Asaph, Heman, Ethan, Solomon, Moses, Haggai, Zechariah, Hezekiah, Ezra and anonymous. OT people.
- Time-scale: several centuries. Known as the Hymn book of the Second Temple [c.520BC]
- Only Isaiah is quoted more in the NT.

A wonderful event like the building of the Second Temple would have motivated the Priests to create a larger anthology of spiritual songs. (Solomon's Temple = 1st Temple, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in around 590BC [2 Kings 24, 25])



Which emotions will be discovered in the first 41 chapters of the Book of Psalms?
Hope? Despair? Grief? Thankfulness?
Anger? Surprise? Disgust? Relief?

Join us here as we explore this section of the Bible in April and May.
Sunday mornings at 11.00am.



Several ways to divide the Psalms. Thinking of them as Prayer, Praise and Prophecy is one way.

The Psalms show us the same God that we worship in the C21st is the same as 3,000+ years ago. The people we read about and who are expressing their emotions – our brothers and sisters – are facing the same kind of life as we do and find that their God enhances their joys and helps to bear their burdens.

Psalm 23

Psalm 23

Providence (vv1-3)
– the sheep and the Shepherd

Ps 23 the LORD is Shepherd to the individual (“my”), but Ps 80 He is the Shepherd of the whole people.



God's Providence – sheep and Shepherd

What other jobs might they have had instead?

Remember how often we hear about the shepherds that the Angels visited when Jesus was born. Not meant to be great men, but God condescends to be our Shepherd – a job that shows great love and care.

Shepherd out in all weathers, looking after a lot of animals that can easily get into mischief! Needed to be brave, know where to get food and water and to keep calm.

The protective care of God. Life is great! Green pastures: plenty,
Quiet waters – no big waves, restful and calm.

Message: “You let me catch my breath.”

Living Bible: “He helps me do what honours him the most.”

Jesus the good Shepherd – John 10.

Cp a leper, like in Matt 8:2-5. Jesus not just heal him physically but mentally by touching him – he's have been isolated by others before!

Who is our Shepherd? The “Tetragrammaton” (consisting of 4 letters: YHWH). The covenant Name of God not spoken by Jews.

The most exciting bit. David is confident that the LORD *is* his Shepherd – we can be dependent on Him too.

Psalm 23

Providence (vv1-3)
– the sheep and the Shepherd

Protection (v4)
- The traveller and the Companion



God's Protection - traveller and Companion

Darkest valley: deepest darkness

He of vv1-3 has become You - closer

Much harsher terrain when compared to the joyful experiences of the sheep. Duplication denotes completeness; rod could be ‘protection’ with staff being ‘support’ or ‘guidance.’

cp Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35).

How close for rod and staff to be of any use?

Psalm 23

Providence (vv1-3)
– the sheep and the Shepherd

Protection (v4)
- The traveller and the Companion

Provision (vv 5,6)
- The guest and the Host

God’s Provision – guest and Host

Hostile circumstances (4) + hostile people (5) – affirms care in every emergency.

You prepare a table – in presence of enemies!

Message “six course dinner.”

You anoint: the Lord’s welcome

Overflowing cup: lavish provision “Have some more” cp Luke 6:37, 38.

Who has prepared the table for us?

Who has prepared the table for us?



Who has prepared the table for us?



Who has prepared the table for us?



How close to a table do you need to be in order to prepare it?
Cp rod and staff.

How close to God are you?



(The word on this slide increases in size when it animated.)
How much influence does He have in your life? Do you want His influence to grow?
Are you content with life or is there a thirst for more? Maybe God is quietly speaking to you, saying I want more of you? Are you satisfied with life? Talk to God about it and then listen!

It doesn't matter where we are in life – in a happy place, in a sad place, in an uneasy season or in a brilliant section. God is with us. He asks us to trust Him however we feel and wherever we are.

Life often throws up questions. Some have several paths open to them and part of their day is spent in wondering what to do next. Others have a strong path that we can see into the distance. Life is fine. We know where we're going.

<p style="text-align: center;">Which way?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Which way?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"></div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Which way?</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proverbs 3:5,6 [Holman Christian Standard Bible]</p>
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The message of Psalm 23 is whether we're lying down in green pastures or walking through the darkest valley, God calls us to trust Him, to put our confidence in Him and to worship Him wholeheartedly.

Are there Seconds please?

What does God being your Shepherd suggest to you? Are there any areas of your life that you hide away from others? Pray for more courage, resilience and persistence for today and tomorrow – for yourself and others that you know. Lord, let your rod and staff comfort us!

Isaiah 40 is a brilliant chapter that describes God quite well, with lots of bold imagery. Amongst all the big things that are described, ponder on verse 11.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says:

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

What do you think about these verses?

What do you think about failure? Do you shy away from it or use it to grow as a disciple of Jesus? Remember the Shepherd when things are difficult and seem to have gone wrong.