**The Book of Psalms—Study Guide (Psalms 24-30)**

The Bible always takes precedence in our study of God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). This guide, therefore, is just a “help” and is compiled from commentaries, Ambassador College notes, & personal study.

**Psalm 24: A Psalm of David. (**According to Jewish tradition, this Psalm was sung as the ark of God was moved to Jerusalem from the house of Obed-Edom. See 2 Samuel 6:12-19).

1-2: The earth and all its fullness, including all who dwell in it, are the Lord’s (See Psalm 50:10-12). God founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters (See Genesis 1:2 and 2 Peter 3:5).

3: A question is posed: Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord, and who may stand in His holy place? A similar question is asked in Psalm 15:1.

4-5: The answer: He who has clean hands (unstained by violence) and a pure heart (free of deceit). One who has not lifted up his soul to an idol and has not sworn deceitfully (See Psalm 15:2-5). He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6: This is Jacob—all of Israel in the future—the generation that seeks Him and His face. Selah.

7-8: Lift up your heads, all gates and doors, for the King of glory shall come in. See also Isaiah 26:2; 62:10 and Micah 2:12-13. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

9-10: A number of these same words are repeated from the previous two verses for added emphasis. Notice the answer of who the King of glory is—the Lord of Hosts—the supreme ruler of the universe.

**Psalm 25: A Psalm of David.** (This is mainly an acrostic Psalm, where each letter of the Hebrew alphabet begins a verse. Psalm 34 is a companion Psalm).

1-3: To the Lord we lift up our soul and in God we put our trust. Let us not be ashamed. Let not our enemies triumph over us. Let no one who waits on God be ashamed, and let those who deal treacherously without cause be ashamed.

4-5: Show me your ways, O Lord (See Exodus 33:13). Lead me in Your paths. Lead me in Your truth, and teach Me. For God is the God of our salvation; and on Him we are to wait all the day.

6-7: Remember, O Lord. Your mercies and lovingkindnesses are from old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions. According to your mercy, remember me for Your goodness’ sake, O Lord.

8-9: A cause and effect: Because God is good and upright—He therefore teaches sinners in the way (to repent). God guides the humble in justice (in principles of right conduct) and teaches them His way. (God does not guide the arrogant who follow their own inclinations).

10-11: All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. Pardon our iniquity, for it is great, for Your name’s sake, O Lord.

12-13: Who is the man who fears the Lord? God will teach him in the way He chooses. He will dwell in prosperity and his descendants shall inherit the earth. See Proverbs 2:21.

14-15: The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him. He will show them (reveal a deeper knowledge of) His covenant. Our eyes should always be on the Lord, for He shall pluck our feet out of the net.

16-17: We can ask God to turn Himself to us and ask for His mercy when we are desolate and afflicted. When the troubles (worries and anxieties) of our heart have been enlarged, God can bring us out of those distresses.

18-19: In our prayers, we can ask for God to look on our afflictions and our pains, and forgive all our sins. We can also ask Him to consider our enemies, as they are many, and they hate us with cruel (oppressive) hatred.

20-21: God will keep (protect) our soul and deliver us. So, let’s not be ashamed as we put our trust in Him. Let God’s uprightness and integrity preserve us as we wait for Him.

22: Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles. The Apostle Paul’s desire was for Israel to be saved. See Romans 10:1.

**Psalm 26: A Psalm of David.**  (This Psalm voices the uneasiness which a good man feels in the midst of evil. He has a sense of insecurity, but instinctively turns to God for moral support).

1-2: David asked God to vindicate him as he walked in his integrity. As he trusted in the Lord, he knew he wouldn’t slip or waver. Yet he also asked God to examine him and to try his mind and heart.

3-5: God’s lovingkindness was before his eyes, and he walked in God’s truths. He didn’t sit with the idolatrous (men of vanity) or go in the way with hypocrites (they conceal their evil intentions behind an outward show of friendliness). He hated the assembly of evildoers and didn’t sit with the wicked.

6-8: He washed his hands in innocence (see Isaiah 1:15-17), and went about God’s altar, proclaiming with a voice of thanksgiving all of His wondrous works. (In contrast to hating being with the assembly of the wicked), He loved the habitation of God’s house, and the place where His glory dwells.

9-10: He asked that his soul not be gathered with sinners, nor with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands is a sinister scheme (craftiness) and whose right hand is full of bribes. (David asked God to be sure he wasn’t mistaken for any one of them, either in their plots, practices or ultimate fate).

11-12: But as for King David, he walked in integrity and asked God to redeem him (release him from the danger from the wicked, because he refused to do their same evil deeds) and be merciful to him. His foot stood in an even (safe, non-dangerous) place. In the congregations, he would bless the Lord.

**Psalm 27: A Psalm of David.** (This Psalm is usually read daily during the sixth month in preparation for the Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement).

1: The Lord is our Light (This phrase is the text for the motto of Oxford University) and our salvation, whom shall we fear? The Lord is the strength of our life, of whom shall we be afraid? See Romans 8:31.

2-3: When the wicked came against David, they stumbled and fell. Though an army camped near him and could rise against him, his heart didn’t fear, and he was confident in God. See 1 Samuel 23:25-28.

4: The one thing David desired and sought for was to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life, and to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His holy temple.

5: For in the time of trouble, He shall hide us in His pavilion, in the secret place of His tabernacle. He shall hide us and set us high upon a rock. See Psalm 31:2-3, 20; Psalm 91:1-7.

6: King David knew that his head would be lifted up above his enemies. Therefore, he was going to offer sacrifices of joy in God’s tabernacle and sing praises to God. See Psalm 33:1-3.

7-8: David asked God to hear him, have mercy on him, and answer. God tells us to seek His face. Our heart should tell us to do that—seek God’s face. See also 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Hosea 5:15.

9-10: David also asked God that He not hide His face from him, nor turn in anger. God was always his help. He asked God not to leave or forsake him. If our parents forsake us, God is always there to take care of us. See a similar concern that God has for us in Isaiah 49:15-16.

11-12: David continued to ask God to teach him His way, and to lead him in smooth paths. He asked not to be delivered to the will of his adversaries, for false witnesses rose against him who breathed out violence.

13-14: David would have lost heart unless he had believed that he would see the goodness of God in the land of the living. The conclusion: Wait on God, be of good courage, and God will strengthen your heart in faith. Wait on the Lord. See also Psalm 31:24; Deuteronomy 31:7; Joshua 1:6-7, 9.

**Psalm 28: A Psalm of David.** (A Psalm of prayer and thanksgiving).

1-2: David cried out to his Rock (Psalm 18:2). If God had been silent to him, he would have become like those who go down into the pit (grave). See Psalm 143:7. He asked God to hear him when he lifted his hands toward God’s sanctuary. See Lamentations 3:41.

3: David asked not to be taken away (drawn away) with the wicked who speak peace to their neighbors, but evil is in their hearts (hypocrisy). Notice Psalm 62:4 and Matthew 23:27-28.

4-5: The wicked will be recompensed according to their deeds, and will be rendered what they deserve, because they don’t regard the works or operations of the Lord. He will destroy them and not build them up.

6-7: The Lord is blessed because He hears the voice of our supplications. The Lord is our strength and shield. We are helped and greatly rejoice because our heart trusts in God.

8-9: The Lord is the strength of His people and the saving refuge of His anointed. Therefore David cried to God to save His people, bless His inheritance, shepherd (tend) and bear (carry) them up forever. (See Isaiah 40:11).

**Psalm 29: A Psalm of David.** A description of the voice of the Lord (mentioned seven times) likened to a storm in which there are shattering peals of thunder. This Psalm was also sung on the Sabbath. Peace (noted at the end) is apt for the day of rest which comes after the storm of everyday life and conflict during the week.

1-2: Give glory and strength unto the Lord, from the mighty ones (see Psalm 68:32-34). Give Him the glory due His name. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (The priests wore their vestments for this purpose—see Exodus 28:2).

3-4: The voice of God is over the waters. He thunders and is over many waters. God’s voice is powerful and is full of majesty. (His voice is likened to thunder in Psalm 18:13).

5-7: His voice breaks cedars—splintering even the cedars of Lebanon (the prince of trees). He makes them skip like a calf. Lebanon and Sirion (ancient name for Mt. Hermon, the highest in the land—Deuteronomy 3:9) skip like a young ox. The voice of the Lord divides the flames of fire (lightning).

8-9: God’s voice shakes the wilderness—even the wilderness of Kadesh (on the border of Edom. See Numbers 20:14-16). His voice makes the deer give birth (there are instances when the terror of thunder causes animals to bring forth their young prematurely) and strips the forests bare (because of the wind and battering rain, and lightning strikes). And in God’s temple, all say, “Glory.” See Isaiah 6:3.

10-11: The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood—during the most devastating storm in history. He sits as King (and Judge) forever. The Lord will give strength (and mercy) to His people, and He will bless His people with peace.

**Psalm 30: A Psalm: A song at the dedication of the house of David.** (This is a fervent hymn of gratitude for redemption from a danger which threatened imminent death--possibly a grave illness).

1-3:David praised God for lifting him up (like drawing water from a well) and not allowing his foes to rejoice over him. God healed him and brought his soul from the grave, and kept him alive so that he should not go down into the pit.

4-5: The saints of God are to sing praises and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name (to the memorial of His holiness, see Exodus 3:15). God’s anger is but for a moment, His favor though is for life. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

6-7: In the prosperity that God gave David, he was not moved (See Psalm 125:1). By God’s favor, He made David’s mountain stand strong; and when God hid His face, David was troubled.

8-10: So, David cried out to God and asked what profit would there be if he went to the grave. The dust and the grave can’t declare God’s truth. (Hezekiah basically said the same words in Isaiah 38:18-19). David asked for God’s mercy and that God would be his helper.

11-12: God turned David’s mourning into dancing, instead of sackcloth. God clothed him with gladness, and therefore, David was able to continue to sing praises to God, and will give Him thanks forever.