

Psalms Notes

Book Two: Psalms 42–72

42. *Seek After the Lord*

Theme:

Homesick for God

Summary:

1-5 A thirst for God

6-11 Feeling depressed and overwhelmed

Capsule Thought:

The psalmist is depressed and overwhelmed by his exile and longs to return. He reminds himself to Hope in God.

Thought Questions:

Why are his enemies saying, “Where is your God”?

43. *“Hope in God!”*

Theme:

Deliverance from exile

Summary:

1-4 A prayer for deliverance

5 A reminder to hope in God

Capsule Thought:

This Psalm is the conclusion of Psalm 42 and speaks of this exile’s return to worship God.

Thought Question:

What does Psalm 42 and 43 prescribe for someone who feels God is far away?

44. *Prayer for Deliverance by God*

Theme:

Where is God in our time of need?

Summary:

1-3 The deeds of God in days of old

4-8 In God our King we trust

9-22 Why are they slaughtered when they have not turned away?

23-26 A cry for redemption

Capsule Thought:

The voices do not understand their defeat before their enemies when they had been faithful to God.

Thought Question:

Why might they have suffered defeat even if they were faithful? See Rom 8:35-37 where Paul quotes this Psalm.

45. A Royal Wedding Song

Theme:

A royal marriage song of the uniting of the King and his bride

Summary:

1-9 Addressed to the king

10-15 Addressed to the bride to be

16-17 Speaks of the offspring of the couple

Capsule Thought:

Jewish interpretation applied this to the Messiah and his bride Israel.

Thought Question:

Do you think this should be interpreted only as the Christ and His Bride, or would this have been applicable to all of the kings whom God anointed?

46. “God Is Our Refuge and Strength”

Theme:

Confidence in God’s ultimate victory

Summary:

1-3 Do not be afraid, God will overcome our trouble

4-7 God dwells in His holy city

8-11 God is our refuge

Capsule Thought:

God says he will be exalted among the nations and in the earth

Thought Question:

What does it mean “to be still and know that I am God”?

47. The Lord Shall Subdue All Nations

Theme:

The King of all the earth

Summary:

1-4 Yhwh is King of all the earth and will order the other nations under Israel

5-9 All people should sing praises to Yhwh, the King of all the earth

Capsule Thought:

The psalmist declares that God is greatly exalted over all the earth and all its peoples and princes.

Thought Question:

How could God be greatly exalted even though most people and princes of the earth didn’t exalt him as Lord?

48. The Praise of Mount Zion

Theme:

God is to be praised in all His holy mountain

Summary:

1-3 God is in His Holy City

4-8 God’s holy city brings fear to all other kings

9-14 Consider Zion our guide forever even until death

Capsule Thought:

The inhabitants of Zion are urged to praise their God and speak of the God of Zion to all generations.

Thought Question:

Even though Jerusalem, as it was set upon a hill, was a formidable natural fortress for invaders to conquer, what was its real defense?

49. Riches Cannot Redeem

Theme:

What money cannot buy.

Summary:

1-4 Now Hear This!

5-12 Money cannot save you from your iniquity

13-15 The end of the fool contrasted with the end of the redeemed

16-20 Do not be in awe of wealth or power, no man will take it with him

Capsule Thought:

Death is impartial, it happens to all and no man's wealth or honor means anything there. Death is the great equalizer only those whom God redeems shall have hope.

Thought Questions:

Who is like the beasts that perish?

50. The Lord Shall Judge All People

Theme:

No one will escape God's judgment

Summary:

1-6 God himself is Judge

7-15 God does not need us, we need Him

16-21 Woe to you hypocrites

22-23 Judge the nations, O God (9:15-20)

Capsule Thought:

External religious rituals are not enough, one must praise Him and conduct themselves appropriately.

Thought Questions:

What are people told to consider?

51. Confession and Forgiveness of Sin

Theme:

Repentance and forgiveness

Summary:

1-4 A plea for mercy

5-6 The context of David's sin

7-12 A plea for cleansing and renewal

13-19 A promise to teach others

Capsule Thought:

This psalm speaks to forgiveness but also of our need to be made clean again and have our hearts renewed by God.

Thought Questions:

Why does David say he sinned against God only?

52. *The Lord Shall Judge the Deceitful***Theme:**

Vain trust in wealth

Summary:

1-7 The mighty man who trusts in his wealth

8-9 The man who trust in God

Capsule Thought:

The mighty man who boasts in his evil ways is being ridiculed or taunted.

Thought Questions:

Why would we want to be like an olive tree planted in the house of God?

53. *A Portrait of the Godless***Theme:**

A meditation about a fool

Summary:

1-4 The fool described

5-6 God will judge

Capsule Thought:

God will judge those who have no regard for him, but the salvation of God's people will come out of Zion.

Thought Questions:

How do the scriptures define a fool?

54. *The Lord Is Our Helper***Theme:**

Faith in God during times of trouble

Summary:

1-3 A plea to God for rescue from enemies

4-7 He anticipates God's deliverance

Capsule Thought:

When David asked for help He was confident of God's deliverance and promised to offer sacrifices and praise to God.

Thought Questions:

Why was David so confident God would deliver him from his enemies?

55. *“Cast Your Burden on the LORD”*

Theme:

God is our refuge when trouble comes

Summary:

1-8 The psalmist longs to escape his trouble

9-15 A call for swift destruction of his former companion

16-19 Call upon God for rescue

20-21 The nature of his former companion

22 Call upon God and He will sustain you

23 A call for God’s justice upon wicked men

Capsule Thought:

The reproach of a supposed friend was much harder to take than that of a known enemy therefore terror and horror has overwhelmed him.

Thought Questions:

Why are the attacks from a supposed friend so much harder upon us?

56. *Trust in the Midst of Trials*

Theme:

Faith in God’s protection

Summary:

1-7 When we fear, trust in God

8-13 God knows all of our sufferings

Capsule Thought:

The psalmist is reminding himself to trust in God when he is afraid because God knows all the times he has had to wander and shed tears.

Thought Questions:

Why does David in the midst of this psalm promise to praise God’s word?

57. *Prayers in the Midst of Perils*

Theme:

A plea for help and a promise of praise

Summary:

1-6 David’s trust in the midst of his enemies

7-11 I will praise you O Lord

Capsule Thought:

In the midst of David’s trouble with Saul, he trusted in God and continually sang praises of God.

Thought Questions:

Why does David not describe any fear during this trial with Saul?

58. Wicked Judges Will Be Judged

Theme:

Judgment upon the wicked judges of men

Summary:

1-2 Do you judge uprightly?

3-5 The wicked persons

6-9 A call for destruction of the wicked

10-11 The righteous will rejoice when he sees vengeance

Capsule Thought:

God will bring vengeance upon the wicked and reward the righteous

Thought Questions:

Why would the righteous rejoice when they see God's vengeance?

59. Petition for Deliverance from Violent Men

Theme:

Divine deliverance from danger

Summary:

1-9 A plea for deliverance

10-15 A plea for God to make them an example to the people

16-17 A promise of songs of praise to God

Capsule Thought:

David asked God not to slay his enemies but to make them a reminder for the people. He did ask God to take them down like dogs and not let them work their evil among the people of Jacob.

Thought Questions:

Is there a difference between a transgressor and a wicked transgressor?

60. A Prayer for Deliverance of the Nation

Theme:

The nations defeat has come from God

Summary:

1-5 The kings lament of their defeat

6-8 The oracle of God

9-12 A plea for God to lead them

Capsule Thought:

They understood their defeat was a sure sign that God was angry with them and was not leading them in battle.

Thought Questions:

How can God's anger with His people have a positive effect?

61. A Prayer When Overwhelmed

Theme:

Trust in God's protection

Summary:

1-2 Lead me to the rock

3-4 God is my shelter

5-7 God gives the king life and a heritage

8 A promise to sing praises and pay vows

Capsule Thought:

When the psalmist is overwhelmed, he remembers what God had done for him as well as the vows he had made to God and his hope to see those vows fulfilled.

Thought Questions:

What is the heritage of those who fear God?

62. Wait for God

Theme:

God is our rock and defense

Summary:

1-2 My soul waits for God

3-4 The wicked will be slain

5-8 Trust in God at all times

9-12 God will render to each according to their work

Capsule Thought:

God is viewed as a rock, a fortress and salvation. In God alone can we trust.

Thought Questions:

What other things do people put their trust in?

63. Thirst for God

Theme:

A longing for God

Summary:

1-2 He longs to know the power and glory of God

3--8 Because of God's lovingkindness he will praise Him, be satisfied and upheld

9-11 The fate of David's enemies

Capsule Thought:

David longed for God's love more than life itself.

Thought Questions:

How can someone long for God like this?

64. A Prayer for God's Protection

Theme:

A prayer for help from enemies

Summary:

1-6 The psalmist's enemies speak and plot evil against him

7-9 God shall make them stumble and people will take it to heart

10 The righteous shall be glad, glory and trust in God

Capsule Thought:

People schemed against the Lord's anointed and thought they would not be known, but God can defeat even the thoughts of men.

Thought Questions:

What were David's enemies trying to do to him?

65. God's Provision Through Nature

Theme:

God's awesome power shall provide for them

Summary:

1-4 Praise in the Temple of God

5-8 God's awesome deeds

9-13 God's provision

Capsule Thought:

Without the water that God waters the earth nothing could survive.

Thought Questions:

In what ways does God bless all people through His creation?

66. Remember What God Has Done

Theme:

The awesome things God has done

Summary:

1-7 Sing praises for the awesome works of God

8-12 You people look what God has done for you

13-15 A promise to offer proper sacrifices

16-20 Listen to what God has done for me, He has not turned away from me

Capsule Thought:

This psalm is a reminder of God's works in creation, in His peoples, and in His mercy to each of us

Thought Questions:

When you remember what God has done, what comes to mind?

67. God Shall Govern the Earth

Theme:

Universal praise to God

Summary:

1-2 God's mercy and blessing should make known God's way

3-4 Let all the peoples praise God for He judges all the earth

5-7 Let all the peoples praise God for the food He provides

Capsule Thought:

God provides the harvest to all nations upon the earth.

Thought Questions:

How does God's provision for all the earth make known His ways?

68. God the King

Theme:

The marching of God through all the earth

Summary:

1-3 An introduction of the King as He marches in

4-18 God's care for the helpless through history

19-20 The God of our salvation

21-23 The Lord crushed His enemies

24-27 Bless the Lord O Israel

28-32 All the Nations should present themselves to God

33-35 A blessing to God of Israel

Capsule Thought:

All nations are told of the King who rides on the heaven of heavens and told to honor Him and sing praises to His name..

Thought Questions:

How is Paul applying this psalm (vs. 18) in Eph 4:8?

69. Petition for God to Draw Near

Theme:

Suffering for his faith in God

Summary:

1-12 David is sinking in deep waters

13-29 A prayer for rescue before the deep swallows him

30-36 Praise of God

Capsule Thought:

David is at the very end of his rope while waiting for God's help. He doesn't believe he can last much longer against his enemies.

Thought Questions:

How is the trouble David writes of here different from many of his other psalms when he asks for help?

70. *Prayer for the Poor and Needy*

Theme:

Prayer for help from enemies

Summary:

1 Help me O Lord

2-3 Turn back those who seek my life

4-5 Let those that seek you rejoice

Capsule Thought:

Since David describes himself as poor and needy, he is not speaking in fleshly terms but in spiritual terms.

Thought Questions:

When are we poor and needy?

71. *Prayer for the Aged*

Theme:

Protection in old age

Summary:

1-6 He put his trust in God from his youth

7-18 Do not forsake me in my old age

19-24 Revive me again and I will speak of you at all times

Capsule Thought:

God has been with this old man through all his severe trials, and he is asking for God's help again. He promises to continue to sing praises of God and teach others about God's righteousness.

Thought Questions:

What problems of old age can God help us overcome?

72. *Prayer for the King's Son*

Theme:

A prayer for God's anointed

Summary:

1-4 Help the king to rule righteously

5-7 Help his reign to endure to all generations

8-17 Dominion from sea to sea

Capsule Thought:

The superscription says the psalm is of Solomon, those words could mean for or about Solomon. Verse 20 seems to say that this is the last prayer David made to God and it was for Solomon's reign but probably more prophetically for Jesus reign on David's throne.

Thought Questions:

How does this psalm apply to Solomon and Jesus?