



Review of the Psalms Series

# HOW SHALL WE LIVE?

*The Psalter ought to be a precious and beloved book, if for no other reason than this: it promises Christ's death and resurrection so clearly—and pictures his kingdom and the condition and nature of all Christendom—that it might well be called a little Bible. In it is comprehended most beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible. It is really a fine handbook. In fact, I have a notion that the Holy Spirit wanted to take the trouble himself to compile a short Bible and book of examples of all Christendom for all saints, so that anyone who could not read the whole Bible would here have anyway almost an entire summary of it, comprised in one little book.*

—Martin Luther

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES FROM THE PSALMS:

### 1. To enter into the joyful blessing of relationship with God, a person must submit to God's Word and to God's Son.

*Blessed is the man  
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And in His law he meditates day and night. (1:1-2)*

*Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,  
And you perish in the way,  
When His wrath is kindled but a little.  
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (2:12)*

### 2. We are part of a great spiritual battle between the seed of the woman (Messiah) and the seed of the serpent.

Book I of the Psalms (1-41) focuses on the opposition of the world to God's Anointed (2:1-2). All of the psalms are written by David through whom the messianic King would come (cf. 2 Samuel 7).

*Arise, O LORD, in Your anger;  
Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies. (7:6)*

*All who hate me whisper together about me;  
They imagine the worst for me.  
They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;  
He will not rise again from where he lies."  
Even my close friend in whom I trusted,  
Who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. (41:7-9)*

### 3. Despite opposition, we are called to communicate to the nations God's judgment of sin and His saving grace.

*The Psalter opens with Psalms 1 and 2 serving as pillars marking the entrance to the temple of the Psalter. ...Two groups of people with a radically different faith and lifestyle respond differently to Yahweh's Torah and Yahweh's Messiah. —O. Palmer Robertson*

God's Word and God's Son are paired in three sets of psalms: Psalms 1/2, 18/19, and 118/119.

*The major distinctive of the book of Psalms is its unfolding of the central aspects of God's covenant with David, which may be characterized as the "covenant of the kingdom.*

—O. Palmer Robertson

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.*

—Genesis 3:15

*From start to finish, the OT is a messianic document, written from a messianic perspective, to sustain a messianic hope.*

—James Hamilton

*Every prophet prophesied only for the days of the Messiah.*

—Rabbi Yohanan (180-279)

Book II of the Psalms (42-72) begins with a group of psalms by the “Sons of Korah” and ends with a psalm by Solomon, the son of David, declaring that all of the nations of the earth shall serve the messianic King.

*God be merciful to us and bless us,  
And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah  
That Your way may be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations. (67:1-2)*

#### **4. In the midst of opposition, we will often face times of doubt, defeat, discouragement, depression, and even despair.**

Book III of the Psalms (73-89) details the struggles and defeat of God’s people at the hand of enemies. Words of faith and hope are rarely used in these psalms and the section ends with a note of despair (Ps. 88-89).

*How long, Lord?  
Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire?  
Remember how short my time is;  
For what futility have You created all the children of men? (89:46-47).*

#### **5. In times of difficulty, we must remember one vital truth: THE LORD REIGNS!**

Book IV of the Psalms (90-106) reminds us over and over to put our faith and hope in the sovereignty of God. He is eternal and He reigns!

*Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!”  
The world also is firmly established,  
It shall not be moved;  
He shall judge the peoples righteously. (96:10)*

#### **6. We give thanks to the LORD for He is good and His steadfast love endures forever. HALLELUJAH!**

Book V of the Psalms (107-150) calls us to praise the Lord.

*Praise the Lord, all nations!  
Extol him, all peoples!  
For great is His steadfast love toward us,  
And the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord! (117:1-2)*

#### **7. All that we do is to be for the glory of God!**

Each book of the psalms ends with a doxology (41:13; 72:18-19; 89:52; 106:48; 146-150). *Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!*

*The most striking thing about the content of this second collection is the number of psalms that refer to the “peoples,” the “nations,” the “foreigners,” or “all mankind.” ...In Book I, David struggles with many enemies as they attempt to derail his every effort to establish the messianic kingdom of righteousness. ...But now he is making every effort to communicate with them.*

—O. Palmer Robertson

*Our emotions reveal our deepest questions about God. They vocalize the inner working of our souls. Listen to and ponder your emotions in order to discern what your heart is doing with God and others. They are a voice that can tell us how we are dealing with a fallen, hurtful world. Emotions force open the stuck window of our soul, compelling us to face how we are facing life.*

—Robert Kellemen

*The unchanging, eternal state of Yahweh’s being King is here emphatically stressed. ...Yahweh has been King since creation and as King he has sustained the world in its immovable state.*

—Hans-Joachim Kraus

*Are there not periods of life when we feel so glad that we would fain dance for joy? Let not such exhilaration be spent upon common themes, but let the name of God stir us to ecstasy.*

—Charles H. Spurgeon

*Praise God with a strong faith; praise Him with holy love and delight; praise Him with an entire confidence in Christ; praise Him with a believing triumph over the powers of darkness.*

—Mathew Henry