

THE BOOK OF
PSALMS

Book Five: Psalms 107-150

... of the godly
... walketh

12 Kiss the
from the wa
Blessed are

PSALM 107-150

- 15 composed by David
- 1 composed by Solomon (*Psalms 127*)
- *Psalms 113-118* are known as the “Egyptian Hallel”, recited and sang during the Passover celebration
- *Psalms 120-134* are known as the “Psalms of Ascent”
- Book Five contains the shortest chapter in the Bible (*Psalms 117*) and the longest chapter in the Bible (*Psalms 119*)

THE PSALMS...

Calls for Thanksgiving and Praise for God's Deliverance

"...Moses gave Israel five books of law, and David gave them five books of Psalms..."

- Book 1: Psalm 1-41
- Book 2: Psalm 42-72
- Book 3: Psalm 73-89
- Book 4: Psalm 90-106
- Book 5: Psalm 107-150

CLASSIFICATION	PSALM	DESCRIPTION
Penitential	6,32,38,51,102,130,143	Psalms seeking the forgiveness of God
Acrostic	9,25,34,37,111,112,119,145	Helpful in teaching
Hallelujah	106,113-118,135,146-150	Each begins with "hallelujah", meaning "praise the Lord"
Imprecatory	5,28,35,40,55,58,69,83,109	Expressions of anger against enemies and those who do evil
Psalms of Degrees or Ascent	120-134	Often sang by Jews as traveled toward Jerusalem to participate in national feasts
Messianic	2,8,16,22,23,24,40,41,68,69,72,87,89,102,110,118	These depict every aspect of the life of Christ

PSALM 109

“A Psalm of David” (*I Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22*)

“For the Choir”

“...In the awfulness of its anathemas, this Psalm surpasses everything of the kind in the Old Testament...”

“...utterly repulsive maledictions inspired by the wildest form of vengeance, make this one of the most questionable hymns ...”

“...carnal passion that is utterly inexcusable...”

“...The sudden transition in the psalms from humble devotion to fiery imprecation create an embarrassing problem for the Christian...”

“...The bitter imprecations of this psalm appear to us as wholly antithetical to the true spirit of Christianity...”

“...These things are further from the spirit of Christianity than anything else in the whole Psalter...”

“...These things are written for our learning, and not for our imitation...”

“...All Scripture is inspired by God (God breathed) and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work...”.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Imprecations: Old and New

“...add iniquity to their iniquity, and may they not come into Your righteousness. May they be blotted out of the Book of Life, and may they not be recorded with the righteous...” Psalm 69:27-28

“...How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones against the rock...” Psalm 137:9

“...O that You would slay the wicked...” Psalm 139:19

“...Therefore, give their children over to famine, and deliver them up to the power of the sword; and let their wives become childless and widowed. Let their men also be smitten to death, with their young men struck down by the sword in battle...”:”...do not forgive their iniquity or blot out their sin from Your sight...” Jeremiah 18:19-23

“...I saw underneath the alter the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained: and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?...” Revelation 6:9-10

The Heart of David...

A man aware of his own sinfulness before God...

“...For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin...” Psalm 38:18

“...It is You, O God, Who knows my folly and my wrongs are not hidden from You...” Psalm 69:5; 32:5; 51:5

A man willing to be searched by God...

“...O that You would slay the wicked, O God...” Psalm 139:19

“...Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way...” Psalm 139:23-24

A man willing to be disciplined by God...

“...If I have done this, if there is any injustice in my hands, if I have rewarded evil to my friend, or have plundered him who without cause was my adversary, let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it; and let them trample my life down to the ground and lay my glory in the dust...” Psalm 7:3-5

Thoughts...

- How does this psalm fit in this section where the emphasis is on praise and thanksgiving?
- It is not sinful to see sin as repulsive and long for God's judgements. Petitions for justice and divine retribution is based on Biblical precepts, practices and principles. The Psalmist pleads with God to act in keeping with His character (justice and righteousness) and His covenant promises.
- Our oft perceived tensions between the Old and New are not supported by scripture. The New Testament has much to say about judgment, justice and condemnation. The Old Testament teaches us to love our neighbor and not seek vengeance. Paul's instruction not to take vengeance in *Romans 12:17-21* has roots in the Old Testament (*Deuteronomy 32:35-36, Proverbs 25:21*).
- When David prays for God to intervene in such ways, he left the matter entirely with God. He didn't exact vengeance Himself (*109:4,20,27*), he gave it over to the Father. God, as a Father, allowed His son David to express his innermost feelings .