

Lesson #14

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: read Psalms 1, 2, 22, 23, 32, 51, 119:1-32

BACKGROUND

Author and Date: Moses, David, Levites in charge of music (sons of Korah, Asaph the choir director, choir members Heman, grandson of Samuel, 1 Chron. 6:33 and Ethan, plus other unnamed choir members), Solomon, Ezra
The earliest Psalm was written in 1400 BC, the majority c. 1000 BC and the latest Psalms in 400 BC
Ezra, a Levite scribe, compiled the worship songs c. 400 BC

Theme: Praise The Hebrew title *tehillim* means *praises*; the Greek title *Psalms* means *poems used with a psalterion*
The most important part of worship is **praise** for who God is, what He has done and that He is faithful

Purpose: To have all of Israel's worship music in 1 book and have it matched with the books of Moses 2 Chron. 29:25-26

OUTLINE

Humanity	1 - 41	For 600 years, starting with David (1000 BC), the books of Moses and Psalms were used for 2 readings in Jewish worship. About 400 BC, the Levite, Ezra thought it would be helpful if the 2 readings would be on the same topic. So after collecting all the Psalms that were used, he went thru and divided them into 5 topics to match the 5 books of Moses.
The Jews	42 - 72	
Worship	73 - 89	
Wandering	90 - 106	
God's Word	107- 150	

DEFINITION: *Fear of the Lord*

When the phrase is talking about God **Himself**, it means to have reverence and awe of Him.

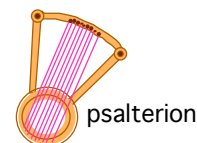
When the phrase is talking about God's **consequences**, it means to be literally afraid to disobey.

EXPLANATIONS

The 5 topics for Jewish liturgy

Humanity **Genesis** and Psalms 1-41

In creation	Psa. 8, 19
In harmony with God	Psa. 1:1-3 Adam and Eve in Garden fits with Psa 1:3 a tree, rivers and fruit.
Choosing their own way	Psa. 1:4-5
In rebellion against God	Psa. 2:1-3
Forgiven and restored	Psa. 32 <i>blessed</i> : enriched by the Holy Spirit because of something you did or chose.



The Jews **Exodus** and Psalms 42-72

Suffering and crying for help Psa. 42:3, 9-10
Deliverance Psa. 59:16-17
Both books end with the glory of the Lord: filling the Tabernacle (Exodus) or filling the earth (Psalm).

Worship **Leviticus** and Psalms 73-89

Almost every chapter mentions *sanctuary, temple, worship, vows or sacrifice*.

Wandering **Numbers** and Psalms 90-106

Begins with Moses' prayer during the time of wandering. Psa. 90
Ends with a description of the 40 years of wandering. Psa. 106

God's Word **Deuteronomy** and Psalms 107-150

Warning against idols Psa. 115, 135
Fear of the Lord used 15 times in Dt.; 16 times in the 5th division of Psalms
The importance of obeying God's Word Psa. 119

Psalm 73 Asaph, the choir director almost lost his faith as he wrestled with the unfairness of life. He was looking at things from the perspective of this life. It was only when he went to God that he could see the bigger picture.

In this life we will not have complete justice; we will not have answers to all our questions and we will not receive all the apologies we are due. But life does not end on this earth. As lives are reviewed in the presence of Jesus, we will get the justice, answers and apologies that we need.

It is thru our worship of God, as we praise Him for who He is, what He has done and for His faithfulness ...

...we get His perspective

...we get strength to live in the midst of unfairness, injustice and tragedy

...we get strength to keep our faith



EXPLANATIONS continued

Psalms 22 The Holy Spirit guides David to write about Jesus, 1000 years before Jesus was born cf. Luke 24:44

Vs. 1 *My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?*

These are David's feelings in his late 20's as he is hiding from Saul; he feels abandoned by God.
These are also the words of Jesus on the cross during the 3 hours of separation from God the Father

Vs. 6 *I am a worm and not a man...* out of 4 Hebrew words for *worm*, David uses the word for the scarlet grub.

These insects were gathered, placed in a mortar and pestle and crushed to make red dye used for royal clothes. Our sins caused Jesus to be crushed. Isa. 53:5. His crushing can give us His robe of salvation and rightness. Isa. 61:10

Vs. 7 These are the words of the Jewish leaders as they taunt Jesus during the first 3 hours on the cross.

Vs. 14 *I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint.*

A person being crucified sweats profusely; the weight of the body pulls the bones out of joint.

Vs. 15 Dehydration is always a part of crucifixion; there is extreme thirst; the tongue becomes thick and sticks to the roof of the mouth; it becomes impossible to speak clearly. This is why Jesus requested liquid.

Vs. 16 *Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me. They have pierced my hands and feet.*

He was surrounded by Gentiles (Roman soldiers) and encircled by evil men (Jewish religious leaders). His hands and feet were pierced; this is a clear reference to death by crucifixion.

Crucifixion was invented by the Phoenicians but not used until the time of the Persians. It was the Romans who brought it into prominence. David never saw a crucifixion, much less experienced one. Yet he gives detail after detail about the physical and emotional aspects of crucifixion. Only the Holy Spirit could give him that insight.

Vs. 17 The hanging weight of the body caused the ribs to protrude, so it was possible to count them.

Vs. 18 In the Roman empire, the clothing of the criminal was part of the soldiers' payment. Depending on the number of soldiers involved, they tore the robe at the seams and divided it among them. Because Jesus' robe did not have seams, they did not want to tear it. They decided to throw dice for His robe, which was exactly what David said they would do, 1000 years earlier.

Vs. 31 *They will proclaim His rightness to a people yet unborn, for He has done it or for it is finished*

The first and last verses of Psalm 22 are the words of Jesus on the cross.

There are 16 Psalms that describe Jesus as the Promised Messiah. (2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 24, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 72, 89, 110, 118). The Gospels describe Jesus' *outward* life and tell us that He prayed. The Psalms describe Jesus' *inner* life and tell us **what** He prayed.

APPLICATION: Jesus did this for me

God is holy. Only holiness can live in His presence. Because we are not holy, we must be separated from Him.

Jesus came as deity and became humanity; He was perfect and holy.

While on the cross, all the sin of the world was dumped on Jesus. Jesus cried out, *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?* In His humanity, Jesus was separated from the Father for us, in our place. It was the payment for sin. Then while still alive, He declared the payment had been made and was complete, *It has been finished.*

Because His mission was accomplished, Jesus died physically. This was necessary so Jesus could have a resurrection body. In addition, when the Father raised Jesus from the dead, it was proof He accepted His Son's payment.

The Father then put that payment on deposit. The moment we tell God, *I want the payment of Jesus for me*, our unholiness is transferred to the account of Jesus. His holiness is transferred to our account. The Father now chooses to see us in the holiness of Jesus. We can enjoy a relationship with God; we can enjoy His peace, presence and comfort.

There is tragedy and sorrow around us, but we can live by faith, confident He is in control; He knows and cares; He will give us strength and wisdom for each day. And it is all because of Jesus!

