

# Themes from the Psalms

Composite

Heard Lowry

2004

# Quote

His purpose is not that you will do more for Him  
but that you will choose to be more with Him.

**Bruce Wilkinson**

# Outline of the Class

- Introduction

- Types of Literature
- Translation of Poetry
- Parallelism
- Expressing Ourselves
- Religious Background (Mindset of the hearers)
- About the Psalms

- Themes

- Worship
- Inner Struggle
- Worthiness
- Shared Strength
- Protection
- Prophecy\*

**These themes are my choice:  
find your own!**

- Conclusions

# Types of Literature in the Bible

- History – give sense of purpose and plan
- Prophecy – give sense of future
- Teaching – show the will of God
  - Parables
  - Sermons
  - Allegories
  - Stories
  - Use of imagery
- Poetry – expression of feelings
  - Like opinion: it truly represents someone's feelings
  - How godly people respond to life and God
  - How does this relate to inspiration?

**Which type do you learn the most from?**

# The Usefulness of the Poetic Form

## Memory aids

- rhyme
- meter
- music
- imagery
- parallelism
  - also aids in memorization
  - gives different ways of looking at things

Some people know the words to any song that they have ever heard!

**This is how oral traditions were passed on to other generations**

# Translation of Language (1)

Not a letter transformation or substitution  
Not a word transformation or substitution

Γεαρδ

**How do you translate idioms?**

Example: Snug as a bug in a rug.

We had hot dogs and Coke for lunch; fish and hush puppies for supper, and then sat around shooting the bull until midnight.

**Straight Translation:**

We had steaming canines and processed coal for the noon meal; fish and mute dogs for the evening meal, followed by passively engaging until midnight in the brutish sport of bull-shooting.

# Translation of Language (2)

Not a letter transformation or substitution  
Not a word transformation or substitution

A Mighty Fortress is Our God -- Martin Luther, 1529

Ein' feste Burg ist unser **Gott**,  
Ein gute Wehr und **Waffen**;  
Er hilft uns frei aus aller **Not**,  
Die uns jetzt hat **betroffen**.  
Der alt' böse **Feind**,  
Mit Ernst er's jetzt **meint**,  
Groß' Macht und viel **List**  
Sein' grausam' Rüstung **ist**,  
Auf Erd' ist nicht **seingleichen**.

Original German

God  
Weapons  
Emergency  
concerned  
enemy  
means  
cunning  
is  
the same

computer  
translation

**God**  
failing  
**flood**  
prevailing  
foe  
woe  
great  
hate  
**equal**

Slight rhyming  
problem

doesn't have  
to rhyme with  
anything

Frederick H.  
Budge

# Translation of Poetry (1)

**A Mighty Fortress is Our God -- Martin Luther, 1529**

Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott,  
 Ein gute Wehr und Waffen;  
 Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,  
 Die uns jetzt hat betroffen.  
 Der alt' böse Feind,  
 Mit Ernst er's jetzt meint,  
 Groß' Macht und viel List  
 Sein' grausam' Rüstung ist,  
 Auf Erd' ist nicht seingleichen.

A A mighty fortress is our God,  
 B A bulwark never failing;  
 A Our helper He amid the flood  
 B Of mortal ills prevailing;  
 C For still our ancient foe  
 C Doth seek to work us woe;  
 D His craft and pow'r are great,  
 D And armed with cruel hate,  
 X On earth is not His equal.

pattern

Original German

Frederick H. Budge, 1852



# Translation of Poetry (2)

## A Mighty Fortress is Our God -- Martin Luther

A mighty Fortress is our **God**,  
A trusty Shield and **Weapon**;  
He helps us free from every  
**need** no attempt to rhyme  
That hath us now **o'ertaken**.  
The old evil Foe  
Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On Earth is not his equal.

Other Translation

A A mighty fortress is our God,  
B A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel sacrifice meaning for rhyme  
A oppressor's **rod**  
B And wins salvation glorious.  
C The old evil foe,  
C Sworn to work us woe,  
D With dread craft and might  
D He arms himself to fight.  
X On Earth he has no equal.

Other Translation

# Translation of Poetry: Variety

## A Mighty Fortress is Our God -- Martin Luther

Gott	A	<b>God</b>	God	God
Waffen	B	<b>failing</b>	weapon	victorious
Not	A	<b>flood</b>	need	rod
betroffen	B	<b>prevailing</b>	o'ertaken	glorious
Feind	C	<b>foe</b>	foe	foe
meint	C	<b>woe</b>	woe	woe
List	D	<b>great</b>	might	might
ist	D	<b>hate</b>	fight	fight
seingleichen	X	<b>equal</b>	equal	equal

A poem, by definition, is a pithy form of expression that can never be accurately translated.

Robert Frost

# Parallelism

Bible poetry rarely relies on rhyme or meter, but often on parallelism.

Parallelism: a balanced construction of a verse or sentence, where one part repeats the form or meaning of the other.

This poetic form translates strongly without needed to paraphrase.

**The heavens tell God's glory,  
The firmament shows his handiwork.  
Day to day utters speech,  
Night to night reveals knowledge.**

**Psalm 19:1-2**

First two lines: similar pair

Next two lines: contrasting pair

# Types of Parallelism

## Synonymous

- The second line repeats the first idea in different words

## Synthetic

- The second line adds to the thoughts of the first

## Antithetic

- The second line contrasts in theme with the first

## Climactic

- Successive lines build to a climax or summary

Parallelism is not limited to pairs of lines

## Other Literary Devices

Switching between figurative and literal forms

No formal parallelism, but lots of “echoes”

Questions and answers

Imagery

Acrostic (first word, each letter of the alphabet)

**As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.**

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**

**My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"**

**Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.**

**Imagine the craving!**

**Psalm 42:1-3, 7**

# Expressing Ourselves

Have you ever written a poem?

Have you ever written one to God?

Life causes it to pour forth

- birth of a baby
- true love
- great loss

It is useful to have someone's thoughts to guide us, but...

True worship is worship from our heart, not just repetition by rote of someone else's words.

The Bible is seed material for our own expressions of worship (within proper bounds).

That is why we should keep writing stories and songs, keep exploring, probing, and thinking.

# Expressing Ourselves (2)

It is one thing to just repeat what someone else has said and try to feel it in our hearts.

It is quite something else to have the words pour forth from our heart, in our expression of our love and need for God.

Be a voice, not an echo...

Kahlil Gibran

Who says that men don't express their feelings?

It is useful to have someone's thoughts to guide us, but...

True worship is worship from our heart, not just repetition by rote of someone else's words.

The Bible is seed material for our own expressions of worship (within proper bounds). That is why we should keep writing stories and songs, keep exploring, probing, and thinking.

# Expressing Ourselves (3)





# Sing your own Song!

Releasing your own personal song

No one knows about your soul, really, but you and God

Release of tension; something within that needs to find a way out

Self-creed, a definition of self

The encapsulation of personality

What is the core of your being?

Everyone needs to write a poem or song or create an image

Death song (what the American Indians used to do)

God's infinite depth allows the variety of all our personalities

# The Psalms and Honest Worship (1)

## Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.

There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" (1-3)

How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.

May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy. (4-6)

# The Psalms and Honest Worship (2)

## Psalm 137

Remember, O LORD, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell.

"Tear it down," they cried, "tear it down to its foundations!"

O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us – he who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks. (7-9)

**This shows brutally honest feelings poured out to God are OK**

**You may want to scream!**

**God would rather have true love than lip service (being “right”)  
The people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me!**

# Expressing Ourselves

I've seen the lightning in a cloud,  
And heard the thunder roaring proud;  
Mighty, massive, raging high:  
The fist of God against the sky!



# The Psalms and Honest Worship

**From Psalms I have learned that I can rightfully bring to God whatever I feel about Him.**

**Philip Yancey**

It is useful to have someone's thoughts to guide us, but...

True worship is worship from our heart, not just repetition by rote of someone else's words.

We should keep writing stories and songs, keep exploring, probing, and thinking.

**Express: to force out (as the juice of a fruit) by pressure**

**synonym: vent; related to "pressure"**

# The Psalms and Inspiration

Question: What is your favorite color?

What if I judged your answer wrong?

Your opinion is truth...

The Psalms contain people's feelings and opinions,

But they contain inspiration as well!

How does this relate to prophecy in the Psalms?

# The Psalms – with Music?

Psallo – a Greek word indicating songs sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments

What if we were told that we could only read the words of our songs, but not sing them?

Bob Brinkmann: We can sing psalms such as Ps 98 (see vss 4ff) but we (speaking as a member of traditional Church of Christ) cannot do what they say.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn-- shout for joy before the LORD, the King.  
Psalm 98:4-6

My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul.  
Psalm 108:1

# The Psalms – with Music (Legalism)?

Where do we draw the line on considering the Psalms as inspired and authoritative literature?

Legalism drives us to exacting (and painful) detail.

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the **ten-stringed lyre**. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Psalm 33:1-3

How many strings does your lyre have?



**We never become truly spiritual by sitting down and wishing to become so.**

**You must undertake something so great that you cannot accomplish it unaided.**

**Phillips Brooks**

# Introduction to the Psalms (1)

Material from Dennis Bratcher's web site

- The psalms are some of the most widely read portions of the Old Testament
  - Many pocket editions and combinations with the NT testify to this
- The psalms are about people, the struggle and joy of living life as a part of God's people.
- Too often the psalms are seen as a sort of spiritual "pick-me-up"
- Their message goes far deeper, addressing the entire range of human existence.
- **The psalms are not doctrinal statements, creeds, or history.**
- **They are both poetry and prayer, expressing the deepest of human feelings and emotions (from tragic to joyous).**

## Introduction to the Psalms (2)

- The psalms were poetry intended to be set to music and prayed in worship.
- Poetry and music are the means by which people expressed the most profound of insights and experiences.
- Much of the language of the Psalms is metaphorical and symbolic, the language of the poet.

**What are your favorites?**

**1**

**19**

**23**

**51**

**100**

**150 Psalms: too many to cover them all**

## Other 'Psalms' outside the Psalms

- Moses' song approaching the promised land (Deut 32)
- Israel's deliverance from Egypt on the banks of the Reed Sea the people sang (Exod. 15:1-18)
- Deborah's song at the Canaanite's defeat (Judges 5)
- Hannah lapses into song at the dedication of Samuel (1 Sam. 2:1-10; note Lk. 1:46-55)
- David mourns Saul and Jonathan in a beautiful poetic elegy (2 Sam. 2:19-27).
- David's song when delivered from Saul (2 Sam. 22; also in Psalm 18)
- Mary's song when she visited Elizabeth (Luke 1:45-55)
- Zachariah's prophecy at the birth of his son John (Luke 1:67-79)
- The elder's song in the vision of the throne (Rev 5)

# Five Books of the Psalms

- The Book of Psalms is actually a collection of different kinds of poetry spanning many centuries of history
  - earliest, around 1100 BC
  - latest, around 400 BC
  - reached essentially its present form around 300 BC
- Evidences of the collective nature of the Psalter are seen in its division into **five 'books'**
  - Psalms 1 to 41
  - Psalms 42 to 72
  - Psalms 73 to 89
  - Psalms 90 to 106
  - Psalms 107 to 150

**The final psalm in each of the five books closes with a doxology (word of praise to God)**

# Four Basic Collections of the Psalms

- The Davidic collections (3-41, 51-70, 108-110, 138-145)
    - 73 out of 150 (almost half) are attributed to David
    - 49 are apparently anonymous
  - The Asaph Psalms (73-83)
  - The Korah Psalms (42, 44-49, 84-85, 87-88)
  - The Songs of Ascent (120-134)
  - To these might be added the Hallel, or Praise, Psalms (113-118, 146-150).
- 
- Comparison between the Psalms and hymnbooks of today.
    - Hymnals contain many different types of songs written by different people in different countries over a period of centuries, preserved within a particular community because they communicate a truth in a memorable way.
    - The Psalter grew out of the life of a community of faith as the people used their songs and poetry to worship God.

# Three Basic Types of Psalms

- Lament (most numerous)
  - a cry to God from distress, pain, or sorrow
  - from an individual or community
  - Often they begin with “Why?”, and end in an affirmation of faith
- Thanksgiving
  - express thanks and praise to God in response to experiencing His faithfulness and love
- Hymn
  - Hymns offer praise to God simply for who He is

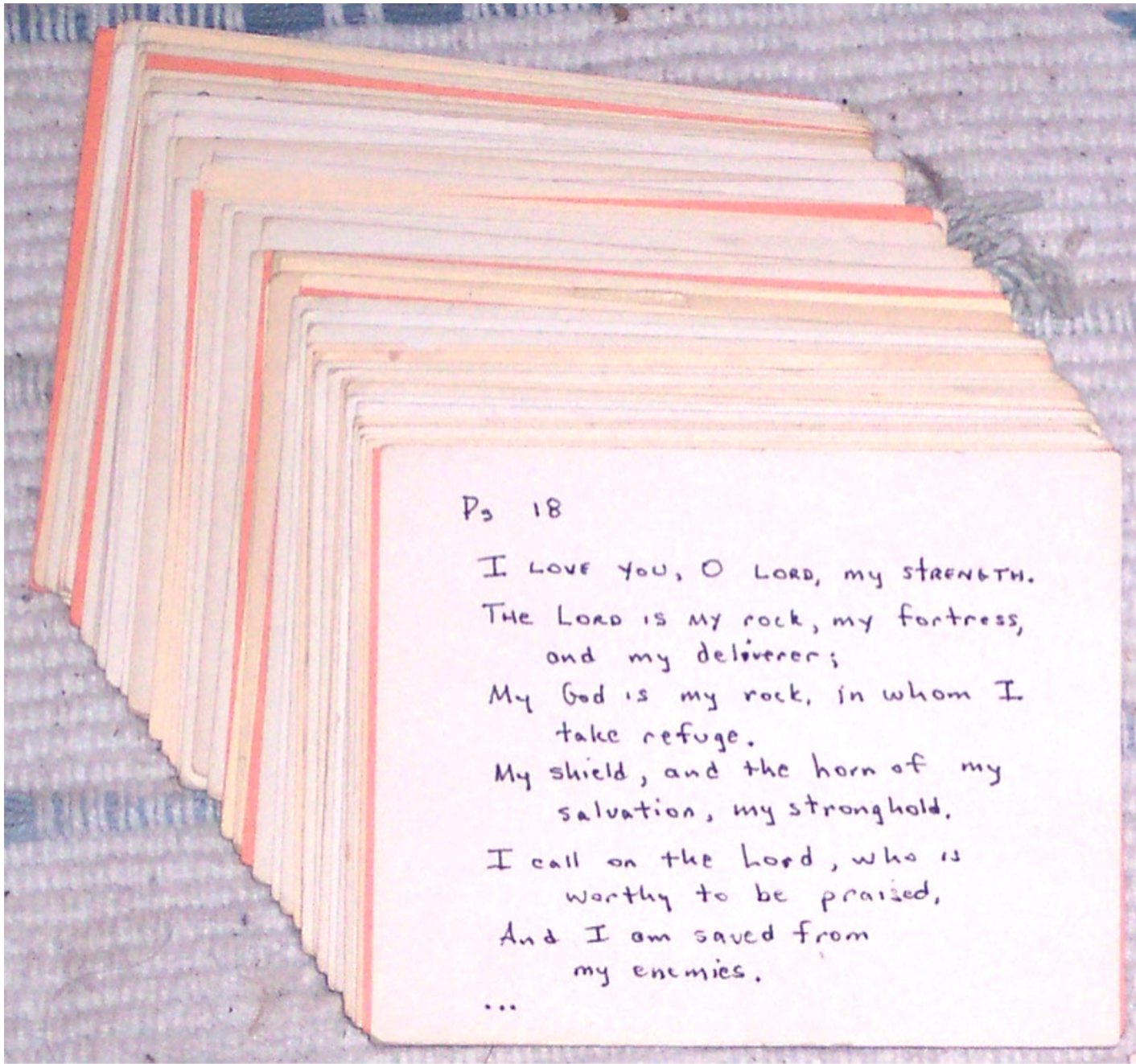
- There are many other ways to classify the Psalms
  - Other types are: Salvation History, Trust, Wisdom, Liturgical (ceremonial)
  - Messianic Psalms show a foretaste of the coming of Christ and are quoted in the NT
- Most psalms within a certain category follow a similar pattern
- We will dig down only to the first level of outline

# The Purpose of the Psalms

- The psalms were used by the Israelites in the context of worship to provide a structure in which they could bring their praises, thanks, hurts and grief honestly and openly before God.
  - **The Psalms were not thundered from Sinai or received in a vision.**
  - They are the prayers and praises of God's people preserved by the community of faith.
  - As such, they have become authoritative for us: a guide for worship, an example of honesty before God, and a demonstration of the importance of prayer and meditation.
- 
- Other Resources:
    - Psalms, R.E.O. White
    - Reflections on the Psalms, C.S. Lewis
    - Songs from a Strange Land, John Goldingay



# The Comfort of the Psalms – Every Day!



Ps 18

I LOVE YOU, O LORD, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress,  
and my deliverer;

My God is my rock, in whom I  
take refuge.

My shield, and the horn of my  
salvation, my stronghold.

I call on the Lord, who is  
worthy to be praised,

And I am saved from  
my enemies.

...

# The Mindset of the Hearers (1)

You are a person living in the time of the kingdom (erase what you know of fulfilled prophecy)

What do you believe about the afterlife?

Background of audience; no understanding of Christ or the kingdom of heaven

- Jesus comments about God of the Living (Luke 20:27-38)
- Moses: the book of life (Exodus 32:31-33)
- David when his infant son died (2 Samuel 12:22-23)
- Remember that the major and minor prophets lived after David (though some of the Psalms were written during their era)
- Roll sins forward → a single sacrifice (Christ)
- Hints of a Messiah
- Shalom (peace in life) – harmony (Navaho: Go in beauty)

## The Mindset of the Hearers (2)

Extension into the NT and present day

What are the similarities of the ideas and themes?

Is there any real difference? Think about the new uses

There was a veil over their minds that is lifted through Christ

Exodus 34:33-35

We must get the log out of our own eye! (Luke 6:41-42)

- not exactly the same sense as Jesus used
- but appropriate in terms of our pre-conceptions

They were able to see the Goodness of God

**without knowing Christ!**

# The Beauty of the Psalms

Like a multifaceted jewel (facet – faces)

Fascination with the word

Turning it in your hand

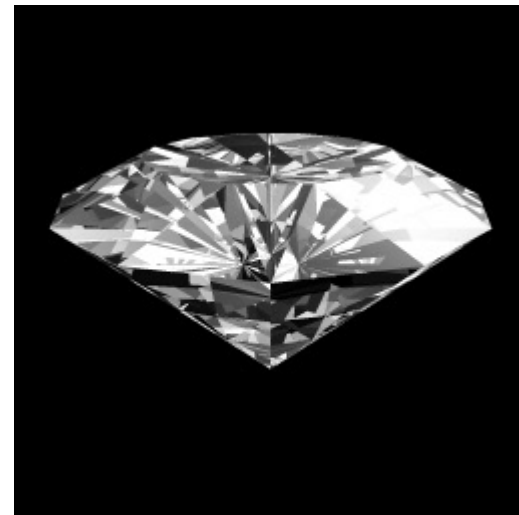
Gazing at it as it sparkles

Not having all of the right answers, but enjoying the trip

Is it better to be right about insignificant matters, or to keep thinking?



With the Psalms you can worship with feeling without getting ensnared by legalism and arguments.



# The First Psalm – A Threshold Psalm

In some ancient copies this Psalm is an unnumbered Prologue

**Blessed** is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he **meditates day and night**.

**much-quoted, but rarely done**

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. **stability**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 1:1-6

# Themes from the Psalms

One way to enjoy Bible study is to look for recurrent themes.

It is fun to pick up an idea or word that keeps popping up, and then see how the Psalms are sprinkled all over with that thought.

It's like a treasure hunt.

I've organized the themes into groups.

Pick out your own!

**I come to you as someone whose love for the Psalms is far greater than his knowledge and understanding of them**

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- **Worship**

- Worship (creation) Ps 8, 19
- Worship (awesome deeds) Ps 78, 105-106 (119)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness) Ps 119

- **Inner Struggle**

- Despair Ps 13, 42-43, 69
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies Ps 41, 55

- **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing Ps 51
- Qualifications Ps 15, 24
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love Ps 130, 136

- **Shared Strength**

- Courage Ps 27-28
- Healing Ps 34, 147

- **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength Ps 18, 46, 118
- Shepherd, Guardian Ps 23, 121



# Quote

**We are all pencils in the hand of a writing God,  
who is sending love letters to the world.**

**Mother Teresa**



- **The psalms are not doctrinal statements, creeds, or history.**
- **They are both poetry and prayer, expressing the deepest of human feelings and emotions (from tragic to joyous).**
- **There are five “books”, which each end in note of praise called a doxology**
- **73 out of 150 (almost half) are attributed to David**
- **The Psalms were not thundered from Sinai or received in a vision.**
  - **They are the prayers and praises of God's people preserved by the community of faith.**
  - **As such, they have become a guide for worship**

# The Mindset of the Hearers

- Think of the background of audience; there was no understanding of Christ or the kingdom of heaven
- We must try to remove our preconceptions and see the Psalms with a fresh attitude
- The themes of Psalms are still valid in New Testament times
- They were able to see the Goodness of God **without knowing Christ!**

# Expression!

It is almost impossible to  
constrain real feelings!

Image of hammer hitting thumb

What's your favorite word when you hit your finger with a  
hammer? (Don't answer: This is a rhetorical question)

# The Beauty of the Psalms

Like a multifaceted jewel (facet – faces)

Fascination with the word

Turning it in your hand

Gazing at it as it sparkles

Not having all of the right answers, but enjoying the trip

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- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength Ps 18, 46, 118
- Shepherd, Guardian Ps 23, 121

# Worship: Creation (1)

## Psalm 8 (David)

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory **above** the heavens.

**God is greater than all**

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, **what is man** that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

**Man is nothing in comparison**

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the **paths of the seas**.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Bookends**

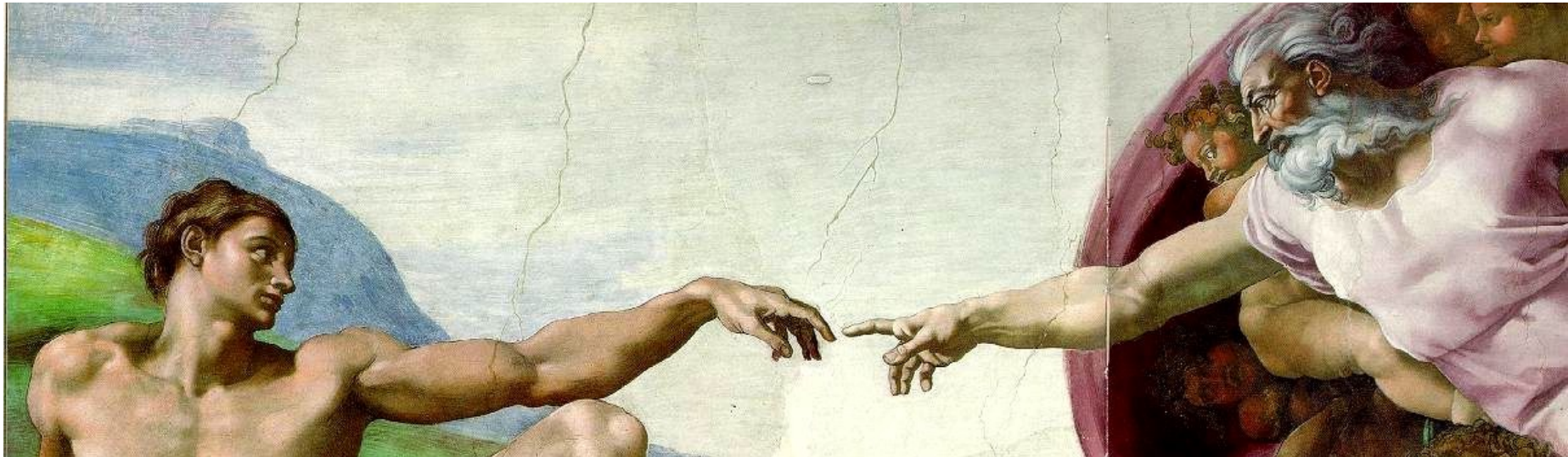


# Worship: Creation (2)

## Michaelangelo: The Sistine Chapel



Another  
example of  
man's  
expression  
in worship





# Worship: Creation (3)

## Psalm 19 (David)

The  
universe  
expresses  
itself as  
proof of  
God

The heavens **declare** the glory of God;  
the skies **proclaim** the work of his hands.  
Day after day they **pour** forth speech;  
night after night they **display** knowledge.

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.  
Their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world. (1-4a)

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,  
which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is hidden from its heat. (4b-6)

# Worship: Creation (4)

## Psalm 19 (David)

We'll discuss verses 7-11 later...

Who can discern his errors?

Forgive my **hidden faults**.

Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.

Then will I be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression. (12-13)

The realization of  
God's power  
should make us  
consider our sins

May the words of my mouth

and the **meditation of my heart**

be pleasing in your sight,

O LORD,

my Rock and my Redeemer. (14)

A well-known verse;  
an appeal to God that  
our worship will  
please Him.

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (1)

## Psalm 78 (Asaph)

### 1-8: Teaching the Glory of God

O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

They would not be like their forefathers -- a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (2)

## Psalm 78

### 9-16: God's deliverance

The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle; they did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law.

They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them.

He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.

He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.

He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas; he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (3)

## Psalm 78

### 17-22: Israel's Rebellion, God's Anger

But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.

They spoke against God, saying, "**Can God spread a table in the desert? When he struck the rock, water gushed out, and streams flowed abundantly.** But can he also give us food? Can he supply meat for his people?"

When the LORD heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel, for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (4)

## Psalm 78

### 23-31: God sends Manna, Israel still Rebels

Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.

Men ate the **bread of angels**; he sent them all the food they could eat.

He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by his power.

He rained meat down on them like dust, flying birds like sand on the seashore.

He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.

They ate till they had more than enough, for he had given them what they craved.

But before they turned from the food they craved, even while it was still in their mouths, God's anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel.

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (5)

## Psalm 78

### 32-39: Repetitive cycle of deliverance

In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.

So he ended their days in futility and their years in terror.

Whenever God slew them, they would seek him; they eagerly turned to him again.

They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer.

But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues; their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant.

pseudo-worship

Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them.

Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.

He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return.

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (6)

## Psalm 78

### 40-55: Repetitive cycle of deliverance

How often they rebelled against him in the desert and grieved him in the wasteland!

Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel.

They did not remember his power—

the day he redeemed them from the oppressor, the day he displayed his miraculous signs in Egypt, his wonders in the region of Zoan. He turned their rivers to blood; they could not drink from their streams. He sent swarms of flies that devoured them, and frogs that devastated them. He gave their crops to the grasshopper, their produce to the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamore-figs with sleet. He gave over their cattle to the hail, their livestock to bolts of lightning. He unleashed against them his hot anger, his wrath, indignation and hostility-- a band of destroying angels. He prepared a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death but gave them over to the plague. He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt, the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham. But he brought his people out like a flock; he led them like sheep through the desert. He guided them safely, so they were unafraid; but the sea engulfed their enemies. Thus he brought them to the border of his holy land, to the hill country his right hand had taken. He drove out nations before them and allotted their lands to them as an inheritance; he settled the tribes of Israel in their homes.



# Worship: Awesome Deeds (7)

## Psalm 78

### 56-64: God Rejects Israel

But they put God to the test and rebelled against the Most High; they did not keep his statutes.

Like their fathers they were disloyal and faithless, as unreliable as a faulty bow.

They angered him with their high places; they aroused his jealousy with their idols.

When God heard them, he was very angry; he rejected Israel completely.

He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent he had set up among men.

He sent the ark of his might into captivity, his splendor into the hands of the enemy.

He gave his people over to the sword; he was very angry with his inheritance.

Fire consumed their young men, and their maidens had no wedding songs; their priests were put to the sword, and their widows could not weep.

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (8)

## Psalm 78

### 65-69: God comes to the Rescue

Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, as a man wakes from the stupor of wine.

He beat back his enemies; he put them to everlasting shame.

Then he rejected the tents of Joseph, he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim; but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loved.

He built his sanctuary like the heights, like the earth that he established forever.

Judah superior to Israel

### 70-72: God will set up David as the Shepherd

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance.

And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.

**True art is characterized by an irresistible urge in the creative artist.**

**Albert Einstein**

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

- **Worship** ←

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

- **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 41, 55

- **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

- **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

- **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (9)

Psalm 105 and 106 (Highlights)

105:1-5 God's Wonderful Activity

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. **Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.**

**Remember** the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced...

[Descriptions follow of historical acts of God's interaction]

**Praise the Lord** (end verse)

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (10)

Psalm 105 and 106 (Highlights)

## 106: Ebb and Flow of God's People's Obedience

Bookend: **Praise the LORD.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for **he is good; his love endures forever**. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise? Blessed are they who maintain justice, who **constantly** do what is right. (1-3)

We must keep trying to do right!

We have sinned, even as our fathers did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly. (6)

[Description of the rebellion by the Red Sea, and deliverance from Egypt]

Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. (12)

But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel. In the desert they gave in to their **craving**; in the wasteland they put God to the **test**. So **he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease upon them**. (13-15)

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (11)

Psalm 105 and 106 (Highlights)

## 106: Ebb and Flow of God's People's Obedience

In the camp they grew envious of Moses and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD.

The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it buried the company of Abiram. Fire blazed among their followers; a flame consumed the wicked. (16-18)

[They make the idol calf]

So he said he would destroy them-- had not **Moses**, his **chosen** one, **stood in the breach** before him to keep his wrath from destroying them. (23)

Moses interceded for them many times

Then they despised the pleasant land; they did not believe his promise. They **grumbled** in their tents and did not obey the LORD.

So he swore to them with uplifted hand that he would make them **fall** in the desert, make their descendants fall among the nations and **scatter** them throughout the lands. (24-27)

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (12)

## Psalm 105 and 106 (Highlights)

### 106: Ebb and Flow of God's People's Obedience

They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them, but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. (35)

They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. (36)

They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. (37)

They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood. (38)

They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves. (39)

A list of more things they did wrong

Therefore the LORD was angry with his people and abhorred his inheritance. He handed them over to the nations, and their foes ruled over them. Their enemies oppressed them and subjected them to their power.

**Many times he delivered them, but they were bent on rebellion and they wasted away in their sin. (40-43)**



# Worship: Awesome Deeds (13)

Psalm 105 and 106 (Highlights)

## 106: Ebb and Flow of God's People's Obedience

Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. (47)

Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

Let all the people say, "Amen!" (48)

Summation: Worship!

Bookend: **Praise the LORD.**

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (14)

## Handel's Messiah

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Another example of man's expression in worship

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (15)

## Handel's Messiah

The kingdom of this world is become  
the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and of His Christ;  
and He shall reign for ever and ever  
and He shall reign for ever and ever  
and He shall reign for ever and ever  
and He shall reign for ever and ever

This looks pretty dull and repetitive,  
sort of like you get with some rock songs...

But wait until you hear the music!

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (16)

## Handel's Messiah

King of Kings,

for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

and Lord of Lords,

for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings,

for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

and Lord of Lords,

for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings,

for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

and Lord of Lords,

for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,

and He shall reign for ever and ever

and He shall reign for ever and ever

# Worship: Awesome Deeds (17)

## Handel's Messiah

*Allegro (♩ = 72)*

King of Kings

for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

and He shall reign for ever and ever,

for ever and ever,

King of Kings,

and Lord of Lords,

King of Kings,

and Lord of Lords,

and He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of Kings,

and Lord of Lords.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hal - - lo - lu - jah! Hal - - lo - lu - jah! Hal-lo - lu-jah! Hal-lo-lu-jah! Hal-

# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (1)

## Psalm 119 (176 total verses)

Almost every verse shows some characteristic of the concept of the law:

- 1) testimonies
- 2) commandments
- 3) precepts
- 4) word
- 5) law
- 6) ways
- 7) truth
- 8) judgments
- 9) righteousness
- 10) Statutes

Acrostic: Each idea in a group of eight starts with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet

C.S. Lewis: "Literary Embroidery"

It is almost universally asserted that in every verse of this psalm one or other of those ten words is used, except in v 122.

On closer inspection we shall find that none of them is used in the above sense in the 84<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 121<sup>st</sup>, 122<sup>nd</sup>, and 132<sup>nd</sup> verses.

# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (2)

Psalm 119: an elaboration on the ideas of Psalm 19:7-11

(Psalms 19:7-11)

The <b>law</b> of the LORD is perfect,	reviving the soul.
The <b>statutes</b> of the LORD are trustworthy,	making wise the simple.
The <b>precepts</b> of the LORD are right,	giving joy to the heart.
The <b>commands</b> of the LORD are radiant,	giving light to the eyes.
The <b>fear</b> of the LORD is pure,	enduring forever.

The **ordinances** of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

By them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (3)<sup>4</sup>

## Psalm 119 (seek with all our heart)

{2} Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him **with all their heart**.

{10} I seek you **with all my heart**; do not let me stray from your commands.

{58} I have sought your face **with all my heart**; be gracious to me according to your promise.

{145} I call **with all my heart**; answer me, O LORD, and I will obey your decrees.

## Psalm 119 (longing)

{20} My soul is **consumed with longing** for your laws at all times.

{131} I open my mouth and pant, **longing** for your commands.

{76} May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.



**The widest thing in the universe is not space,  
it is the potential capacity of the human heart.**

**A. W. Tozer**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

Story: Singing in the car with...

Can you be what God wants without showing your feelings?

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

- **Worship** ←

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
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Ps 119

- **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
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Ps 34, 147

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- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (1<sup>5</sup>)

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Almost every verse shows some characteristic of the concept of the law:

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{76} May your unfailing love be my **comfort**, according to your promise to your servant.

# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (4)

## Psalm 119 (joy/love)

{14} I **rejoice** in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

{35} Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find **delight**.

{77} Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my **delight**.

{97} Oh, how I **love** your law! I **meditate on it all day long**.

{47} or I **delight** in your commands because I **love** them.

{103} How **sweet** are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

{140} Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant **loves** them.

{165} Great peace have they who **love** your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

## Psalm 119 (flip side)

{128} and because I consider all your precepts **right**, I **hate** every wrong path.

# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (5)

## Psalm 119 (unfailing love)

{41} May your **unfailing love** come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise;

{76} May your **unfailing love** be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.

## Psalm 119 (strength and refuge)

{28} My soul is weary with sorrow; **strengthen** me according to your word.

{52} I remember your ancient laws, O LORD, and I find **comfort** in them.

{114} You are my **refuge** and my **shield**; I have put my hope in your word.

## Psalm 119 (endurance through hardship)

{44} I will always obey your law, **for ever and ever**.

{61} Though the wicked **bind** me with ropes, I will not forget your law.

{71} It was good for me to be **afflicted** so that I might learn your decrees.

# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (6)

## Psalm 119 (guidance)

- {9} How can a young man keep his way **pure**? By living according to your word.
- {100} I have more **understanding** than the elders, for I obey your precepts.
- {105} **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**
- {130} The unfolding of your words gives **light**; it gives **understanding** to the simple.

## Psalm 119 (insight)

- {18} Open my eyes that I may **see** wonderful things in your law.
- {19} I am a stranger on earth; do not **hide** your commands from me.
- {32} I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart **free**.
- {91} Your laws endure to this day, for all things **serve** you.
- {96} To all perfection I see a limit; but **your commands are boundless**.



# Worship: Love of God's Law (and His Goodness) (7)

## Psalm 119 (preservation, renewal, or revival)

- {25} I am laid low in the dust; **preserve** my life according to your word.
- {37} Turn my eyes away from worthless things; **preserve** my life according to your word.
- {40} How I **long** for your precepts! **Preserve** my life in your righteousness.
- {50} My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise **preserves** my life.
- {93} I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have **preserved** my life.
- {107} I have suffered much; **preserve** my life, O LORD, according to your word.
- {156} Your compassion is great, O LORD; **preserve** my life according to your laws.
- {159} See how I love your precepts; **preserve** my life, O LORD, according to your love.

# Worship: NT Perspective

## Creation, Awesome Deeds, Love of God's Law: John 1

**Creation of the Universe:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.** (1-3)

**Awesome Deeds (Christ died to save us):** In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. The **true light** that gives light to every man... was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but **his own did not receive him.**

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (4-13)

**Love of God's Law (Word: equated to God's Love):** **The Word became flesh** and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.** (14)

# Worship: Cautions

## Creation, Awesome Deeds, Love of God's Law

**Creation of the Universe:** And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars--all the heavenly array--do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. (Deuteronomy 4:19)

Don't lose sight of the Person behind the creation!

**Awesome Deeds (Christ died to save us):** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

Don't de-personalize our response to God and Goodness:  
We must go beyond the Golden Rule!

**Love of God's Law:** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law -- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. (Matthew 23:23)

Don't forget the real reason for the law: Good!

**You cannot teach anyone anything.**

**You can only help them find it within themselves.**

**Galileo Galilei**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus (John 11:35)

Even though he knew the “end of the story”

It's a Wonderful Life: I know the end, but I still cry

WWJD, watching the movie?

For God so **expressed** His love for us that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16, HSL)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. (1 John 3:16)

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

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- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Inner Struggle: Despair (1)

## Psalm 13

### Angst:

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? (1-3)

### Demand:

Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. (3)

### Otherwise:

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. (4)

### Ultimate Confidence:

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me. (5-6)

# Inner Struggle: Despair (2)

Peanuts Cartoon



# Inner Struggle: Despair (3)

## How Long?

### Appeal to God:

But the Israelites said to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do with us whatever you think best, but please rescue us now."

### True Repentance:

Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the LORD.

### God's Compassion:

And he could bear Israel's misery **no longer**.

Judges 10:15-16

# Inner Struggle: Despair (4)

## Psalm 42-43 (David)

### Intense Need:

As the deer **pants** for streams of water, so my soul **pants** for you, O God.  
My soul **thirsts** for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with  
God? (1-2)

### Sorrow:

My **tears** have been my **food** day and night,

### Derision:

while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" (3)

### Memories of better times:

These things I remember as I **pour out my soul**:

how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of  
God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. (4)

# Inner Struggle: Despair (5)

Psalm 42-43 (David)

Refrain (down/up): (1)

**Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?**

**Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.  
(5-6)**

Think about the good things:

My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon--from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.

By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me-- a prayer to the God of my life. (6-8)

Refrain restated: (1)

I say to God my **Rock**, "Why have you **forgotten** me?"

Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" (9)

# Inner Struggle: Despair (6)

## Psalm 42-43 (David)

### Derision:

My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?" (10)

### Refrain (down/up): (2)

**Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?**

**Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.  
(11)**

### Plea:

Vindicate me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation;  
rescue me from deceitful and wicked men. (1)

### Refrain restated: (2)

You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me?

Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?

# Inner Struggle: Despair (7)

Psalm 42-43 (David)

Deliver:

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;  
let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.

Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight.  
I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. (3-4)

Refrain (down/up): (3)

**Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.  
(5)**

# Inner Struggle: Despair (8)

Peanuts Cartoon

# Inner Struggle: Despair (9)

Psalm 69 (David, to the tune of “Lilies”)

## Problem:

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me.

**I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched.**

My eyes fail, looking for my God.

Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head;  
many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me.

I am forced to restore what I did not steal. (1-4)

## Confession:

You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you. (5)

In Deep Water

**Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.**

**Augustine**

**There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.**

**Pascal**



# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings (to God!)

You don't have to share private things with others.

You don't have to fit a form or make words rhyme.

You don't even have to put things into words.

But you must allow yourself to feel deeply.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8:26-27

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

- **Worship**

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

- **Inner Struggle** ←

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 41, 55

- **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

- **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

- **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Inner Struggle: Despair (8)

## Peanuts Cartoon

David: We see the over-arching faith that Life has Meaning (with God), even though we cannot understand individual events

# Inner Struggle: Despair (9)

Psalm 69 (David, to the tune of “Lilies”)

## Problem:

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me.

**I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched.**

My eyes fail, looking for my God.

Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head;  
many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me.

I am forced to restore what I did not steal. (1-4)

## Confession:

You know my folly, O God; my guilt is not hidden from you. (5)

In Deep Water

# Inner Struggle: Despair (10)

Psalm 69 (David, to the tune of “Lilies”)

## Shame:

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty;

may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel.

For I endure **scorn** for your sake, and shame covers my face.

I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons;

**for zeal for your house consumes me**, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me. (6-9)

When I weep and fast, I must endure **scorn**;

when I put on sackcloth, people make **sport** of me.

Those who sit at the gate **mock** me, and I am the song of the drunkards. (10-12)

# Inner Struggle: Despair (11)

## Psalm 69 (David, to the tune of “Lilies”)

May those who hope in you not be disgraced because of me, O Lord, the LORD Almighty; may those who seek you not be put to shame because of me, O God of Israel.

For I endure **scorn** for your sake, and shame covers my face.

I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons; **for zeal for your house consumes me**, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me. (6-9)

Utter disgrace!

When I weep and fast, I must endure **scorn**; when I put on sackcloth, people make sport of me.

Those who sit at the gate **mock** me, and I am the song of the drunkards. (10-12)

— — —  
You know how I am **scorned**, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you.

**Scorn** has **broken my heart** and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.

They put **gall** in my food and **gave me vinegar for my thirst**. (19-21)

# Inner Struggle: Despair (12)

## Psalm 69 (David, to the tune of “Lilies”)

### Appeal:

But I pray to you, O LORD, in the time of your favor; in **your great love**, O God, answer me with your sure salvation.

**Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.**

Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O LORD, out of **the goodness of your love**; in your great mercy turn to me.

Do not hide your face from your servant; **answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.**

Come near and **rescue** me; redeem me because of my foes. (13-18)

— — —

I am in pain and distress; may your salvation, O God, protect me. (29)

# Inner Struggle: Despair (13)

## Psalm 69 (David, to the tune of “Lilies”)

### Punish the oppressors:

May the table set before them become a snare; may it become retribution and a trap.

May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever.

Pour out your wrath on them; let your fierce anger overtake them.

May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents.

For they persecute those you wound and talk about the pain of those you hurt.

Charge them with crime upon crime; do not let them share in your salvation.

May they be blotted out of the **book of life** and not be listed with the righteous.



# Inner Struggle: Despair (14)

## Psalm 69 (David, to the tune of “Lilies”)

### Resolution:

I will **praise** God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

This will **please** the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.

The poor will see and be glad-- **you who seek God, may your hearts live!**

The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive people.

(30-33)

Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them, for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah.

Then people will settle there and possess it; the children of his servants will inherit it, and **those who love his name will dwell there.** (34-36)

# Inner Struggle: Betrayal and False Accusation (1)<sup>7</sup>

## Psalm 41 (David)

Blessed is he who has regard for the weak;

the LORD **delivers** him in times of trouble.

The LORD will **protect** him and preserve his life;

he will **bless** him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes.

The LORD will **sustain** him on his sickbed and **restore** him from his bed of illness. (1-3)

I said, "O LORD, have **mercy** on me; **heal me**, for **I have sinned** against you."

My **enemies** say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

Whenever one comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers **slander**; then he goes out and spreads it abroad.

All my **enemies** whisper together against me; **they imagine the worst for me**, saying, "A vile disease has beset him; he will never get up from the place where he lies." (4-8)

# Inner Struggle: Betrayal and False Accusation (2)<sup>7</sup>

## Psalm 41 (David)

**Even my close friend, whom I trusted**, he who **shared** my bread, has lifted up his **heel** against me. (9)

But **you**, O LORD, have mercy on me; raise me up, that I may **repay** them. I know that you are **pleased** with me, for my enemy does **not triumph** over me.

In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever. (10-12)

Why is it that Christians so often make us cry?

Doxology for Book I:

**Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.**

Amen **and** Amen. (13)

# Inner Struggle: Betrayal and False Accusation (3)<sup>7</sup>

## Psalm 55 (David)

### Anguish:

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and **I am distraught at the voice of the enemy**, at the **stares** of the wicked; for they bring down suffering upon me and revile me in their anger.

**My heart is in anguish within me**; the **terrors** of death assail me.

Fear and trembling have beset me; **horror** has overwhelmed me. (1-5)

### Wish for Escape:

Like when we can't sleep at night

I said, "**Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest—**

I would **flee far away** and stay in the desert; Selah

I would hurry to my place of **shelter**, **far from the tempest and storm.**" (6-8)

# Inner Struggle: Betrayal and False Accusation (4)<sup>7</sup>

## Psalm 55 (David)

### Appeal:

**Confuse** the wicked, O Lord, **confound** their speech, for I see violence and strife in the city.

Day and night they prowl about on its walls; malice and abuse are within it.

Destructive forces are at work in the city; threats and lies never leave its streets. (9-11)

Reprise the Tower of Babel

David prays to turn Ahithophel's advice into foolishness (confusion); 2 Sam 15:31

### False Friend:

If an **enemy** were insulting me, I could endure it; if a **foe** were raising himself against me, I could hide from him.

But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, **my close friend**, **with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship** as we walked with the throng at the house of God.

a fellow church member!

Let death take my enemies by surprise; **let them go down alive to the grave**, for evil finds lodging among them. (12-15)

Let them realize their doom

# Inner Struggle: Betrayal and False Accusation (5)<sup>7</sup>

## Psalm 55 (David)

### Appeal:

But I call to God, and the LORD saves me.

Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.

He ransoms me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me.

God, who is enthroned forever, will hear them and afflict them – Selah -- men who never change their ways and have no fear of God. (16-19)

### False Friend:

My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant.

His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords. (20-21)

A smooth operator, one that leads others away from you because he sounds so believable and presents a good front

# Inner Struggle: Betrayal and False Accusation (6)<sup>7</sup>

## Psalm 55 (David)

### Confidence:

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. (22)

Falling backwards and knowing that someone will catch you

### Punish the guilty:

But you, O God, will bring down the wicked into the pit of corruption; bloodthirsty and deceitful men will not live out half their days. (23)

### Trust:

But as for me, **I trust in you.** (23)

In God we trust (and in those who truly follow Him)

My policy is to pray for God's blessings on all who love me and my family

# Inner Struggle: NT Perspective

## Despair, Betrayal and False Accusation

**Despair:** (Matthew 27:46) About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**"

**From Psalms 22:1: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

Christ felt this forsakenness (more on Psalm 22 later)

**Betrayal:** And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, **one of you will betray me.**" Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you." (Matthew 26:21, 25)

Christ was betrayed by one of his circle of followers

**False Accusation:** The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" (Matthew 26:59-61)

Christ was perfect: They had to twist the truth to bear false witness



# Inner Struggle: Cautions

## Despair, Betrayal and False Accusation

**Despair:** We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. **We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure**, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us... (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

God does not remove our trials, but gives us hope and strength to endure.

**Betrayal and False Accusation:** My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. And **they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me**... I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts... There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. (Acts 24:12-13, 18-20)

Paul used his defenses as a platform to glorify God

translate: “expression”



**The practice of art isn't to make a living.  
It's to make your soul grow.**

**Kurt Vonnegut**

# Expression!

Songs from the Psalms!

Look at our songbook, page 1039

See how many Psalm references there are!

# The Beauty of the Psalms

Peanuts Cartoon

Some of us just don't get it!

# Inner Struggle (Enemies)

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me.

**I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched.**

My eyes fail, looking for my God.

Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.

Psalm 69:1-3, 14

Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

Psalm 41:9

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

Psalm 55:22

My policy is to pray for God's blessings on all who love me and my family

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

- **Worship**

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)


Ps 119

- **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 41, 55

- **Worthiness** 

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

- **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

- **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (1)

## Psalm 51 (David)

Preface: When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Nathan causes David to condemn himself

Plea for mercy:

Have **mercy** on me, O God, according to your **unfailing love**; according to your **great compassion blot out** my transgressions.

**Wash away** all my iniquity and **cleanse** me from my sin. (1-2)

Comparison by Significance  
(God vs man)

David can't put it out of his mind

Confession:

For I know my transgressions, and **my sin is always before me**.

Against you, **you only**, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Surely I was **sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me**.

Surely you desire truth in the **inner parts**; you teach me wisdom in the **inmost place**. (3-6)

David asks God to look deep within him

**It is only in the mysterious equations of love that any logic or reason can be found.**

**attributed to John Nash in the movie:**

**A Beautiful Mind**



# Expression!

David dancing before the Lord with all of his might when the temple was returned to Jerusalem, 2 Sam 6:14

Peanuts Cartoon

It didn't appeal to everybody, but it was only meant for God.

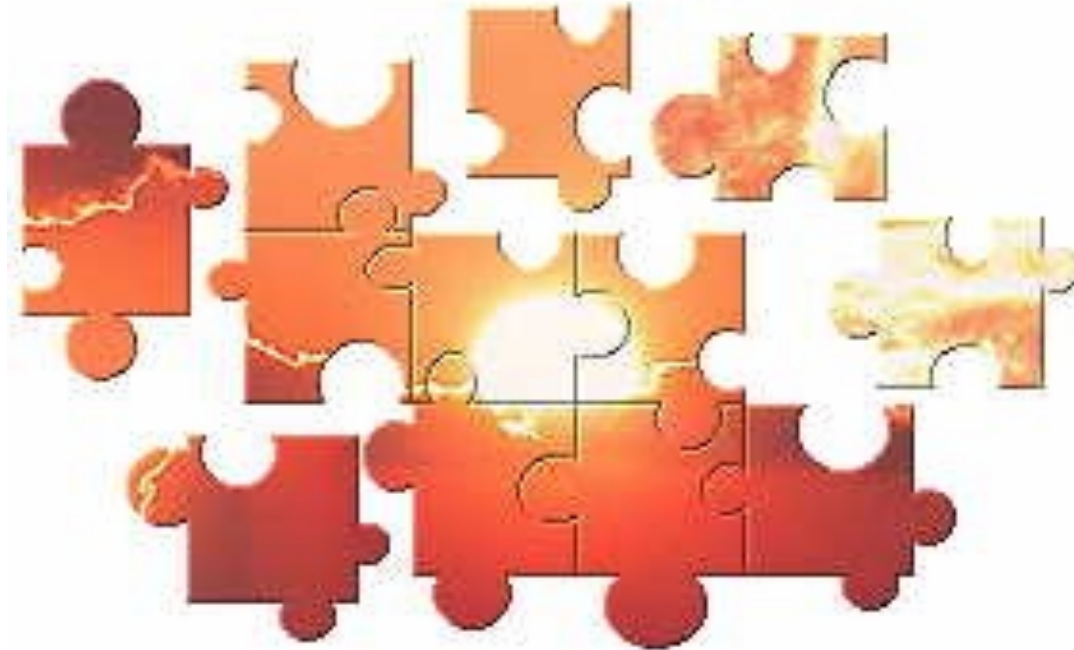
## ... and all of the Bible

Like working a jigsaw puzzle

Individual pieces can't always be immediately appreciated

But sometimes you see how two fit together!

Of course, some people try to force pieces or trim them to fit.



People don't read the Bible because they only see judgment.

We need to open their eyes to its grace and unfailing love.

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
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## Psalm 51 (David)

Preface: When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

David's power had promoted self-delusion  
Nathan causes David to condemn himself

Plea for mercy:

Have **mercy** on me, O God, according to your **unfailing love**; according to your **great compassion blot out my transgressions**.

Grace!

**Wash away** all my iniquity and **cleanse** me from my sin. (1-2)

Comparison by Significance  
(God vs man)

David now can't put it out of his mind

Confession:

Many others were hurt by David's sin

For I know my transgressions, and **my sin is always before me**.

Against you, **you only**, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Surely I was **sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me**.

Surely you desire truth in the **inner parts**; you teach me wisdom in the **inmost place**. (3-6)

David asks God to look deep within him

# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (2)

## Psalm 51 (David)

### Cleansing:

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be **whiter than snow**.

the verb might should be SCRUB!

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the **bones you have crushed** rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and **blot out** all my iniquity. (7-9)

### Renewal:

constant, enduring

**Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore** to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (10-12)

We all need a spiritual heart transplant

### Wider scope:

Then **I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.**

# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (3)

## Psalm 51 (David)

### Praise and True Worship:

Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. (13-16)

### Brokenness:

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (17)

We must let God into our heart so he can clean.

### The New Jerusalem:

In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar. (18-19)

**In religion, we are not asked to make up our minds,  
we are asked to make up our lives.**

**A. Leonard Griffith**

# Expression!

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said,

'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14

This connects so well with our study of Psalm 51



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
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- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (Summary)<sup>10</sup>

## Psalm 51 (David)

Have **mercy** on me, O God, according to your **unfailing love**; Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

... **blot out** my transgressions. **Wash away** all my iniquity and **cleanse** me from my sin. wash me, and I will be **whiter than snow**.

**Create in me a pure heart**, O God, and **renew a steadfast spirit within me**.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to **sustain** me.

Save me from bloodguilt ... and **my tongue will sing of your righteousness**.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart**, O God, you will not despise.

... I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

David trusted in God's Grace!

# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (4)

## Psalm 32 (David)

### Blessings of Forgiveness:

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are **covered**.  
Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does **not count** against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. (1-2)

### Prison of Unexpressed Guilt:

When I kept **silent**, my bones **wasted away** through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my **strength** was **sapped** as in the heat of summer.

Selah (3-4)

### Blessings of Confession:

Then I **acknowledged** my sin to you and did not **cover** up my iniquity.

I said, "I will **confess** my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you **forgave** the guilt of my sin.

Selah (5)

# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (5)

## Psalm 32 (David)

### Protection and Deliverance:

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

You are my hiding place; you will **protect** me from trouble and surround me with songs of **deliverance**.

Selah (6-7)

### Spreading the Good Word:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! (8-11)

# Worthiness: Qualifications (1)

## Psalm 15 (David)

Who is Worthy?:

Who may live on your holy hill?

He whose walk is blameless and  
who does what is righteous,  
who speaks the truth from his heart and

has no slander on his tongue,  
who does his neighbor no wrong and  
casts no slur on his fellowman,

who despises a vile man but  
honors those who fear the LORD,  
who keeps his oath **even when it hurts**,

who lends his money without usury and  
does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things will never be shaken.

We must always be  
seeking what God wants  
us to be

The true test

# Worthiness: Qualifications (2)

## Psalm 24 (David)

### Who is Worthy?:

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Selah

# Worthiness: Qualifications (3)

## Psalm 24 (David)

### God is the King of Glory:

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty-- he is the King of glory.

Selah

**The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.**

**Mark Twain**



## Expression!

A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

"O **unbelieving** generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

... When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

"**If you can'?**" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**" (Mark 9:17-24)

We all believe, but not nearly enough!

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- Worship (creation)
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Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

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- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51, 32

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

- **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

- **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (4)

## Psalm 32 (David)

**Blessings of Forgiveness:** Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are **covered**... whose sin the LORD does **not count** against him...

**Prison of Unexpressed Guilt:** When I kept **silent**, my bones **wasted away** through my groaning all day long, my **strength** was **sapped** as in the heat of summer.

**Protection and Deliverance:** You are my hiding place; you will **protect** me from trouble and surround me with songs of **deliverance**.

**Spreading the Good Word:** I will **instruct** you and **teach** you in the way you should go; I will **counsel** you and watch over you.

**Blessings of Confession:**

Then I **acknowledged** my sin...and you **forgave** the guilt of my sin.

This was Augustine's favorite psalm, and he read from it frequently. Shortly before his death he had it inscribed on the wall by his sickbed so that he could be stimulated and comforted by its words.

# Worthiness: God's Unfailing Love (1)

## Psalm 130

### A Cry for Mercy:

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; The depths of his soul

O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. (1-2)

### No One is Worthy by Themselves:

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. (3-4)

Fear because God doesn't have to forgive

### Longing:

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. (5-6)

Waiting in the dark for the dawn

# Worthiness: God's Unfailing Love (2)

## Psalm 130

### Redemption:

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is **unfailing love** and with him is **full redemption**.

He himself will redeem Israel from **all** their sins.

God's Unfailing Love is the Ultimate Theme of the Bible

In spite of our unworthiness!

# Worthiness: God's Unfailing Love (3)

## Psalm 136

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

to him who alone does great wonders,  
who by his understanding made the heavens,  
who spread out the earth upon the waters,  
who made the great lights –  
the sun to govern the day,  
the moon and stars to govern the night;  
to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt  
and brought Israel out from among them  
with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

Refrain after every line: His love endures forever.

# Worthiness: God's Unfailing Love (4)

## Psalm 136

to him who divided the Red Sea asunder  
and brought Israel through the midst of it,  
but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea  
to him who led his people through the desert,  
who struck down great kings,  
and killed mighty kings –  
    Sihon king of the Amorites  
    and Og king of Bashan –  
and gave their land as an inheritance,  
an inheritance to his servant Israel;  
to the One who remembered us in our low estate  
and freed us from our enemies,  
and who gives food to every creature.

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

Refrain after every line (the response): His love endures forever.

# Worthiness: NT Perspective

## Penitence/Cleansing, Qualifications, and Unfailing Love

**Penitence/Cleansing:** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior... (Titus 3:4-6)

He cleanses our sins from our souls

**Qualifications:** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

We are not worthy on our own, but through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

**Unfailing Love:** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35, 38b-39)

The tremendous value of God's sacrifice shows its eternal nature



# Worthiness: Cautions (1)

## Penitence/Cleansing, Qualifications, and Unfailing Love

**Penitence/Cleansing:** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. (Matthew 23:25-28)

Outward washing or appearance is not enough  
to please God or  
to help man

## Worthiness: Cautions (2)

### Penitence/Cleansing, Qualifications, and Unfailing Love

**Qualifications:** If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

(Philippians 3:4-7)

We cannot depend on our own qualifications.  
 ...if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!  
 (1 Cor 10:12)

**Unfailing Love:** It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

(Hebrews 6:4-6)

Though God's love is unfailing, we can reject it (with dire consequences)  
 The Ephesians forsook their first love (Rev 2:4)

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

- **Worship**

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

- **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 41, 55


- **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

- **Shared Strength** 

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

- **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Shared Strength: Courage (1)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

27

The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life -- of whom shall I be afraid? (1)

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. (2-3)

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. (4)

# Shared Strength: Courage (2)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

27

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and **set me high upon a rock.**

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD. (5-6)

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

**My heart says** of you, "**Seek** his face!" Your face, LORD, I will **seek.**

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

**Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.** (7-10)

# Shared Strength: Courage (3)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

27

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a **straight path** because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for **false witnesses** rise up against me, breathing out violence. (11-12)

I am still **confident** of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

**Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.** (13-14)

**I want to know how God created the world...**

**I want to know his thoughts.**

**The rest are details.**

**Albert Einstein**

# Expression!

Life is sometimes like the bumper cars!

Peanuts Cartoon

You may have some other image to express it.



# Worthiness: Penitence and Cleansing (4)

## Psalm 32 (David)

**Blessings of Forgiveness:** Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are **covered**... whose sin the LORD does **not count** against him...

**Prison of Unexpressed Guilt:** When I kept **silent**, my bones **wasted away** through my groaning all day long, my **strength** was **sapped** as in the heat of summer.

**Protection and Deliverance:** You are my hiding place; you will **protect** me from trouble and surround me with songs of **deliverance**.

**Spreading the Good Word:** I will **instruct** you and **teach** you in the way you should go; I will **counsel** you and watch over you.

**Blessings of Confession:**

Then I **acknowledged** my sin...and you **forgave** the guilt of my sin.

This was Augustine's favorite psalm, and he read from it frequently. Shortly before his death he had it inscribed on the wall by his sickbed so that he could be stimulated and comforted by its words.

# Psalm 130: Waiting for the Dawn

Peanuts Cartoon

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

## • Worship

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 8, 19

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Ps 119

## • Inner Struggle

- Despair
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Ps 41, 55

## • Worthiness

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

## • Shared Strength

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

## • Protection

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Shared Strength: Courage (1)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

27

No Fear:

The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life -- of whom shall I be afraid? (1)

Even with war and enemies:

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. (2-3)

Seeking God's Presence:

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. (4)

# Shared Strength: Courage (2)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

### Lifted up by God:

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and **set me high upon a rock.**

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD. (5-6)

### Seeking God:

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.

**My heart says** of you, "**Seek** his face!" Your face, LORD, I will **seek.**

### God will never forsake us:

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

**Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.** (7-10)

# Shared Strength: Courage (3)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

### Teach me:

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a **straight path** because of my oppressors.

### Protect me from Enemies:

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for **false witnesses** rise up against me, breathing out violence. (11-12)

### His desire is the Goodness of God:

I am still **confident** of this: I will see the **goodness** of the LORD in the land of the living.

**Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. (13-14)**

# Shared Strength: Courage (4)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

28

Hear me:

To you I call, O LORD my **Rock**; do not turn a deaf ear to me.

For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.

Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. (1-2)

Repay enemies:

Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.

Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back upon them what they deserve.

Since they show no regard for the works of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and **never build them up again**. (3-5)

# Shared Strength: Courage (5)

## Psalm 27-28 (David)

### God's answer:

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

### Response:

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. (6-7)

### God protects:

The LORD is the strength of his people, a **fortress** of salvation for his anointed one.

Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever. (8-9)



# Shared Strength: Healing (1)

## Psalm 34 (David)

Introduction: When he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he left.

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.  
My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.  
Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. (1-3)

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. (4-5)

enthusiasm and joy

This is one of the most quoted psalms, even in the New Testament, and one of the most reassuring. R.E.O White

# Shared Strength: Healing (2)

## Psalm 34 (David)

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

experience

Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. (8-10)

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (11-14)

# Shared Strength: Healing (3)

## Psalm 34 (David)

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry; the face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. (15-16)

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

**The LORD is close to the brokenhearted** and saves those who are crushed in spirit. (17-18)

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; **he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.** (19-20)

prophecy

Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

The LORD redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him. (21-22)

# Shared Strength: Healing (4)

## Psalm 147 (David)

Bookends: **Praise the LORD.**

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. (1-2)

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (3)

He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (4-5)

The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. (6)

# Shared Strength: Healing (5)

## Psalm 147 (David)

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. (6-9)

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. (10-11)

Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. (12-13)

# Shared Strength: Healing (6)

## Psalm 147 (David)

Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. (12-13)

He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat. (14)

He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. (15)

He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. (16)

He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? (17)

He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow. (18)

He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel.

He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws. (19-20)

Bookend: **Praise the LORD.**

**When God wants to do an impossible thing,  
he takes an impossible man and crushes him.**

**Allen Redpath, from:**

**The Worth of a Man, by Dave Dravecky**

# Expression!

Seeing the presence of God



Helix Nebula, coined “the Eye of God” by a viewer



# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

## • **Worship**

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

## • **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 41, 55

## • **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

## • **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

## • **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 46, 118

Ps 23, 121

# Psalm 130: Waiting for the Dawn (again)

Peanuts Cartoon

Prayer is a great thing to use during these times.

Pray about each member of your extended family until you fall back asleep.

# Shared Strength: Healing (7)

## Psalm 34 (David)

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.  
Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

Those who look to him are radiant...

Taste and see that the LORD is good...

... those who **seek** the LORD lack no good thing.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

**The LORD is close to the brokenhearted** and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

# Shared Strength: Healing (8)

## Psalm 147 (David)

Bookends: **Praise the LORD.**

How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Bookend: **Praise the LORD.**

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (1)

Luke 8:41-55

Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (2)

Luke 8:41-55

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler.

"Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher any more."

Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother.

Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her.

"Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.

But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!"

Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up.

Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (3)

Woman with an issue of blood; Luke 8:41-55

The story begins with the pleading of a despairing daddy interrupting Jesus...

as Jesus was living and teaching important matters of truth.

This is the way God is...

This is what God does...

This is the way God thinks...

Jesus dropped everything and went.

Interruptions: James S. Lowry

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (4)

Woman with an issue of blood; Luke 8:41-55

Whatever shall we do with these desperate people  
who are forever interrupting the church  
as we go about the important matters of our truth dealing...

The truth in which we deal  
is of great and lasting consequence.

What, then,  
shall we do with these people  
who interrupt our dealing with truth?

Interruptions: James S. Lowry



# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (5)

Woman with an issue of blood; Luke 8:41-55

Whatever shall we do with this desperate no-name woman  
who interrupts the church  
while the church is in pursuit of its interruptions?

I hope the most desperate among us  
don't grow so cynical  
that they stop groping through the crowd  
to interrupt the church  
as we play out our story to its end.

Interruptions: James S. Lowry

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (6)

Woman with an issue of blood; Luke 8:41-55

I also hope the church doesn't grow so cynical that it refuses to be interrupted by the desperate among us as we play our story to its end.

“Who touched me?” asked Jesus.

...it is hard for the church,  
sometimes,  
to tell the difference in shove and a touch.

We try to interrupt God with our personal plans.  
We feel that sickness is an interruption to those plans

Interruptions: James S. Lowry

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (7)

Woman with an issue of blood; Luke 8:41-55

If you are desperate and, for whatever reason,  
you are hanging on the margins,  
the by all means, interrupt the church  
in all of our truth dealing.

We are ... trying desperately by word and deed  
as best we can to speak and live the truth of God.  
by living and teaching  
what God is like and  
what God is doing and  
what God is thinking.

Interruptions: James S. Lowry

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (8)

Woman with an issue of blood; Luke 8:41-55

If you are desperate, for whatever reason,  
interrupt the Church of Jesus Christ.

It is through your interruption  
that you have a chance for healing,  
and it is through your interruptions  
that the truth given the church  
will ever make much sense  
or make any real difference.

Interruptions: James S. Lowry

# A New Testament Cleansing and Healing (9)

Woman with an issue of blood; Luke 8:41-55

If you are the Church of Jesus Christ  
trying desperately as best you can  
to speak and live the truth of God  
as you play our story to its end then be prepared...  
**get ready**  
to be interrupted...  
to be **stopped in your tracks**  
by all manner of **desperate people**.

**It is through our interruptions**  
**that the truth given us will ever matter much.**

Interruptions: James S. Lowry

# Shared Strength: NT Perspective

## Courage and Healing

**Courage:** Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of **courage**; be strong. 1 Cor 16:13

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient **courage** so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. Phil 1:20

But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our **courage** and the hope of which we boast. Heb 3:6

We can do all things through Christ... Phil 4:13

**Healing:** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be **healed**. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been **healed**. 1 Pet 2:24

physical healing possible, but spiritual healing is guaranteed!

# Shared Strength: Cautions

## Courage and Healing

**Courage:** So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. John 18: 6, 10

But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. Mat 26:56

Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Mat 26:74

False courage from the crowd or false beliefs is not stable

# Shared Strength: Cautions

## Courage and Healing

**Healing:** To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you**, for my power is made perfect in weakness."  
2 Cor 12:7-9

Physical healing is not the critical thing  
(compared to spiritual healing)



The kingdom of heaven is not come

even when God's **will** is our **law**;

it is **fully** come

when God's **will** is our **will**.

George MacDonald

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings! (and don't deny them)

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre...

"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said.

Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent...

Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh...?"


Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Story: Mrs. Ollis Davis' in trashcan

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

- **Worship**
  - Worship (creation) Ps 8, 19
  - Worship (awesome deeds) Ps 78, 105-106 (119)
  - Love of the Law (and His Goodness) Ps 119
- **Inner Struggle**
  - Despair Ps 13, 42-43, 69
  - Betrayal / false accusation / enemies Ps 41, 55
- **Worthiness**
  - Penitence / Cleansing Ps 51
  - Qualifications Ps 15, 24
  - Unfailing (Steadfast) Love Ps 130, 136
- **Shared Strength**
  - Courage Ps 27-28
  - Healing Ps 34, 147
- **Protection** 
  - Deliverance, Refuge, Strength Ps 18, 46, 52, 118
  - Shepherd, Guardian Ps 23, 121

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (1)

## Psalm 18 (David)

Introduction: He sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

**I love you, O LORD, my strength.**

**The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.**

**He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

**I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. (1-3)**

This is the same passage as is found in 2 Samuel 22

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (2)

## Psalm 18 (David)

### Problem:

The **CORDS OF DEATH ENTANGLED ME**;  
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

The cords of the grave coiled around me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

**IN MY DISTRESS I CALLED TO THE LORD**;  
I cried to my God for help.

**FROM HIS TEMPLE HE HEARD MY VOICE**;  
my cry came before him, into his ears. (4-6)

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (3)

## Psalm 18 (David)

### God's Response:

The earth trembled and quaked,

and the foundations of the mountains shook;  
they trembled because he was angry.

Smoke rose from his nostrils;

consuming fire came from his mouth,  
burning coals blazed out of it.

He parted the heavens and came down;

dark clouds were under his feet.

He mounted the cherubim and flew;

he soared on the wings of the wind. (7-10)

Note the intensity of the reaction!

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (4)

## Psalm 18 (David)

### God's Response:

He made darkness his covering,  
his canopy around him –  
the dark rain clouds of the sky.

Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced,  
with hailstones and bolts of lightning.

**The LORD thundered from heaven;**  
the voice of the Most High resounded.

He shot his arrows and scattered the enemies,  
great bolts of lightning and routed them.

The valleys of the sea were exposed  
and **the foundations of the earth laid bare at your rebuke**, O LORD,  
at the blast of breath from your nostrils. (11-15)

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (4)

## Psalm 18 (David)

### God's Response:

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;

he drew me out of deep waters.

He rescued me from my powerful enemy,

from my foes, who were too strong for me.

They confronted me in the day of my disaster,

but **the LORD was my support.**

He brought me out into **a spacious place;**

**he rescued me because he delighted in me.** (16-19)



# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (5)

## Psalm 18 (David)

God's Strength:

Jesus is the light; John 8:12

You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

**You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;** my God turns my darkness into light.

With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.

As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless.

Psalm 119

He is a **shield** for all who take refuge in him.

For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?

**It is God who arms me with strength** and makes my way perfect.

He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to **stand** on the heights.

stability

He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

Phil 4:13

You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; **you stoop down to make me great.**

What Christ did for us

You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. (26-36)

stability

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (6)

## Psalm 18 (David)

### Overcoming Enemies:

I pursued my enemies and overtook them;

I did not turn back till they were destroyed.

I crushed them so that they could not rise;

they fell beneath my feet.

You armed me with strength for battle;

you made my adversaries bow at my feet.

You made my enemies turn their backs in flight,

and I destroyed my foes.

They cried for help, but there was no one to save them –

to the LORD, but he did not answer.

**I beat them as fine as dust borne on the wind;**

I poured them out like mud in the streets. (37-42)

**A friend is a person with whom I may be  
sincere.**

**Before him, I may think aloud.**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**Our relationship to God is greater than that of friend.**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

## Statement of Jesus' feelings:

Then he said to them, "**My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.** Stay here and keep watch with me."

## His Expression – Physically and Mentally:

Going a little farther, **he fell with his face to the ground** and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

## His Expression to his Disciples:

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter.


## Turning his disappointment into an opportunity to teach:

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Matthew 26:38-41

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

Ps 1

- **Worship**
  - Worship (creation) Ps 8, 19
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- **Worthiness**
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  - Deliverance, Refuge, Strength Ps 18, 46, 52, 118
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# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (7)

Turning the preamble of Psalm 18 into a poem

**I love you, O LORD, my strength.**

**The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.**

**He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

**I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. (1-3)**

**Our God, he is my deliverer;**

**He is my fortress strong!**

**He will always be a shield to me,**

**He is worthy of my song!**

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (8)

## Psalm 46 (David)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah (1-3)

Selah: a pause, for weighing or considering

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

Inner resources from God's Spirit

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, **the earth melts.**

(4-6)

Considerations of the end of the world?

This could reflect the deliverance of Hezekiah from Sennacherib (2 Ki 18, 19) or Jehoshapat (2 Chr 20)

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (9)

## Psalm 46 (David)

Like the song we studied earlier: A Mighty Fortress is our God

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our **fortress**. Selah (7)

Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.

end of war

"**Be still, and know that I am God**; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (8-10)

SELAH

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our **fortress**. Selah (11)

Main Lesson: God is with us though the universe collapses



# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (10)

## Psalm 118 (David)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. (1)

Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say: "His love endures forever." (2-4)

In my anguish I cried to the LORD, and he answered by setting me free.

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

The LORD is with me; he is my helper.

I will look in triumph on my enemies. (5-7)

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes. (8-9)

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (11)

## Psalm 118 (David)

All the nations **surrounded** me, but **in the name of the LORD** I cut them off.

They **surrounded** me on every side, but **in the name of the LORD** I cut them off.

They swarmed around me like bees, but they died out as quickly as burning thorns; **in the name of the LORD** I cut them off. (10-12)

I was pushed back and about to **fall**, but the LORD helped me.

**The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.**

(13-14)

Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's **right hand** has done mighty things!

The Lord's **right hand** is lifted high; the Lord's **right hand** has done mighty things!" (15-16)

The church: The gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Mt 16:18)

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (12)

## Psalm 118 (David)

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. (17-18)

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. (19-21)

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(22-24)

# Protection: Deliverance, Refuge, Strength (13)

## Psalm 118 (David)

Jesus: Lo, I am with you always... (Mt 28:20)

O LORD, save us; O LORD, **grant us success.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. (25-27)

You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. (28)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; **his love endures forever.** (29)

The relationship is eternal! No matter what!

# Protection: Shepherd and Guardian (1)

## Psalm 23 (David)

This is probably the best known, and most memorized Psalm of all

### Faithful Shepherd:

The LORD is my **shepherd**, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

Restores: Revives

### Reliable Guide:

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through **the valley of the shadow of death**, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (1-4)

### Loving Host:

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and **I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.** (5-6)

Remember that sheep cannot be driven, only led.

# Comparison: Psalm 23 and the preamble of Psalm 18

Psalm 23 (David)

Psalm 18 (David)

Compare the words used

shepherd  
 no want  
 lie down  
 green pastures, quiet waters  
 restores  
 guides  
 fear no evil  
 presence ("you are with me")  
 rod and staff comfort  
 table (banquet)  
 anoint head with oil  
 cup overflows  
 goodness and love  
 dwell forever

strength  
 rock  
 fortress  
 deliverer  
 shield  
 horn of salvation  
 stronghold  
 saved from enemies

Do you know the Psalm, or the Shepherd?

Psalm 18 seems so much more dynamic!  
It also emphasizes Love:

I love you O Lord, my strength!

**The need to write comes from the need to make sense of one's life and discover one's usefulness.**

**John Cheever**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

Write a journal

The entries do not have to be poetry


Dilbert cartoon: 6-8-05

I've been reading my 1975 journal

Many interesting events that year of my life  
(some I'd rather not remember)



# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- **Worship**
  - Worship (creation) Ps 1
  - Worship (awesome deeds) Ps 8, 19
  - Love of the Law (and His Goodness) Ps 78, 105-106 (119)
  - Love of the Law (and His Goodness) Ps 119
- **Inner Struggle**
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  - Betrayal / false accusation / enemies Ps 31, 41, 55
- **Worthiness**
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  - Qualifications Ps 15, 24
  - Unfailing (Steadfast) Love Ps 130, 136
- **Shared Strength**
  - Courage Ps 27-28
  - Healing Ps 34, 147
  - Renewal / Restoration Ps 38, 103
- **Protection**
  - Deliverance, Refuge, Strength Ps 18, 28, 30, 40, 46, 52, 59, 61, 62, 73, 118, 144 
  - Shepherd, Guardian Ps 23, 121

# Protection: Unshaken (1)

## Psalm 62 (David)

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. (1-2)

How long will you assault a man?

Would all of you throw him down-- this **leaning wall**, this **tottering fence**?

They fully intend to topple him from his lofty place; they take delight in lies.

With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse.

Selah (3-4)

The idea of standing firm, steadfast

# Protection: Unshaken (2)

## Psalm 62 (David)

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my **fortress**, I will not be **shaken**.

My salvation and my honor depend on God ; he is my **mighty rock**, my **refuge**.

Trust in him at all times, O people; **pour out your hearts to him**, for God is our **refuge**. Selah (5-8)

Man has no strength

Lowborn men are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie; if weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.

Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Summary / core

One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are **strong**, and that you, O Lord, are **loving**.

Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done. (9-12)

Romans 2:6, Revelation 20:13

# Protection: Unshaken (3)

Psalm 30 (David, for the dedication of the temple)

I will exalt you, O LORD,

for you lifted me out of the depths

and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.

O LORD, you brought me up from the grave;

you spared me from going down into the pit.

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,

but his favor lasts a lifetime;

weeping may remain for a night,

but rejoicing comes in the morning.

When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."

O LORD, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm;

but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

# Protection: Unshaken (4)

Psalm 30 (David, for the dedication of the temple)

To you, O LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy:

"What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down into the **pit**?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

Man is worth saving so that  
he can praise God

Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;

O LORD, be my help."

You turned my wailing into **dancing**;

Modes of expression

you removed my sackcloth and **clothed me with joy**,

that my heart may **sing** to you and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

# Protection: Stability (1)

## Psalm 40 (David)

I waited patiently for the LORD;

he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the slimy **pit**, out of the mud and mire;

he set my feet on a **rock** and gave me a **firm place** to stand.

He put a **new song** in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust,

who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done.

The things you planned for us no one can recount to you;

were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

**Sacrifice and offering you did not desire**, but my ears you have pierced;

burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

2 Samuel 15:22

# Protection: Stability (2)

## Psalm 40 (David)

Then I said, "Here I am, I have come -- it is written about me in the scroll.  
I desire to do your will, O my God; **your law is within my heart.**"

I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly;

I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD.

I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;

I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.

Expression to  
Others

I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD;

may your love and your truth always protect me.

**For troubles without number surround me;**

my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.

They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.

# Protection: Stability (3)

## Psalm 40 (David)

Be pleased, O LORD, to save me;  
O LORD, come **quickly** to help me.

May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.

May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be appalled at their own shame.

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who love your salvation always say,  
"The LORD be exalted!"

Yet I am poor and needy;  
may the Lord think of me.

God's sense of time is so  
different, because He is eternal

You are my help and my deliverer;  
O my God, do not **delay**.



# Protection: Stability (4)

## Psalm 73

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, **my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.**

For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills. Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits. They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth...

Why do the wicked succeed?

This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth.

Yet I am always with you; you **hold** me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

**Whom have I in heaven but you?**

**And earth has nothing I desire besides you.**

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but **God is the strength of my heart** and my portion forever...

I have made the Sovereign LORD my **refuge**; I will tell of all your deeds.

# Protection: Rock (1)

Psalm 28 (David)

To you I call, O LORD my **Rock**; do not turn a deaf ear to me.  
For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.  
Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place...

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.  
The LORD is my **strength** and my **shield**;  
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

**My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.**

The LORD is the **strength** of his people,  
a **fortress** of salvation for his anointed one.

Save your people and bless your inheritance;  
be their **shepherd** and carry them forever.

## Protection: Rock (2)

Psalm 61 (David; with stringed instruments)

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint;

lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.

I long to dwell in your tent forever

and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. Selah

For you have heard my vows, O God;

you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations.

May he be enthroned in God's presence forever;

appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him.

Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows day after day.

the spiritual rock... was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:4

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

## • **Worship**

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 1

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

## • **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 31, 41, 55

## • **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

## • **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing
- Renewal / Restoration

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

Ps 38, 103

## • **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength



Ps 18, 28, 30, 40, 46, 52,  
59, 61, 62, 73, 118, 144

Ps 23, 121

# David Needed a Fortress

1 Sam 19:11-17

<sup>11</sup> Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed."

<sup>12</sup> So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped.

<sup>13</sup> Then Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head.

# David Needed a Fortress

1 Sam 19:11-17

<sup>14</sup> When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, “He is ill.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, “Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him.”

<sup>16</sup> But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats’ hair.

<sup>17</sup> Saul said to Michal, “Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?” Michal told him, “He said to me, ‘Let me get away. Why should I kill you?’ ”

# Protection: Fortress (1)

Psalm 59 (David; Saul sent men to watch David's house)

2 Samuel 19:12

Deliver me from my enemies, O God;

protect me from those who rise up against me.

Deliver me from evildoers and save me from bloodthirsty men.

See how they lie in wait for me! ...

They return at evening, snarling like dogs, and prowl about the city.

O my Strength, I watch for you;

you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God.

But I will sing of your **strength**, in the morning I will sing of your **love**;

for you are my **fortress**, my **refuge** in times of trouble.

O my **Strength**, I sing praise to you;

you, O God, are my **fortress**, my loving God.

Spiritual Fortress

# Protection: Fortress (2)

Psalm 144 (David)

Praise be to the LORD my Rock,  
who trains my hands for war,  
my fingers for battle.

He is my loving God and my **fortress**,  
my **stronghold** and my **deliverer**,  
my **shield**, in whom I take **refuge**,  
who subdues peoples under me.

O LORD, what is man that you care for him,  
the son of man that you think of him?

Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow.

God's protection: the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18)



# Protection: Fortress (3)

Psalm 144 (David)

Part your heavens, O LORD, and come down;

touch the mountains, so that they smoke.

Send forth lightning and scatter the enemies;

shoot your arrows and rout them.

Similar language to  
Psalm 18

Reach down your hand from on high;

deliver me and rescue me from the mighty waters,

from the hands of foreigners whose mouths are full of lies,

whose right hands are deceitful.

I will sing a new song to you, O God;

on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,

to the One who gives victory to kings,

who delivers his servant David from the deadly sword.

# Protection: Fortress (4)

Psalm 144 (David)

Deliver me and rescue me from the hands of foreigners whose mouths are full of lies, whose right hands are deceitful.

Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants,  
and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.

Our barns will be filled with every kind of provision.

Our sheep will increase by thousands, by tens of thousands in our fields;  
our oxen will draw heavy loads.

There will be no breaching of walls,  
no going into captivity,  
no cry of distress in our streets.

The blessings of protection

Blessed are the people of whom this is true;  
blessed are the people whose God is the LORD.

# Protection: Rock (1)

Psalm 28 (David)

To you I call, O LORD my **Rock**; do not turn a deaf ear to me.  
For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.  
Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place...

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.  
The LORD is my **strength** and my **shield**;  
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.  
**My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.**

The LORD is the **strength** of his people,  
a **fortress** of salvation for his anointed one.  
Save your people and bless your inheritance;  
be their **shepherd** and carry them forever.

**Church is only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members.**

**William Temple**

## Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

**He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him** -- and he was a Samaritan.

Luke 17:11-19

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

## • **Worship**

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 1

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

## • **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 31, 41, 55

## • **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

## • **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

- Renewal / Restoration

Ps 38, 103

## • **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength 

Ps 18, 28, 30, 40, 46, 52,  
59, 61, 62, 73, 118, 144

- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 23, 121

# Protection: Rock (1)

Psalm 28 (David)

To you I call, O LORD my **Rock**; do not turn a deaf ear to me.  
For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.  
Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place...

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.  
The LORD is my **strength** and my **shield**;  
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

**My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.**

The LORD is the **strength** of his people,  
a **fortress** of salvation for his anointed one.

Save your people and bless your inheritance;  
be their **shepherd** and carry them forever.

My childhood forts

## Protection: Rock (2)

Psalm 61 (David; with stringed instruments)

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint;

lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

→ east / west

For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.

I long to dwell in your tent forever

and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. Selah

For you have heard my vows, O God;

the Rock is stable

you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations.

May he be enthroned in God's presence forever;

appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him.

Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows day after day.

the spiritual rock... was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:4

it moves only to be with us



# Protection: Fortress (5)

Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

The blessings of spiritual protection

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

faithful unto death; the raging stream

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

# Protection: False Fortress (1)

Jericho

Psalm 52 (David)

Jerusalem

When Doeg the Edomite had gone to Saul and told him: "David has gone to the house of Ahimelech."

Why do you boast of evil, you mighty man?

Why do you boast all day long, you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?

Your tongue plots destruction; it is like a sharpened razor, you who practice deceit.

You love evil rather than good, falsehood rather than speaking the truth.  
Selah (1-3)

Ninevah

Sometimes we trust in the wrong things

Masada

# Protection: False Fortress (2)

## Psalm 52 (David)

You love every harmful word, O you deceitful tongue!

Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin: He will snatch you up and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living.  
Selah

The righteous will see and fear; they will laugh at him, saying, "Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold but trusted in his great wealth and grew strong by destroying others!"

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good.

I will praise you in the presence of your saints. (4-9)

# Protection: Shepherd and Guardian (2)

## Psalm 121

Probably antiphonal

I lift up my eyes to the hills -- where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. (1-2)

He will not let your foot **slip** -- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. (3-4)

The LORD watches over you -- the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. (5-6)

The LORD will keep you from all harm -- he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (7-8)

He cares enough to watch us all of the time!  
He can do this for each and every one of us!

# Protection: NT Perspective

## Deliverance, Refuge, Strength; Shepherd, Guardian

**Deliverance, Refuge, and Strength:** But **the Lord stood at my side** and gave me **strength**, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was **delivered** from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me **safely** to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. 2 Tim 4:17-18

God still provides for our Protection from the evil one

**Shepherd and Guardian:** "I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the **good shepherd**; I know my sheep and my sheep know me -- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-- and **I lay down my life for the sheep**. John 10:11, 14-15

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will **guard** your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:7

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to **guard** what I have entrusted to him for that day. 2 Tim 1:12

Jesus gave His life to guard our souls

# Protection: Cautions

## Deliverance, Refuge, Strength; Shepherd, Guardian

**Deliverance, Refuge, Strength:** "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.

Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'

When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order.

Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

Mat 12:43-45

We cannot ease up when we are delivered.

Remember the cycle of sin, distress, deliverance, and then sin again

Computer virus cleanup... then don't turn up the virus protection

**Shepherd and Guardian:** My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27

We must continue to follow Christ or we will become lost.

**The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.**

**Mother Teresa**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

Write a journal

The entries do not have to be poetry

October, 1985, John Sain (playing volleyball):

Heard gets his money's worth wherever he goes!

and,


I'd rather spike the ball on Heard than eat!

I've been reading my 1985 journal entries

Sometimes its good to read what others expressed about you



# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- **Worship**
  - Worship (creation) Ps 1
  - Worship (awesome deeds) Ps 8, 19
  - Love of the Law (and His Goodness) Ps 78, 105-106 (119)
  - Love of the Law (and His Goodness) Ps 119
- **Inner Struggle**
  - Despair Ps 13, 42-43, 69
  - Betrayal / false accusation / enemies Ps 31, 41, 55
- **Worthiness**
  - Penitence / Cleansing Ps 51
  - Qualifications Ps 15, 24
  - Unfailing (Steadfast) Love Ps 130, 136
- **Shared Strength**
  - Courage Ps 27-28
  - Healing Ps 34, 147
  - Renewal / Restoration Ps 38, 103
- **Protection**
  - Deliverance, Refuge, Strength Ps 18, 28, 30, 40, 46, 52, 59, 61, 62, 73, 118, 144 
  - Shepherd, Guardian Ps 23, 121

# Protection: Unshaken (1)

Psalm 62 (David)

My soul finds rest in God alone;  
my salvation comes from him.

Seismic mass for 10V

He alone is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will never be **shaken**. (1-2)

How long will you assault a man?

Would all of you throw him down  
-- this leaning wall, this tottering fence?

They fully intend to topple him from his lofty place;  
they take delight in lies.

With their mouths they bless,  
but in their hearts they curse. Selah (3-4)

# Protection: Unshaken (2)

## Psalm 62 (David)

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

He alone is my **rock** and my **salvation**; he is my **fortress**, I will not be **shaken**.

My salvation and my honor depend on God ; he is my mighty **rock**, my **refuge**.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our **refuge**. Selah (5-8)

Lowborn men are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie;  
if weighed on a balance, they are nothing;  
together they are only a breath.

False strength

Do not trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods;  
though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

One thing God has spoken, **two things** have I heard:

Essentials (Core)

that you, O God, are **strong**, and that you, O Lord, are **loving**.

Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done. (9-12)

## Protection: True Value (1)

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

- circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews;
- in regard to the law, a Pharisee;
- as for zeal, persecuting the church;
- as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider **loss** for the sake of Christ.

What is more, **I consider everything a loss** compared to the **surpassing greatness of knowing Christ** Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have **lost** all things.

I consider them **rubbish**, that I may gain Christ...

Philippians 3:4-8

# Other Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- **Renewal** (should be included with healing) Ps 103
- **Dealing with Slander**  
(should have been included with false accusation) Ps 31
- **Purpose** Ps 138
- **The Image of Peace** Ps 85
- **God's Good Spirit** Ps 143

# Renewal (1)

## Various Psalms

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

you lay me in the dust of death.

But you, O LORD, be not far off;

O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Psalms 22:14-15, 19

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning;

my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

Psalms 31:9-10

# Renewal (2)

## Various Psalms

When I kept silent, **my bones wasted away** through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; **my strength was sapped** as in the heat of summer. Selah

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"

-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

(Psalms 32:3-5)

For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave.

I am counted among those who go down to the pit;

**I am like a man without strength.**

Psalms 88:3-4

# Renewal (3)

## Psalm 38 (David)

O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have pierced me,

and your hand has come down upon me.

Because of your wrath there is **no health in my body**;

**my bones have no soundness** because of my sin.

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly.

I am bowed down and brought very low;

all day long I go about mourning.

My back is filled with searing pain;

there is no health in my body.

Crushed and spent

**I am feeble and utterly crushed**;

I groan in anguish of heart.

All my longings lie open before you, O Lord;

my sighing is not hidden from you.



# Renewal (4)

## Psalm 38 (David)

My heart pounds, **my strength fails me**;

even the light has gone from my eyes.

My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds;

my neighbors stay far away.

Those who seek my life set their traps,

those who would harm me talk of my ruin;

all day long they plot deception.

I am like a deaf man, who cannot hear,

like a mute, who cannot open his mouth;

I have become like a man who does not hear,

whose mouth can offer no reply.

I wait for you, O LORD;

you will answer, O Lord my God.

Waiting for an answer

# Renewal (5)

## Psalm 38 (David)

For I said,

"Do not let them gloat or exalt themselves over me when my foot slips."

For I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me.

I confess my iniquity;

I am troubled by my sin.

Many are those who are my vigorous enemies;

those who hate me without reason are numerous.

Those who repay my good with evil

slander me when I pursue what is good.

O LORD, do not forsake me;

be not far from me, O my God.

Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.

# Renewal (6)

## Psalm 103 (David)

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my **inmost** being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits –

who **forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,**

who **redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,**

who **satisfies your desires with good things** so that your youth is **renewed like the eagle's.** (1-5)

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,

his deeds to the people of Israel:

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

**slow to anger, abounding in love.**

# Renewal (7)

## Psalm 103 (David)

He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.

**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;  
for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.

Fear: not afraid, but awe and respect

# Renewal (8)

## Psalm 103 (David)

As for man, his days are like grass,  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
the wind blows over it and it is gone,  
and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting  
the Lord's love is with those who fear him,  
and his righteousness with their children's children --  
with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

# Renewal (9)

## Psalm 103 (David)

Praise the LORD,  
you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Praise the LORD,  
all his heavenly hosts,  
you his servants who do his will.

Praise the LORD,  
all his works everywhere in his dominion.

Praise the LORD, O my soul.

# Slander (1)

## Psalm 31 (David)

In you, O LORD, I have taken **refuge**; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my **rock of refuge**, a **strong fortress** to save me.

Since **you are my rock and my fortress**, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my **refuge**.

Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.  
(1-5)

I hate those who cling to worthless idols; I trust in the LORD.

I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.

You have not handed me over to the enemy but have **set my feet in a spacious place**. (6-8)

# Slander (2)

## Psalm 31 (David)

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief.

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends-- those who see me on the street flee from me.

I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. (9-12)

For I hear the slander of many; there is **terror on every side**; they conspire against me and plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your **unfailing love**. (13-16)



# Slander (3)

## Psalm 31 (David)

Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave.

Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous. (17-18)

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.

In the **shelter** of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues. (19-20)

# Slander (4)

## Psalm 31 (David)

Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city.

In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.

Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

**Be strong and take heart**, all you who hope in the LORD. (21-24)

**Rules without a relationship  
lead to rebellion.**

**Josh McDowell**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD."

He gave it to Shaphan, who read it.

Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book."

And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.

2 Kings 22:8-11

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- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

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Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

## • **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

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- Penitence / Cleansing
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Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

## • **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing
- Renewal / Restoration

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

Ps 38, 103

## • **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 28, 30, 40, 46, 52,  
59, 61, 62, 73, 118, 144

Ps 23, 121

# Protection: Unshaken (3)

Psalm 62 (David)

My soul finds rest in God alone;  
my salvation comes from him.

Seismic mass for 10V

He alone is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. (1-2)

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

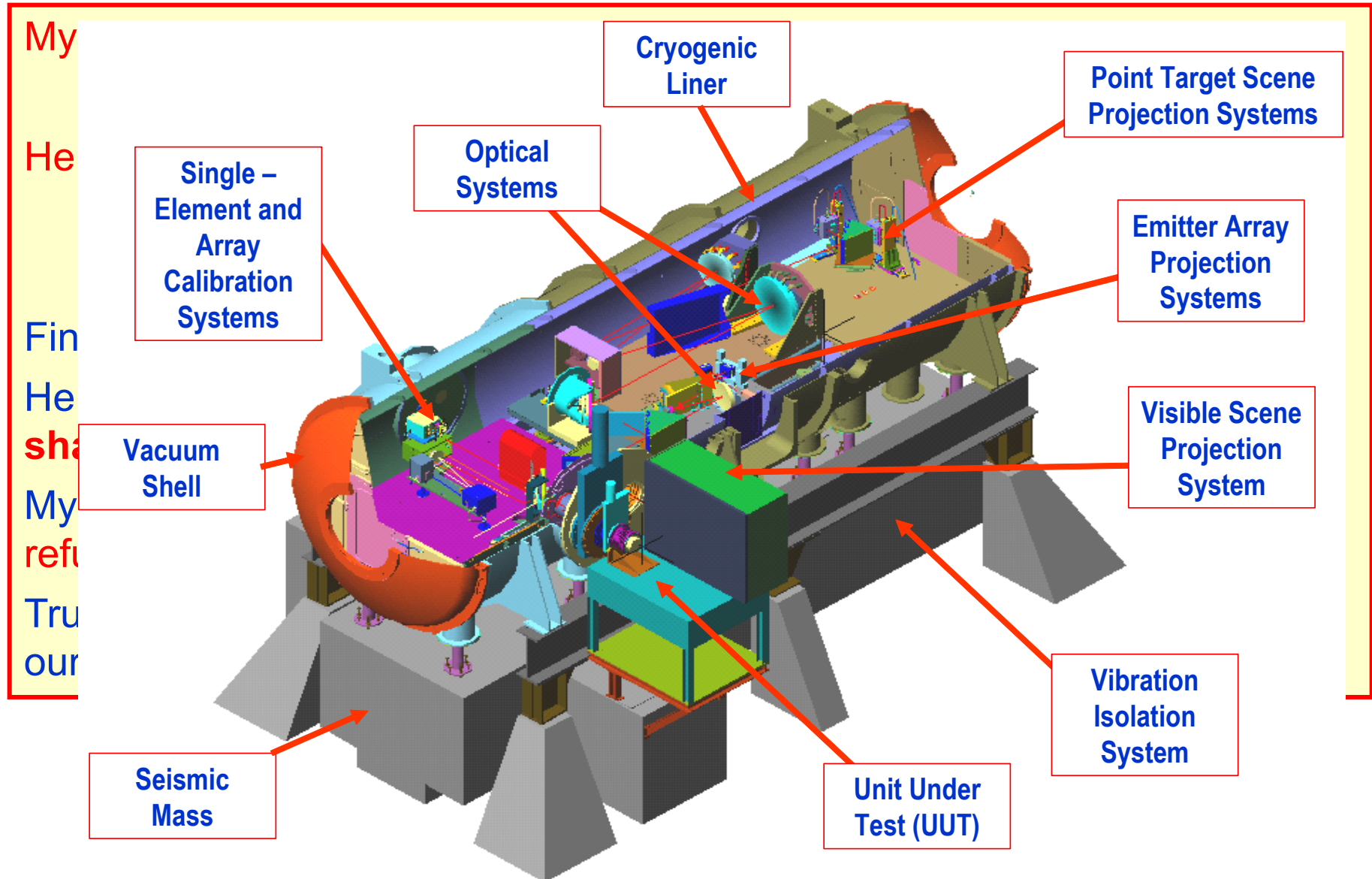
He alone is my **rock** and my **salvation**; he is my **fortress**, I will not be **shaken**.

My salvation and my honor depend on God ; he is my mighty **rock**, my **refuge**.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our **refuge**. Selah (5-8)

# Protection: Unshaken (4)

Psalm 62 (David)



# Protection: True Value (1)

What he trusts in is **fragile**;  
what he relies on is a spider's web.

He leans on his web, but it gives way;  
he clings to it, but it does not hold.

Job 8:14-15

Look now, you are depending on Egypt, that **splintered reed** of a staff, **which pierces a man's hand and wounds him if he leans on it!**

Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him.

Isaiah 36:6



## Protection: True Value (2) -- pde

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

- circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews;
- in regard to the law, a Pharisee;
- as for zeal, persecuting the church;
- as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider **loss** for the sake of Christ.

What is more, **I consider everything a loss** compared to the **surpassing greatness of knowing Christ** Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have **lost** all things.

I consider them **rubbish**, that I may gain Christ...

Philippians 3:4-8

# Other Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- **Renewal** (should be included with healing) **Ps 103**
- **Dealing with Slander**  
(should have been included with false accusation) **Ps 31**
- **Purpose** Ps 138
- **The Image of Peace** Ps 85
- **God's Good Spirit** Ps 143
- **Do not Fret** Ps 37
- **Unbelief** Ps 14, 53
- **Satisfying Needs** Ps 63, 87
- **Planting a Vineyard** Ps 80
- **Water in the Desert** Ps 107, 114
- **Knowing Us** Ps 139
- **Other Ideas** several

# Purpose (1)

## Psalm 138 (David)

I will praise you, O LORD, **with all my heart**;  
before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

Worship!

I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

When I called, you answered me;  
you made me **bold** and **stouthearted**.

May all the kings of the earth praise you, O LORD,  
when they hear the words of your mouth.

May they sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for the glory of the LORD is great.

# Purpose (2)

## Psalm 138 (David)

Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly,  
but the proud he knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you **preserve** my life;  
you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes,  
with your right hand you save me.

**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;**  
your love, O LORD, endures forever –  
do not abandon the works of your hands.

God has a purpose for us!

Peanuts: We're put here to  
make others happy

# The Image of Peace (1)

## Psalm 85

You showed favor to your land, O LORD;  
you **restored** the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people and **covered** all their sins. Selah

You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

Restore us again, O God our Savior,  
and put away your displeasure toward us.

Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your anger through all generations?

Will you not **revive us again**, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your **unfailing love**, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

# The Image of Peace (2)

## Psalm 85

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;  
he promises peace to his people, his saints –  
but let them not return to folly.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Love and faithfulness meet together;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

What a great picture!

**Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

# God's Good Spirit (1)

## Psalm 143 (David)

O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.

The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead.

So my spirit grows faint within me;  
my heart within me is dismayed.

I remember the days of long ago;  
I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.

I spread out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah

# God's Good Spirit (2)

## Psalm 143 (David)

Answer me quickly, O LORD; **my spirit fails.**

Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the **pit.**

Let the morning bring me word of your **unfailing love,**  
for I have put my trust in you.

Show me the way I should go, for **to you I lift up my soul.**

Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;  
**may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

For your name's sake, O LORD, **preserve my life;**  
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.

In your **unfailing love,** silence my enemies;  
destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.



# Unbelief (1)

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."  
They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;  
there is no one who does good.

Psalms 14:1, 53:1

# Unbelief (2)

## Compare Psalm 14 and 53 (David)

(Psalms 14) The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their **deeds** are vile; there is no one who does good. {2} **The LORD** looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. {3} **All have** turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. {4} Will evildoers never learn -- those who devour my people as men eat bread and who do not call on **the LORD**? {5} There they are, overwhelmed with dread, **for God is present in the company of the righteous.** {6} **You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.** {7} Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

(Psalms 53) The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their **ways** are vile; there is no one who does good. {2} **God** looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. {3} **Everyone has** turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. {4} Will the evildoers never learn -- those who devour my people as men eat bread and who do not call on **God**? {5} There they were, overwhelmed with dread, **where there was nothing to dread. God scattered the bones of those who attacked you; you put them to shame, for God despised them.** {6} Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When God restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

# Our Needs

- Our Prayer List
- News
  - TennCare
  - Hurricane Relief
  - Food (Africa or North Korea)
- Psychology
  - Belonging
  - Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

# What Needs Were Brought to Jesus?

Requests for...

- Food
- Healing
- Authority

# Satisfying Needs (1)

Psalm 63; David, when he was in the Desert of Judah

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my body longs for you,  
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

---

desert

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Psalm 63; David, when he was in the Desert of Judah

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in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

desert

I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.  
Because **your love is better than life**, my lips will glorify you.  
I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul will be **satisfied** as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

sanctuary

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 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
 with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

sanctuary

On my bed I remember you;  
 I think of you through the watches of the night.  
 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.  
 My soul **clings** to you; your right hand upholds me. (1-8)

bed

## Matthew 23:37

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.



# Satisfying Needs (2)

## Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!  
My soul **yearns**, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh **cry out** for the living God...

*Do We Recognize What Our Soul Yearns For?*

# Satisfying Needs (2)

## Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!  
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God...

---

**Blessed** are those who dwell in your house;  
they are ever praising you. Selah

**Blessed** are those whose strength is in you,  
who have set their hearts on pilgrimage...

They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion...

*Whose Choice Is It?*

# Satisfying Needs (2)

## Psalm 84

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Blessed are those who dwell in your house;  
they are ever praising you. Selah

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
who have set their hearts on pilgrimage...

They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion...

---

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked...

O LORD Almighty, **blessed** is the man who trusts in you.

# Worth It All...

Matthew 13:44-46

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup> When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

# Planting a Vineyard (1)

## Psalm 80

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and **planted** it.  
You cleared the ground for it,  
and it took root and filled the land.  
The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.  
It sent out its boughs to the Sea,  
its shoots as far as the River.

(8-11)

# Planting a Vineyard (1)

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the mighty cedars with its branches.  
It sent out its boughs to the Sea,  
its shoots as far as the River.

Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its grapes?

Boars from the forest ravage it and the creatures of the field feed on it.

(8-13)

# Planting a Vineyard (2)

## Psalm 80

Return to us, O God Almighty!

Look down from heaven and see!

Watch over this vine,

the root your right hand has planted,

the **son** you have raised up for yourself.

Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;

at your rebuke your people perish...

Then we will not turn away from you;

**revive** us, and we will call on your name.

**Restore** us, O LORD God Almighty;

make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. (14-19)

# Water in the Desert (1)

## Psalm 107

He turned rivers into a desert,  
flowing springs into thirsty ground,  
and fruitful land into a salt waste,  
because of the wickedness of those who lived there.

(33-34)



# Water in the Desert (1)

## Psalm 107

He turned rivers into a desert,  
flowing springs into thirsty ground,  
and fruitful land into a salt waste,  
because of the wickedness of those who lived there.

---

He turned the desert into pools of water

and the parched ground into flowing springs;  
there he brought the hungry to live,  
and they founded a city where they could settle.

They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest;  
he blessed them,  
and their numbers greatly increased,  
and he did not let their herds diminish.

(33-38)

# Water in the Desert (2)

## Psalm 114

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
who turned the rock into a pool,  
the hard rock into springs of water.

Psalms 114:7-8

# What Needs Were Brought to Jesus?

Requests for...

- Food
- Healing
- Authority

*What is Our Greatest Need?*

**[If] there be any difference among professed  
believers as to the sense of Scripture,  
it is their duty to tolerate such difference in each  
other,  
until God shall have revealed the truth to all.**

**... John Milton**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

Write a journal

The entries do not have to be poetry

October, 1985, Zach with his Granddaddy:

Heard (Jr): I'll let you see the moon through my telescope...

Zach: Granddaddy, I can see the moon now!

We also think we've seen all we need to see

And know all we need to for our worship!

I kept a journal to help Zach remember his youth

I gave it to him when he turned 21

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|   | Ps 1   |
| • <b>Worship</b>                        |  |
| – Worship (creation)                    | Ps 8, 19   |
| – Worship (awesome deeds)               | Ps 78, 105-106 (119)                                   |
| – Love of the Law (and His Goodness)    | Ps 119   |
| • <b>Inner Struggle</b>                 |  |
| – Despair                               | Ps 13, 42-43, 69                                       |
| – Betrayal / false accusation / enemies | Ps 31, 41, 55  |
| • <b>Worthiness</b>                     |  |
| – Penitence / Cleansing                 | Ps 51  |
| – Qualifications                        | Ps 15, 24  |
| – Unfailing (Steadfast) Love            | Ps 130, 136  |
| • <b>Shared Strength</b>                |  |
| – Courage                               | Ps 27-28   |
| – Healing                               | Ps 34, 147   |
| – Renewal / Restoration                 | Ps 38, 103   |
| • <b>Protection</b>                     |  |
| – Deliverance, Refuge, Strength         | Ps 18, 28, 30, 40, 46, 52,<br>59, 61, 62, 73, 118, 144 |
| – Shepherd, Guardian                    | Ps 23, 121   |

# Other Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- **Renewal** (should be included with healing) **Ps 103**
- **Dealing with Slander**  
(should have been included with false accusation) **Ps 31**
- **Purpose** **Ps 138**
- **The Image of Peace** **Ps 85**
- **God's Good Spirit** **Ps 143**
- **Unbelief** **Ps 14, 53**
- **Satisfying Needs** **Ps 63, 87**
- **Planting a Vineyard** **Ps 80**
- **Water in the Desert** **Ps 107, 114**
- **Do not Fret** **Ps 37**
- **Knowing Us** **Ps 139**
- **Other Ideas** **several**

# Water in the Desert (1)

## Psalm 107

He turned **rivers** into a desert,  
**flowing springs** into thirsty ground,  
and fruitful land into a salt waste,  
because of the wickedness of those who lived there.

water → desert

He turned the desert into **pools of water**  
and the parched ground into **flowing springs**;  
there he brought the hungry to live,  
and they founded a city where they could settle.

desert → water

They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest;  
he blessed them,  
and their numbers greatly increased,  
and he did not let their herds diminish.

(33-38)



# Water in the Desert (2)

## Psalm 114

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
who turned the rock into a pool,  
the hard rock into springs of water.

desert → water

Psalms 114:7-8

# Predictive Prophecy

**We will just touch on the study of prophecy...**

**Maybe we will study it in more detail at a later time**

- like password game filter; blue hides text; veil over our minds (like 2 Cor 3:13-16)
- like complex jigsaw puzzle; you study the pieces over and over, and every once in a while, something fits
- language barriers: Imagine “predicting” a current commonplace event to Moses: “playing a video game on your cell phone while you are filling your automobile with gasoline”
- Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about the Second Coming, but had to tell them to go on with their work
- It is important, but those who give prophecy too much importance divide us
  - Millennialism: What does it matter if we have this exactly right?

# Predictive Prophecy

There must be a clear distinction between “foretelling” and “forth-telling.”

Several categories:

## Individuals -

The mission of Josiah was foretold more than three centuries before his birth (cf. 1 Kings 13; 2 Kgs. 23).

The role of the Persian king, Cyrus, in releasing the Hebrews from Babylonian captivity, was described more than a century and a half before his reign (cf. Isaiah 44:28; 45:1ff).

## Cities and nations -

Daniel’s descriptions of the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman empires are nothing short of miraculous (cf. Daniel, chapters 2,7,8).

## Messianic prophecy -

Of the more than 800 prophecies in the old Testament, at least 300 (plus) center on the coming Christ.

The design of predictive prophecy was to establish the credibility of God and, ultimately, the authenticity of His sacred Scriptures.

**The Jewish culture was geared for prophetic interpretation**

# Criteria for Genuine Predictive Prophecy

**Proper timing**, i.e., the oracle must significantly precede the person or event described. It must be beyond the realm of reasonable calculation so as to preclude the possibility of an “educated guess.”

The prophecy must deal in **specific details**, not vague generalities which are capable of being manipulated to fit various circumstances.

**Exact fulfillment**, not merely a high degree of probability, must characterize the prediction.

The divine standard for a true prophet is stated by Moses.

If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

Deuteronomy 18:22

# Predictive Prophecy: Conditional or Absolute?

Some prophecies were obviously conditional.

This is especially true with reference to predictions that contained warnings of impending judgment upon wicked peoples.

- Jonah went to the city of Nineveh, he announced: “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown” (3:4). However, the people of Nineveh repented, and God withdrew the judgment and did not destroy them (cf. 3:10).
- Similarly, when God promised the Israelites that the land of Canaan would be their inheritance, that pledge was contingent upon their fidelity to Jehovah.
- The Hebrew nation did apostatize and lost its special privileges with God (cf. Matthew 21:43). Those religionists and politicians today who argue for Israel’s intrinsic right to Palestinian territory overlook this very critical element of Bible prophecy.

On the other hand, some prophecies were absolute, as with those concerning the coming Messiah.

- the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15)
- the offspring of Abraham (Genesis 22:18)
- from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
- born to a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- in the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

# Predictive Prophecy: Language

The language of predictive literature can be either literal or figurative.

But how does one determine the nature of prophetic terminology?

- **Common sense** and context dictate the character of prophecy. If a literal view implies an impossibility or an absurdity, it is obviously figurative.
- In many instances, the issue will be settled by how the **New Testament writers** (who quote or cite the prophecies) viewed the matter.

Example of Literal:

- When Old Testament writers declared that Christ would be the offspring of Abraham (Genesis 22:18), or that He would be raised from the dead (Psalm 16:10), they made straightforward predictions that were fulfilled literally.

Example of Figurative:

- When Isaiah announced that John the Baptizer would “make level in the desert a highway for our God” (40:3), he did not mean that John would engineer a freeway project in the Palestinian wilderness; rather, it was a symbolic description of John’s preparatory work for the ministry of Jesus (cf. Matt 3:1ff).
- When the prophet foretold that “the lion shall eat straw like an ox” (Is 11:7), he was not suggesting that Jehovah would redesign the dental/digestive processes of the animal kingdom in the alleged “millennial” age. He was figuratively suggesting the peaceful atmosphere that would be characteristic of the church of Christ as the various nations flowed into it (Is 11:10; Rom 15:12)

# Predictive Prophecy: Immediate Understanding?<sup>22</sup>

“What relevance would the prophecy have had to an antique generation which would never see it fulfilled?”

What about postulating a young maiden of Isaiah’s day who would conform to his virgin-birth prophecy – 7:14?

The fact is, some prophecies had no immediate relevance to their contemporary generation. Those ancients would not fully understand the predictions – except dimly through the eye of faith.

Not even the prophets understood the meaning of many of their inspired utterances.

Peter discusses this very matter in 1 Peter 1:10-12. God’s redemptive plan, as previewed by the Old Testament messengers, was a “mystery,” which can now be perceived only by means of New Testament revelation (Ephesians 3:1-13).

# Predictive Prophecy: Dual Meaning? (1)

Did the New Testament writers sometimes lift these passages from their original contexts and give them meanings foreign to their original design?

Whenever possible, we should try to understand precisely how the New Testament writer is using the Old Testament passage. (not always easy)

- Is the New Testament writer merely borrowing language from an Old Testament text?
- Is he employing an ancient scripture illustratively?
- Or does he mean to affirm that a New Testament incident is actually a “fulfillment” of prophecy?

We must remember that ancient writers did not use quotation marks, colons, ellipsis marks, brackets, etc., these were unknown to them.

It is very possible that the omniscient Holy Spirit, could have directed certain prophecies to ancient Israel, but also could have known that a future event would ultimately fulfill the meaning of his words (or made it happen that way).



## Predictive Prophecy: Dual Meaning? (2)

David declared: “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me” (Psalm 41:9).

During the last supper, Christ quoted from this passage as follows: “He that eats my bread lifted up his heel against me” (John 13:18), applying it to the treachery of Judas, and declaring that such fulfilled the statement in David’s psalm.

The Lord, however, altered the quotation. He omitted, “whom I trusted,” from the original source, the reason being, He never trusted Judas!

Jesus knew from the beginning who would betray Him (John 6:64).

It is clear, therefore, that Psalm 41:9 had an immediate application to one of David’s enemies, but the remote and complete “fulfillment” came in Judas’ betrayal of the Son of God.

## Predictive Prophecy: Dual Meaning? (3)

Consider the case of Psalm 2:7, where Jehovah said: “Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee.”

In the New Testament, this statement is applied to Christ in several different senses.

- **First**, it is employed to demonstrate that Christ is superior to the angels, for the Father never addressed any angelic being, saying, “You are my son, this day have I begotten thee” (cf. Hebrews 1:5).
- **Second**, Psalm 2:7 is applied by Paul to Christ’s resurrection from the dead. The apostle argues that “God hath fulfilled the same unto our children, in that he raised up Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, Thou art my son...” (Acts 13:33). It was, of course, by His resurrection that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power (Romans 1:4). Thus, it was appropriate that the psalm be applied to the Lord’s resurrection.
- **Third**, the writer of Hebrews uses the psalm to prove that Christ glorified not Himself to be made our high priest; rather, such a role was due to His relationship as the Son of God (5:5).

Again, we absolutely must stress that the Holy Spirit, who inspired the original psalm, surely had all of these various thoughts in mind as is evidenced by His guidance of the New Testament writers as they employed His language.

# Predictive Prophecy: Types

The Old Testament contains numerous examples of a device called a “type.”

A simple description of a type might be “a pictorial prophecy.”

For example, Melchizedek, who was both king of Salem and a priest of God, prophetically symbolized the Son of God who rules as our King and serves as our high priest (cf. Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:5-10; 6:20; 7:1-17).

Jonah’s three-day confinement in the belly of the great fish was a pictorial prediction of Christ’s three-day entombment (cf. Matthew 12:40), and His resurrection from the dead.

Very important relative to prophecy from the Psalms:  
David was a type of Christ

# Predictive Prophecy: Can we understand it?

Man's interpretation is almost never right.

Do not regard anyone who says that they know exactly what Revelation means...

How do I know absolutely what is prophecy and how it was fulfilled?

God tells me through the Bible. I am not smart enough to know!

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21

# Predictive Prophecy: How Jesus understand it

He said to them,

"This is what I told you while I was still with you:

Everything must be fulfilled that is **written about me** in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

**Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.**

He told them, "This is what is written:

The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem...

Luke 24:44-47

# The Message of Prophecy: Watch!

The purpose of prophecy is not to direct us into exactly what the future holds, but to keep us considering it...

I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

Rumors of wars... (vs 7) pretty general

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

**Be on guard! Be alert!** You do not know when that time will come.

It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his **assigned task**, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

Keep obeying

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to everyone: **'Watch!'**"

Keep watching, keep studying, keep thinking...

Mark 13:30-37

# Twenty -Two Prophecies in Psalms Fulfilled in The New Testament

Psalm	Prophecy	Fulfillment
2:7	God will declare Him to be His Son	Matt. 3:17
8:6	All things will be put under His feet	Heb. 2:8
16:10	He will be resurrected from the dead	Mark 16:6, 7
22:1	God will forsake Him in His hour of need	Matt. 27:46
22:7, 8	He will be scorned and mocked	Luke 23:35
22:16	His hands and feet will be pierced	John 20:25, 27
22:18	Other will gamble for His clothes	Matt. 27:35, 36
34:20	Not one of His bones will be broken	John 19:32, 33, 36
35:11	He will be accused by false witnesses	Mark 14:57
35:19	He will be hated without a cause	John 15:25
40:7, 8	He will come to do God's will	Heb. 10:7
41:9	He will be betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47

# Twenty -Two Prophecies in Psalms Fulfilled in The New Testament

Psalm	Prophecy	Fulfillment
45:6	His throne will be forever	Heb. 1:8
68:18	He will ascend to God's right hand	Mark 16:19
69:9	Zeal for God's house will consume Him	John 2:17
69:21	He will be given vinegar and gall to drink	Matt. 27:34
109:4	He will pray for His enemies	Luke 23:34
109:8	His betrayer's office will be fulfilled by another	Acts 1:20
110:1	His enemies will be made subject to Him	Matt. 22:44
110:4	He will be a priest like Melchizedek	Heb. 5:6
118:22	He will be the chief cornerstone	Matt. 21:42
118:26	He will come in the name of the Lord	Matt. 21:9

Also Psalm 72 and 87



# Consider the subject of the prophecy

What is the context of the Psalm?

Who is it talking about?

How is it fulfilled?

## Context

- The anointed one
- Son of Man
- King David
- A righteous man
- God
- The betrayer
- King David's Lord

## Types of Fulfillment

- General
- Quoted
- Restatement
- Specific reference

Christ is referenced through each ...

# 1. God will declare Him to be His Son

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father [or, have begotten you]."

Psalms 2:7

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:22

Also referenced in Mk 1:9-11, Acts 13:33, Heb 1:5 and 3:5

Context: The anointed one (God's Son)

Fulfillment: Restatement

## 2. All things will be put under His feet

You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

Psalms 8:6

You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and **put everything under his feet**.

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him.

Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

Hebrews 2:7-8

Also referenced in Heb 1:10 and 1 Cor 15:25-27

Context: The Son of Man

Fulfillment: Quoted

### 3. He will be resurrected from the dead

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Psalms 16:9-10

"Don't be alarmed," he said.

"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.

See the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:6

So **it is stated** elsewhere: 'You will not let your Holy One see decay.'

Acts 13:35

Also referenced in Acts 2:26-31

Context: King David

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 4. God will forsake Him in His hour of need

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

Psalms 22:1

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"

-- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:46

Also referenced in Mark 15:34

Context: King David

Fulfillment: Quoted

**“My God, my God, why did you abandon me?”**

**Why did Christ scream these words?**

So you'll never have to.

**Max Lucado**

# Expression!

Don't be afraid to express your feelings!

A teacher may have expressed something about how you express yourself...

September, 1970, CCHS Band Director to the French Horn Section practicing on the football field

You sound like someone throwing around a bunch of garbage cans!

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a **resounding gong** or a **clanging cymbal**.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

# Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

## • **Worship**

- Worship (creation)
- Worship (awesome deeds)
- Love of the Law (and His Goodness)

Ps 1

Ps 8, 19

Ps 78, 105-106 (119)

Ps 119

## • **Inner Struggle**

- Despair
- Betrayal / false accusation / enemies

Ps 13, 42-43, 69

Ps 31, 41, 55

## • **Worthiness**

- Penitence / Cleansing
- Qualifications
- Unfailing (Steadfast) Love

Ps 51

Ps 15, 24

Ps 130, 136

## • **Shared Strength**

- Courage
- Healing
- Renewal / Restoration

Ps 27-28

Ps 34, 147

Ps 38, 103

## • **Protection**

- Deliverance, Refuge, Strength
- Shepherd, Guardian

Ps 18, 28, 30, 40, 46, 52,  
59, 61, 62, 73, 118, 144

Ps 23, 121



# Other Themes from the Psalms (hsl)

- **Renewal** (should be included with healing) **Ps 103**
- **Dealing with Slander**  
(should have been included with false accusation) **Ps 31**
- **Purpose** **Ps 138**
- **The Image of Peace** **Ps 85**
- **God's Good Spirit** **Ps 143**
- **Unbelief** **Ps 14, 53**
- **Satisfying Needs** **Ps 63, 87**
- **Planting a Vineyard** **Ps 80**
- **Water in the Desert** **Ps 107, 114**
- **Do not Fret** **Ps 37**
- **Knowing Us** **Ps 139**
- **Other Ideas** **several**

# Predictive Prophecy:

Conditional or Absolute

Literal or Figurative

Not Understood at the Time

Single or Dual Fulfillment

Types (David is a type of Christ)

Remember: the Psalms are Poetry!

# Predictive Prophecy: Can we understand it?

How do I know absolutely what is prophecy and how it was fulfilled?

God tells me through the Bible. I am not smart enough to know!

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 2 Peter 1:20

Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:44-46

The purpose of prophecy is not to direct us into exactly what the future holds, but to keep us considering it...

# Twenty -Two Prophecies in Psalms Fulfilled in The New Testament

Psalm	Prophecy	Fulfillment
2:7	God will declare Him to be His Son	Matt. 3:17
8:6	All things will be put under His feet	Heb. 2:8
16:10	He will be resurrected from the dead	Mark 16:6, 7
22:1	God will forsake Him in His hour of need	Matt. 27:46
22:7, 8	He will be scorned and mocked	Luke 23:35
22:16	His hands and feet will be pierced	John 20:25, 27
22:18	Other will gamble for His clothes	Matt. 27:35, 36
34:20	Not one of His bones will be broken	John 19:32, 33, 36
35:11	He will be accused by false witnesses	Mark 14:57
35:19	He will be hated without a cause	John 15:25
40:7, 8	He will come to do God's will	Heb. 10:7
41:9	He will be betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47

# Twenty -Two Prophecies in Psalms Fulfilled in The New Testament

Psalm	Prophecy	Fulfillment
45:6	His throne will be forever	Heb. 1:8
68:18	He will ascend to God's right hand	Mark 16:19
69:9	Zeal for God's house will consume Him	John 2:17
69:21	He will be given vinegar and gall to drink	Matt. 27:34
109:4	He will pray for His enemies	Luke 23:34
109:8	His betrayer's office will be fulfilled by another	Acts 1:20
110:1	His enemies will be made subject to Him	Matt. 22:44
110:4	He will be a priest like Melchizedek	Heb. 5:6
118:22	He will be the chief cornerstone	Matt. 21:42
118:26	He will come in the name of the Lord	Matt. 21:9

Also Psalm 72 and 87

# Consider the subject of the prophecy

What is the context of the Psalm?

Who is it talking about?

How is it fulfilled?

## Context

- The anointed one
- Son of Man
- King David
- A righteous man
- God
- The betrayer
- King David's Lord

## Types of Fulfillment

- General
- Quoted
- Restatement
- Specific reference

Christ is referenced through each ...

## 5. He will be scorned and mocked

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

"He trusts in the LORD; let **the LORD rescue him**. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." Psalms 22:7-8

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; **let him save himself** if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, **save yourself**."

Luke 23:35-37

Also referenced in Mt 27:41, Mk 15:31

Context: King David

Fulfillment: General

## 6. His hands and feet will be pierced

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

Psalms 22:16

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

"Peace be with you!"

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.

Stop doubting and believe."

John 20:25-27

Context: King David

Fulfillment: General



## 7. Others will gamble for His clothes

They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. Psalms 22:18

When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Matthew 27:35

"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the **scripture might be fulfilled** which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."

So this is what the soldiers did. John 19:24

Also referenced in Mk 15:24, and Lk 23:34

Context: King David

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 8. Not one of His bones will be broken

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

Psalms 34:19-20

The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.

But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his...

These things happened so that the **scripture would be fulfilled**:  
"Not one of his bones will be broken,"

John 19:32-36

Context: A righteous man

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 9. He will be accused by false witnesses

Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about.

Psalms 35:11

Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'"

Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

Mark 14:57-59

Context: King David

Fulfillment: General

## 10. He will be hated without a cause

Let not those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; let not those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye.

Psalms 35:19

If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin.

But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.

But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

John 15:24-25

Context: King David

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 11. He will come to do God's will

Then I said, "Here I am, I have come-- **it is written** about me in the scroll.

I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Recall Jeremiah 31:31-8  
Psalms 40:7-8

Then I said, 'Here I am--**it is written** about me in the scroll – I have come to do your will, O God.'"

Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.

Double layer of reference

Hebrews 10:7, 9

Context: King David

Fulfillment: Quoted

## 12. He will be betrayed by a friend

Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. Psalms 41:9

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.' John 13:18

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Luke 22:47-48

Also referenced in Mt 26:23 and Lk 22:21

Context: King David

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 13. His throne will be forever

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Psalms 45:6

But about the Son **he says**,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and  
righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Hebrews 1:8

Context: God

Fulfillement: Specific reference

## 14. He will ascend to God's right hand

When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train;  
you received gifts from men, even from the rebellious –  
that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.

Psalms 68:18

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them,  
he was taken up into heaven  
and he sat at the right hand of God.

Mark 16:19

This is why **it says**: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

Ephesians 4:8

Context: God

Fulfillment: Specific reference



## 15. Zeal for God's house will consume Him

I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons;

for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me. Psalms 69:8-9

To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

His disciples remembered that **it is written**: "Zeal for your house will consume me." John 2:17

For even Christ did not please himself but, as **it is written**: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

Romans 15:3

Context: King David

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 16. He will be given vinegar and gall to drink

They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Psalms 69:21

There they offered Jesus wine (KJV: vinegar) to drink,  
mixed with gall;

but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink.

Matthew 27:34, 48

Also referenced in Mk 15:23, Mk 15:36, Lk 23:36, and Jn 19:28-30

Context: King David

Fulfillment: General

## 17. He will pray for His enemies

In return for my friendship they accuse me,  
but I am a man of prayer.

Psalms 109:4

Jesus said,  
"Father, forgive them,  
for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34

Context: King David

Fulfillment: General

## 18. His betrayer's office will be fulfilled by another<sup>23</sup>

May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.

Psalms 109:8

"For," said Peter, "**it is written in the book of Psalms**, "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.'

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Acts 1:20-21

Context: The betrayer

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 19. His enemies will be made subject to Him

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." Psalms 110:1

"What do you think about the Christ ? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'?"

**For he says,** "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?"

Matthew 22:42-45

Also referenced in Mk 12:36, Lk 20:42, and Acts 2:34

Context: David's Lord

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 20. He will be a priest like Melchizedek

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Psalms 110:4

And **he says in another place,**

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

... and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:6, 10

Also referenced in Heb 7:21

Context: David's Lord

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 21. He will be the chief cornerstone

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;  
the LORD has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalms 118:22-23

Jesus said to them, "**Have you never read in the Scriptures:**  
"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;  
the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

Matthew 21:42

Also referenced in Mk 12:10, Lu 20:17, Acts 4:11, and 1 Pet 2:7

Context: David's Lord

Fulfillment: Specific reference

## 22. He will come in the name of the Lord

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.  
From the house of the LORD we bless you.

Psalms 118:26

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest!"

Matthew 21:9

Also referenced in Mt 23:39, Mk 11:9, Lk 13:35, 19:38, Jn 12:13

Context: David's Lord

Fulfillment: Quoted



# Psalm Prophecy Summary (Total: 22)

## Context

The anointed one:	1
Son of Man:	1
King David:	12
A righteous man:	1
God:	2
The betrayer:	1
King David's Lord:	4

## Types of Fulfillment

General:	5
Quoted:	4
Restatement:	1
Specific Reference:	12
By NT writers:	8
By Jesus:	4

# A Closing Psalm

## Psalm 100

A psalm.

For giving thanks.

Shout for **joy** to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with **gladness**;  
come before him with **joyful** songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
**we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For **the LORD is good** and **his love endures forever**;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.