

God's Route 66 in 2006

Psalms

“The Happy Man”

5/7/06

Key Texts

Ps 1:1 (1)Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (4) The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. (5) Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. (6) For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Introduction

We are complex sinners with moments of emotional insanity. God has created us with a propensity for happiness and with a resilient ability to hope for something better. But without God can anyone be truly happy? With its' 150 "chapters" the longest book in the Bible has something for every mood a man may find himself in.

- Fear - 23,56, or 91
- Discouragement - 42
- Lonely - 62 or 71
- Guilt - 32 or 51
- Worry - 37 or 73
- Resentment - 77 or 94
- Happiness - 66 or 92
- Gratefulness - 40
- Apathy - 119

The word Psalms in Hebrew, "Tehillion." means praise. "Psalms" in the Greek is a poem meant to be sung with a stringed instrument. Many of the Psalms have technical instruction such as the Songs of Degrees. The Jews would sing these songs as they would ascend to Jerusalem on their pilgrimages. The following words are part of the technical instruction in the book of Psalms. Maschil = instruction-13 times, To the Chief Musician - 55 times, Selah = a musical instruction meaning to pause and lift up praise - 71 times, and instruction - 26 times

This timeless book is Israel's National Hymn Book. More than half of the Psalms were written by King David, the Sweet Psalmist. Asaph, a Levite and chief musician wrote twelve, 50 and 73-83. The sons of Korah, Levite Temple servants authored another 11. Solomon, Moses, Ethan, and Heman are the other known authors while 49 are anonymous.

The Messianic Psalms, those that refer to the Lord Jesus Christ, are 2, 22, 23, 24, 40, 69, and 118.

The Book of Psalms is in five divisions corresponding to the Torah.

<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Torah</i>	<i>Subject</i>
1-41	Genesis	Man
42-72	Exodus	Deliverance
73-89	Leviticus	Sanctuary
90-106	Numbers	Wandering
107-150	Deuteronomy	Victory and Praise

Statistics

- 1 Author: David et.al.
- 2 Date: 1446 to 586 B.C.
- 3 Key Verses: Psalm 1
- 4 Key Words: praise- 176 times, bless or variants - 92 times
- 5 150 chapters, 2461 verses, 43743 words

I. Man in Rebellion (1-41)

A. **Psalms 1** begins with The Happy Man in the Garden by the Rivers of Water. When Adam disobeyed the Word of God he walked in the counsel of the ungodly.

B. **Ps 2** Man rebels against God's anointed and nothing but trouble follows **Ps 3 – 21**. Note the comparison between Psalms 6 and Genesis 6, the Flood.

C. **Ps 22** Tremendous prophecy of the crucifixion of Christ. In Genesis 22, Abraham is about to sacrifice Isaac.

D. **Ps 23** The well known Shepherd's Psalm. In Genesis 23, Abraham visits the valley of death as he buries Sarah. **Ps 24** The King of Glory coming back to heaven with a great host. In Genesis 24, Eleazar goes to fetch a bride for Isaac. Psalms 22-24 show Christ as the Prophet, Priest, and Potentate.

E. **Ps 37** Compare to Genesis 37 where Joseph is betrayed and cast into a pit by his brothers. **Ps 40-41** and Genesis 40-41 escape from the pit.

F. Each of the five divisions end with a doxology, a short praising of God. **Ps 41:13 *Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.*** So man has failed and rebelled against God. Man's depravity is contrasted by God's sovereign grace!

II. Man in Redemption (42-72)

A. Man can only be happy when he is in a right relationship with God. God wants His people to leave Egypt (the world) and worship the Lord.

B. Man needs to be redeemed **Ps 49:6-9**. But man must first acknowledge his sin **Psalm 51:1-7**.

C. This redemption is ongoing and restoring **Ps 56:13 and Ps 63:1-8**.

D. Man's redemption can only logically end with the greatness of God and a doxology **Ps 72:19-20**

III. Man in Worship (73-89)

A. Corresponding to Leviticus, this section relates to tabernacle worship, and its' place in our lives **Ps 73:12-18**. Not until public worship was established did Asaph's self-absorbed, envious thinking get straightened out.

B. In discouragement, go to God's house **Ps 77:1-13**.

C. It all depends on your priorities **Ps 84:10-12**.

D. Does one have to go to church to fear the Lord - yes and no. We should worship and reverence the Lord both privately and publicly, in the Assembly of the Saints **Ps 89:6-7**. In church there is concentrated worship and godly influence. How does a true Christian stay away?

E. Doxology **Ps 89:53**

IV. Man in Wandering (90-106)

A. Like Numbers, these Psalms are full of failure and victory. We must stop wasting our days.

B. Our backslidings are numerous and cyclical in nature **Ps 106:1-48**.

C. Israel is similar to us in its' wanderings and in receiving God's mercy.

V. Man in Victorious Praise (107-150)

A. Thanksgiving and praise.

B. **Ps 122** Twenty-two sections, each beginning with the corresponding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. God is mentioned in every verse and God's word is mentioned in all but five verses (84, 90, 121, 122, and 132).

C. Fallen man has been redeemed, taught to worship in the sanctuary, and has ceased wandering, all through the grace of God. Man is now free to truly praise the Lord in love and thanksgiving.

D. Several Psalms of praise build to a crescendo. **Ps 150:1-6 (1) Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. (2) Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. (3) Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. (4) Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. (5) Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. (6) Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.**

The emotion is now awesome happiness! Happiness when every part of your being wants to praise God.

Are you happy? Must you wait for your glorified body in heaven? God created you to be happy by worshipping Him. Without God there is no true happiness and without salvation through Jesus Christ there will be no happy endings.