PSALMS
EXPLAINED: Episode Summary

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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Psalms Well?

DATE: ***1400-450 BC:*** From Moses to Ezra
GENRE: ***Wisdom:*** Jewish Hymnbook, Poetic Literature
AUTHOR: ***Various:*** David & Others (7 Named)
SETTING: ***Israel:*** Primarily During the Kings
PURPOSE: ***Prayer & Worship:*** Honest Communion with God
AUDIENCE: ***Israel & God:*** All Peoples of Faith

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Psalms Well?

Finalized in the Second Temple Period

- Final Arrangement Is Post-Exilic
- Arrangement Parallels the Torah
- Used in 1st & 2nd Temple Services
- Full Range of Human Emotions
- Prompted by History, Applied to All

KEY VERSES

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

- Psalm 1:1-3

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Psalms?

- Honest Confession & Assurance
- Trust & Deliverance from Enemies
- Messianic Undertones & Prophecies
- Lament over Wickedness & Injustice
- Comfort for the Righteous
- God's Presence in All Places
- Praise in Temple Worship
- The Lord Reigns over All Nations

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Psalms?

PS 1-41: 1. Book 1: The Psalms of David
Nearly all by David: the two ways and the coming King

PS 42-72: 2. Book 2: Thirst, Repentance & the King
Longing for God and hope for his righteous kingdom

PS 73-106: 3. Books 3-4: God's Dwelling Place
Honest wrestling, longing for God's house, and Moses' prayer

PS 107-150: 4. Book 5: The Word & the Reign
God's Word, pilgrim songs, and the closing Hallelujahs



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of Psalms?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

PS 1-41: 1. BOOK 1: THE PSALMS OF DAVID

Like Genesis: creation and man, God's Word, and Messiah's suffering and victory

PS 1-2: The Two Ways & the King
Delight in God's law brings blessing; the Son will reign over the nations

PS 8 & 19: Glory in Creation
The heavens declare God's glory, and small man is crowned with honor

PS 16 & 22: Messiah's Suffering & Victory
Pierced hands and divided garments foretell the cross; his Holy One sees no corruption

PS 32: The Joy of Forgiveness
Blessed is the one whose sin is covered, quoted by Paul in Romans 4

PS 42-72: 2. BOOK 2: THIRST, REPENTANCE & THE KING

Like Exodus, focused on Israel, ending with Solomon's prayer for a just king (Ps 72)

PS 42 & 63: My Soul Thirsts for You
The dry soul pants for God, whose steadfast love is better than life

PS 51: David's Repentance
After Bathsheba, David confesses his sin and asks for a clean heart

PS 73-106: 3. BOOKS 3-4: GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

Echoing Leviticus and Numbers: the sanctuary, revival (Ps 84-86), and a call to worship (Ps 95-103)

PS 73: Why Do the Wicked Prosper?
Asaph vents until he enters God's sanctuary and sees their end

PS 90-91: Moses & the Secret Place
Teach us to number our days; abide in the shadow of the Almighty

PS 107-150: 4. BOOK 5: THE WORD & THE REIGN

Like Deuteronomy, exalting God's Word, then pilgrim songs and five closing Hallelujah psalms

PS 110: A Priest Forever
Sit at my right hand: Messiah reigns as priest like Melchizedek

PS 119: The Glory of God's Word
The longest chapter, a 22-part acrostic: your word is a lamp to my feet

5. HOW PSALMS POINTS TO CHRIST

- In Psalm 22: pierced hands and divided garments at the cross
- In Psalm 16: the Holy One who will not see corruption
- In Psalms 2 and 110: the Son who reigns as King and Priest
- In Psalm 40: "in the scroll of the book it is written of me"

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