



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 38.2

Old Testament Survey: Psalms, Part 2

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
The Psalms are written in various forms for various purposes. Today we study some of the observable forms of the Psalms and explore how the structure and language impact the meaning. We also unpack the important balance between what I know and what I feel when it comes to faith.
- Prayer for Heart and Head to Follow God and Trust In Him
- Video (34 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ Who has not felt abandoned by God? Who has not questioned whether God has turned his back because of our own shortcomings or failures? Who has not felt unlovable, even by the loving God? The Bible constantly encourages us, both in this Psalm and in many other places, to recognize the need to sometimes let our heads trump our hearts! When we feel dejected and rejected, we need to remember the faithful promise of a God who does not lie. "I will never leave you nor forsake you," the writer of Hebrews proclaims. With this in mind, Hebrews continues:

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Heb. 13:5-6).

There comes a time when we are all called to live by faith, not by sight. We are called to circumstances that require trust, not good feelings. But this is all part of God's transforming work to make of us what we need to be! In other words, not fun, but necessary!

- ❖ Immediately before his crucifixion, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. We know that the celebration including the singing of hymns (Mark 14:26), and Hebrew tradition was to sing the Egyptian Hallel Psalms, including Psalm 113. Jesus would have sung of the greatness of Yahweh God who would stoop down from the heavens to raise up the poorest downcast of the world. This idea was getting its greatest demonstration in the very deed Jesus was about to bring to completion. Paul would write later of Christ as one who "was in the form of God...but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant and being made in the likeness of men." Jesus stooped even further as he was in human form and then "humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." But this was not done by accident or for no real purpose. Christ did this to raise the sinner to sit with him on high! I suspect this Psalm gave Christ encouragement in purpose and resolve as he sang it in full anticipation of how the next few hours user in his death. May we join the ages and Praise our God!

Discussion Questions:

- ◆ What did you hear that really caught your attention or peaked your curiosity?
- ◆ How has this lesson better equipped you to hear the great meanings found within the Psalms?

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