

Psalms Book 4 - Psalm 90-106

Introduction

While Book four of the Psalms is the shortest book of the five, spanning just seventeen chapters, the time frame in which it covers is the longest. Spanning from the days of Moses, post exodus and the wilderness wanderings (1410 B.C.), to Davids's rule over the united kingdom of Israel (1015 B.C.), all the way to the destruction of the Temple and the Babylonian Exile (538 B.C.), nearly 900 years of history in these seventeen books.

Viewing the Psalms as a book of worship does not mean that we can only come to it in times of gladness and joy, but it serves as a guide stone in all parts of our life. Times of joy and gladness of course, but also times of sorrow, despair, hardship. When our faith is weak, and when our faith is strong. At any point or season in our lives. If we are on the mountain tops or down in the valley's the Psalms have a message **from God for us**. When we read in scripture verses like Acts 13:22, which tells us that David was a man after God's own heart, we don't have to wonder what that means. We can turn to places like Psalm 101 or 103 and many others to see what a heart after God's looks like, reading the prayers and praises of the man himself.

We understand the Book of Psalms to be a book of praise, but it's more than that, it's also a book of prayer. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing on the Psalms said, *"The child learns to speak because the parent speaks to the child. The child learns the language of the parent. So we learn to speak to God because God has spoken and speaks to us. In the language of the Father in heaven God's children learn to speak with God. Repeating God's own words, we begin to pray to God. We ought to speak to God, and God wishes to hear us, not in the false and confused language of our heart but in the clear and pure language that God has spoken to us in Jesus Christ...Now there is in the Holy Scriptures one book that differs from all other books of the Bible in that it contains only prayers. That book is the Psalms."* It is a God given prayer book.

Now, scripture doesn't tell us where or how Jesus formulated the prayer He taught His disciples in Matthew 6, but it's very easy to see that what He taught as the model prayer is routinely taught in the Psalms.

Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (Psalm 145:3)

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. (Psalm 24:1)

Give us this day our daily bread. (Psalm 145:15-16)

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Psalm 32:5)

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. (Psalm 141:4)

So, if we want to pray like Christ taught us to pray, we go to the Psalms.

John Calvin wrote of the Psalms “Genuine and earnest prayer proceeds first from a sense of our need, and next, from faith in the promise of God. It is by perusing these inspired compositions, (The Psalms) that men will be most effectually awakened to a sense of their maladies, and at the same time, instructed in seeking remedies for their cure.”

Matthew Henry, the puritan commentator said *“All scripture, being given by inspiration of God, is profitable to convey divine light into our understanding; but this book (The Psalms) is of singular use with that to convey divine life and power, and a holy warmth, into our affections. There is no one book of scripture that is more helpful to the devotions of the saints than this, and it has been so in all ages of the church, ever since it was written and the several parts of it were delivered to the chief musician for the service of the church.”*

Martin Luther noted that *[The Psalms are] a Little Bible, wherein everything contained in the entire Bible is beautifully and briefly comprehended.* It’s a mini-Bible and as such, in the Psalms we find all the necessary elements for an effective Gospel message.

Who God is: (Psalm 19, 24; He is the creator of the Earth and ruler of all that dwells on it.)

Who Man is: (Psalm 36, 51; Man is sinful and a transgressor from birth.)

The Messiah: (Psalm 22, 110; A promised savior that will deliver and reign over His people.)

Man’s Response: (Psalm 32; 86; Turn to the Messiah in repentance and be saved.)

When we sing the psalms, or when we pray the psalms, in a sense, we are joining our voices with all the saints throughout all the centuries, singing and praying the words and promises that God gave us. We are with Moses in the wilderness, David in the Temple or with the Israelites in Exile. We are the next link in the unbroken chain of saints worshipping our God according to His word. How blessed are we who’s God is the Lord (Psalm 33:12).

Author and Date

Of the seventeen chapters that we will be looking at today, only three give an indication of who authored them. Psalm 90 states that it is a “Prayer of Moses, the Man of God.” Then we see David is listed as the author of two Psalms, 101 & 103. The remaining Psalms give attribution to no one, and only three additional Psalms give instruction for the purpose of their writing. Psalm 92 is “A song for the Sabbath Day”, Psalm 100 is a “Psalm of Thanksgiving” and Psalm 102 is “A Prayer of the afflicted when he is faint and pours out his complaint before Yahweh.”

Now, dating the time in which the Psalms were written is difficult and therefore any attempt to date them is probable at best. Rough estimates can be given based on the nature of the Psalm

or the author. For instance, Psalm 90's Mosaic authorship would indicate that it was written sometime around the year 1410 B.C. Any Psalm written by David or Solomon would necessarily have to be written during their lifetimes, between 1040-931 B.C.

Key Ideas & Theological Themes

While each Psalm is unique and can stand alone, book four can be grouped together as a collection whose main theme is "Exile reflections of Yahweh's past deliverance of Israel." In these seventeen Psalms we are going to see God as the eternal creator, ruler, provider and protector. We will see royal Psalms (101), laments (90, 102), thanksgivings (103-106), and enthronement Psalms (93, 96-99). We will hear the praises of Moses and David, and we will find the foundations of such wonderful hymns as "Joy to the World" (Psalm 98), "All People That On Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100) and of course one we are very familiar with here at HCF, "Satisfy Me with Your Love" (Psalm 90).

BOOK I		BOOK II		BOOK III		BOOK IV		BOOK V	
41 psalms		31 psalms		17 psalms		17 psalms		44 psalms	
1	41	42	72	73	89	90	106	107	150

DOXOLOGY AT THESE VERSES CONCLUDES EACH BOOK

41:13	72:18-19	89:52	106:48	150:6
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JEWISH TRADITION ASCRIBES TOPICAL LIKENESS TO PENTATEUCH

GENESIS	EXODUS	LEVITICUS	NUMBERS	DEUTERONOMY
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—AUTHORS—

mainly (or all) DAVID	mainly DAVID and KORAH	mainly ASAPH	mainly ANONYMOUS	mainly DAVID
ORIGINAL GROUP BY DAVID		BOOKS II AND III ADDED DURING THE REIGNS OF HEZEKIAH AND JOSIAH	MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS COMPILED IN TIMES OF EZRA AND NEHEMIAH	

Psalm 90: From Eternity to Eternity

The oldest Psalm in the Psalter, identified as written by Moses and thought to be written at some point during the wilderness wanderings after the Exodus from Egypt. This Psalm is classified as a lament and seems to be situated here as almost an answer to the absence of the Davidic King presented in Psalm 89. It's amazing how a prayer from Moses written hundreds of years before the Israelites find themselves lamenting their fallen state post Davids Kingship, can speak to and answer their longings so perfectly.

- Our eternal dwelling place

¹Lord, You have been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

²Before the mountains were born

**Or You brought forth the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

The phrase often used when speaking of God is "from beginning to end," but God is eternal, having no beginning or end. The psalmist says it more accurately, "from everlasting to everlasting. We might say from eternity to eternity. And the beauty of this prayer is the understanding that for eternity God will be our dwelling place. Kings come and go, nations rise and fall, but God remains.

- Sin's realization should humble us

³You turn man back into dust

And say, "Return, O sons of men."

**⁴For a thousand years in Your sight
Are like yesterday when it passes by,
Or *as* a watch in the night.**

Moses here, refers back to Adam and Eve in the garden (Gen 3:19) reminding us of the result that our sin caused. When we view our frail state in light of God's eternal nature, how can we feel anything besides humility. Remember, Moses wrote this as the Israelites were on the edge of the promised land, but due to sin, they were turned away.

- Righteous, eternal wrath

¹¹Who knows the power of Your anger

And Your fury, according to the fear that is due You?

**¹²So teach us to number our days,
That we may present *to You* a heart of wisdom.**

Moses reflects on God's wrath, anger, and fury which is wise. God is eternal and therefore His attributes are eternal, including His wrath and whenever we read of Hell in scripture, it is never temporary. So, Moses prays, and we should pray that God would teach us to number our days.

- Not left without hope

¹³Return, O Yahweh; how long *will it be?*

And be sorry for Your slaves.

God did not leave us in our helpless and frail state. He sent His son to make a way for us out of the penalty of our sinfulness. So, we may sing for joy and be glad as Moses writes (verse 14), because our sins have been forgiven.

Application

So many of the lament Psalms follow this style. Praise God for who He is, then lamenting about an issue that is plaguing the psalmist, but then ending with a reminder of God's goodness. That can be our application as well, life is tough at times, it may not seem fair at times and God may seem distant at times, but we can look to the Psalms to remind ourselves that God is never distant, and He is always good.

Psalm 91 God is our Refuge

Moses explained that God was our dwelling place in Psalm 90, and here it could be said that the Psalmist is detailing what it means to have your dwelling place in God. Here we find the confidence that we as believers should have in the care and protection of the Lord.

- He who delivers

**²I will say to Yahweh, "My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust!"**

³For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper

And from the destructive pestilence.

We aren't promised to be removed from scary, bad or dangerous situations, but what we are promised, as we see here, is that God will be with us, and He will deliver us. We can trust in Him to deliver us as the psalmist says.

- What we are delivered from

¹⁰No evil will befall you,

And no plague will come near your tent.

Not terror by night, arrow, pestilence or destruction will overtake us apart from God's will. Even armies pose no threat to us apart from God's will. As George Whitfield said, "We are immortal until our work on earth is done."

- A promise fit for a King

¹¹For He will command His angels concerning you,

To guard you in all your ways.

¹²On their hands they will bear you up,

Lest you strike your foot against a stone.

This promise of God's protection was made for us, and we can believe it and find hope in it. It was a promise good enough that Satan understood it and tried to use it against Jesus (Luke 4:10-11).

- Christ is the Key

¹⁵He will call upon Me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in *his* distress;

I will rescue him and honor him.

¹⁶ With a long life I will satisfy him

And I will show him My salvation.

Now, this is God speaking here. God's protection is for those who are His. We enter the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ. As with all things in the Kingdom of God, including divine protection, Christ is the key.

Application

The most frequent command in the Bible is to "not be afraid." Forty-nine times we read those words (at least in the LSB, 70 in the NIV and much higher if you include do not fear) and yet we know also that the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord. These seem like conflicting ideas but as one author notes, "If you're going to be freed from the fear of man, it's not going to happen because you took a course on assertiveness. Jesus says you need a bigger fear to drive out the little ones." (Matt 10:28) Our fear of God, displeasing our loving Father, or separating ourselves from Him because of sin is a greater fear than anything this world or Satan can throw at us.

Psalm 92 Strengthened Through Remembrance

"A song for the Sabbath" is the title of this Psalm. While no author is listed, the purpose of the Psalm is. The Sabbath was instituted as more than a day of rest and relaxation, but a weekly day of remembrance for all that God had done for Israel, so to this Psalm is a reminder of the greatness of our God, the folly of the wicked, and the hope for the righteous.

- Worship is for your benefit

**¹It is good to give thanks to Yahweh
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High**

**⁴For You, O Yahweh, have made me glad by what You have done,
I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.**

It's always good and humbling to remember that God needs nothing from us, to include our worship. Worship is for our benefit. It strengthens and encourages us as we focus on who our God is and what He has done, both for us and just generally in creation.

- Do not be deceived by the wicked

**⁷That when the wicked flourished like grass
And all *the* workers of iniquity blossomed,
It *was only* that they might be destroyed forevermore.**

Here the psalmist reminds us that though it may appear that the wicked are prospering now, they are blossoming now; their flourishing is for but a moment and their end will be destruction. Don't ever forget that sin destroys. Times change but the wages of sin have always been and remain to this day, death.

- Hope for the righteous

**¹²The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree,
He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

**¹³Planted in the house of Yahweh,
They will flourish in the courts of our God.**

One commentator I read on this chapter stated "what God's grace begins, God's faithfulness completes." This chapter almost fast-forwards through life and shows that the righteous will stand, they will flourish.

Application

The application of this Psalm is really beautiful and comforting, because there really is no application. As a Psalm of remembrance, we are reminded here to just be worshipful because as the Apostle Paul teaches us when he writes in Philippians 1:6 "*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*" So, remember what God has done for you through His son and worship Him for it.

Psalm 93 The Lord Reigns

The Lord reigns seems to be a fitting title for this Psalm. It is a hymn of praise, celebrating God's Kingship over creation. No author is listed, nor a specific purpose for the Psalm. Unlike Psalm 92, which specified the Sabbath, this Psalm and the worship it contains is appropriate in all circumstances.

- A matter of fact

**¹Yahweh reigns, He is clothed with majesty;
Yahweh has clothed and girded Himself with strength;
Indeed, the world is established, it will not be shaken.**

**²Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.**

The central and overriding theme not just in book four of the Psalms, not just in the Psalms, but in all of scripture is the truth that the Lord reigns. Here this is stated from the outset, not as a question, but as a matter of fact. The Lord reigns! As one commentator stated, "God didn't become sovereign in Genesis 1. Genesis 1 happened because God was sovereign."

- Where do you turn in trouble

**³The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring. (ESV)**

To an Israelite of these days, flood waters were symbols of chaos and evil. Here the psalmist reminds us that God is sovereign even in the hard times, what seems like chaos to us. And it's His sovereignty during the trial that can give us hope to preserve through the difficulties of life. Much to be pitied is the man who, when faced with hard times, cannot look up and hope. But you can, even when the flood waters rage.

- Believe the promises

⁵Your testimonies are very faithful;

This refrain is repeated many times in the Bible, that God can be trusted (Proverbs 30:5, Psalm 119:160). But what makes this more trustworthy for us today, is that this trust in God and proof that is written about so extensively, isn't just written. It is written down by men and women, who actually trusted in God through times of great distress and God proved Himself over and over again. "Your testimonies are very faithful" isn't theory, it's experience.

Application

The Lord Reigns, and we can have confidence that this is true. Christ is Lord and God has given Him all authority, in Heaven and on Earth (Matt 28:18). And what a perfect portrait of Christ's Lordship over the chaos detailed in Psalm 93, then when Christ literally rebuked the wind and the waves, and the raging sea became calm (Luke 8:22-25). You will have difficulty; life will look chaotic at times. When it does, look up and hope, the Lord reigns!

Psalm 94 The wicked will be destroyed

Almost an out of place Psalm it would seem. Chapters 93, 95-99 are considered hymns of praise and yet here they are broken up by a community lament. The Psalm speaks of a time when the wicked exult, but they also oppress the faithful. According to the ESV Study Bible, they say, "perhaps the simplest explanation (for this Psalms placement) is that God's powerful kingship guarantees his final victory over all who oppose Him."

- Judge of the Earth

**¹O Yahweh, God of vengeance,
God of vengeance, shine forth!**

**²Be lifted up, O Judge of the earth,
Render recompense to the proud.**

The vision of Christ when He returns in Revelation 19 comes to mind. The Prince of Peace, the humble servant is not coming when Christ returns. We see the King coming in power and righteousness to wage war. It's an awesome and terrifying picture and we should pray, come, Lord Jesus, Judge of the Earth!

- The folly of atheists and oppressors

**⁷They have said, "Yah does not see,
Nor does the God of Jacob discern."**

The evildoers mock God, not only in their actions, but in their thoughts as well. Though some would be atheistic, this would speak more to the fact that they know God, know of Him and yet are unbelievers. This isn't an OT problem; Peter wrote of much the same thing in 2 Peter 3:9, mockers asking "where is the promise of His coming?" And of course, we know this continues in our day. But the Psalmist has an answer.

- God is aware

**⁸Discern, you senseless among the people;
And when will you have insight, you fools?**

⁹He who planted the ear, does He not hear?

He who formed the eye, does He not see?

¹⁰He who disciplines the nations, will He not rebuke,

***Even* He who teaches man knowledge?**

¹¹Yahweh knows the thoughts of man,

That they are vanity.

You say God does not see, but He is the one who created the eye. You say He does not discern but He teaches man knowledge. He disciplines nations, yet you think that He will suffer the few of you to impugn His name. The Christian Standard Bible says it best (in my opinion), verse 8 reads "Pay attention, you stupid people!"

- Comfort to suffering saints

¹³That You may grant him calm from the days of calamity,

Until a pit is dug for the wicked.

¹⁴For Yahweh will not abandon His people,

Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

Don't let your eyes deceive you and don't let your heart grow weary. Those who obey God's commands are not forgotten and they are blessed with relief in times of trouble. Remember Psalm 91 here, under His wings we find refuge. The wicked find no refuge, but rather a pit which speaks to abandonment by God, they fall and are left for dead.

- Vengeance belongs to the Lord and He will execute it

¹⁵For judgment will again be righteous,

And all the upright in heart will follow it.

¹⁶Who will arise for me against evildoers?

Who will take his stand for me against workers of iniquity?

²²But Yahweh has been my stronghold,

And my God the rock of my refuge.

²³He has brought back their iniquity upon them

And will destroy them in their evil;

Yahweh our God will destroy them.

We can't be more loving than God, more compassionate than God. Yet, He will judge the wicked and He should be worshipped for it. This is a prayer many of us don't pray, or would feel wrong in praying, yet here it is, a prayer of vengeance on the enemies of God and His people. Can we pray this, yes, with caution. Thank Jesus Christ that by His sacrifice on our behalf, we can be spared this Righteous wrath. Paul told us that we were once children of wrath (Eph 2:3) and that

those who do evil are storing up wrath for themselves in the day of wrath (Romans 2:5). We can be sure that day of wrath is coming, just as we can be sure that He who made the ear, can hear.

Application

In our world today, the difference between right and wrong, good or bad, truth or lie all seem to be blurring. Postmodernism says those are all relative, yet when we come to scripture, that picture is crystal clear and it's unchanging. We obey God's commands, and we are doing right. We ignore those commands; we are doing wrong. Wickedness is not necessarily doing the most evil and vile things, wickedness is doing what is wrong in God's sight. You, disobeying God is oppressive to the believer, even if unintentional. Consider the world we live in and the sexual immorality that is ever present. It is oppressive to those who desire to live a pure life.

Psalm 95 The one to be worshipped

A Hymn of praise that could be further classified (according to the ESV Study Bible) as a prophetic psalm or historical psalm. The reason for this praise is focused on who God is more so than what He has done. We are privileged to worship Yahweh, and we are warned against rebellion. The Psalm opens with praise and ends, not with the psalmist, but rather the Holy Spirit, warning against rebellion. Verses 7b-11 are recorded verbatim in Hebrews 3:7-11.

- Who is this God to be praised

**⁶Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before Yahweh our Maker.**

Yahweh rock of our salvation, great God, King above all gods, creator of the Earth, our Maker, Our God, and our shepherd. Eight descriptions of who God is and why He is to be praised. If we understand who our God is and that drives our faith and praise, we are on a solid foundation. If our faith and praise is driven only by what God does for us, then we are likely to stumble when tough times come.

- A warning against rebellion

**⁷Today, if you hear His voice,
⁸Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,**

If you hear His voice, the Holy Spirit says. We hear God's voice every time we open His word. Will we hear His voice, and more importantly will we obey, or will we hear and rebel?

Now, all scripture is breathed out by the Holy Spirit, but Here the Spirit speaks directly and warns. This, as, mentioned is quoted directly in Hebrews 3:7-11 and it's a quote from Exodus

17:7 and Numbers 14:22. But also of interest here is the picture of the Trinity. In Exodus 17:5 Yahweh said to Moses...but in Hebrews 3:7 The Holy Spirit is the one who spoke and was provoked.

Application

Two points to consider here. First, worship and this includes corporate worship, is a means of Grace. As we mentioned, God does not need your praise; worship is for our benefit. As we take our eyes off the challenges this life presents us and lift them up, a path becomes clear. As we set our heart on worshipping the King, the despair flees. God is worshiped because He deserves it, we worship because we need it.

The second point is obedience, which is worship in another sense. Will you today, open your Bible or hear the word preached and obey, or will you rebel and go your own way. Whatever we feel about what we read and hear, we must be determined, with and by God's grace to live out.

Psalm 96 Let all the Earth praise Him

Another hymn of praise, though almost a unique hymn of praise. Often times even the hymns of praise, like Psalm 95 have elements of warning. This is just an unabashed, heart bursting with joy, praise. Each section starts with a command (Sing to Yahweh, Ascribe to Yahweh, Say among the nations, Let the heavens be glad.) This is an adaptation of 1 Chronicles 16 and David's Song of Thanks. It is also the occasion when David's wife Michal saw Him dancing so carefree that she despised Him.

- Worldwide call to praise

All the Earth (v1), Among the nation (v3), All the peoples (v3), All the Earth (v9), Say among the nations (v10), let the Earth rejoice (v11)

Why do we do missions? Why do we, at great risk to our own lives, go to all the world to make disciples? Well one reason is obedience, but more so, so that God can be praised all the more. More souls saved, means more voices raised in worship to the King. The Gospel was taken by twelve disciples, spread around the world, and made it to you and me, so we could add our voices to the chorus of God's people praising His name.

- What are we to sing

¹Sing to Yahweh a new song;

We are commanded many times in scripture to remember, to look back on what God has done, but here we are commanded to also praise Him for what He is doing today and what He will do tomorrow. They praised God that a Messiah would come. He came and was praised for His work

on the cross and we look forward still to when He returns again and praise Him for the work yet to be done.

- Many reasons to praise but only one is necessary

⁴For great is Yahweh and greatly to be praised;

God is worthy to be praised because He is God. We live and breath and have our being because God in His good pleasure determined for that to be so. You woke up today, that alone, is evidence that God still reigns and is worthy of your praise.

Application

Praise God for the Psalm 96 moments in your life. This is almost like a Disney movie dancing in the forest, birds swirling around you, overjoyed. These moments are almost fleeting in our world but are a faint glimpse of eternity to come.

Sing, like actually sing. While singing can be a metaphor for simply praising God, we shouldn't overlook the simple understanding here. Sing, with all your heart to God. There are over 500 references to singing in the Bible and more than 100 direct commands to sing. What is the chief end of man? (To glorify God and enjoy Him forever.) Worship is your chief end. This Psalm begins with three direct commands to sing. So, sing!

Psalm 97 Rejoice or Tremble

Another hymn of praise but in the more traditional sense. A warning for the foes of God and praise for the believer. The focus of the hymn is on God's universal rule over all of creation, His return to bring justice and highlights the immense power that God possesses. Many Scholars place the original setting of this Psalm in the Post exilic period. (Mid 5th Century B.C.)

- His rule brings joy

¹Yahweh reigns, let the earth rejoice;

Let the many coastlands be glad.

From sea to shining sea we might say here in America. Let the whole earth rejoice because the Lord reigns. The Lord may do much for us in this life, He most certainly has, but those are just extra reasons to praise Him. Who He is alone is reason to praise Him.

- His return in power

⁴His lightnings light up the world;

The earth sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains melt like wax at the presence of Yahweh,

At the presence of the Lord of all the earth.

The return of the Lord to the earth is going to be anything but common and anything but joyful. Revelation 8 seems to expound on this Psalm. At the opening of the seventh seal it says there will be peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake (Rev 8:5). Still during the seventh seal opening we are told “something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea...” (Rev 8:8)

- All are subject to His rule

⁷Let all those be ashamed who serve graven images,

Who boast of idols;

Worship Him, all you gods!

⁹For You are Yahweh Most High over all the earth;

You are exalted far above all gods.

Faith in Christ and submission to His Lordship in this life adopts you into God’s family and your submission is willing and joyful, but regardless of faith in and submission to Christ, all will be under submission. For there is one God, exalted above all others and that is Yahweh.

- A hope to hold on to

¹⁰Hate evil, you who love Yahweh,

Who keeps the souls of His holy ones;

He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Loving Yahweh is incompatible with loving evil. This is a serious error for many in the church. We see many that claim to love God while finding their identity in evil practices or unwilling to give up evil practices. There is conflict between the Lord and wickedness, we must side with God against what He deems evil.

Application

The Lord is returning, some will say the time is getting close and only two options are available to you. Joy at the return of the King whom you have pledged your life and faith to, or fear and judgement. If you are in the former group, then your life must be characterized by righteous

acts. If you are or think you might be in the latter group, the only day you are guaranteed is today, Turn to the Lord now, while you can.

Psalm 98 Joy to the World

This Hymn of praise is broken into three stanzas of three verses each. Considered a Royal psalm and it speaks of God's deliverance past, present and future. The first stanza looks at God's past salvation, the second at His present Kingship, and third at future judgement. This also is another Psalm many consider to be of the Post-exilic time period.

- Look to the past to find hope for today

**¹Sing to Yahweh a new song,
For He has done wondrous deeds,
His right hand and His holy arm have worked out His salvation.**

**³He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

How do we know what God will do today? We look to what He did yesterday, a hundred years ago, a thousand years ago. God does not change, He is the same yesterday, today and forever and what we see in the past is God saving and delivering His people.

- He can help today because He still reigns

⁴Make a loud shout to Yahweh, all the earth;

⁶Make a loud shout before King Yahweh.

Are you struggling today, with physical ailments, sickness, or hardships in life? Maybe emotional, relational or spiritual struggles? Well, as long as Christ is still on His throne, He is still who we turn to for help. Jesus bids you to come to Him with the promise that He will bring you peace. "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28) We remind ourselves of this every Christmas season when we sing, "Joy to the earth, the savior reigns!"

- Hope for the future

**⁹...for He is coming to judge the earth;
He will judge the world with righteousness
And the peoples with equity.**

This is the eternal hope for believers and has been for all-time. Since sin entered the world, and man has been oppressed under the weight of evil and unrighteousness. While we suffer and toil

in this sin sick world, we look with hope towards the day when Christ returns to make all things new. How can we sing “Joy to the World” when it can seem so joyless? We can sing because we know that God reigns and He is coming soon to set things right. “Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5)

Application

Here again we see the command to sing and sing a new song. Lift up your voice with loud shouts, roar in your praise to God. He has saved, He reigns still and is saving still, and He is coming to judge the wicked and remove the sin that has so burdened our lives. He hasn't forgotten you; He hasn't lost His power to save or deliver, and hope is on the horizon.

Psalm 99 Holy is the Lord

A royal Psalm and Psalm of praise. John MacArthur notes that it can be summed up in its last phrase, “the Lord our God is Holy.” As such, God's holiness is the driving force of this Psalm. Holiness here can be understood as God's separateness from all created things as well as his separateness from sin.

- All the peoples

¹Yahweh reigns, let the peoples tremble;

He sits enthroned *above* the cherubim, let the earth quake!

²Yahweh is great in Zion,

And He is exalted above all the peoples.

³Let them praise Your great and awesome name;

While this Psalm is directed toward Israel, here we can see even Gentile inclusion in the call to praise. He is exalted above all peoples, you and I included. So, let them, as well as you and me, praise His great name.

- He is Holy

⁴The strength of the King loves justice;

You have established equity;

You have done justice and righteousness in Jacob.

God does not do justice and righteousness because He finds them preferable over injustice and unrighteousness. He does justice and righteousness because that is His nature, He is Holy. One author put it, “God does what He is.” He is just and He is righteous, therefore He acts justly and righteously. Another reason He ought to be praised.

- The Mediators

**6Moses and Aaron were among His priests,
And Samuel was among those who called on His name;
They would call upon Yahweh and He would answer them.**

These three were all mediators between God and man. They prayed to God for His people and God taught His people through them. Now, we don't have Moses, Aaron or Samuel to mediate for us, but we aren't left without. Paul teaches that "there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus..." (1 Tim 2:5) Christ mediates for us and through His word He teaches us. "God, having spoken long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days spoke to us in His Son...(Heb 1:1-2)

Application

The end of each of the three refrains here in this Psalm (v 3, 5, 9) call the hearer to praise the Holiness of the Lord. A good reminder for us today. We can get wrapped up a lot of times in our prayer life taking our petition and intercession for others to God and forget the times to praise Him simply for who He is. Psalm 99 should remind us that there is a time for supplications and intercessions and petitions and there are times to sit in awe of who God is.

Psalm 100 Generation unto generation

The shortest of the Psalms in book 4, consisting of just five verses concludes the hymns of praise focused on God's kingship. Here we have a title; "A Psalm of Thanksgiving" and John MacArthur says it's a "benediction to the series of Psalms occupied with the Lord's kingdom. "

- Worship is the point

Make a Loud Shout (v1), Serve Yahweh (v2), Come with Joyful Songs (v2), Enter with Thanksgiving (v4), Enter with praise (v4), Give thanks (v4), and bless His name (v4).

Seven times in four verses we are instructed to worship God in some way. Anyone who has kids knows the necessity of repeating instructions so you can be sure your kids understand. We are God's children, so it seems fitting that he would repeat his instructions to us.

- Another reminder of why we worship

He is God (v3), He made us (v3), We are His people (v3), He is our shepherd (v3), He is good (v5), His loving kindness endures forever (v5), and His faithfulness endures generation to generation (v5).

Seven times in three verses we are reminded of the God we serve and the reasons we have to praise Him. And we are reminded again that this praise is for all people on the earth. At times

there is beauty in simplicity. There is a time for lengthy discourses and exhaustive explanations and there are times for simple truths. Praise God because He is good.

Application

Does this chapter speak of you and does this chapter speak of Heritage? Do you and do we praise God with joy, loudly and because He is worthy to be praised? Psalm 100 isn't written for other believers or other churches, it's a command for you and it's a command for us when we gather together. If it does, praise God, now encourage others to join you. If not, today is the day to start.

Psalm 101 A leader after God's heart

Our first Psalm of David is a royal psalm. It details wonderfully the heart and intentions of a Godly leader. As we know David was a man after God's own heart, it flows logically that he was a leader in the same vein. And from the life and rule of David, we know that this type of God-focused leadership is successful. Though, even David could not live up to the ideals of this Hymn perfectly, so this Psalm points forward ultimately to the eventual reign of the Messiah. While the Psalm points to Christ as the only one who could lead perfectly, we are to strive after these ideals. Paul teaches us to imitate him, as he imitates Christ. (1 Cor 11:1) John said, "Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked." (So, let's look at how we do that.)

- Lessons in leadership

The person of God will praise the Lord for His goodness

**¹I will sing of lovingkindness and justice,
To You, O Yahweh, I will sing praises.**

The Person of God will continually acknowledge his utter dependence on the Lord

²When will You come to me?

The person of God will guard his heart as he leads his home

²I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

The person of God will walk in the way of integrity

²I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

The person of God will keep his eyes from anything that is wicked (It could also be useless or good for nothing)

³I will set no vile thing before my eyes;

The person of God will hate what is wrong and will not let it get hold of him

**³I hate the work of those who fall away;
It shall not cling to me.**

The person of God will not welcome evil persons into his inner circle

**⁴A crooked heart shall depart from me;
I will know no evil.**

The person of God will give no place to slander or gossip

⁵Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;

The person of God will seek out the humble, not the prideful

⁵Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart, I will not endure.

The person of God will look to surround himself with people who are faithful and have integrity

**⁶My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may abide with me;
He who walks in the way of the blameless is the one who will minister to me.**

The person of God will have nothing to do with liars and the dishonest

**⁷He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house;
He who speaks lies shall not be established before my eyes.**

The person of God will not grow weary in the battles of good and evil

**⁸Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land,
To cut off from the city of Yahweh all the workers of iniquity.**

Application

Now we started by saying this psalm pointed ultimately to Christ as the only one who could fulfill this standard perfectly, which is true. However, this is the standard that every leader should be aspiring to, not just in the church but in any area that you have the ability to lead. More so, this is the standard that every Christian should be aspiring to in their daily lives. Just as 1 Tim 3 and Titus 1 detail the high qualifications of an elder, those qualifications are simply Christian living. Here as well, if you walk in the Psalm 101 manner in your life, then you will walk in this manner when you have the ability to lead.

Psalm 102 A Prayer for the Afflicted

A Psalm of lament whose time period appears to be Post-exilic, but no specifics are mentioned. Here we also have a title and occasion for this lament; "A Prayer of the afflicted when he is faint and pours out his complaint before Yahweh." The New Testament makes clear the messianic overtones in this Psalm.

- The Lament

²Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress;

⁸My enemies have reproached me all day long;

**¹⁰Because of Your indignation and Your wrath,
For You have lifted me up and cast me away.**

While the situation the psalmist finds themselves in may be unique to others, the desperate cry for help isn't. We see a prayer that God would notice the affliction this person is suffering. They explain the reasons and results of the suffering and their loneliness and supposed distance from God because of their distress. Regardless of the reason for the affliction, the psalmist knows where to turn.

- Where does your help come from

**¹²But You, O Yahweh, abide forever,
And the remembrance of Your *name* from generation to generation.**

**¹⁷He has turned toward the prayer of the destitute
And has not despised their prayer.**

Here we see the contrast between the condition of the psalmist and the Character of God. Often times it takes us being brought low, before we will look up or turn to God and often times it's in these moments when we see God work most clearly and sense His love most strongly. Samuel Rutherford is quoted saying, "When I am in the cellar of affliction, I look for the Lord's choicest wines."

- The Son remains in control

**²⁵Of old You founded the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.**

**²⁶Even they will perish, but You will remain;
And all of them will wear out like a garment;
Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.**

**²⁷But You are the same,
And Your years will not come to an end.**

The final section of this Psalm prophetically looks to the messiah. This section is directly quoted in Hebrews 1:10-12 as God speaking about the son. In the OT, the term heaven and earth form what they call a “merism” that uses extremes of location to refer to the all of creation or the whole universe. Everything was built by the Lord, so nothing lies outside of His control, even lamenting believers.

Application

Graciously, our application has been given to us by the writer of this Psalm. They write, “This will be written for the generation to come, and a people yet to be created will praise Yah.” (Psalm 102:18) While we have not been exiled and conquered in the manner ancient Israel was, your suffering may be just as intense and we do see our nation sliding away from God. Regardless, here we can find hope. Just as God has not forgot His people or their land, He has not forgot you or our land.

Psalm 103 Lovingkindness from everlasting to everlasting

This is our second and final Psalm identified as being written by David. This, like Psalm 94, is a pure thanksgiving hymn of praise. No laments to bring, just worship from David and calls for worship from all who serve Him. The all-important caveat here, however, is that these blessings of God belong to those who fear Him.

- A personal reminder

**¹Bless Yahweh, O my soul,
And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.**

**²Bless Yahweh, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;**

²²Bless Yahweh, O my soul!

David opens and closes this praise reminding himself to praise God, calling himself to worship. We have all pumped ourselves at some point to accomplish one task or another, why not to motivate ourselves to worship God fully? If we aren’t praising God truly or passionately, that could be a sign that we aren’t thinking about Him rightly. David helps us think clearly.

- You have been forgiven!

**¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
And He has not rewarded us according to our iniquities.**

**¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
¹²As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

The list that David gives for why we should praise God is extensive in this Psalm but maybe no greater reason than that we have been forgiven! Our sins that separated us from God and earned us eternal torment have been removed from us by the work of Jesus Christ. We are no longer dealt with according to our iniquities but according to Christ's perfect righteousness.

- If you fear God

Fear Him (v11), fear Him (v13), fear Him (17)

Three times in this Psalm David caveats that the blessing that He is praising God for are reserved for those who Fear God. We have discussed previously why it's important to fear God but to fearing God in this context means to serve Him and be faithful to Him. It also includes aspects of worship. (Lexham Theological wordbook)

Application

This Psalm starts and ends with David motivating himself to worship. Then once he was sufficiently motivated, he called all to join him. Among the most grievous sins we can engage in is spiritual hypocrisy because it almost blinds us to our own shallow state. Calling others to do that which we ourselves are unable or unwilling to do. It would be very easy to stand here and tell you all to go praise God passionately despite your problems, while I go home and ignore God, or just grumble and complain. Fix your own mind and your own heart on God first and you will naturally lead others to follow.

Psalm 104 The World is A Theater of God's Glory (Calvin)

A Psalm potentially written by David. It begins and ends in the identical manner in which Psalm 103 did, though no author is listed. It's a hymn of praise that focuses on creation and how the created order glorifies God. This Psalm loosely follows the Genesis account of creation, though not perfectly. God is praised for both His sustainment of the world and provision for all of His creation.

- Praise the creator for the creation

**¹Bless Yahweh, O my soul!
O Yahweh my God, You are very great;
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,**

Many men and women have fallen into the trap or sin of worshiping the creation rather than the creator (Romans 1:25). The Psalmist makes his position known from the opening verse, God is to be praised for creation and all the beauty and wonder of creation should only serve to point us back to the one who made and sustains it all.

Creation day	Psalm 104 verses
Day 1	2a: light
Day 2	2b–4: the “expanse” divides the waters
Day 3	5–13: land and water distinct 14–18: vegetation and trees
Day 4	19–24: light-bearers as time-keepers
Day 5	25–26: sea creatures
Day 6	21–24: land animals and man 27–30: food for all creatures

- More Beauty yet to come

And let the wicked be no more.

Bless Yahweh, O my soul.

Praise Yah!

As marvelous as this creation is, it is still stained by sin. The day is coming soon when God will remove the wickedness, ugliness and sin from the world and restore creation to its true and rightful beauty.

Application

If all of creation speaks to God’s glory, then all of creation should lead us to praise. While Genesis gives an account of God’s work in the beginning, Psalm 104 seems to be focused on the way creation works in the psalmist’s day. They speak to ships that sail the seas in verse twenty-six. So, we should not just look in the past to worship God for what He did, we should see what He is doing now in creation and will do in the future and praise Him for that as well.

Also, we live in a technological age and society, so maybe make some time to put away the artificial and go and enjoy the real. This Psalm gives us reason to meditate on the wonder of God’s creation and hopeful expectation as we look to Christ’s return.

Psalm 105 Remember what God has done

A Psalm of praise celebrating the faithful works that God had done for His people. This Psalm reflects primarily on various episodes found in the Pentateuch. Though, like Psalm 96, the first third of the Psalm correlates with 1 Chronicles 16 and David's Song of Thanks.

- Seek the Lord and be glad

Give thanks (v1), call upon His name (v1), make known His acts (v1), sing to Him (v2), sing praises to Him (v2), muse (v2), boast (v3), seek Yahweh (v3), inquire of Yahweh (v4), seek His face (v4), remember (v5).

Ten calls from the Psalmist for us to think on God and worship Him in the first five verses. We can tend to be people who allow the wonder-working nature of our God to be purely knowledge. Resist living a life of knowledge that is disconnected from an overflow of the heart.

- A track record worthy of praise

**⁸He has remembered His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded for a thousand generations,**

The Lord's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

**⁸He has remembered His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded for a thousand generations,
⁹Which He cut with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac.**

¹⁰Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,

From Canaan to Egypt (Genesis 12-37)

**¹⁴He permitted no man to oppress them,
And He reprov'd kings for their sakes:**

**¹⁷He sent a man before them,
Joseph, *who* was sold as a slave.**

Protection in and deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 1-12)

**²⁴And He caused His people to be very fruitful,
And He caused them to be stronger than their adversaries.**

**²⁶He sent Moses His servant,
And Aaron, whom He had chosen.**

From Egypt to Canaan Exodus 13-Joshua

**³⁷Then He brought them out with silver and gold,
And there was none among His tribes who stumbled.**

**⁴⁴He gave them also the lands of the nations,
That they might take possession of *the fruit of the peoples' labor*,**

Application

The Psalmist began this hymn of praise by encouraging us to call on and praise God. They then went on to detail the many reasons based on Israel's past that highlighted God's love for His people and why praise is due. We should take the psalmists' advice and worship because the history detailed in Psalm 105 is our history. In verse seven the psalmist writes "He is Yahweh our God." This God of wonders is your God, and this history of salvation, deliverance and love is our past. That is praiseworthy!

Psalm 106 Sin, punishment and rescue

A historical Psalm that pairs with Psalm 105. While Psalm 105 was focused on God's faithful works in caring for His people, Psalm 106 focuses on man's sin and rebellion. Though man's sin is highlighted, God's mercy and faithful love towards sinful man shines all the more. Like Psalm 105, the psalmist lists Israel's sin through a series of events from the time of the Exodus to likely post exile.

- Praise with our lips and our lives

**²Who can speak of the mighty deeds of Yahweh,
Or can make all His praise to be heard?**

**³How blessed are those who keep justice,
And he who does righteousness at all times!**

The Psalmist calls the hearer to praise God as we have often heard, but then instructs to go beyond just words and let your actions prove your praise true. Leslie Allen in His commentary on Psalms wrote, "Right living must ever be the preface to worship." And Jesus taught the same lesson. In Luke 6:46 He asked "why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?" If our actions don't line up with our words, we run the risk of our words being meaningless.

- All have sinned

**⁶We have sinned with our fathers,
We have committed iniquity, we have acted wickedly.**

The Psalmist begins his detailed list of Israel's sins by including himself and the people of his day. Humans have an uncanny knack of being able to point out the flaws and failures in others

while overlooking or ignoring their own flaws and failures. The Psalmist doesn't do that and neither should we.

Sin of unbelief, yet God saved

**⁷Our fathers in Egypt did not consider Your wondrous deeds;
They did not remember Your abundant lovingkindnesses,**

⁸Yet He saved them for the sake of His name,

Sin of discontentment

**¹³They quickly forgot His works;
They did not wait for His counsel,**

¹⁴And put God to the test in the wasteland.

Sin of Jealousy

**¹⁶Then they became envious of Moses in the camp,
And of Aaron, the holy one of Yahweh,**

Sin of idolatry

**¹⁹They made a calf in Horeb
And worshiped a molten image.**

²¹They forgot God their Savior,

Sin of Grumbling

**²⁴Then they despised the pleasant land;
They did not believe in His word,
²⁵But grumbled in their tents;**

Sin of Unfaithfulness

**²⁸They then joined themselves to Baal-peor,
And ate sacrifices *offered* to the dead.**

Sin of Rebellion

**³²They also provoked *Him* to wrath at the waters of Meribah,
So that it went badly with Moses on their account;
³³Because they were rebellious against His Spirit,**

Sin of corruption

³⁵But they mingled with the nations

And learned their works,

³⁶And served their idols,

- The Psalm ends as it began, praising God and it should, without mercy we have no hope.

⁴⁷Save us, O Yahweh our God,

And gather us from among the nations,

To give thanks to Your holy name

And revel in Your praise.

Application

God saves sinners! So, if you see yourself in fallen and rebellious Israel, fear not, Christ came to save sinners just like them, just like you and me. In Matthew 1:20 an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and spoke to him of his son saying “you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Repent and believe and be set free.

Conclusion

Overall, how should book four of Psalms impact our faith. I would say it should remind us that worship is a gift from God and a gift to God. We can be so busy filling our heads with knowledge about who God is and what He has done and still forget to worship Him.

Knowledge of God is good and right and we should strive to know all we can but not at the expense of our worship. The Bible itself isn't random, so it's not a coincidence that places 150 chapters of worship and prayer right in the middle of the book. The Psalms are central to the scriptures and worship should be central to our lives.