



# PSALMS 42-72

## JANUARY 2018

Read on your own or with others,  
which ever you prefer.

This leaflet is just a brief overview of the 'big picture' of the second section of the book of Psalms. If you have been reading the Bible for some time you will be aware there is much more to it than you'll find here.

If you are new to reading the Bible don't worry too much if there are details you do not quite get at the moment - focus on the 'big picture'.

## **PSALM 42-72 – INTRODUCTION**

These Psalms form the second section in the book of Psalms. They were written by various people including King David, his son Solomon, Asaph and the sons of Korah.

The theme of these Psalms revolves around God as deliverer and savior. Many of the Psalms are prayers crying out for God's salvation with others responding with declarations of trust, confidence and praise.

## **OUTLINE**

### **CRYING OUT FOR GOD – PSALMS 42-44**

These first three Psalms are all cries to know and experience God. Psalm 42 and 43 go together (note 42:5, 42:11 & 43:5) and are a heartfelt plea to know the presence of God. Psalm 44 calls God to 'awake' (44:23) and work again in power in the land.

### **PRAISE AND TRUST – PSALMS 45-50**

Our trust in God grows as we see more of his greatness. It's fitting then that these Psalms contain both praise and declarations of confidence in God. They bring up God's sovereignty and glory (Psalm 46:10) as well as his closeness to his people (Psalm 48:1).

Psalm 45 is a wedding song to be sung at the wedding of the king. Yet, like all the kingly Psalms it goes beyond this and speaks of Jesus who is God's king who will reign forever (45:6). In the same way, the bride who is spoken of is a picture of Christ's bride, the church (Revelation 21:9).

### **SIN AND REPENTANCE – PSALMS 51-53**

Psalm 52 portrays the stark contrast between those who stand against God and those who put their trust in God. The one God will bring down to everlasting ruin (Psalm 52:5) and the other is like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God (Psalm 52:8).

What is the difference between these two groups of people. Psalm 51 and 53 show that both are sinners. The godly are those who repent of their sin and ask God for mercy and, therefore, experience the incredible grace of God (Psalm 51:1).

## **DELIVERANCE AND SALVATION – PSALMS 54-71**

The final grouping of Psalms focus on God as deliverer. Many of them are prayers for salvation and deliverance. Some of these Psalms have headings that give us the original context in David's life and experience.

We see the writer time and time again being pursued and attacked by his enemies and friends (Psalm 55:13). How does he respond? He cries out to God to save him.

Note how David doesn't cover up his pain, the wrongness of what is being done or his call for God to act justly and deal with those who are harming him or the kingdom (eg. Psalm 58:6). These cries can sometimes seem harsh to our ears especially when we remember Jesus' commands to love our enemies, or his words on the cross asking his Father to forgive those who had put him on the cross. As we read we should remember these three things:

- i. David doesn't take matters into his own hands, but brings them to God. This is how God teaches us to deal with hurt and pain caused by others (Romans 12:19).
- ii. David is God's king. His enemies are not just his enemies, they are God's enemies. What is in play here is bigger than personal hurt and retribution.
- iii. In the Bible we see God graciously saving his enemies and at other time overpowering them and dealing with them. Both are shown to be answers to prayer and things that are good.

Not all of these Psalms are cries for deliverance. Psalm 62 and 63 are Psalms where we are encouraged to rest in God who is our deliverer. Psalm 65-68 are Psalms of praise and thanksgiving for God's answers to prayer and his salvation.

## **A KING WHO IS A BLESSING – PSALM 72**

Psalm 72 is another one of the kingly Psalms. This is a prayer for the king to be blessed knowing that this will bring blessing to Israel and the nations (Psalm 72:17). As with Psalm 45, Jesus is this King who rules perfectly, in wisdom, endures for eternity and blesses the nations in a wonderful way.

## **ASKING THE QUESTIONS THE BIBLE WANTS YOU TO ASK**

What does this book teach you about Jesus? (Luke 24:45-47)

What does this book teach you about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you encouraged? (2 Tim 3:16-17)

How were you corrected? (Romans 15:4)

What difference do the truths of this book make in your life? (Matthew 7:24-27)