



PSALMS 73–106

JULY 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 third and fourth sections 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 73-106- INTRODUCTION

These Psalms form the third and fourth sections in the book of Psalms. They were written by various authors, including Asaph, David, the Sons of Korah, and some unknown.

These sections contain two contrasting types of Psalm. Many of the Psalms from 73-89 were written around the time of the exile and are full of honest struggle and are an expression and encouragement to faith in difficult times. 90-106 contain Psalms that encourage us to praise God.

OUTLINE - PSALMS 73-89

WHY O LORD? - PSALMS 73-74

God does not always do what we expect and that can be confusing. These two Psalms express that confusion, yet in their own way are statements of faith as we see God and are encouraged to pray to him in difficulties.

HOPE IN THE LORD - PSALMS 75-78 & 89

These Psalms are filled with confidence that God is the one who is able and will help his people. This sense of hope and the encouragement to have faith is seen most clearly in Psalms 78 and 89. Both of these Psalms tell the story of God's dealings with Israel and are great reminders of his power and love.

It is amazing to think that, in comparison with the Jews of old, as we look back we can remember a far greater act of power and of love - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

COME O LORD! - PSALMS 79-88

These Psalms are full of longing for God to come and change things. In many of these Psalms we feel the pain of the people as they find the land of Judah and the city of Jerusalem invaded and broken down (Psalm 79). They are separated from the temple (Psalm 84) and it appears that the enemies of God are winning (Psalm 83).

These Psalms help us to pray when we experience and see things that aren't as they 'should be'. Yet, there is also a greater significance here. Jesus experienced the pain and heartache of these Psalms for us on the cross so that all who put their trust in him would never be separated from God again.

OUTLINE – PSALMS 90–106

PRAISE THE LORD!

These Psalms are all praise Psalms which declare the glory of God. It is interesting to ask the direction of these Psalms. Who is being spoken to at each point? For instance, some are directly to God (eg. Psalm 90 & 93) and some direct others or yourself to praise God (eg. Psalm 95, 96, 103 & 104).

There is a realism here in the Psalms. They do not assume that praise is always the natural inclination of our hearts. We need to be encouraging ourselves and each other to praise the Lord.

REASONS TO PRAISE

The praise in these Psalms is rooted in the truths of God, who he is and what he has done. God is our shelter (Psalm 90), the one who does great works (Psalm 92), a great God (Psalm 96) who reigns over all the earth (Psalm 97). He is the Holy King (Psalm 99), filled with steadfast love (Psalm 101), grace and forgiveness (Psalm 103).

Psalms 105 & 106 turn us back to the acts of God in Israel's history and remind us of his immense greatness and love. They encourage us to look at the cross as God's ultimate act of salvation.

MORE THAN WORDS

Psalm 101 provides a different take on praise. The Psalm begins with singing, but soon moves into the practicalities of living. Our praise for God is not just to be restricted to our songs and services, but should affect the very way we live our lives (Romans 12:1).

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)