

Two Year Bible Trek
Week 26
Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21, 43-45

Key Concepts: The key concepts here are that the Psalms are a complex mix of genres which were composed over an extended period of time.

Stories: As with many of the Psalms we are not sure when they were composed or the exact situation in which they were written. Fortunately they can speak and have spoken to people across the centuries.

Psalm Themes: Once again we encounter the themes of people who are beset by enemies, hurting, crying out for God's help, seeking deliverance, viewing God as a protector and a place of refuge, and yet are willing to give God thanks and praise in the midst of tough times.

Psalm 6 – This is a powerful Psalm that written by someone who is virtually at the end of their rope. They are almost afraid that they have been abandoned by God and are about to die because of their enemies. Yet there is confidence that God will act.

Psalm 8 – Psalm 8 is another famous psalm. It contains the phrase, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them. You have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." This psalm harkens back to the creation story in which human beings are made in the image of God and set in the world to care for it.

Psalm 9 – This is a post-deliverance psalm. God has acted in the life of the writer to defeat his enemies and liberate the oppressed. What is interesting is that all praise for the victory goes to God and not to the king or the army. This is very different from other nations who focused praise on individuals.

Psalm 10 – The writer wonders if God will ever come down and execute justice. Evil is winning and he does not believe that God can or will act. The poor and the righteous are harmed. A cry goes up calling upon God to come down from on high and deliver justice for the orphan and oppressed.

Psalm 14 – This psalm reminds us that "They (meaning human beings) have all gone astray, they are all alike and perverse; there is no one who does good..." The Apostle Paul will quote this in his letter to the Romans. Even so the writer hopes that God will restore Israel.

Psalm 16 – The Psalmist rejoices that God has given him counsel and has shown him the path of life. He knows that in God there is joy and pleasure. This is not so for those who follow other gods.

Psalm 19 – Again a famous Psalm, "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech...." This psalm goes on to praise the law of the Lord which is to be more desired than gold.

Psalm 21 – This Psalm makes it clear that the king is blessed by God because the king trusts in the Lord. What this also means is that the Lord is the power behind the throne. Thus it is the Lord who deserves praise.

Psalm 43 – Another famous Psalm, "Why are you cast down O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God for I shall again praise him."

Psalm 44 – Israel has suffered a defeat and the nation is asking God to remember his covenant and come to the rescue.

Psalm 45 – This is probably a wedding hymn for a wedding in which the king is marrying someone who is a foreigner.

1. Which of these psalms resonates with you the most? Why?
2. Which of these psalms is the most disturbing? Why?
3. How should the psalms about the king shape our understanding of power?