

Two Year Bible Trek
Week 33
Psalms 89, 90, 96, 100, 101, 105, 132

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.

Psalm Themes: This set of Psalms focuses on David's troubles, God's promises of kingship, the transient nature of life and calls to praise God.

Psalm 89 – in this Psalm, the writer is holding God accountable for the promises that God has made. God promised that David would be established as king along with his descendants. At the writing of this Psalm however things are not going well for David. He is in dire straits. The Psalmist blames this on God and calls up God to be faithful and restore the fortunes of David.

Psalm 90 – this Psalm comes from the depths of despair. It can be seen as either a communal or an individual Psalm. The focus is on the brevity of life. People live for a short period then they die and are swept away. The prayer is that God will make sure that the short days are not filled with evil (which God has brought because of the sins of the people) but with good.

Psalm 96 – this is one of the most beautiful Psalms as regards the glory and magnificence of God. The praise of God is to come in the form of song and declaration. It is to come from heaven, from all the earth, from all the people and even from the trees of the woods. This is a clear reminder that God is distinct from creation and that creation itself has a life given to it by God.

Psalm 100 – once again we hear a Psalm that calls upon all of the nations to praise God. It reminds us of the intimate relationship between God and the people; sheep and shepherd. It also is an affirmation of the eternal love of God for God's people. The response to both of these realities is to be praise and thanksgiving to God.

Psalm 101 – it might be that this Psalm should be read on a daily basis by all of those who hold elected office. It is the pledge of the king to uphold justice and walk with integrity. The king promises to insure that those who slander and practice deceit will be driven out and those who are faithful will be rewarded. In addition the king will not even look at things that are base.

Psalm 105 – whereas many of the previous Psalms have dealt with the promises to David and his kingship, this Psalm is a retelling of a more ancient covenantal promise. The basis for this Psalm is that of the Covenant Promise to Abraham. The covenant includes the idea of the "land" of Canaan as a possession. The writer retells the story of the covenant beginning with Abraham, then moving to Joseph and then to Moses. There is a recounting of the plagues in Egypt and the Exodus out of captivity. This Psalm is important because it reminds us that the basis for the Davidic promises rests on a much more ancient promise.

Psalm 132 – in this final Psalm the writer is reminding God of God's promises to David. It lifts up David as the faithful one who desired to make for God and God's ark a resting place. It also reminds God of the promise that there would always be a descendant of David on the throne as long as God's people were faithful. Finally it tells of Zion (Jerusalem) as being God's resting place and the blessings that will arise when God resides there.

1. What do you make of the all of the Davidic promises? How do you see those impacting our world?
2. Psalm 100 is all about praise. For what would you praise God?
3. How would you bring Psalm 105 to bear upon the struggle between Israel and the Palestinians over the land they share?