

Two Year Bible Trek

Week 42

Week 42 - Psalm 108, 109, 110, 138, 139, 143, 144, 145

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 group of Psalms contains pleas and praises to God

Psalm 108 – this Psalm is composed of portions from two other Psalms (57 and 60). It is a prayer for God to give victory to God’s people over their enemies. Again it reminds the reader that only God can bring victory.

Psalm 109 – this is a Psalm of betrayal in which the writer wants God to wreak vengeance upon his enemies. There are no punches pulled. In the midst of this though, the writer wants to make sure that his enemies know that God, and not the writer, is bringing justice.

Psalm 110 – this is a Psalm that is quoted/used at several places in the New Testament. It is an invitation from God to the king to sit at God’s right hand. In addition it links the role of king and priest, which were the roles played by Melchizedek. It also promises victory to the king.

Psalm 138 – the Psalmist is in the temple to give praise to God for deliverance. This is perhaps a Psalm of the king who has returned victorious from battle. The writer also recognizes that even though God is high and mighty, God recognizes and cares for the lowly. This is one of the key themes of the Old Testament, that God is not only concerned with the mighty but with the poor and downtrodden.

Psalm 139 – this is perhaps one of the greatest of the Psalms and has been used devotionally by countless men and women. It contains lines such as, *“Thou know when I sit down and down and when I rise up, thou discern my thoughts from afar. Even before a word is on my tongue, you know it...where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence. If I ascend to heaven you are there. If I make my bed in Sheol you are there...for you did knit me together in my mother’s womb...in your book were written all of the days that were formed for me.”* It ends with a plea for God to destroy the writer’s enemies and then to search and know the writer’s heart.

Psalm 143 – once again we find ourselves with a cry for help. This cry is made in the belief that God can and will act. We know this because the writer speaks not only of God having acted in the past but that God is a loving God who cares for God’s people and for justice. There is an interesting request in the last verse where the Psalmist asks God to cut off all of his enemies out of God’s love for the writer.

Psalm 144 – this Psalm appears to be divided into two portions, meaning that they might have originally been two different Psalms. The first half is focused on a cry for deliverance by a king, a descendant of David. There is thanksgiving that God has trained the king’s hand for war and that God has been a refuge and shield. It concludes with a request for rescue as had been done for David. The second half of the Psalm is a very pastoral prayer requesting an abundant harvest in order that the people be blessed.

Psalm 145 – this is one of the most uplifting and positive of the Psalms. It begins with personal praise to God and a declaration that generation upon generation will tell of God’s majesty, mighty works and terrible greatness. The Psalmist then moves toward an affirmation that *“The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all and his compassion is over all that he has made.”* The Psalm continues with affirmations of God’s care for those who have fallen, who call upon him and cry out to him.

1. What do you make of the combination of priest and king in one person?
2. What comfort do you take in Psalm 139?
3. Where do you see God’s graciousness working itself out in your life?

