

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at
the Old Testament

Bethlehem Baptist Church, fall 2013–spring 2014
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The Psalms at a Glance

Book 1	Ps 1	Walking (Kingdom Wisdom)	Intro
	Ps 2	Waiting (Kingdom Eschatology)	
	Pss 3–41	Almost all Davidic [Doxology: 41:13]	Body
Book 2	Pss 42–72	Almost all Davidic [Doxology: 72:18–19]	
Book 3	Pss 73–89	Almost no Davidic [Doxology: 89:52]	
Book 4	Pss 90–106	Almost no Davidic [Doxology: 106:48]	
Book 5	Pss 107–145	Higher number of Davidic	
	Pss 146–150	Worshipping (Kingdom Praise)	Concl

❖ The Doxologies Generate Godward Focus

- ❖ **Book 1: Ps 41:13**. Blessed be **Yahweh**, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
- ❖ **Book 2: Ps 72:18–19**. Blessed be **Yahweh**, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!
- ❖ **Book 3: Ps 89:52**. Blessed be **Yahweh** forever! Amen and Amen.
- ❖ **Book 4: Ps 106:48**. Blessed be **Yahweh**, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise Yah(weh)!
- ❖ **Book 5: Pss 146–150**. Praise **Yah(weh)**! (Pss 146:1, 10; 147:1, 20; 148:1, 14; 149:1, 9; 150:1, 6)

❖ **Yahweh in the Introduction**

- ❖ Psalm 1. Yahweh, the good **Guide**, **Satisfier**, and **Judge**, who preserves and flourishes those faithful to his Law but who allows the wicked to perish.
- ❖ Psalm 2. Yahweh, the great **Sovereign** over all and **Treasure** of all who take refuge in him—the One who deserves worldwide homage and who promises the destruction of his enemies and worldwide dominion to his earthly king.

❖ **Yahweh in the Conclusion**

- ❖ Psalm 146. Yahweh, the **Faithful Savior**, the great **Creator** of all and **Keeper** of the downtrodden— the constant one, who brings to ruin the way of the wicked and who will reign supreme forever.
- ❖ Psalm 147. Yahweh, the great **Architect**, **Overseer**, and **Provider** of the universe— *our* God, who takes special care of those to whom he reveals his will and who look to him for help.

- ❖ Psalm 148. Yahweh, the **Supreme One**, whose *name* is worthy of praise in all creation because through him all things were created and because he is exalted over all.
- ❖ Psalm 149. Yahweh, the **Great King**, who saved a humble people for his own pleasure and their good!
- ❖ Psalm 150. Yahweh, **God Over All** (in heaven and on earth, 150:1), whose works and person (150:2) are worthy of praise from everything that has breath!

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❖ **God's Works in the Psalms**

- ❖ **Yahweh made the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them:** The “heavens” are “the work of your fingers” (8:3), “the sky proclaims your handiwork” (19:1); you made “man” (8:5) and “how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Ps 8:3–4, 9).
- ❖ **Yahweh protects and delivers those who love him** (3:3, 5; 34:4, 17, 19; 35:9; 37:39–40; 54:7; 56:12–13; 68:19–20; 97:10–12).
 - ❖ **Ps 37:39–40**. The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. ⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

❖ **Yahweh sovereignly oversees the world:**

- ❖ **Over his people** (22:3; 28:9; 44; 53:6; 68:7; 77:15, 20; 78; 80:1; 81; 105–106; 111:6; 114:2; 135:10–12; 136)
- ❖ **Over the nations** (2:8; 22:8; 33:10; 46:8–10; 47:2–3, 7–9; 60:6–8 [=108:7–9]; 66:5–7; 67:4; 96:10; 99:1–2; 102:15; 111; 113:4)
- ❖ **Over all creation** (97:2–6; 103:19; 104; 135:6–7; 147:15–18)

Ps 22:8. For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

- ❖ **Yahweh's works call for meditation** (77:12; 111; 143:5; 145:5), **fear** (33:5–9; 64:9; 96:4–5), **and joy** (92:4; 104:31).
- ❖ **Ps 145:5**. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- ❖ **Ps 33:8–9**. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.
- ❖ **Ps 92:4**. At the works of your hands I sing for joy.
- ❖ **Ps 104:31**. May the LORD rejoice in his works.

- ❖ **Our Proper Response: Ps 78:4.** We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

❖ **God's Person in the Psalms**

- ❖ **Righteous** (7:10, 12, 17; 11:7; 33:5; 35:28; 36:6; 71:15–16, 19; 89:14; 98:2; 111:3; 116:15; 119:137; 145:17)
- ❖ **Good** (13:6; 25:7–8; 34:8; 54:6; 73:1, 28; 86:5; 100:5; 106:1; 107:1, 116:7; 118:1, 29; 119:68; 135:3; 136:1; 145:9)
- ❖ **Faithful** (33:4; 36:5; 57:10 [=108:4]; 71:22; 86:15; 91:4; 100:5; 115:1; 117:2; 119:90; 145:13; 146:6)
- ❖ **Strong** (24:8; 62:11; 65:6; 66:3; 68:34–35; 89:9; 93:4; 99:4; 147:5)
- ❖ **Great** (48:1; 77:13; 86:10; 95:3; 96:4; 99:2–3; 104:1; 135:5; 145:3; 147:5)

- ❖ **Holy** (22:3; 71:22; 77:13; 99)
- ❖ **Forgiving** (86:5; 99:8; 103:3; 130:4)
- ❖ **Forever loving with unfailing love** (13:5; 32:10; 33:5; 36:7; 48:9; 52:8; 130:7)

Ps 130:7. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

❖ **Synthesis:**

- ❖ **The Truth:** In the Psalms, Yahweh reigns supreme over all creation, from the placement of galaxies (Pss. 8:3; 19:1) to the growth of grass (104:14), from sea breezes (148:8) to the flight of birds (78:28), from the establishment of nations (22:28) to the last breath of individuals (104:29). Yahweh is always faithful and just (89:8, 14), guides through his instruction (1, 19, 119), responds to the pleas and laments of the righteous (6:9; 66:19), and will faithfully vindicate those who seek refuge in him under the rule of his Messiah (2:2, 12; 28:8). His Sovereignty over all demands praise, for he is the Guide, Satisfier, Judge, Sovereign, Treasure, Creator, Keeper, Architect, Overseer, Provider, Supreme One, Great King, and God over all.

- ❖ **The Conflict:** In the Psalms, Yahweh alone is God, and his Word provides the only path for life. Nevertheless, the sustained voice through the Psalms witness that in this world God's supremacy is constantly in dispute.

“Because it is the reign of God whose way in the world is being worked out through one people and one presence and one king and a particular kind of human conduct, the rule encounters the opposition of nations and rulers and people whose gods and power and autonomy are denied by the reign of the Lord. There is not a psalm that does not in some way or other reflect some dimension of this fundamental conflict.” (Mays, *Psalms*, 34)

❖ The Hope:

- ❖ While the presence and promises of God are constantly called into question in life, the Psalms testify to the truth that there is one God and that he is for all who take refuge in him through his Messiah (2:12), who, mirroring Yahweh, just and righteous (72:1). Whether from an individual or a community, whether through lament, thanksgiving, or praise, the daily-life confessions of the psalmists declare that Yahweh “lives, speaks, acts, helps, sees, hears, answers and saves” (House, *Old Testament Theology*, 407). No other god does any of the things in the Psalms; therefore, Yahweh alone is shown to be God who rules over his creation, ultimately through his Messianic king.

❖ May our hearts be moved to great praise, for God is for us in his Messiah; he listens, and he will save. Praise the LORD!