

Study on Psalms

Purpose of “Reading Psalms with CSL”

- **Choice of Psalms:**

- 100321 = Book 1 = Ps 1 & 2 = Opening Psalms
- 170321 = Book 1 = Ps 22, 23, 24 = Most Popular Psalm (23)
- 240321 = Book 2 = Ps 42 = Depressive Psalm
- 310321 = Book 3 = Ps 88 = Most Saddest Psalm
- 070421 = Book 4 = Ps 94, 104 = Pray & Praise Psalm
- 140421 = Book 5 = Ps 117, 119 = Shortest & Longest Psalms
- 210421 = Book 5 = Ps 136, 145, 150 = Most Happy Psalms

88 O Lord, the God of my salvation,
I have cried out by day and in the night before You.
2 Let my prayer come before You;
Incline Your ear to my cry!
3 For my soul has had enough troubles,
And my life has drawn near to Sheol.
4 I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit;
I have become like a man without strength,
5 Forsaken among the dead,
Like the slain who lie in the grave,
Whom You remember no more,
And they are cut off from Your hand.
6 You have put me in the lowest pit,
In dark places, in the depths.

7 Your wrath has rested upon me,
And You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah.

8 You have removed my acquaintances far from me;
You have made me an object of loathing to them;
I am shut up and cannot go out.

9 My eye has wasted away because of affliction;
I have called upon You every day, O Lord;
I have spread out my hands to You.

10 Will You perform wonders for the dead?
Will the departed spirits rise and praise You? Selah.

11 Will Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave,
Your faithfulness in Abaddon?

12 Will Your wonders be made known in the darkness?
And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

13 But I, O Lord, have cried out to You for help,
And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

14 O Lord, why do You reject my soul?
Why do You hide Your face from me?

15 I was afflicted and about to die from my youth on;
I suffer Your terrors; I am overcome.

16 Your burning anger has passed over me;
Your terrors have destroyed me.

17 They have surrounded me like water all day long;
They have encompassed me altogether.

18 You have removed lover and friend far from me;
My acquaintances are in darkness.

88 O Lord, the God of my salvation,
I have cried out by day and in the night before **You**.

Cried by day & night

2 Let **my** prayer come before **You**;
Incline Your ear to my cry!

My prayer & My cry

3 For **my** soul has had enough troubles,
And **my** life has drawn near to Sheol.

Troubles & Sheol

4 **I am** reckoned among those who go down to the pit:
I have become like a man without strength,

Go down & no strength

5 Forsaken among the dead,
Like the slain who lie in the grave,
Whom **You** remember no more,
And they are cut off from **Your** hand.

Dead & Grave
Remember no more & cut off

6 **You** have put me in the lowest pit,
In dark places, in the depths.

Lowest pit & dark places & depths

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Hopeless within psalmist

V1-5

V1 I have cried.

V3 I have enough troubles

V4 I am going down

V5 I am among the dead.

5b Whom **You remember** no more,
And they are cut off from **Your hand**.

Remember no more & cut off

6 **You have** put me in the lowest pit,
In dark places, in the depths.

Lowest pit & dark places & depths

7 **Your wrath** has rested upon me,
And **You have afflicted** me with all Your waves. Selah.

Wrath & have afflicted

8 **You have removed** my acquaintances far from me;
You have made me an object of loathing to them;
I am shut up and cannot go out.

From acquaintances to
loathing

9 My eye has wasted away because of affliction;
I have called **upon You** every day, O Lord;
I have spread out my hands **to You**.

Eyes wasted & called &
spread out

5b Whom **You remember** no more,
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Hopeless without God V5ff-9

V5 Forgotten by God

V5 Cut off by God

V6 Placed in the lowest pit

V7 God's wrath & affliction

V8 No friend

V9 No God

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Will the departed spirits rise and praise You? Selah.

11 **Will Your** lovingkindness be declared in the grave,
Your faithfulness in Abaddon?

12 **Will Your** wonders be made known in the darkness?
And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

Hope in God questioned V10 -12:

3 x Will You..?

V10 Perform wonders

V11 Demonstrate lovingkindness

V12 Made known Your wonders & righteousness

13 But I, O Lord, **have cried out** to You for help,
And in the morning my prayer comes before You.

Have cried vs prayer comes

14 O Lord, why do You reject my soul?
Why do You hide Your face from me?

Reject my soul vs Hide Your face

15 **I was afflicted** and about to die from my youth on;
I suffer Your terrors; I am overcome.

Was afflicted vs I suffer

16 **Your burning anger** has passed over me;
Your terrors have destroyed me.

Burning Anger vs Terrors

17 They have **surrounded me** like water all day long
They have **encompassed me** altogether.

Surrounded all day long
vs encompassed altogether

18 **You have removed** lover and friend far from me;
My acquaintances are in darkness.

Removed lovers & friend
vs Acquaintances in darkness

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Hopelessness revisited v13-18

V13 Remind God of his cry for help

V14 Question God for Rejection & Hiding

V15 Afflicted & Suffer (Past & Present)

V16-17 God's anger and terrors have surrounded him

V18 Removal of support except darkness

Hopeless within psalmist V1-5

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What can you learn about God?

Hopeless without God V5ff-9

V5 Forgotten by God

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God is around even when we don't feel Him.

Hopeless without God V5ff-9

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Reflection:

A very sad Psalm with no assurance of Hope.

A very real feeling among those going through long period of helplessness and hopelessness.

A very DARK Psalm = 3x Darkness mentioned; v6,12,18.

Why such a Psalm in the bible? // Ps 39

Why such a Prayer? Hopeless prayer ie Darkness is my friend.

What is the Purpose of reading Ps 88?

Reflection:

4 Things that I can learn: Cognitive Reflection

1. Darkness can be a long experience for some Christians.
2. God understands: Grace of God.
3. God shapes us: We can be used.
4. God is with us: We are not alone in Darkness.

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Derek Kidner, Tyndale house, Cambridge,

= The very presence of these prayers in scripture is a witness to God's understanding. God knows how men speak when they are desperate.

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Job 42: 7 It came about after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you **have not spoken of Me** what is right **as My servant Job has**....., because you **have not spoken of Me** what is right, **as My servant Job has.**” 9 ... **the Lord accepted Job.**

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Matt27: 45 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. 46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”



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