

RCF Academy—Old Testament
Class 12: “The Praises of God’s King”
The Psalms



REFORMATION
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Book of Psalms is the prayer and praise book of God’s Son and God’s people.

“I have been accustomed to call this book... ‘An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul’; for there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont to be agitated. The other parts of Scripture contain the commandments which God enjoined his servants to announce to us. But here, the prophets themselves, see they are exhibited to us as speaking to God...draw each of us to the examination of himself in particular, in order that none of the many infirmities to which we subject, and of the many vices with which we abound, may remain concealed.” – John Calvin, *Commentary on the Psalms*, p. xxxvii

What are the Psalms?

Who Wrote the Psalms and When?

How are the Psalms Structured?

- Book I – 1-41
- Book II – 42-72
- Book III – 73-89
- Book IV – 90-106
- Book V – 107-150

What Are the Different Kinds of Psalms?

Psalms of Lament:

Individual: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 22, 25, 26, 27: 7-14, 28, 31, 35, 36 (mixed), 38, 39, 40:12-17, 41, 42, 43, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 64, 69, 70, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 108, 109, 120, 130, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143

Community: 12, 44, 58, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, 90, 94, 123, 126, 129, 137

Psalms of Thanksgiving: 18, 30, 32, 34, 40:1-11, 65, 66:13-20, 67, 75, 92, 107, 116, 118, 124, 138

Psalms of Praise (Hymn): 8, 19:1-6, 29, 33, 36 (mixed), 66:1-12, 78, 103, 104, 105, 106, 111, 113, 114, 117, 135, 136, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

Enthronement Psalms: 47, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100,

Royal Psalms: 2, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144

Psalms of Zion: 46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 122,

Psalms of Wisdom: 36 (mixed), 37, 49, 73, 112, 127, 128, 133,

Psalms of Trust: 11, 16, 23, 27: 1-6, 62, 63, 91, 121, 125, 131,

Liturgies: 15, 24, 50, 68, 81, 82, 115, 134

Torah Psalms: 1, 19:7-14, 119

How Do the Psalms Point Us to Jesus?

- Psalms about the Messiah

- Psalms by the Messiah

How Do We Read the Psalms as Christians?

- With attention to the kind of psalm
- Applying to the Messiah
- Applying to us through the Messiah

A Study Outline for the Psalms

- I. Psalms 1-41*
- II. Psalms 42-72
- III. Psalms 73-89
- IV. Psalms 90-106
- V. Psalms 107-150**

*Each book ends with a doxology.

**Book V ends with 5 doxologies; Psalm 150 concluding the whole book.