

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 22: Prelude to Psalms - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. Almost half, 73, of the Psalms are ascribed to David; 12 to Asaph; 11 to Sons of Korah; 2 to Solomon; 1 to Moses (Psalm 91); 1 to Ethan; and 50 are Anonymous (Most Likely David?)

2. The modern-day Psalms are broken into five books called *Israel's Pentateuch to God*. Compared to what is nominally known as the real Pentateuch (1st five books of the Old Testament):

Book 1: 1-41	Key word is "man" corresponding to Genesis
Book 2: 42-72	Key word is "deliverance" corresponding to Exodus
Book 3: 73-89	Key word is "sanctuary" corresponding to Leviticus
Book 4: 90-106	Key words are "wandering & rest" corresponding to Numbers
Book 5: 107-150	Key words are "word of God" corresponding to Deuteronomy

3. Messianic Psalms are Psalms revealing aspects of, or pointing to, the future Messiah Jesus Christ. Messianic Psalms are found in chapters 2, 8, 16, 22, 45, 72, 89, 110, 118, 132.

4. It is a didactic Psalm that teaches there's a contrastive juxtaposition between righteous and wicked living. It sets the tone for the reader to choose between walking with the upright or meddling with the ungodly, to either immerse themselves in the Word of God or be influenced by the evil intentions of man. They are presented with choices, life or death (Deuteronomy 30:11-20), blessings or curses. Psalms 1 is a wisdom Psalm, highlighting the benefits of choosing wisdom that comes from God. Compare it with Jeremiah 17:7-8, for they are very similar.

5. The Hebrew word for blessed, *baruch*, means "happy, right with God." Blessings evoke feelings of joy, peace and gratitude towards God. It is not deserved but a gift graced from the Almighty. Outside of God's blessing man is cursed. From Abraham (Genesis 12:3) to those whose sins are forgiven (Romans 4:8), God blesses those He calls His own. Blessing by God is a running theme throughout Psalms.

6. Walking, standing and sitting (Psalms 26:4,5; Jeremiah 15:17) among sinners insinuates congregating among the wicked who can influence our behavior. According to Psychologists we can easily become a product of our environment. Reading God's Word day and night helps us to maintain allegiance and devotion to our Creator without being influenced by outside forces working in our lives. Meditating on God's Word is memorizing it and making it part of our very being. The majority of ancient Hebrews did not have a copy of the law to read so they forcefully memorized it and reflected upon it in their daily lives.

7. In wisdom literature the tree is symbolic of wisdom itself (Proverbs 3:18 – She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; Genesis 2:19; Proverbs 11:30, 13:12, 15:4; Revelation 2:7). It is planted by a steady stream of nourishment unlike those trees planted in the wadis that depend on unreliable rains. Its leaves are vibrant and healthy, it produces delicious fruit in season. In the New Testament, the fig tree was compared to believers producing good works.

Make sure you get this right!

FAITH + WORKS (root) = SALVATION is wrong!

GRACE + FAITH leads to SALVATION which produces WORKS (Fruit) of righteousness.

There is an analogy that drives this point home. Are you a Christmas tree (temporarily beautiful & bright but withers away), or a fruit tree that consistently produces luscious life-sustaining fruit?

8. The writers of the Synoptic Gospels alluded to Psalm 2:7 in their accounts of Jesus' baptism when the Father proclaimed Him to be His Son (Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22). Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Psalms in every aspect. As Psalms 2 states, the coming Messiah, the LORD's anointed, will reign and rule all nations. He is from the Davidic lineage, He has the right to David's throne, He is the Son of God and will ultimately subdue all enemies and rule forever.

9. Here is the chiasmic structure of Psalm 3. The main point of emphasis is to "Trust in the Lord."

A - Lament over his enemies (1-2)

B - Prayer to the Lord (3-4)

C- Trust in the Lord (5-6)

B' - Prayer to the Lord (7)

A' - Blessings on His people (8)

Additional Questions:

1. The longest chapter in the Psalms is Psalm 119. The theme of this entire chapter is the Word of God.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

3. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

4. Answers will vary depending on personal experience. Psychologists say we all are a product of our environment. We can easily become like those we hang around. We can easily develop the same worldview as the company we keep. To prevent this from happening we must embrace the habit of reading God's holy Word so that we become influenced by it and not the world.

