

## Lesson 1: Meet the Psalmists

Monday, January 1, 2024

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King David, whose name appears in the titles of most Psalms, was active in organizing the liturgy of Israel's worship. He is called "the sweet psalmist of Israel" (*2 Sam. 23:1*). The New Testament attests to Davidic authorship of various Psalms (*Matt. 22:43–45; Acts 2:25–29, 34, 35; Acts 4:25; Rom. 4:6–8*). Numerous Psalms were composed by the temple musicians who were also Levites: for example, Psalm 50 and Psalms 73–83 by Asaph; Psalm 42, Psalms 44–47, Psalm 49, Psalm 84, Psalm 85, and Psalm 88 by the sons of Korah; Psalm 88 by Heman the Ezrahite; and Psalm 89 by Ethan the Ezrahite. Beyond them, Solomon (*Psalms 72, Psalm 127*) and Moses (*Psalms 90*) authored some psalms.

**Read Psalm 25:1–5; Psalm 42:1; Psalm 75:1; Psalm 77:1; Psalm 84:1, 2; Psalm 88:1–3; and Psalm 89:1. What do these Psalms reveal about the experiences their authors were going through?**

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> O my God, I trust in You;

Let me not be ashamed;

Let not my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup> Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed;

Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

<sup>4</sup> Show me Your ways, O Lord;

Teach me Your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You *are* the God of my salvation;

On You I wait all the day.—***Psalms 25:1-5***

As the deer pants for the water brooks,  
So pants my soul for You, O God.—***Psalms 42:1***

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!  
For Your wondrous works declare *that* Your name is near.—***Psalms 75:1***  
I cried out to God with my voice—  
To God with my voice;  
And He gave ear to me.—***Psalms 77:1***

How lovely *is* Your tabernacle,  
O Lord of hosts!  
<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, yes, even faints  
For the courts of the Lord;  
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.—***Psalms 84:1, 2***

O Lord, God of my salvation,  
I have cried out day and night before You.  
<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer come before You;  
Incline Your ear to my cry.  
<sup>3</sup> For my soul is full of troubles,  
And my life draws near to the grave.—***Psalms 88:1-3***

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever;  
With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.—  
***Psalms 89:1***

**The Psalmists are but a reflection and example of the many messed up people that God still used in a mighty way throughout the Bible.**

### **God's broken soldiers**

- Abraham -Was old
- Elijah – Was fearful and suicidal.
- Joseph – Was arrogant and abused.
- Job – Went bankrupt.
- Moses – was a murderer and had a speech problem.

- Gideon – Was afraid.
- Samson – Was a womanizer.
- Rahab – Was a prostitute.
- Samaritan Woman – had many husbands and divorces.
- Noah – had some drunk moments.
- Jeremiah – Was young
- Jacob – Was a liar and cheater.
- David – Was an adulterer and murderer.
- Jonah – Ran from his responsibility and from God.
- Naomi – Was a widow.
- Peter – had a temper and denied Christ three times
- Martha – Worried about everything.
- The Disciples – they all were unconverted... and forsook Christ
- Paul – A Pharisee who persecuted Christians before becoming one.

**The many Psalmists help remind us of our brokenness and constant need of the Savior!**

The Lord *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.—***Psalms 23***

*As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longeth after Thee  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship Thee*

*You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship Thee*