**The Book of Psalms—Study Guide (Psalms 22-27)**

The Bible always takes precedence in our study of God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21). This guide is just a “help” compiled from the Soncino commentary, Ambassador College notes, & personal study.

**Psalm 22: A Psalm of David (To the Chief Musician).**  This Psalm was to be accompanied by the melody of “The Deer of the Dawn (morning).” There are many references in this Psalm to Jesus Christ’s future suffering and death (Isaiah 53 as well). Soncino titles this Psalm: “Cry for Help.”

1: These are the same words Jesus spoke just before He died: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” See Mark 15:34 and Matthew 27:46. David felt God was far from his groaning (Hebrew: shriek of agony).

2-5: David spoke of His crying out to God in the daytime and in the night, and he felt as if God did not hear. Yet, he knew God was holy, and was enthroned in the praises (prayers) of Israel (over the years). The fathers trusted in Him and were delivered. They cried out to Him and were not ashamed.

6-7: Following are more prophecies about the sacrifice of Christ: He was like a worm (meaning being trodden underfoot and treated with contempt). He was disfigured by cruelty (Isaiah 52:14). He was a reproach to men and despised (Isaiah 53:3). People shook their heads at Him in an insulting gesture.

8: He was ridiculed, and was taunted by the words: “He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him” (Matthew 27:39-43).

9-11: God was with Christ from the womb. Christ trusted God from the womb and God was His God from the womb. Trouble was near—His upcoming death—and no one was able to help except for God.

12-13: Strong bulls of Bashan (an area east of the Jordan River famous for its pastures and cattle) surrounded Christ. (Bulls will circle and charge someone). They gaped at Him with their mouths like a roaring lion (The people verbally abused Christ).

14-15: He was poured out like water. His bones were out of joint. His heart melted like wax. His strength was dried up. His tongue cleaved to His jaws (because of thirst—John 19:28). He was brought to the dust of death.

16-18: Dogs (referring to cruel and fierce persons) surrounded Him. They pierced His hands and His feet (See Luke 24:38-40; John 20:25-27). He could count (see) His own bones. They divided His garments, and cast lots for His clothing (Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24).

19-21: David (as well as Jesus later) prayed asking God not to be far from Him. God was His strength to be delivered from the sword and the power of the dog (as noted in verse 16); to be saved from the lion’s mouth and the horns of the wild oxen (as noted in verses 12-13). God answered Him.

22: Even though David would declare God’s name to Israel, this section refers to Jesus Christ, who would declare God’s name to His brethren in the midst of the assembly (see Hebrews 2:10-12).

23-24: You, who fear the Lord, praise Him. All the descendants of Jacob glorify Him, and the offspring of Israel, fear Him. For God has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Nor did God hide His face from Him. When Jesus cried to Him, God heard (See Luke 22:41-43).

25-26: The praise in the great assembly will be towards God. The vows to God will be paid before those who fear Him. The poor will eat and be satisfied. Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever. (This is all millennial when Christ returns).

27-29: All the ends of the world will remember and turn to the Lord. The nations shall worship God. The kingdom is the Lord’s and He rules over all nations. (Zechariah 14:9, 16-17; Isaiah 66:23). All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship. All those who go down to the dust shall worship Him.

30-31: A posterity shall serve Him, and it will be recounted to the next generation of what the Lord has done. They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born *that He has done this*. (That will be the theme which will resound through all times—That God has done this).

**Psalm 23: A Psalm of David**: “One of the most precious gems in the treasury of Biblical literature…” Soncino also titles this Psalm: “The Divine Shepherd.”

1: The Lord is our Shepherd (Genesis 49:24; Isaiah 40:10-11) and He will provide for all our needs (Philippians 4:19).We shall not suffer want or deprivation.

2-3: God gives us green pastures (Ezekiel 34:14-15), and leads us with gentle guidance by still (placid) waters (this can refer to having peace of mind—see John 14:27). He restores our soul (life), and leads us in the paths of righteousness. He does this all for His name’s sake.

4: Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death (or deep gloom), we will fear no evil; for the Lord is with us (Isaiah 43:1-2). God’s rod (to drive off predators) and staff (a stick to lean on for rest) comforts us. God will shepherd His people with His staff (Micah 7:14).

5-6: God prepares a table (a bounteous feast and security) even in the presence of our enemies. He anoints (an act of sanctification and honor) with oil—which was a custom before eating. (It can also mean anointing with the oil of gladness: Psalm 45:6-8). Goodness and mercy will follow, and we will dwell in God’s house forever.

**Psalm 24: A Psalm of David**. (According to Jewish tradition, this Psalm was sung as the ark of God was moved to Jerusalem from the house of Obed-Edom. See 2 Samuel 6:12-14, 17-18). Soncino titles this Psalm: “Hymn of Greeting.”

1-2: The earth and all its fullness, including all who dwell in it, are the Lord’s (See Psalm 50:10-12). God founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters (See Genesis 1:2 and 2 Peter 3:5; Job 38:4, 8-11).

3: A question is posed: Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord, and who may stand in His holy place? A similar question is asked in Psalm 15:1.

4-6: The answer: He who has clean hands (unstained by violence) and a pure heart (free of deceit). One who has not lifted up his soul to an idol and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob—all of Israel in the future!

7-8: Lift up your heads, all gates and doors, for the King of glory shall come in. See also Isaiah 26:2; 62:10 and Micah 2:12-13. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

9-10: A number of these words from the previous verses are repeated for added emphasis. Notice the answer of who the King of glory is—the Lord of Hosts—the ruler of the universe who will be worshipped (Isaiah 27:13).

**Psalm 25: A Psalm of David.** (This is mainly an acrostic Psalm, where each letter of the Hebrew alphabet begins a verse. Psalm 34 is a companion to this Psalm). Soncino titles this Psalm: “A Prayer.”

1-3: To the Lord we are to lift up our soul and trust Him. David asked that God not allow anyone to be ashamed who waited on Him, but rather those who dealt treacherously without cause should be ashamed (Isaiah 33:1-2).

4-5: David also asked that God would show him His ways (See Exodus 33:13). He also asked that God would lead him in His paths, lead him in His truth, and to teach him. For God is the God of our salvation; and on Him we are to wait all the day.

6-7: “Remember, O Lord.” David asked God to recall His mercies and kindnesses from old. He asked God not to remember the sins of his youth, nor his transgressions (Psalm 103:12—God removes our transgressions from us). David also asked that according to God’s mercy, He would remember him because of His goodness’ sake.

8-9: A case of cause and effect: Because God is good and upright—He is just, and therefore He teaches sinners in the way (to repent). God guides the humble in justice (in principles of right conduct) and teaches them His way. (God does not guide the arrogant who follow their own inclinations).

10-11: All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies (See Psalms 61:7, 89:14-15). Pardon our iniquity, for it is great, for Your name’s sake, O Lord.

12-13: Who is the man who fears the Lord? God will teach him in the way He chooses. He will dwell in prosperity and his descendants shall inherit the earth. See Psalm 69:35-36 and Proverbs 2:21.

14-15: The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him. He will show them (reveal a deeper knowledge of) His covenant. Our eyes should always be on the Lord, for He shall pluck our feet out of the net.

16-17: We can ask God to turn Himself to us and ask for His mercy to be upon us when we are feeling desolate and afflicted. When the troubles (worries and anxieties) of our heart have been enlarged, God can bring us out of those distresses.

18-19: In our prayers, we can ask for God to look on our afflictions and our pains, and forgive all our sins. We can also ask Him to consider our many enemies (those who hate us with cruel and oppressive hatred).

20-21: David also asked that God would keep (protect) his soul and deliver him. So, let’s not be ashamed as we put our trust in Him. Let God’s uprightness and integrity preserve us as we wait for Him.

22: Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles. The Apostle Paul’s desire was for Israel to be saved. See Romans 10:1.

**Psalm 26: A Psalm of David.**  (This Psalm voices the uneasiness which a good man feels in the midst of evil. He has a sense of insecurity, but turns to God for support). Soncino titles this Psalm: “Plea of the Upright.”

1-2: David asked God to vindicate him as he walked in his integrity. As he trusted in the Lord, he knew he wouldn’t slip or waver. Yet he also asked God to examine him (penetrating scrutiny) and to try (test) his mind and heart. We are to examine ourselves as well—see 2 Corinthians 13:5.

3-5: God’s lovingkindness was before his eyes, and he walked in God’s truths (The wording is reminiscent of Psalm 1:1). He didn’t sit with the idolatrous (men of vanity) or go in the way (associate with) hypocrites (who conceal their evil intentions behind an outward show of friendliness).

5: He hated the assembly of evildoers and didn’t sit with (avoided) the wicked. See 2 Peter 2:7-8, which is an example of how righteous Lot lived in Sodom.

6-7: He washed his hands in innocence (the priests washed their hands prior to entering the tabernacle—Exodus 30: 19), and went about God’s altar, proclaiming with a voice of thanksgiving about His wondrous works.

8: He loved the habitation of God’s house, and the place where His glory dwelt. (This was in contrast to hating being in the assembly of the wicked),

9-10: He asked that his soul not be gathered with sinners, nor with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands is a sinister scheme (craftiness) and whose right hand is full of bribes. (David asked God to be sure he wasn’t mistaken for any one of them, either in their plots, practices or ultimate fate).

11-12: But as for King David, he walked in integrity and asked God again to redeem him mercifully (to release him from the danger from the wicked, because he refused to do their same evil deeds). His foot stood in an even (safe, non-dangerous) place. In the congregations, he would bless the Lord.

**Psalm 27: A Psalm of David.** (This Psalm is usually read daily during the sixth month in preparation for the Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement). Soncino titles this Psalm: “Hymn of Confidence.”

1: The Lord is our Light (This phrase in English is the motto of Oxford University) and our salvation, whom shall we fear? The Lord is the strength of our life, of whom shall we be afraid? See Romans 8:31.

2-3: When the wicked came against David, they stumbled and fell. Though an army camped near him and could rise against him, his heart didn’t fear, and he was confident in God. See 1 Samuel 23:25-28.

4: The one thing David desired and sought for was to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life, and to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His holy temple (Psalm 23:6).

5: For in the time of trouble, He shall hide us in His pavilion (a covert), in the secret place of His tabernacle. He shall hide us and set us high upon a rock. See Psalm 31:2-3, 20; Psalm 91:1-7.

6: King David knew that his head would be lifted up above his enemies. Therefore, he was going to offer sacrifices of joy (with a trumpet-sound) in God’s tabernacle and sing praises to God. See Psalm 33:1-3.

7-8: David asked God to hear him, have mercy on him, and to answer. God tells us to seek His face. See also 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Hosea 5:15.

9-10: He also asked God not to hide His face from him, nor turn in anger. God was always his help. David also asked God not to leave or forsake him. If our parents forsake us, God is always there to take care of us. See a similar promise that God has for us in Isaiah 49:15-16.

11-12: David continued to ask God to teach him His way, and to lead him in a smooth path. He asked not to be delivered to the will of his adversaries, for false witnesses rose against him who breathed out violence.

13-14: He would have lost heart unless he believed that he would see the goodness of God in the land of the living. The conclusion: Wait on God, be of good courage, and God will strengthen your heart in faith. Wait on the Lord. See also Psalm 31:24; Deuteronomy 31:7-8.