**The Book of Psalms—Study Guide (Psalms 90-100)**

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.

**BOOK FOUR: (Psalms 90-106)**

**Psalm 90: A Prayer of Moses, the man of God** (See Deuteronomy 33:1)**.** Soncino titles this Psalm: “Man’s Brevity, God’s Eternity.” It is also considered to be one of the finest hymns in the English language.

1-2: God has been our dwelling place (refuge) in all generations (Deuteronomy 33:26-27). He existed before He formed the earth. Even from everlasting to everlasting (before time was and after time shall cease) He is God.

3-4: You turn man to destruction (contrition or dust—Genesis 3:19). A thousand years to God is like yesterday when it is past, and likened to a night watch or being asleep for one night. See 2 Peter 3:8-9.

5-6: You carry them away like a flood (As a sudden storm threatens a home—so life can be suddenly cut off). They are like grass which flourishes; yet in the evening it is cut down and withers (so too is life in general).

7-8: For we have been consumed by Your anger (the shortness of life is because of sin). God sees all that we do, even our secret sins (which may be hidden from man) are not hidden from God’s face (see Psalm 19:12-13).

9-12: We finish our years like a sigh. The days of our lives are seventy years, and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow. For it is soon cut off and we fly away (to the grave).

So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom (See Deuteronomy 32:29).

13-17: Return, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on Your servants (Deuteronomy 32:36). Satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days, and not like in the days of adversity. Let Your work appear to Your servants (Habakkuk 3:2). And establish the work of our hands for us (See Isaiah 26:12).

**Psalm 91:** No title, but it has some similarities with Psalm 90.(Soncino titles this Psalm: “Security in God”).

1-2: He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress. My God, In Him I will trust” See Psalm 27:5.

3-6: Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler (a trapper of birds), and from perilous pestilence

(Deuteronomy 32:10-13). His truth surrounds us as a buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by *night*, nor of the arrow by *day,* nor of the pestilence in *darkness*, nor of the destruction at *noonday.* See Job 5:19-22.

7-8: A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you (the 10th plague in Egypt—Exodus 12:23). Only with your eyes shall you see the reward of the wicked (the dead Egyptians at the Red Sea—Exodus 14:30-31). The righteous will see the death of the wicked—Malachi 4:3.

9-10: Because you have made the Lord, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil will befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling. See Proverbs 12:21; 1 Peter 3:13.

11-13: He will give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways (Hebrews 1:14). In their hands they shall bear you up lest you dash your foot against a stone (quoted by the devil to Christ—Matthew 4:6). You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent (the devil did not quote this part).

14-16: Because he sets his love upon God, he will be delivered and be set on high. God will be with him in trouble and will honor him. God will satisfy him with long life, since He is our life (Deuteronomy 30:20).

 **Psalm 92: A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day.** Soncino titles this Psalm: “The Sabbath Hymn.” It also speaks “of the world to come which is an unending Sabbath.”

1-3: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, sing praises to His Name (Psalm 147:1), declaring His lovingkindness in the morning and His faithfulness every night (suitable times in the day to do so), including using instruments.

4-6: For You Lord have made me glad through Your work and I will triumph in it. Your thoughts are very deep (Isaiah 55:8-9). A senseless man does not know this. Nor does a fool understand: Psalm 14:1; 53:1-2.

7-9: When the wicked spring up like grass and their iniquity flourishes, it is that they may be destroyed forever, because they reject God. But God is on high forevermore. His enemies will perish and they shall be scattered.

10-13: But, my horn (strength) has been exalted like a wild ox. My eye has seen my desire on the enemies who rise up against me. The righteous who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

14-15: The righteous shall still bear fruit in old age (like a palm tree that can live for 200 years and still produce fruit). They shall be fresh and flourishing (like an olive tree: Psalm 52:8-9), to declare that the Lord is upright and that He is our Rock and there is no unrighteousness in Him. See Deuteronomy 32:4 and John 7:18.

**Psalm 93:** (Soncino titles this Psalm: “God the King”). This Psalm begins a set—through Psalm 100, which emphasizes the reign of God as King. (A number of these Psalms were sung on the day before the Sabbath).

1-2: The Lord reigns (or, has become King). He is clothed (has robed Himself) with majesty and strength. The world is established (stabilized) so that it cannot be moved (shaken). Your throne is established from of old.

3-4: The floods (rivers) have lifted up and raised up their voice. The Lord is mightier than the noise of many waters, and the mighty waves of the sea (Psalm 29:3-4).

5: Your testimonies (moral laws—see Psalm 19:7-9) are very sure (meaning firmly established and unchangeable like Himself). Holiness adorns Your house (the Temple, or Zion as a whole), O Lord, forever.

**Psalm 94:** (Soncino titles this Psalm: “Plea for Divine Judgment”). This Psalm reveals the reality of why this world needs God as its King.

1-3: Vengeance belongs to God (Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Hebrews 10:30). God will shine forth (Psalm 50:2-3). Rise up, O Judge of the earth (Genesis 18:25), and render judgment to the proud. The wicked will not triumph.

4-7: The wicked speak (gush out) insolent things, and they boast in themselves. They break in pieces Your people, O Lord, and they afflict Your heritage (Israel). They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless (Exodus 22:21-23). Yet, they say that the Lord does not see, nor does the “God of Jacob” understand.

8-9: Understand you senseless (brutish) ones and you fools: when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? (John S. Mill, an English philosopher, said that this verse contains the strongest argument for the existence of God). Notice as well: Exodus 4:10-12.

10-13: He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct? The Lord knows that the thoughts of man are futile (Paul quotes this in 1 Corinthians 3:20). Blessed (happy) is the man whom You instruct out of Your law (this will happen in the future too: Isaiah 2:3). We will have rest (relief, reassurance) from the days of adversity.

14-17: The Lord will not forsake His inheritance. Judgment will return to righteousness, and the upright in heart will follow it. Unless the Lord had been our help, we would be in silence (the grave).

18-19: If I say, “My foot slips,” Your mercy, O Lord, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties (distracting thoughts) within me, Your comforts delight my soul. (Be anxious for nothing--Philippians 4:6).

20-21: Shall the throne of iniquity (the judiciary)—those who devise evil by law (Daniel 7:25), have fellowship with You? They gather together (conspire to attack) the lives of the righteous, and condemn innocent blood.

22-23: But the Lord has been my defense, and my God the rock of my refuge. He has brought on them their own iniquities (Psalm 7:14-16; Proverbs 26:27), and He shall cut them off (destroy them) in their own wickedness. The Lord our God shall cut them off (Proverbs 21:15; Isaiah 1:28).

**Psalm 95:** (Soncino titles this Psalm: “Call to Israel to Worship”). This Psalm was also included in the Jewish liturgy for the inauguration of the Sabbath.

1-2: Let us sing to the Lord! Shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation (Psalm 89:26). Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and shout joyfully to Him with psalms. See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

3-5: For the Lord is the great God, and the King above all the gods (idols—see Psalm 96:4-5). In His hand are the deep places (foundations) as well as the (summits of the mountains). God created all: 1 Corinthians 8:5-6.

6-7: Oh come and let us worship, bow down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker (Philippians 2:10-11). He is our God, who created all things through Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2), and we are sheep in His hand (Psalm 79:13).

8-9: Today (the Sabbath), if you hear His voice (quoted in Hebrews 3:7-11; 4:7-9), do not harden your hearts as in the day of rebellion, as in the day of trial (this rebellion refers to Massah and Meribah—Exodus 17:1-2, 7).

10-11: For forty years God was grieved (disgusted) at that generation. It is a people who went astray in their hearts (as wanderers or fickle-minded), and they did not enter His rest (Numbers 14:26-35, Hebrews 4:5-6).

**Psalm 96:** (Soncino titles this Psalm “Call to all Peoples to Worship”). This entire Psalm is quoted in

1 Chronicles 16:7, 23-33. It was written by David to commemorate the Ark being brought into Jerusalem.

1-3: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day (not just one day of salvation). Declare His glory and wonders among the (gentiles). Isaiah 42:10-13.

4-6: For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised. He is to be feared above all gods, which are idols (Isaiah 46:5-9; Jeremiah 16:20). The Lord made the heavens (Jeremiah 10:10-13). Honor/majesty and strength/beauty are before Him (which are qualities associated with the Ark of the Covenant—see Psalm 78:60-61).

7-9: Give (ascribe) to the Lord, O families of the peoples, glory and strength. Offerings will come into His courts (see Isaiah 56:6-8). Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (in holy adornment). Tremble before Him.

10-12: “The Lord reigns” (He has become King). The world is firmly established. It shall not be moved. He shall judge the peoples righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad. Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord (see Isaiah 41:18-20; 55:12-13).

13: For He is coming. He is coming to judge the earth (Revelation 19:11). He shall judge the world with righteousness, all the peoples with His truth (faithfulness).

**Psalm 97: (**Soncino titles this Psalm: “The Universal King”). It points out the effects that result once God’s judgment is enacted on the earth. Many of the verses here are quotations from other Psalms and Scriptures.

1-4: The Lord reigns, so let the multitudes of the isles (and coastlands of the Mediterranean Sea) be glad (Isaiah 42:10-12). Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne (Psalm 89:14). 3-4: A fire burns up His enemies (Malachi 4:1). The earth sees this and trembles (Isaiah 64:1-2, Nahum 1:5-8).

5-6: Mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord (Micah 1:4). The heavens declare His righteousness and all the peoples see His glory (Isaiah 40:5).

7-9: Let all be put to shame who serve carved images (Isaiah 2:17-21; Habakkuk 2:18-20), who boast in idols (Isaiah 45:15-17). Worship Him, all you gods (Zephaniah 2:11). The Lord is above all (Jeremiah 10:10-12).

10-12: Those who love the Lord are to hate evil! (Proverbs 8:13). God preserves the souls of His saints. He delivers them from the wicked. Rejoice in the Lord and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

**Psalm 98: A Psalm.** This is the only singular title—A Psalm—in the book of Psalms. (Soncino titles this Psalm: “Call to Nature to Worship”—all nature is summoned to join in the acclamation of the Supreme King).

1-2: Sing to the Lord a new song (Psalm 91:1). His right hand and arm have gained Him the victory. The Lord has made known and revealed His salvation and righteousness in the sight of the nations. See Isaiah 52:10.

3-6: He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel (Luke 1:68-69). Break forth in song, and sing praises (make melody--Isaiah 51:3). Sing to the Lord with the harp, and with trumpets (made of silver–Numbers 10:2), and with horns (shofar—ram’s horns). Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.

7-9: Let the sea roar, and all its fullness. Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills be joyful before the Lord (Isaiah 55:12). For, He is coming to judge the earth with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Psalm 99:** (Soncino titles this Psalm: “Call to Worship renewed”—the theme continues from Psalm 98).

1-5 The Lord (has begun to) reign; let the peoples tremble (be awestruck)! He is holy. See Leviticus 19:2. The King’s strength loves justice. He has established equity and executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool (the temple—Psalm 132:7).

6-7: Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel called upon His name (1 Samuel 7:8-9). God spoke to them in the cloudy pillar (Exodus 33:9). Moses and Samuel are mentioned together in Jeremiah 15:1.

8-9: You were to them, “God-Who-Forgives,” though God took vengeance on their deeds. Exalt the Lord at His holy hill (Mt. Zion—Psalm 2:6). For the Lord our God is holy.

**Psalm 100: A Psalm of Thanksgiving.** (Soncino titles this Psalm: “Call to God’s Service”). This Psalm concludes the group of Psalms, beginning with Psalm 93, which emphasize God as King.

1-3: Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! (This is millennial). Know that the Lord is God (as did the Israelites in Elijah’s time--1 Kings 18:39). It is He who made us, and not we (who made) ourselves. We are His people (Ezekiel 34:30-31). There will be other nations who will be His people as well (Isaiah 19:24-25).

4-5: Enter into His gates with (the sacrifices of thanksgiving—Psalm 107:22). Be thankful to Him and bless His name. (Soncino: “the call on man’s sentiment of gratitude to God must always exist”). For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting (Psalm 136—called the “Great Hallel”), and His truth endures to all generations.