

Summer Study -- A Bible Overview With A Jesus Focus

Lesson 9: Psalms 23 thru 57

Jesus in Psalms Part 2 – (over 100 prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms, as well as many connections)

- **Psalm 23¹** The shepherd as leader of God’s people is a significant & frequent theme in the Old Testament
 - Israel’s leaders had failed in their job of leading God’s people & would be replaced (**Ezekiel 34:8-10**)
 - **v1** *The LORD is my shepherd. . .not want--*worshipful praise for leadership that protects, guides & provides all that is needed; only Jesus, our *Good Shepherd*, fills that role (**John 10:1-21; Hebrews 13:20-21**)
 - Those who heard Jesus say: “I am the Good Shepherd” (**John 10:11**) understood it as a **claim of deity!**
 - **v2a** *Lie down--*sheep lie down when fed, watered & secure; our Shepherd feeds with His Word, waters via the Holy Spirit’s grace & promises eternal security (**Ezekiel 34:15; John 5:24; 6:68; 10:9,27-28; 17:2**)
 - **v2b** *Quiet waters--*in joy accept the peace of Christ (**Zechariah 9:16-17; 1 Peter 2:25; Revelation 7:17**)
 - **v3a** *Restores my soul--*something we all need at one time or another: like a sheep that is “cast” on its back & cannot recover on its’ own due to a heavy coat, so are we when in spiritual malaise of sin & despair
 - As the “cast” sheep is vulnerable to predators, we are vulnerable to Satan’s attacks when “down-cast”
 - As the shepherd treats the “cast” sheep tenderly, Jesus treats us when we confess: seeking & lovingly calling His lost to draw close (**Psalm 34:10; Luke 13:34; 15:4-7; James 4:8; 1 John 4:19**)
 - **v3b** *Guides me. . .righteousness--*submitting to & following Jesus does not avoid hardships but will end up much better for us! (**Proverbs 3:5-7; 14:12; Mark 8:34; John 10:27-29; Ephesians 2:10**)
 - As we walk with Jesus, we grow deeper in relationship (**Psalm 119:66; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 12:9**)
 - **v4a** *You are with me--*in the darkest of times (**Isaiah 41:10; Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 13:5**)
 - **v4b** *Your rod & staff, they comfort me--*rod to fight off predators (**1 Samuel 17:34-35**) as Jesus’ strength & protection + staff to guide & control with loving discipline show devotion to His flock (**John 10:15**)
 - **v5a** *Prepare a table--*showing close relationship between a generous host & an honored guest (**Philippians 4:9**); *presence of my enemies--*we feel no threat (**Ephesians 3:16-19; Hebrews 4:16**)
 - All believers will be invited to the LORD’s table (**Luke 13:29; Revelation 19:19; 21:2-4**)
 - **v5b** *Anoint my head--*custom for esteemed guests to refresh & give joy (**John 14:23; 15:11; Hebrews 1:9**)
 - **v5c** *My cup overflows--*our LORD provides abundantly (**Malach 3:10; Luke 11:13; Ephesians 3:20**)
 - **v6a** *Goodness & mercy--*trust in God’s promises (**Romans 8:32; Ephesians 2:4-5; 2 Corinthians 1:20**)
 - **v6b** *Dwell in the house of the LORD forever--*those that accept Jesus have the assurance of eternal life with Him (**John 3:15-16; 5:24; 10:28; 14:2-3; 17:2-3; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25; Revelation 21:2-4**)
- **Psalm 24** celebrates the LORD’s entrance to Zion, perhaps sung bringing the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem
 - Points to: Jesus’ ascension to glory (**Acts 2:33; Philippians 2:9**) and/or 2nd coming as King of kings & Lord of lords (**Zechariah 14:1-9; Acts 1:11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Revelation 19:11-16**)
 - **v3-4** *Who may ascend?. . .who has a pure heart--*we are qualified by faith in Jesus (**Hebrews 10:29-22**)
- **Psalm 27** David expressed absolute trust in God’s abiding love & protection, as did Paul (**Romans 8:31-39**)
 - We are secure: Jesus promised He would lose none that His Father had given Him (**John 6:39; 10:28-29**) & to be with us as we go thru the trials of life (**Matthew 28:20; John 14:18; 1 John 4:4**)
- **Psalm 30** Following Jesus doesn’t mean you won’t face trials, which test & grow faith (**1 Peter 1:6-7**)
 - **v1** In your darkest hours, remember: you too will later be able to proclaim “You have lifted me up,” for Jesus is always with you to strengthen & bolster, as He did in visiting John (**Revelation 1:9,12-13**)
 - **v3** *You pulled me up from Sheol--*prophecies Jesus’ Resurrection (**Acts 2:32**)
 - HPC has been blessed with a parade of saints that, even in their last trials, placed trust in Christ’s promise

¹ Found good ideas & associated references from www.soulshpherd.org/walk-with-good-shepherd-through-the-Bible/ and www.gotquestions.org

- **Psalm 31** has several prophecies of Jesus' passion: **v5** His last words on the cross (**Luke 23:46**); **v11** His disciples deserting Him (**Mark 14:50**); **v13** the conspiracy to put Him to death (**John 11:53; Matthew 27:1**); **v14** the Jewish leaders knew He trusted in God & used that to mock Him on the cross (**Matthew 27:43**)
 - Yet, He recognized, as we must, being secure in the hands of His loving Father (**v14-15; 1 Peter 5:10**)
- **Psalm 32:1-2** (cited in **Romans 4:3-8,22-25**) declares our being forgiven & credited with righteousness as a free gift from God; can't be earned--as Jesus cried out: "It is finished!" *tetelestai*--paid in full (**John 19:30**)
- **Psalm 33:1-3** urges us to sing to the LORD, as Jesus & disciples did at the Last Supper (**Matthew 26:30**)
- **Psalm 34:20** prophecies that none of Jesus' bones would be broken (**Exodus 12:46; John 19:31-36**)
- **Psalm 35 v4,7,19** look to hatred Jesus faced (**John 15:24-25**); **v11,15** to false witnesses (**Matthew 26:59-61**)
 - Jesus told the Jewish leaders they belonged to their father, the devil (**John 8:44-47**), who was/is the force behind the hatred for Jesus as well as the world's hatred for God's people (**John 15:18-25**)
- **Psalm 37:4** tells us to "Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart;" Jesus promised us sustaining grace (**1 Corinthians 1:8-9**) & eternal life with Him (**Matthew 19:29**)
 - **v11** *The meek will inherit the land*--quoted in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5:5**)
 - We obtain the desired type of meekness by using Jesus as our model for humbly putting others first, developing patient endurance (**v7-8,34**), reverence for & obedience to God (**Matthew 11:28-29**)
- **Psalm 38** prophecies of Jesus: **v11**: friends & kin distanced themselves (**Luke 23:49**); **v12**: enemies sought to entrap Him (**Mark 14:1; Matthew 22:15**); **v13-14**: He kept silent before His accusers (**Matthew 27:12-14**); **v19**: enemies & hatred without reason (**John 15:24-25**); **v20**: He went about doing good (**Acts 10:38**)
- **Psalm 40** prophecies of Jesus: **v2-5**: joy of His resurrection (**John 20:20**); **v6-8**: He was set to do the will of His Father (**John 4:34; Hebrews 10:5-10; 12:2-3**) even to death (**Luke 22:42; Philippians 2:8**); **v9**: He preached righteousness (**Matthew 4:17**); **v14** He was confronted by adversaries in the Garden (**John 18:4-6**)
- **Psalm 41** A prayer of deliverance famous for **v9** which prophecies of Judas' betrayal (**John 13:18**)
 - Jesus told us to love & pray for our enemies, even as He did from the cross (**Matthew 5:44; Luke 23:34**)
- **Psalm 45** most applies as a song of the Messiah, anticipating the marriage of the Lamb (**Revelation 19:7**)
 - **v2** Words of grace from His lips (**John 1:17; Luke 4:22**); **v6** is repeated in **Hebrews 1:8** about the Son
 - **v7** Anointed by the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 3:16; Hebrews 1:9**); *Anointed = Messiah* (Christ) (**Luke 2:11**)
 - **v16** Jesus' bride has many children--as God's vine with many branches (**John 15:4; Romans 11:17-21**)
 - **v17** His name will be remembered forever (**Ephesians 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:8**)
- **Psalm 46** was the basis of Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is our God"--the song of the Reformation
 - **v2-3** *We will not fear. . . though their waters roar*--Jesus calmed the wind & waters (**Luke 8:22-25**), just as He can calm the storms in our lives when we have faith in Him (**Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9**)
 - **v4** Jerusalem today lacks a river, but the New Jerusalem will have "a river of the water of life" (**Revelation 22:1**) for God will be with His people to provide all they need (**Revelation 21:2-4,9-27**)
 - **v10-11** God is with us & in control -- no matter how crazy & terrible this world gets!
- **Psalm 49** testifies to the folly of pursuing worldly things; no amount of money can ransom from the grave
 - **v15** proclaims God as the only security--the agent of redemption is Jesus (**Matthew 20:28; John 14:6**)
- **Psalm 51** After Nathan confronted him about Uriah & Bathsheba, David felt the broken relationship with God, admitted his sin & begged for mercy & forgiveness (**v1-4**) with a broken & contrite heart (**v17**)
 - Our God offers reconciliation thru Jesus (**Isaiah 1:18; John 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; 1 John 1:9**)
- **Psalm 55** David is again beset & begs God for help, but deepest pain comes from a friend's betrayal (**v13-14**)
 - This points to Judas, who even used a kiss of friendship & affection to betray Jesus (**Matthew 26:49**)
- **Psalm 57** Fleeing from Saul, David declares his refuge in God (**v1**) & recognizes God's faithfulness (**v10**)
 - Jesus has partially & will totally fulfill **v5,11**: He was the agent of creation (**John 1:1-4**); conquered sin & death for our salvation (**Romans 4:23-25**) & is our strength & cornerstone (**Ephesians 2:20; 4:16**); He will reign as our eternal King (**Revelation 11:15**) to whom all will bow (**Philippians 2:10-11**)