

The Psalms—Inspired Expressions Of Worship

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"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand" (Psalm 95:6-7)

INTRO—The book of Psalms is preserved to impress us with the spirit of true worship (Romans 15:4). It examines the depths of the human heart that uses poetry as a means of expressing praise and worship to God. Thus, the Psalms indicate how we should worship God, and give us ideas about the purpose, plan, and expressions of worship to God. They are a call to worship, and an example of how to worship.

I. INSPIRED EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

- A. What Are The Psalms?** The Hebrews entitled this portion of Scripture *Tehillim* which means "Praises." Psalms are expressions of adoration and reverence to God, appeals to God to answer prayers, and songs about most all of man's life experiences.
- B. Inspiration Of The Psalms.** The Psalms are just as inspired as any other of the writings of the Old Testament—but like the others, they are not law for us to live by (Colossians 2:14; Romans 7:1-4).
- 2 Samuel 23:1-3—
 - Matthew 22:43-45—
 - Luke 24:44—
 - Acts 1:16,20—
- C. The Purpose And Nature Of The Psalms.** First used by the Jewish people as a hymnal for temple and synagogue worship, then by first century Christians (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), now we can benefit from the writings too (Romans 15:3-4).

Psalms was a favorite book of New Testament Christians—of the 283 direct quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament, 116 are from the Psalms.

- They furnish us with models of devotion, since they are Spirit-inspired.
- They impress us with God's existence, greatness, glory, and majesty.
- In other books God speaks to man—in the Psalms, man speaks to God.
- If poetry is an expression of a man's heart, and David was "*a man after God's own heart*" (Acts 13:22), what can we learn from David's psalms?

D. Exalted Expressions Of Worship. Notice how the Psalms elevate the level of worship to God, and see if they don't inspire you toward more heart-felt expressions of worship (Psalm 30:4; 57:9-10; 59:16-17; 135:3; cf. Hebrews 12:28).

- Beauty of holiness (29:2; 96:7-9)
- Wholeness of heart (86:12; 111:1)
- Joyful (95:1-2; 100:1-2)
- Thankful (69:30; 92:1; 107:1-2)
- Reverence (5:7; 89:7)
- Continuous (34:1; 104:33)

CONCLUSION—By studying the Psalms, more than any other section of Scripture, we can actually *"taste and see that the Lord is good"* (Psalm 34:8). Through its poetic expressions, we can learn how to give even greater praise and glory to God in our own worship (Hebrews 13:15).