

rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2024

PSALMS

SONGS FOR THE KING



PSALMS 98-102



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AN INTRODUCTION TO PSALMS

The Psalms are a collection of songs and poems, half of which were written by King David. The other half were written by more than 7 authors, including 50 Psalms with no name attached. They are a unique part of the Bible, because they are humans speaking to God. Yet they are also God's word, breathed out by his Spirit and with his authority (2 Timothy 3v16; Hebrews 3v7)

The Psalms were written over a long period of time, stretching from Moses (Ps 90 - around 1400BC), to after the exile (Ps 137 - post 587BC). The book of Psalms was collated some time in the 5th Century BC and reflect the concerns of Israel to remember God's kindness to them and ask for his blessing to return (specifically through a Messiah like David).

STRUCTURE

There are 5 books, within the larger book. Each book is bookended by a benediction of praise to the LORD (eg Psalm 41v13). The 5 books are compiled with a structure, in order to tell a story.

Book 1 — Psalms 1-41 set a foundation of God's covenant faithfulness

Book 2 — Psalms 42-72 bring hope for a Messianic Kingdom

Book 3 — Psalms 73-89 reflect Israel's hope for a Messiah after Exile

Book 4 — Psalms 90-106 celebrate the God of Israel as the King of all Creation

Book 5 — Psalms 107-150 are songs of Ascent and Praise

There are more songs of lament in Books 1-3, with praise woven throughout. However, in Books 4-5, praise overwhelms lament, which tells us something about the larger story.

USES

Many Psalms would have been sung in temple services, as well as by individuals, for thanksgiving, confession and supplication. However, this was not exclusively their purpose. These poems also contain philosophical reflection, instruction, commemoration of national history, celebration of the monarchy and much more.

POETRY

In ancient Hebrew language, poetry was not composed through rhyme or meter. Rather, it was through *parallelism*. Lines are coupled together with by shared meaning, stressed syllables and syntax (the arrangement of word order). This means that the second line often will intensify or progress the idea or image of the first line. For example, notice the symmetry of the instructions that progressively tells us more about praising God in Psalm 100v1-2:

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.

The Psalms have a rhythmic compactness of 2-4 beats that don't come across easily when translated into English. But noticing the parallelism and the development of ideas helps us to appreciate the poetry.

HOW TO READ THE PSALMS

We are taking a few weeks to look at some Psalms in Book 4. As we do, we're going to ask 3 bigger questions that

help us to keep the Psalms in the unfolding story of the Bible as God's word came to Israel, pointing to Jesus and flowing on to us. We cannot just read a Psalm and say that this is my song, without first using the Bible's own grid for applying the Old Testament. So our questions are:

1. How was this Israel's song?
2. How is this Jesus' song?
3. How is this our song?

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN—Take your time reading through each Psalm. If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the topic before you arrive.

WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP—Don't be afraid to stop and talk about things that grab your attention or raise questions for you. Try to feel the impact and mood of the Psalm. They are songs to express emotion to God.

ON SUNDAY—Make sure you bring your SERIES COMPANION along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.





A NEW SONG

PSALM 98

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:



THE LORD REIGNS

PSALM 99

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:



GRATEFUL PRAISE

PSALM 100

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

Do you like singing? What do you like to sing? When do you like to sing?

The Psalms are a collection of songs and poems from across Israel's history. We're going to think about Psalm 100 as Israel's song, as a song about Jesus, and then as our song.

Note: Sometimes we skip over the superscription (words in italics before the verse numbering begins). Resist the temptation! They often tell us something important about the genre, purpose, authorship and musicality of the Psalm.

READ PSALM 100

1. How should Israel give grateful praise to the LORD? How is this praise described?

2. What reasons does the Psalm give for this praise?

3. What parts of Israel's story does the Psalmist bring to mind?

READ EXODUS 3v13-17; 19v1-8; 34v1-9 2 CHRONICLES 5; PSALM 8; PSALM 78v40-55; EZEKIEL 34v11-16

Israel had so many great reasons to give grateful praise to the LORD. We see all of these reasons even more beautifully and magnificently displayed in Jesus.

READ JOHN 10v1-30; ROMANS 5v1-11 CORINTHIANS 5v14-18; 1 PETER 2v4-10; HEBREWS 10v19-23

4. What is praiseworthy about Jesus and what he has done for us?

READ COLOSSIANS 3v12-17

5. What should characterise our singing, as Christ's people?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are **DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY** together.

What do you know about Jesus that most makes you want to give him grateful praise?

Are you doing this? What has been convicting for you today?

How can you nurture joyful worship in your life?

SEEKING GOD

What role do you think singing praise to God should have in our **rockypc COMMUNITY**?

How can we value it together?

Choose a song to sing together now, that captures your joyful gladness to Jesus.

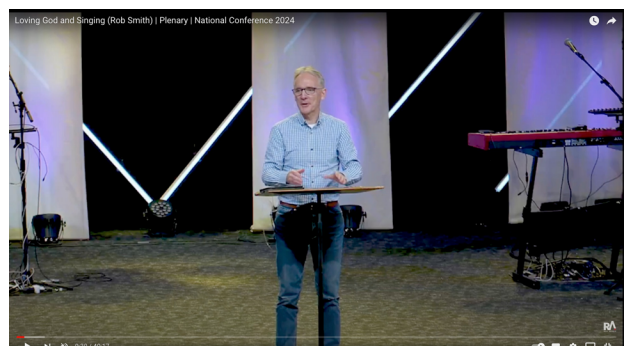
COMMUNITY

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God, the LORD, who is worthy of all our worship. Pray that we'd grow in our gratefulness, joy and gladness towards him.
- Praise God for gathering us as his chosen people. Pray that we'd delight in belonging to him.
- Praise God that he made us as his creatures. And he has made us a new creation in Christ, who died for all so that we might live for him.
- Praise Jesus, our good shepherd who gave his life for us. Praise him for leading us by his voice and for protecting and keeping us safe for eternal life with him. Pray that we would know and follow him.
- Praise Jesus for making a new and living way for us to enter God' presence, as his body was torn. Pray that we would draw near to God with confidence and faith.
- Praise God for his faithful love that reached out to us, his enemies. Praise Jesus for dying to reconcile us to God.
- Confess when we've not been joyful or not sung God's praise. Ask that as a **COMMUNITY**, the message of Christ would dwell among us richly, as we teach and admonish one another with hearts of gratitude to God, in song.

If you want to think more about the place of singing in **SEEKING GOD** together, check out this podcast by Rob Smith at the 2024 Reach Australia Conference, 'Loving God and Singing'

<https://youtu.be/VlkgbOtOPdM?si=AyHFuOeo2mHY20de>





A HEART OF JUSTICE

PSALM 101

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

How important is justice to you? Tell us about a time when you've stood up for what is right.

Last week we looked at a psalm of grateful praise. This Psalm is quite different in tone. It begins with singing, but is largely about what the psalmist will and won't do.

READ PSALM 101v1

1. Who wrote this Psalm? What is important about him? (see 1 Samuel 13v11-14; 16v 1--13; 2 Samuel 7v8-16)

2. What does he sing about? How is this essential to the LORD's character? (See Exodus 34v4-7)

READ PSALM 101v2-8

3. How does David describe his life, heart, eyes and lips?

4. How does he contrast with others?

5. What sins does this Psalm focus on?

6. How will David treat those who don't have blameless hearts and lives? (see Proverbs 1v7-19; 14v7-8)

7. What right does David have to silence and cut off these people? How can he sing this song? (see Deuteronomy 17v14-20; Proverbs 16v10-15)

As we're looking at the Psalms, we're asking how was this Israel's song (or more specifically, David, the Messiah's song)? And then we ask how this is a song about Jesus.

READ HEBREWS 7v23-28

8. What are Jesus' life, heart, eyes and lips like?

READ ROMANS 3v9-26

9. Can we sing Psalm 101, like David, the Messiah? How do we see God's justice most beautifully in Jesus?

READ EPHESIANS 4v17-5v20

10. How does Jesus transform our lives, hearts, eyes and lips?

11. What is our motivation to not tolerate evil?

READ LUKE 6v27-36; 1 CORINTHIANS 5v9-13; 6v9-11; GALATIANS 6v1-10

12. How should we respond to others in their sinfulness? Why?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are **DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY** together.

What has God's word convicted you about today? Are there things about your speech you need to confess?

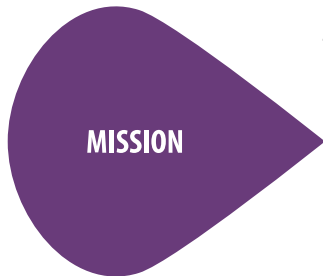


How is Jesus' perfect sacrifice transforming you? What do you want to sing to him about?





How can **rockypc** be a COMMUNITY that doesn't tolerate evil, celebrates Jesus' cleansing and gently restores one another? How do we need to grow in this?



How should we relate to the evil we see around us? What will love, kindness and mercy for our enemies look like?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God, who is full of love and justice.
- Praise Jesus, the Messiah who is completely holy, blameless, pure, set apart from, sinners, exalted above the heavens.
- Confess that we are not blameless. Our hearts are perverse, we are proud, slander others, deceive and lie.
- Praise God that through Jesus' death on the cross, we are forgiven, created to be like God in righteousness and holiness. Pray that we'd sing in thankfulness to God our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray that we would walk in the light, having nothing to do with fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather exposing them.
- Pray that we would not tolerate sin in our **rockypc** COMMUNITY, but that we would restore one another gently.
- Pray that we would love our enemies, as children of the Most High God, because he is kind and merciful.
- Pray that we would not separate ourselves from the world, but would hold out the gospel to them — that many might be washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

A CRY FOR HELP

PSALM 102



IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

In an article for Forbes Magazine, Mark Travers gives '3 Reasons Why Sad Music Can Heal A Sad Heart, By A Psychologist'

1. Sad Music Makes Us Feel Connected
2. Sad Music Helps Overcome Sadness
3. Sad Music Evokes Aesthetic Pleasure

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/traversmark/2024/05/21/3-reasons-why-sad-music-can-heal-a-sad-heart-by-a-psychologist/#>

Is this your experience of sad music? How does music connect with you in your tears?

We've looked at two very different Psalms over the past two weeks of GROWTH GROUP. From grateful praise and a blameless Messiah, we're switching to a deep lament, filled with sadness, but also hope.

READ PSALM 102v1-2

1. What is this Psalmist's cry?

READ PSALM 102v3-11

2. What picture does the poet paint of his plight?

READ PSALM 102v12-22

The Psalm zooms out from the distress of one person, to the agony of a whole nation, symbolised by the royal city of Zion (or the temple mountain in Jerusalem). The Psalmist sings of the fallout from a critical time in Judah's history.

READ 2 KINGS 24v18-25v12

3. What strikes you about this event?

4. Turning back to Psalm 102v12-22, what is the Psalmist's hope in the misery of Zion's destruction and the current exile?

READ PSALM 102v23-28

5. What does the Poet realise about himself and the rest of creation? What does he know about God?

This Psalm is Israel's song in the despair of exile. It's a cry to God to save and restore, because he is eternal and compassionate. It is also Jesus' song of lament.

READ HEBREWS 1v8-13; 5v5-10; 7v23-24

The writer of Hebrews wants Christians to see that Jesus reigns forever at God's right hand.

6. How does Jesus' eternal rule give us hope?

As we have seen with each Psalm, they are the songs of Israel, most sweetly sung about and by Jesus. Through Jesus, we can sing too.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 1v3-7; ROMANS 8v2-39

7. Can we pour out our lament to God? What is our confidence as we do?

READ REVELATION 21v1-7

8. How will God restore Jerusalem, one day?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we have 5 core values — we want to be growing disciples who are DEEP IN THE WORD, SEEKING GOD, on MISSION, as we SERVE in COMMUNITY together.



What has warmed your heart towards Jesus today?



How can we SEEK GOD in our own times of distress?

What can we sing in these moments?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that Jesus cried out in his suffering and was heard. Praise Jesus as the risen king, our eternal Saviour.
- Praise God for hearing our cries through his Spirit, because of Jesus. Pray that we would cry out in our pain and sadness, confident that he is compassionate and comforting. Thank him that we can never be separated from his love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Pray that we would hope in the new Jerusalem where will be with our God and there will be no more tears.