COURSE DESCRIPTION: A twenty-six week study designed to involve each

individual student with the Psalms and Proverbs in reading, meditating, singing and telling others of

their value and meaning.

COURSE PURPOSE:

To increase understanding and appreciation of Hebrew poetry in general and the Psalms and Proverbs in particular.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The participant who diligently pursues this course of study by preparing the assignments and entering into class discussion will:

- 1. Be able to list main characteristics of wisdom from above and describe how to obtain it.
- Given a list of Psalms, be able to indentify each as to type, ie praise, thanksgiving, supplication, didactic, etc.
- 3. Be able to identify major lessons in the Psalms which are useful and practical for Christians today.
- 4. Demonstrate in some individual way that the Psalms and Proverbs play a greater role in his or her personal study, thinking or singing.
- 5. Be able to use the Proverbs in determining how to live a happier, more productive life.
- 6. Be able to recite three Psalms of personal choosing.
- 7. Have the opportunity, if desired, to help the class produce a collection of Psalms set to familiar melodies suitable for congregational singing.

LESSON 1: THE BOOK OF PSALMS

A. Definition

1. Hebrew

- a. MIZMOR, a "song of praise" from the root word ZMR meaning "to pluck" thus implying the psalms in question were sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments. Occurs in the titles of 57 psalms. (Hailey, page 2. See bibliography for book and publisher.)
- b. Other titles were given to individual psalms such as SHIR, "song"; TeHILLAH "praise"; TePHILLAH, "prayer"; etc. (ISBE, p. 2487)
- c. TeHILLIM, "praises"; SEPHER TeHILLIM, "book of praises" is the Hebrew title for the collection of psalms. (ISBE, p. 2487)
- 2. Greek PSAIMOS "primarily denoted a striking or twitching with the fingers (on musical strings); then, a sacred song, sung to musical accompaniment, a psalm". (Vine, p. 229) Used of:
 - a. O.T. book of Psalms. Lk 20:42; 24:44; Acts 1:20
 - b. A particular psalm. Acts 13:33, 35
 - c. Psalms in general. 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16

B. History

1. Oldest Psalms

- a. Exodus 15:1-18,21 Song of praise (Notice re-echo of thought in later psalms: v. 2 in Ps. 118:14; v.3 in Ps. 24:8; v.4 in Ps. 14:27; 136:15; v. 8 in Ps. 78:13; v. 11 in Ps. 77:14; 86:8; 89:7; v. 13,17 in Ps. 78:54.)
- b. Duet. 32:1-43 Song of exhortation to keep the law, didactic.
- c. Psalm 90 Meditation, prayer
- 2. Psalms named after David. "In David the sacred lyric attained its full maturity." (Delitzch, p. 8) Seventy-three psalms bear his name. "His life was marked by vicissitudes which at one time prompted him to elagiac strains, at another to praise and thanksgiving; at the same time he was the founder of the Kingship of promise, a prophecy of the future Christ..." (Ibid, p. 9)

- a. Samuel possibly laid the foundation for David's psalms by establishing schools of prophets in which music and song were taught. 1 Sam. 19:19
- b. David was a skillful musician. 1 Sam. 16:17-23
- c. He was a talented poet. 2 Sam. 1:19-27
- d. The Holy Spirit came upon him at his anointing. 1 Sam. 16:13
- e. David's varied experiences provided opportunities for expressing the deepest feelings of man.
- 3. Psalms named after the family of Asaph, contemporary singers appointed by David, (Ps. 50 and 73-83) are chiefly prophetic.
- 4. Twelve (Ps. 42-49. 84, 85, 87 and 88), by the sones of Korah, a Levite family of singers, are predominately regal and priestly.
- 5. Two psalms of the Ezrahites, 88 by Heman and 89 by Ethan, belong to Solomon's time. Under Solomon psalm-poesy declined. Only Ps. 72 and 127 bear his name. (Note 1 Kings 5:12)
- 6. Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah "Only twice after this did psalm-poesy rise to any height and then only for a short period: viz. under Jehoshaphat and under Hezekiah." (Ibid. p. 10) Pss. 75 and 76 and Pss. 46 and 48 seem to refer to events in the time of each, respectively.
- 7. Pss. 31, 35, 38, 40, 55, 69 and 71 are attributed by many to Jeremiah (ISBE, p. 2491)
- 8. During the exile Ps. 102 and 137 speak of the distress of those in Babylonian captivity.
- 9. After the exile "When those who returned from exile, among whom were many Asaphites, again felt themselves to be a nation, and after the restoration of the temple to be also a church, the harps which in Babylon hung upon the willows, were tuned afresh and a rich new flow of song was the fruit of this re-awakened first love." (Delitzsch, p.12)

C. Arrangement

- 1. The 150 psalm collection begins with blessings for man and ends in praises to God.
- The whole is divided into five books each ending in a doxology.
 - a. Book 1: Pss. 1-41

d. Book 4: Pss. 90-106

b. Book 2: Pss. 42-72

e. Book 5: Pss. 107-150

c. Book 3: Pss. 73-89

3. Other smaller groups

- a. The Psalms of Ascents or Pilgrim Psalms (Pss. 120-134)
- b. A group praising Jehovah's character and deeds (Pss. 93-100) introduced by Pss. 90-92.
- c. Another praise group (Pss. 103-107)
- d. Closing Hallelujah group (Pss. 145-150)

D. Types of Psalms

- 1. Hymns or songs of praise such as Pss. 8, 18, 29, 33, 47, 65, 68, 75, 87, 93, 96-100, 103-106, 113,117,118, 122, 135, 136, 144-150.
- 2. Individual Supplications Pss. 3, 5-7, 12, 17, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 35, 38, 51, 54, 59, 64, 70, 80, 86, 120, 140 and 141.
- 3. Collective Supplications Pss. 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83 and 137.
- 4. Thanksgiving Pss. 18, 21, 30, 33, 34, 65, 66, 92, 116, 124, 138 and 144.
- 5. Messianic Pss. 2, 22, 45, 72, 89 and 110.
- 6. Historical _ Pss. 105 and 106.
- 7. Ethical those teaching moral or ethical lessons.
- 8. Penitential Pss. 51 is a classic example.
- 9. Cursing Ps. 69 and others

E. Psalms may also be classified as:

- 1. Didactic psalms of instruction
- Liturgical responsive readings and for use in special services.
- Meditation
- 4. Praise and devotion
- 5. Prayer and petition

LESSON 1 ASSIGNMENT

Please read and meditate upon the following psalms. Spend time on one psalm on each of six days.

1st Day - Ps. 33, Praise

2nd Day - Ps. 30, Thanksgiving

3rd Day - Ps. 6, Sorrow for Sin

4th Day - Ps. 5, Prayer for Protection

5th Day - Ps. 16, Confidence in God's Refuge

6th Day - Ps. 27, Trust in God

Please reflect upon what the poet is saying. Why? What must have been his deepest feelings? Try to put yourself in his place.

On the seventh day, formulate and write down at least one objective you would like to achieve during the portion of this course devoted to the Psalms. Be specific. If possible, state it is terms that are measureable so you will know, without doubt, when the objective has been reached.

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- Commentary on the Old Testament, Vol., 5, F. Delitzsch, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 8, Exposition by G. Rowlinson, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich.

LESSON 2: INSPIRED LITERATURE FOR MEDITATION

A. Value of the Psalms

- 1. Significant part of Jewish religion and daily life.
 - a. Nature of psalms indicate use at different times of the day, different moods and on many different occasions.
 - b. Some were originally written for worship in the temple for singing or responsive reading.
 - c. "Psalms of Ascents" were probably widely used by worshippers come to Jerusalem during the three great festivals.
 - d. G. Rowlinson's introduction to his commentary on the Psalms says, "Jerome says that, 'the Psalms were continually to be heard in the fields and vineyards of Palestine. The ploughman, as he held his plough, chanted the Hallelujah; and the reaper, the vinedresser, and the shepherd sung something from the Songs of David. Where the meadows were coloured with flowers, and the singing birds made their complaints, the psalms sounded even more sweetly. Sidonius Apollinaris represents boatmen, while they worked their heavy barges up the waters, as singing psalms till the banks echoed with 'Hallelujah'." (Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 8, page xi)
 - e. If the Psalms were so much a part of the daily life of God's people then, why not now?
- 2. Integral part of the New Testament.
 - a. Several psalms prophecied of events in the life of Christ.
 - b. Jesus frequently used the Psalms when He taught with authority.
 - C. Jesus used the psalms in personal expressions of His own deepest feelings.
 - d. New Testament writers often quoted from the Psalms to make or emphsize an important point.
- 3. God's inspired Word.
 - a. David wrote Psalms after the Holy Spirit came upon him at his anointing. 1 Sam. 16:13
 - b. David recognized the verbal inspiration of God in his writing. 2 Sam. 23:1,2
 - c. Christ held the Psalms to be inspired scripture along with the law of Moses and the prophets. Luke 24:44,45; Matt. 23:43, 44
 - d. The Hebrew writer recognized that the Holy Spirit spoke in the Psalms. Hebrews 3:7

- 4. Should we who are God's own not also
 - a. Study the Psalms thoroughly?
 - b. Meditate on them day and night?
 - c. Let them speak in our lives in the ways they were intended to be used?

LESSON 2 ASSIGNMENT -

A. Individual report assignments

Locate examples of New Testament uses of the Psalms and prepare a brief (3-5 min.) report for presentation to the class.

1st Report - 2.a. above

2nd Report - 2.b. above

3rd Report - 2.c. above

4th Report - 2.d. above

- B. General Class Assignment
 - 1. Define meditation and meditate on the concept. What is it?
 - What steps does one take to meditate?
 - 3. What practical benefits are obtained from meditation?

LESSON 3: INSPIRED POETRY FOR SINGING

- A. Characteristics of Hebrew Poetry (ISBE, p. 3410-13)
 - 1. Figurative expression as seen in the shepherd of Ps. 23. It is important to recognize figures as such and interpret in light of what the figure meant when used and in the way used.
 - 2. Units there is controversy on the exact form of Hebrew poetry, but the following will serve as a guide:
 - a. Meter, or rhythm the accented syllable along with the unaccented syllable before or after it. Different kinds of rhythm are found in the Psalms as thoughts and feelings change. There seems to be no standards worked out, defined and used consistently throughout a poem.
 - b. Stich, or verse a poetic line conveying a simple thought. Not to be confused with a Bible verse (sub-division of a chapter). Often stiches appear in combinations setting forth different aspects of the thought.
 - c. Strophe, or stanzas, composed of a series of related stichs. Beginnings and endings of strophes can usually be recognized by pauses, or changes in the thought. Notice Ps. 119 where strophes are each of 16 stichs and are named after the letters of the alphabet.
 - d. Psalm, or poem, or song composed of a series of stichs or strophes.
 - 3. Parallelism, or logical rhythm. This very important feature of Hebrew poetry is found in several different forms.
 - a. Synonomous the thought of the first line, or stich, is repeated in the second in different words. Ps. 36:5; 24:1-3
 - b. Antithetic the second line reinforces the first with a contrasting thought. Ps. 20:8; 30:5
 - c. Synthetic the second line adds a new thought or in some way explains the first line's thought. The complete thought is the sum of both. Ps. 19:8,9; 119:11
 - d. Introverted the thoughts of lines one and four are closely connected as are the thoughts of lines two and three. Ps. 91:14
 - e. Climactic progressive the second line repeats and expands

the principle thought contained in line one. Notice Psalm 29:1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10.

f. Composite progressive - each of several lines provide a single, complete member of the total thought. Ps. 1:1

ASSIGNMENT

- 1. Please notice the 19th psalm.
 - a. How many strophes, or stanzas, can you identify in this poem, and where do they begin?
 - b. What are the distinguishing characteristics of each strophe you find?
 - c. What conclusions can you draw regarding the rhythm of this song?
- 2. Now consider the 119th.
 - a. What is the poet's message?
 - c. If you were going to write a peem about this subject, what concepts and feelings would you want to convey?
 - c. Besides using the right words, what poetic characteristics, or style, would you use?
 - d. What about the 119th psalmist's style helps him communicate his feelings?
 - e. How does he use imagery?
 - f. How does he use pallelism? Give examples.
 - g. What is the usefulness of psalm 119 to a Christian today?

B. Setting Hebrew Poetry to Music

Perhaps those of us who know little or nothing of music, and have never studied poetry in general, should leave the setting of Hebrew poetry to music for those with more schooling. But, having known several relatively unschooled in these matters who have successfully set psalms to music, a series of steps for getting the job done has been developed so that anyone with desire and a sense of appreciation for Hebrew poetry can put a favorite psalm to music.

The approach given will work for either a psalm or proverb, though, for simplicity's sake, the procedure is written in terms of working with a psalm.

Give it a try. It will take some time, but the rewards will more than outweigh the cost.

1. Select a Psalm

Select any psalm or part of a psalm which particularly appeals to you. You may make your selection for any one of several reasons. The passage may, in some special way, touch your feelings or relate to your past experiences. Or, perhaps you have a preference for the phrasing, the thought, etc.

Instead of making your selction from one psalm, you may choose phrases along the same theme from several different psalms (ie, chorus from different psalm or each stanza from a different psalm). Whenever using only a portion of a psalm, be sure to study and analyze the whole so that whatever you do with the portion will not change its meaning.

For purposes of this study, we will use Psalm 133 to illustrate the steps in setting a psalm to music. It is well suited because it is short and has a single message. The language is beautiful, conveying its lesson by way of two vivid figures, and the rhythm is unusually consistent which simplifies the matter of selecting a melody and arranging the words.

2. Study the Psalm

This may seem obvious to some, but study and understanding of the psalm's meaning needs to be emphasized lest the rest of our work becomes mechanical. Without proper study at this point, we may ultimately arrive at a singable psalm which is not very understandable. Worse, we may be guilty of twisting and distorting the meaning and thus conveying a wrong thought, one which is not intended by the Holy Spirit. It certainly is not wrong to write a song suggested by a thought in the psalms, but our attempt will be to arrange the psalm itself, or a part of it, for singing. The difference seems distinct enough and needs to be placed clearly in mind at the outset. Of course, it is not always possible to use all the same words as the psalm since some changes are usually necessary to make the words fat the melody, but we will strive to use as much of the psalm's wording as possible.

During your study, you will, of course, want to identify figures of speech and study them as such. They can provide good material for your song. Remember the rule: Never mix figures.

Also, it is good practice, as in all Bible study, to locate the key verse or verses. This does not have to be the key verse for the psalm, but key to that portion you will be working with. It will be vital material if your song conveys the meaning properly.

Now is a good time to study Psalm 133. Are there any figures? What is the key verse?

3. Analyze the Poetry

Before considering your psalm as poetry, it will be important to know something of Hebrew poetry in general. It is unique in its character and you will need at least a speaking acquaintance with its characteristics. Since these have been covered earlier in Lesson 3, we will not go into the matter here, but assume that you have considered that material.

Not being an expert in poetry or Hebrew poetry (or setting psalms to music for that matter), I can only suggest a way to analyze the poem you have selected. It is the way I do it, which, of itself, argues there is a better way. The way that works best for you is what you should use, but perhaps starting with the following will help:

- a. Identify what you believe to be the poetic stanzas and verses. Sometimes they correspond to Bible verses in some way, but not necessarily. Notice the 133rd. Would you say that Bible verses correspond to stanzas, thus three stanzas in the poem? Consult Lesson 3 if you need a refresher in definitions.
- b. Locate parallelisms so that later, when you find it necessary to modify some of the wording, you may keep the main thought of these parallelisms intact.

c. Write the psalm out in poetic form. Ignore Bible verses and their notations. This exercise will help greatly in getting a feel for the psalm as a poem. For Psalm 133 you should get something like:

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

It is like the precious ointment upon the head, That ran down upon the beard, even Asron's beard: That went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, And as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: For there the Lord commanded the blessing, Even life for evermore.

Or,

Behold, how good and how pleasant For brethren to dwell together in unity!

Like the precious ointment upon the head, That ran down upon the beard, Aaron's beard: That went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, That descended upon the mountains of Zion: For there the Lord commanded the blessing, Life for evermore.

Or, maybe you have something slightly different depending on which translation you are using. That's fine. The words will, of course, vary between translations, but if you organize it into verses somewhat differently, that's okay. There is on one precise way, for we are trying to put this poem into a form we are familiar with, a form the poet was not working in.

d. Determine the meter or approximate meter. You can do this by counting syllables and noticing those which are accented. Remember that Hebrew poetry, for the most part, follows no standards consistently. Let's look at the 133rd. Follow the poetic form you have written. The count of syllables should go something like this:

First stanza - 8, 12 (syllables in each verse) Second stanza - 10, 10, 10 Third stanza - 6, 12, 10, 5

Now, notice the accented syllables. Inconsistencies will need to be eliminated when you set these words to music.

4. Select a Melody

We've tried to make this whole process of arranging a psalm to music as much a step-by-step procedure as possible, but at this point, in many ways, the procedure is much more difficult to pin down. Perhaps at this point, we depend more on a sense of rhythm or trial and error, but we will attempt to define as much of this part of the activity as we can.

The task at hand is to find a melody which has the right mood and whose rhythm most closely fits the meter (or approximate meter) of our poem. The melody of a spiritual hymn familiar to most of our brethren would be more desireable than an unfamiliar or secular tune for obvious reasons. So, let's start with one of the hymn books we are accustomed to.

From melodies which convey the right mood or feeling, select one with the proper number of beats per measure. One way is to:

- a. Look in the topical index under headings which will most likely list songs of the nature you want. For the 133rd psalm, perhaps something under the headings UNITY, LOVE, PEACE, or FELLOWSHIP will yield some melodies with warmth and nobility from which we can find one that would be suitable to this marriage. Obviously, a proper melody may be found under any of the topical headings, but this is a way to begin.
- b. Select a tune to which the words of your poem can be fitted. Start by counting syllables in phrases of lines of the song's present lyrics. You probably will not find a match, but the closer you come the less changing of the psalm you will have to do.
- c. Determine the tune's meter, ie its pattern of strong and weak beats. Words of the poem must be fitted to the tune according to its meter.

5. Arrange the Words

Now that the tune is selected, its meter determined and the message and characteristics of the poem are firmly in mind, the psalm can be set to the tune. Remember to preserve parallelisms, if possible. Or, if some words must be repeated to fill out the tune, perhaps you can create some parallelisms of your own which will further emphasize key thoughts in the psalm.

Fitting the psalm to the tune will be easier if little or no thought is given to rhyming the words. If rhyming is desired, it may be easier done as a final step. The process of arranging the words to fit the tune is essentially one of trial and error.

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- a. Start with the poem's first line and try to substitute it for the song's first line.
- b. Modify the line until the number of syllables is the same as the song's first line. You may need to eliminate or add words not essential to the thought.
- c. Now check the meter of the psalm (accented and associated unaccented syllables) against the meter of the tune (strong and weak beats). Modify words until the meter matches. You may need to move words around, or phrases, or substitute words. Be careful that your modifying does not, however, change the meaning of the psalm.

6. Rhyme the Lyrics

Most songs we sing have rhyming words, and though it is not a necessary feature, songs with rhyme probably sound better to us. But to achieve rhyme may be costly.

There is a price to pay beyond the time to find rhyming words. In most cases, rhyming the words will further alter or destroy wording of the original psalm. Whether or not this can be tolerated depends upon your desire to maintain original wording, and how much has already been lost in arranging words to match the song's meter.

Perhaps a reasonable compromise is to go for some rhyme, but not try to rhyme the whole song. Singing it through before attempting to rhyme and noticing those areas which sound awkward or abrasive will help you identify the prime targets.

One last suggestion. Consult different translations for words that may help you achieve the rhyme you desire. This seems better than selecting just any word that gets the job done.

MAY THE LORD HELP US AND BLESS US IN THIS REWARDING EFFORT!

LESSON 4: PRAISING GOD
Psalm 27:4 "...behold the beauty of the Lord,..."

A. Report Format

Author, probable time and circumstances, type of Psalm, poetic characteristics, poet's message.

B. Individual Report Assignments

1st Report - Psm 19:1-6

2nd Report - Psm 29

3rd Report - Psm 104

4th Report - Psms 95-100

Set to Music - Any psalm of praise

C. Other Psalms of Praise

Psalms 8, 18, 24, 31:19-24, 33, 40, 47, 65, 75, 92, 113, 118, 135, 139, and 145-150

- d. General Assignment
 - 1. Randomly select any three psalms of praise and carefully read through them looking for reasons the psalmist was prompted to sing praises to God. You may choose them from the list above or pick any in the Book of Psalms. Please list as many reasons as you can find.
 - 2. How could praises-giving be empty and, therefore, a mockery?
 - In what meaningful ways could we increase our praises to the Lord today?
 - 4. Have you selected a psalm to memorize? If not, please consider one of the psalms of praise.
 - 5. Have you selected a psalm to set to music? As a people, the church is in need of many psalms of praise which can be sung.

LESSON 5: SEEKING REFUGE

Psalm 62:6 "He only is my rock."

A. Report Format

Author, probable time and circumstances, type of psalm, poetic characteristics, poet's message.

B. Individual Report Assignments

1st Report - Psm 23

2nd Report - Psm 46

3rd Report - Psm 91

Set to Music - Any psalm speaking of refuge

C. Other Psalms Extoling God As Refuge Or Seeking His Help

Psalms 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 13, 16, 25, 26, 27, 28, 40, 59, 61-64, 66.

D. Conoral Assignment

Please carefully study the 16th psalm and answer the following questions:

- 1. The psalmist begins with a request for preservation. Considering all that he says in the 16th, what might be involved in the preservation he requests?
- 2. What other benefits, available to one who finds his refuge in God, are mentioned?
- 3. By contrast, what awaits those outside this refuge?
- 4. How does the psalmist characterize the life of the one who takes refuge in God?
- 5. What practical steps are suggested for entering and remaining in the refuge of Jehovah?
- 6. Which verses of this psalm are messianic? Please explain them.
- 7. In your opinion, which is the most important promise offered to the child of God by this psalm? Why?
- 8. Can you identify any parallelisms in this poem?

LESSON 6: URGING RIGHTEOUSNESS

Psalm 62:6 "I shall not be moved."

A. Report Format

Author, probable time and circumstances, type of psalm, poetic characteristics, poet's message.

B. Individual Report Assignments

1st Peport - Psm 15 2nd Peport - Psm 131 3rd Peport - Psm 133

C. General Class Assignment

Please do the following in preparation for class discussion:

- 1. Using a topical bible, locate several passages in the Psalms which call for righteousness in man.
- 2. Read and meditate upon these expressions throughout the week.
- 3. Memorize a favorite.
- 4. For class discussion, make a list of the characteristics of a righteous man as given in the Psalms.
- 5. What practical applications for us would you suggest?

LESSON 7: MAN'S SIN IS CONTINUAL
Psalm 51:3 "....my sin is ever before me."

A. Report Format

Author, probable time and circumstances, type of psalm, poetic characteristics, poet's message.

B. Individual Report Assignments

1st Report - Psm 51 2nd Report - Psm 32 3rd Report - Psm 130

C. Seven psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143) are filled with expressions of man's sinfulness. For those interested in extra study material in connection with this subject, review these psalms for thoughts that would enhance your private prayers regarding personal sins.

D. General Assignment

- Some believe that David wrote the 6th psalm while burdened with his sin with Bathsheba. Please read it. What indications in the psalm would argue for that position?
- 2. What thoughts suggest it was not David's own sinfulness, but other matters that concerned him?
- 3. What did David understand about the exixtence of man's soul after death?
- 4. Now please read Psalm 38. What similarities to the 6th can you identify?
- 5. Is this psalm about David's own sin or the oppression of his enemies? How can you be sure?
- 6. How does David connect the two?
- 7. In both poems, please identify the verses that indicate how David deals with the problem of sin and list the steps of his solution.
- 8. Who does he depend upon for deliverance?

LESSON 8: DAVID'S LIFE AND PSALMS

Seventy-three psalms bear David's name and several of them can be identified, with varying degrees of certainty, as written during a specific occurrence in David's life. Consider the story of events out of David's life, then read the psalm which is thought to have been written during, or about, those events:

1 Sam. 16:11, 19; 17:15. David was a shepherd boy.

1 Sam. 17:40-51. David killed Goliath.

1 Sam. 19:1-18. Saul's men watched David's house during the night in order to kill him.

1 Sam. 21:1-15. David fled from Saul to Achish, king of Gath, but being unwelcome among the Philistines, he soon escaped.

1 Sam. 22:1,2. He escaped to the cave of Adullum.

1 Sam. 22:3-23. Doeg the Edomite revealed to Saul that David had gone to the house of Ahimelech in Nob.

1 Sam. 23:19-29. Saul pursued and surrounded David and his men at a mountain in the wilderness of Maon.

1 Sam. 24:1-22. David hid from Saul in the cave in the wilderness of Engedi and spared Saul's life. David called on the Lord to judge between them and Saul confessed his wickedness.

1 Sam. 26:1-25. Saul with Abner made a final attempt to capture David, which ironically ended in David's having the opportunity to take Saul's life but refusing to do so.

Psalm 23

Psalm 144 is related by the Septuagint to the killing of Goliath.

Psalm 59 - Notice the psalm's subtitle.

Psalms 56 and 34 - Titles assign these to this event and add thoughts to the story.

Psalms 57 and 142 refer to David's flight to a cave. Perhaps this is the same occassion or the one recorded at 1 Samuel 24:3.

Psalm 52

Psalm 17, note verse 9

Psalms 57 and 142 may refer to this occassion of David's hiding in a cave rather than the one recorded at 1 Samuel 22:1,2. David may have had his verbal encounter with Saul in mind when he wrote Psalm 35.

Some have thought perhaps David had his plea with Saul for peace (verses 19 and 20) in mind when he wrote Psalm 13.

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A hammas 8:1-15. David was a mighty warning and the Lord gave him victories whenever he want.

2 Sam. 11. David Farl at the zonith of his corear when he committed adultary with Bathsheba and curdered her husband Uriah. When Nathan faced David with his sin, he confessed. 2 Sam. 12:1-25

2 500. 22. In the closing years of David's life he spoke the words of a bouttiful song of praise to the Lord for deliverages from all his enemies.

Not long after naming Solomon to succeed him to the thione (1 Kings 1), David died. His last words are recorded at 2 Samuel 23:1-7.

region 20 is thought to be David's our celebrating the ark coming to increasem. Other psalms sometimes as edisted with this high point in revid's life are 15, 29, 30, 101, 20 (4 132;

Several of David's psalms were inspired by the wars in which he led his soldiers to victory. Psalms 20, 21, 63 108, 110 and 60 are among these, the later probably associated with 2 Sam. 8:13.

The 38th psalm forcefully expresses David's remorse and presents the consequences of his guilt. In the 51st, we find a beautiful confession and plea for forgiveness, while the 32nd extols the blessedness of the forgiveness he obtained.

Markee the similarity to Psalm 18.

Psalm 2 is thought by some to relate to this period.

LESSON 9: GOD'S LAW IS PERFECT

Psalm 19:8 "The law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul."

1. Please read Psalm 19. What three sections of this beautiful poem can you identify?

In what way does the thought of each section relate to the others?

- 2. How has God revealed himself and what is the effect on man?
- 3. In what particular poetic characteristics (refer to Lesson 3) can you identify the beauty of this Hebrew poem?
- 4. Now please read the 119th psalm. What do you find that makes this psalm different from the other psalms?
- 5. Do you suppose the poet tried to convey feelings toward God's word by his poetic style? If so, how?
- 6. What is the central theme of the 119th?
- 7. List the synonyms used in the first stanza (verses 1-8) to express the idea of God's word. What distinctions in the nature of God's word, if any, are expressed by each?
- 8. Is the list used by the poet exhaustive or could you add synonyms?
- 9. What single lesson would you draw from the 119th psalm for those who are out of Christ?
- 10. What lesson do you find in this psalm for Christians?

LESSON 10: CURSES FOR THE WICKED

Psalm 28:4 "Give them according to their deeds,..."

Please read Psalms 35, 69 and 109. In each of these psalms we see prayer for punishment against the wicked. In some instances unusually harsh and hateful treatment is requested. A full appreciation of the Psalms cannot ignore this aspect, but by dealing with it squarely, we may come to better understand it. Consider the following questions for class discussion:

- 1. Who wrote each of these psalms?
- 2. What about his life would help explain the attitude seen?
- 3. Is the author praying for himself?
- 4. Is a Christian today justified in a similar attitude and prayer regarding his enemies?
- 5. What New Testament passages or principles can you cite which bear on our attitude toward our enemies?
- 6. Do you think it more natural for Jews several hundred years before Christ to have and openly express feelings against their enemies than it is for us today? Why?
- 7. Did God approve of these attitudes under the old law? What scriptures would support your position?
- 8. What application can we make of these psalms today?

LESSON 11: JUDGEMENT UPON THE UNRIGHTEOUS Psalm 35:24 "Judge me, O Lord my God, according to thy righteousness."

- 1. Please read the 50th psalm. Who wrote it?
- 2. What is said of the judge?
- 3. Identify the characteristics of his judgement toward the righteous.
- 4. Why will the wicked be condemned?
 - 5. Who will be judged righteous?
 - 6. Now please read the 82nd psalm. Who are the "gods" spoken of by the poet?
 - 7. What type of judgement does God expect?
 - 8. What practical applications can you find in these psalms of judgement for Christians today?

LESSON 12: OUR SAVIOUR FORETOLD Psalm 2:12 "Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him."

- A. Report Format Author, time and circumstances, poetic characteristics and message. Can the language of the poet be applied to him or another man? What aspect of the Christ is under consideration?
- B. Individual Report Assignments -

First Report - Psm 22 Second Report - Psm 45 Third Report - Psm 110

C. General Assignment

Please read Psalm 2 and answer the following questions:

- 1. What expressions indicate this psalm is about the Messiah?
- This psalm is about the _____ of Christ.
- 3. Psalm 2 is cited in the New Testament several times. Please list those you can locate.
- 4. What is the "holy hill of Zion" in verse six?
- 5. Explain the Lord's statement in verse seven. See Acts 13:30-33.
- 6. Explain the name Messiah.

The name Christ.

7. What similarities and contrasts do you see in a comparison of Psalms 1 and 2?

The messianic psalms are fertile ground for finding passages suitable to set to music and sing. Have YOU arranged a psalm for singing?

LESSON 13: LIFE EVERLASTING ASSURED Psalm 16:11 "...at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore."

A. Report Format

Author, time and circumstances, type, poetic characteristics and message.

B. Individual Report Assignments

- First Report Psm 49 What phrases indicate a life after death?

 On what basis does the author call for righteous living?
- Second Report Psm 17 What, according to verses 13-15, will be the eternal reward of the righteous?
- Third Report Psm 16 Identify the advantages of the individual who sets the Lord always before him as given in verses 8-11.

THE BOOK OF PSALMS - FINAL EXAM

This is an open Bible test, but please do not look back at previous lesson material.

1.	How many psalms are there in the Old Testament?
2.	During and following the time of David, in what way did God's people use many of the psalms differently than we do today?
3.	Please look over the content of psalms 2, 5, 27, 30, 49, 51, 69, and 100 and match each with the word which best describes it.
	Teaching Supplication Messianic
	Trust Praise Penitential
	Thanksgiving Cursing
4.	List the psalms you can recite from memory.
5.	How many psalms bear David's name? a. 12 b. 50 c. 73 d. 76
6.	The Hebrew title for the collection of psalms is "Book of Praises". True False
7.	What is the most likely meaning of "Selah" found in many psalms?
8.	What is parallelism?
9.	Identify the poetic form used in Psalms 91:14, 29:1, 36:5, 119:11, 1:1, and 20:8. Write the psalm number in the appropriate blank below:
	Synonomous - the thought of the first line is repeated in the second line in different words.
	Antithetic - the second line reinforces the first with a contrasting thought.

_____ Introverted - thoughts of lines 1 and 4 are connected as are lines 2 and 3.
_____ Climactic progressive - line 2 repeats and expands the main thought of 1.

Synthetic - the second line adds a new thought or explains the first

- ____ Composite progressive each of several lines provide a part of the total thought.
- 10. In what way do you feel the psalms now play a greater part in your thinking, study or singing than when this course of study began?
- 11. Did you achieve your personal objective set at beginning of the course?
- 12. What psalm or feature of the psalms do you prefer and why?

line's thought.

Psalm 1

Lyrical arrangement by Robert L. Schales ilenri F. Hemy 1. Bleased the man who will not walk Where wicked counsel shows the way, 2. Like to a growing tree so high Where water-streams are flowing by. 3. The wicked are to their dismay Like chaff the wind has swept away; Nor dwells where sinners meet to talk, Nor sits as critic all the day. Yielding its fruit; it never fails, Evergreen leaf that never pales. Therefore, the wicked will not stand After God judges all the But in God's word is his delight! On it he thinks both day and night! So shall be live in all abound! A life so prospered he has found ! Nor evil ones in comfort hide Where the Lord's righteous ones abide ... The way of rightness God approves The evil way he shall remove! A-MEN.



Tune: Near the Cross

Psalm 8

Lyrical arrangement by Robert L. Schales

Peter Ritter



- 1. How great thy name in all the earth; Thy glory praised above the heavens, 2. A bulwark made against thy foes; Enemies thou will surely still. 3. I see the heaven which thou has made; the moon and stars thou set in place;
- 4. Lower than God thou formed him man, and crowned with glory, honor still.
 5. Thy creation thou didst give, into his hand to oversee.
 6. How great thy name in all the earth, Thy glory praised above the heavins.

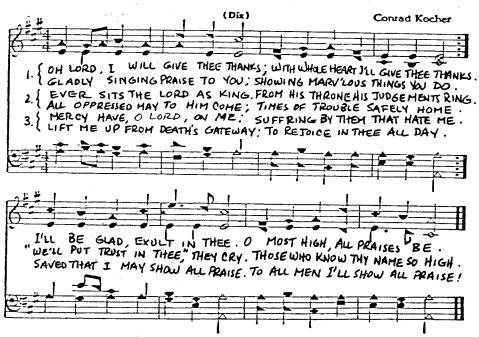




By mouths of habes and infants praised, O Lord, on earth how great thy name, Avenger, yea, and enemy; Thy bulwark shall confound them all. and what is man that thou shouldst mind, or son of man that thou dost care? and what is man that thou shouldst mind, or son of man that thou dost care? Oxen and sheep, beasts of the field, birds of the air, life in the sea. How great thy name in all the earth, O Lord, on earth how great thy name.

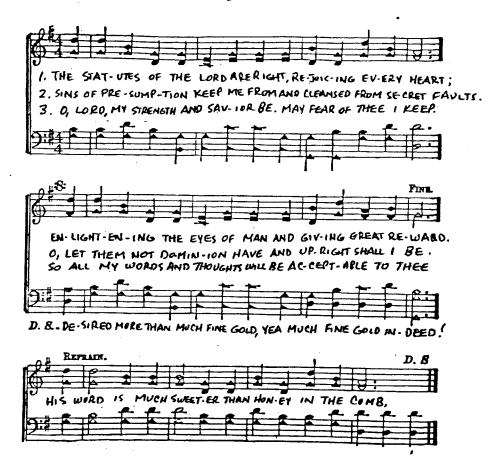


PSALM 9

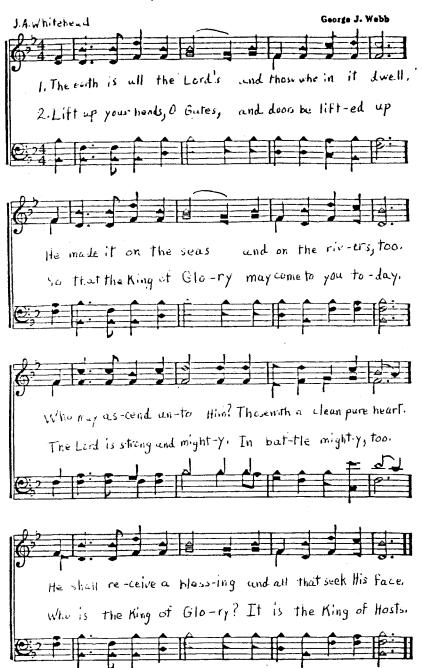


Tune: All Things Praise Thee

PSALM 19:8-14



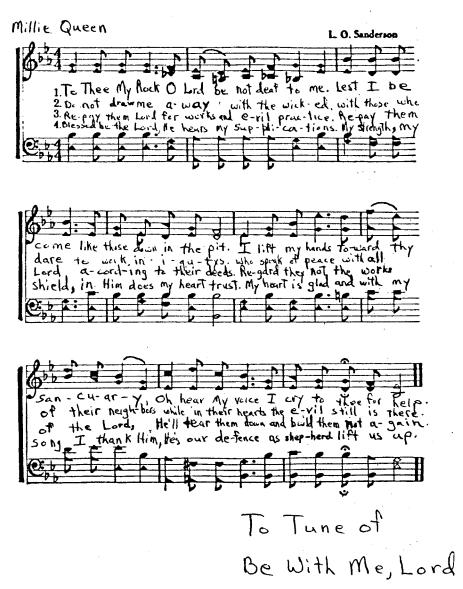
Psalm 24

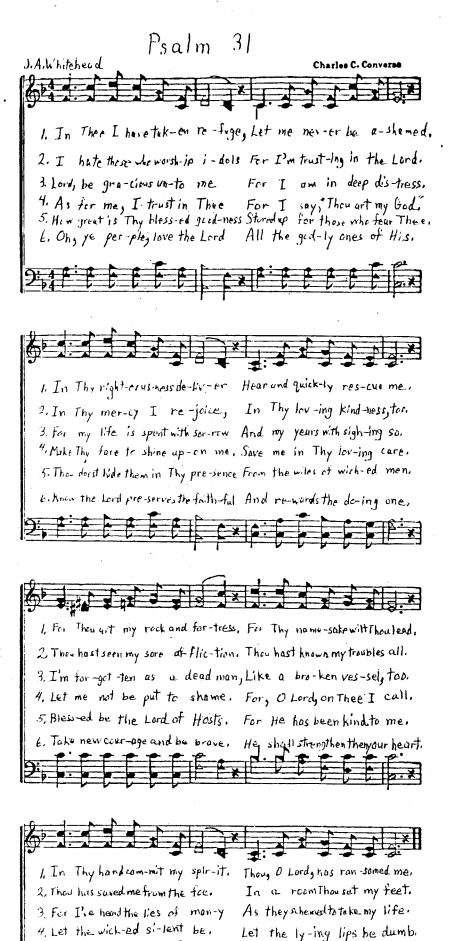


Tune: Stand Up for Jesus

a prayer for Help, and Praise for its answer.

Psalm 28 A Psalm of David





.5. Thou didst hear my voice of sor-row

6. All the ones who have the hope

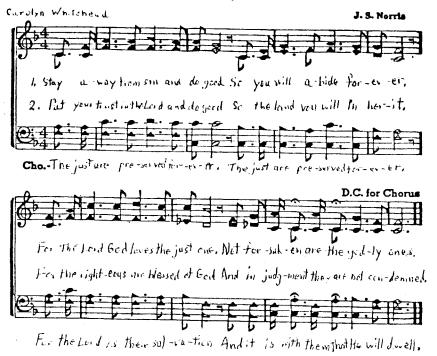
Tune:

When I cried cut loud to Thee,

In the one undon-ly Lord.

What a Friend he Have In Josus

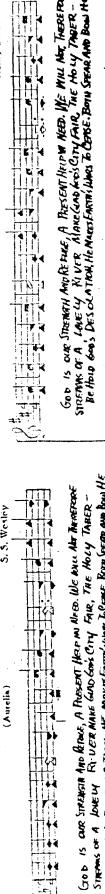
Psulm 37



Tune: Where He Leads Me

9





GOD IS OUR STREMATH AND RETURE, A PRESENT HELP WINED. WE MULL NOT, THEREFORE, STREMMS OF A LOWE LY RIVER Alane LAND GOD'S CITY FAIR, THE HOLY TABER - BE HOLD GOD'S DESCRITION, HE MALES FARTH I LAND TO CONDES. BOTH SPEAR AND BOWN HE

WE HOLD GOS DE SO LA TION, HE MAKES ENTINGUNG DOBLE. BOTH SPEAR AND BOW HE

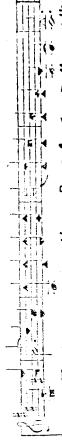


LE HE, THE ALL THE LAWY BE CHARGED AND THE LIVE PROMETERS OF CLESS IN MINCLE, ATHER TRUE CALCAS SHEET HE FATHER BATES, MO HEATHER BREAKHINGS BATES, MO HEATHER BREAKHINGS BATES, MO HEATHER BREAKHINGS BATES, MO HEATHER



FEAR, THO ALL THE EARTH BE GREWTH, AND THO THE LOSTY MOUNTAINS BE NA CLE, DIFFE DOELS ONE GOOMEN HEN. WHILE HUMAN KINSDONS TOTTER, AND BEINNETH, THEIR CHARBOTS BURN BITH FIRE, BE STILL, KNOWNE BEINNWY. I

15 to 15 to



To The SEA, The Traduce Whiters Road, And Shave he Municip Had.
WATHAN PARE, The LOD OF HASE IS WINGLES, OUR STRONGHOUS GROWS GOD.
HALTED FEE. THE LORD OF HASE IS WITHING OUR REFLICE, THOUSE GOD.





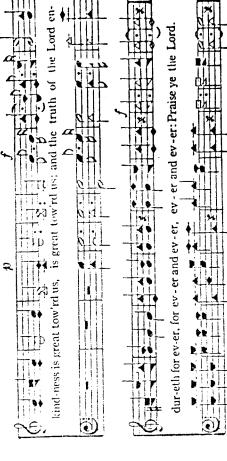
CAST IN TO THE SEA, THE TRUBLED WATERS ROAR, MAY SHORE THE MECONALY HIGH. HEATHER MATHERS MAKE, THE LOAD OF HOSTS IS WITH US, QUE STRENKHOLD, THOUSES GOD. WILL EALL FETTE BE. THE LOAD OF HOSTS IS WITH MY, CHER REFLUCE, JAKODS GOD.



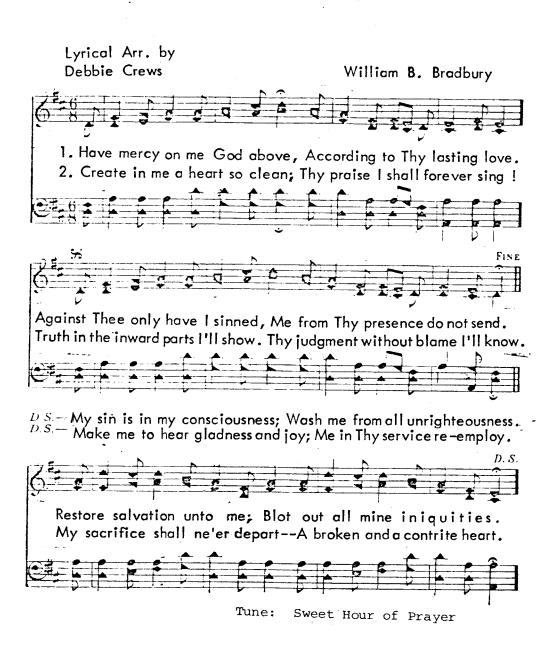
ye na-tions; Praise Him.all ye peo-ple, praise Him, all ye O praise the Lord, all



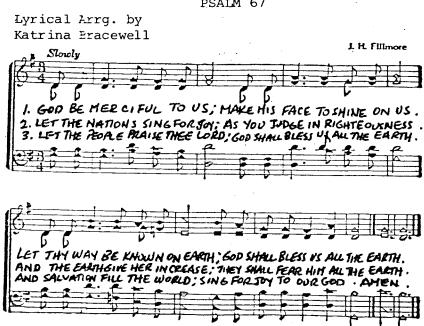
O praise the Lord, Praise Him, all ye peo - ple, For His mer-ci - ful peo - ple.



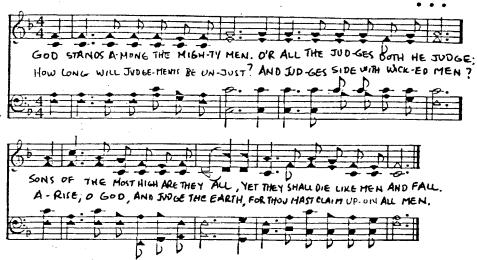
PSALM 51



PSALM 67

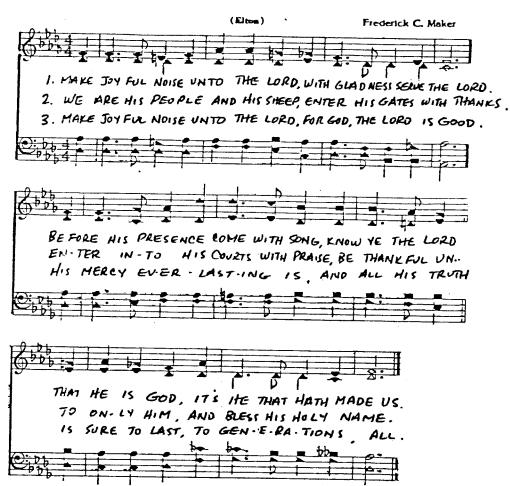


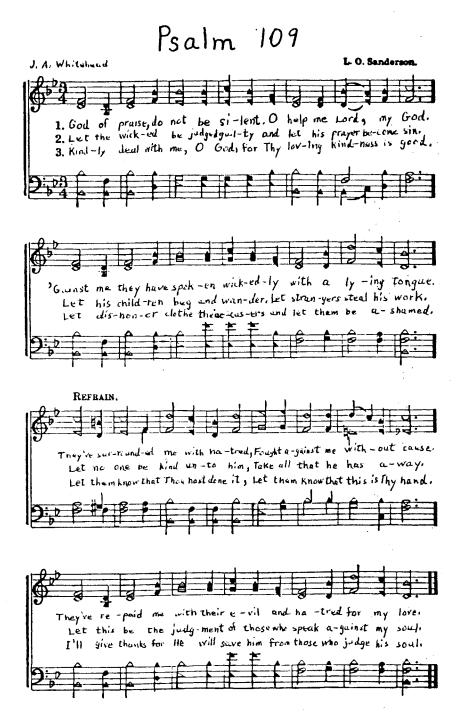
Tune: Savior, Grant Me Rest and Peace



Tune: Father, We Thank Thee

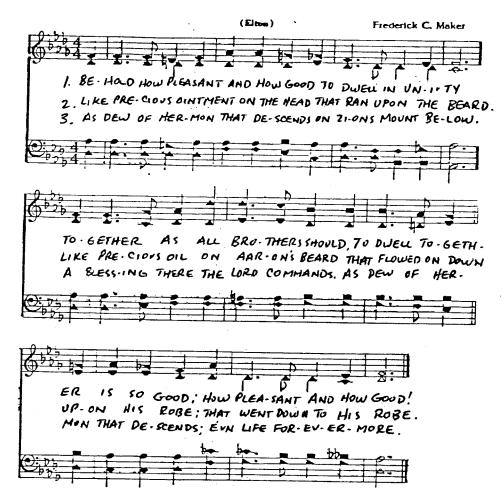
PSALM 100





Tune: For Me He Careth

PSALM 133





Tune: On Zion's Glorious Summit