



# Psalms

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## Background

- What are the names of this book, and what is the meaning of each? What does this tell us about the nature and contents of Psalms?
- What does the Lecture suggest about the author(s) of this book? How is this related to the character of this book? What do we learn from the superscriptions?
- How does the Lecture describe the nature of Psalms? What does this tell us about this book and how we should read it? How should we respond?
- According to the literary context, as described in the Lecture, what are the two ways we should interpret Psalms? Why is this significant?
- What do the superscriptions tell us about the historical contexts of various Psalms?
- Explain what it means that Psalms are purposely ambiguous in order to be universally applicable? Why is this important? How does it apply?
- How do the Psalms help us to understand and express our emotions in different life situations?
- How were the Psalms used in ancient Israel? What does this tell us about the ways they should be used in modern life? How should we respond?
- What are the three “life contexts” of the Psalms? Describe each life context and the typical Psalm expression in that situation. What is the significance of this? How does it apply?
- What are the things we should avoid in times of disorientation? What should we think and do instead?
- What point does the Lecture make about applying the appropriate expression to various situations? How should we respond?

## Outline

- What are the various ways that the book of Psalms can be organized?
- What are the various collections seen in Psalms? What does this tell us about those Psalms?
- What are the various ways certain Psalms have been classified? What does this tell us about those Psalms?
- What is the overall arrangement of Psalms highlighted by the Lecture? Why is this significant? What does this tell us about the way we should read Psalms? What does this tell us about life in general?

## Content

- What are the key verses of Psalms? What does each highlight? What does each tell us about the overall content and message of Psalms? What ideas does each demonstrate about the Psalms as a whole?
- Describe the three major form types of Psalms. What does each form type typically express? How does each form type fit with the three life contexts? Which type is most appropriate for each life context? Why? What is the significance of this?
- According to the Lecture, how do Psalms speak to us? How should we respond?

## Themes

- Explain each of the theological themes in your own words. What does each tell us about the content, message and significance of the Psalms? What does each tell us about God and how we should relate to Him? How should each idea be applied in current life?

## Review

- Review the overall organization of Psalms and work toward committing this to memory.
- Review the key themes of Psalms and work toward committing them to memory.