

IN
OUT

Psalms

PART 2

THE BLESSED
SHEPHERD, KING,
AND SAVIOR

(PSALMS 23–41)

IN & OUT®
PSALMS
PART 2
THE BLESSED SHEPHERD, KING, AND SAVIOR
(PSALMS 23–41)

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW . . .

We are excited that you have chosen to study *Psalms* with us. It will be such a blessing to your life because it is part of God's Word, His self-revelation, each part of which is essential to understanding the whole purpose of God.

As a book of the Bible, Psalms holds a unique place. It's a collection of poetry—prayer, praises, or songs—each psalm with its own message. They're not chapters, each building on the previous, intended to be read sequentially. And unlike prose, with chapters divided into paragraphs, verses in poetry are collected into “stanzas,” each stanza within a poem separated from the previous one by a blank line.

To understand the psalms, it's important to see the flow of thought between stanzas, namely how does one connect with the previous ones? For example:

- Does the stanza contrast with the previous one?
- Does it give the reason or result for what was said previously?
- Is it a request or a call to action due to the psalmist's circumstances spoken previously?
- Is it praise in light of who God is or what He has done mentioned previously?

Unlike English poetry that often emphasizes rhyme and meter (or rhythm), Hebrew poetry's most important element is parallelism, by which authors emphasize ideas. Sometimes that parallelism repeats a thought in other words. Other times, the parallelism adds new information to an original concept. A third type contrasts ideas, showing how they are different. A fourth uses analogies, likening one thing to another, the characteristics of which are similar.

David, who wrote many of the psalms, appointed Levites to serve in the house of the Lord. “They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem” (1 Chronicles 6:31-32).

We are invited to pour out our hearts to God, to come before Him and present our concerns. We were made to sing, to lift our voices in worship, to speak to God and to others “in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with [our] heart[s] to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).

So as you study the psalms with us, use them for prayer and praise of God . . . or as a springboard for your own songs or poetry of prayer and worship to God. Pour out your heart before Him and listen for His response. Grow your intimacy with God in your prayer and worship.

Waiting on the Lord

We are so glad you are joining us for this study! Our prayer for you is that God will use it to encourage you with the rich truths about Him and His character.

Psalms is divided into five books. In this course, we will study the second half of Book One—Psalms 23–41.

This course is designed for you to learn how to study the Psalms, so that you'll be able to study any of the psalms you'd like.

If you have not yet read the section titled “Before You Begin . . .,” do so now.

TAKING IT IN

1. **Psalm 23** is a familiar psalm, and for many it stirs up memories of comfort and encouragement during difficult times.
 - a. As you begin your study, ask God to help you observe the rich truths of Psalm 23 and look at it in a fresh way. Use the Psalm 23 Observation Worksheet in the Appendix for your study.
 - 1) Just before verse 1 is a superscription. Superscriptions contain information such as the writer, the occasion, who it is for, and how it is to be sung. In the Hebrew Bible, the superscription is verse 1.

Read the superscription. Who wrote this psalm?
 - 2) Begin by simply reading the psalm. As you do, look for the main characters and list them below.
 - 3) Read Psalm 23 again and mark *Lord* including pronouns such as *He* and *You*. For a suggested marking, see the bookmark on the back cover of your workbook.

- 4) Now read this short psalm a third time and mark the pronouns for David, such as *my, me, I*. You might color them blue.
- b. It will be beneficial to make a **Key Word Bookmark** for Psalms 23–41. Cut out the one on the back cover of your workbook. On the blank side, you'll list key words from Psalms and mark them as you will throughout our study.

Two key words found in Psalm 23 are *righteousness* and *lovingkindness*. Both are words you'll find repeated throughout Psalms.

On the reverse side of the bookmark, you'll see marking suggestions for some words often used in the Bible. An asterisk [*] in this workbook shows words with suggested markings.

- 1) Add the following words to your Key Word Bookmark:
- a) *righteousness* (see *righteous**)
 - b) *lovingkindness*
- 2) Read the psalm again and mark these two words.
- c. In the Appendix, you'll find pages titled "The Lord." Begin a list of what you learn about Him from this psalm. Include scripture references. We'll add to this as we study each psalm.

For example:

Psalm 23

- 1 my shepherd
- 2 makes me lie down in green pastures
leads me beside quiet waters

As shown above, note the verse numbers.

- d. Now, it's time to write a short theme for each stanza. Who and what is the stanza mostly about? Use words from the text to summarize the main thought in each. As you do this, consider how the second one relates to (compares, contrasts, or continues) the first.

Record the themes on the next page or in the margin or your Observation Worksheet.

1) verses 1-3

2) verses 4-6

- e. In the Appendix, you'll find "Psalms 23–41 at a Glance." Completing this At a Glance chart will give you a visual overview of Psalms 23–41 and is a helpful tool for future reference.

On the line for Psalm 23 under "Chapter Themes," record a theme for this psalm. To do this, use a few words from the text that summarize what the psalm is mainly about.

- f. Next, let's look at this psalm one stanza at a time. Keep your list on the Lord available as you do.

1) A blank line shows the end of the first stanza.

What did David say about Himself, "I" in verses 1-3? How does this relate to what he said about the Lord?

2) Now let's think about the second stanza, verses 4-6.

a) What were David's circumstances in verse 4?

b) What was the Lord's provision and how did it affect David?

- c) How did the scene change in verse 5?
- d) The psalmist made some statements about himself in the last verse. What confidence did he express?
2. We will be using a pattern for studying the psalms. If you studied Psalms Part 1, you're already familiar with it. As you study each psalm, use its Observation Worksheet from the Appendix.

In the Appendix you'll also find the page "General Pattern for Studying the Psalms." Keep this out so you can refer to it as we go through the lesson.

- a. To begin our study of **Psalm 24** we'll do as #1 of our general pattern says—read the superscription. With the exception of Psalm 33, which has no superscription, this same superscription is used for all the psalms we will study in this course, sometimes with additional information.
- b. Now do what #2 says. Read the psalm to see who the main characters are and write them below.
- c. Read #3 of our pattern. You probably noted that there are references to the *Lord* and to the one who may ascend into His hill (the pronouns *he*, *his*). Read again and mark these. You might use blue to mark *he*, *his*.
- d. Next we'll mark key words as #4 of our pattern says.

Add the following to your Key Word Bookmark and then read the psalm, using your bookmark to mark key words. The words we're putting on our bookmark begin to show us themes repeated throughout Psalms.

- 1) *salvation* (see *redeem**)
- 2) *seek*
- 3) *heart*

- e. Now add to your list about the Lord in the Appendix that you began with Psalm 23. This is #5 in our pattern.
- f. Let's evaluate each stanza to form a theme and note them below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet, #6. As you did with Psalm 23, use words from the text to summarize who and what each stanza is mostly about. Record your themes on the following page.
- 1) 1-6
 - 2) 7-10
- g. As #7 says, review your stanza themes, then use a few words from the text to summarize the main theme for Psalm 24. Record this on "Psalms 23–41 at a Glance."
- h. Now read #8 in our general pattern. Then let's examine the stanzas. Keep your list on the Lord available as you do.
- 1) Verses 1-6
 - a) Reread verses 1 and 2. Do the second lines in these verses seem to repeat, amplify, contrast, or complete (add to) the first line?
 - b) Now compare Genesis 1:1-2, 6-10 with verse 2.
 - c) List below and on the next page what you learn from this stanza about the one who can ascend into the Lord's hill and stand in His holy place. As you do, carefully think about what you list.

2) Now the second stanza.

a) First, note below the repeated commands.

b) Based on the first stanza's mention of ascending into the hill of the Lord and standing in His holy place, what might the gates and doors be referring to? Jot down your thoughts.

3. Now we move to **Psalm 25**.

a. Read the psalm, including the superscription, looking for the main characters.

b. Reread the psalm twice.

1) The first time, mark *Lord*, including synonyms and pronouns. Also mark the pronouns for David, the psalmist.

- 2) The second time, mark the following along with pronouns and synonyms:
 - a) *enemies*
 - b) *the humble, those who fear the Lord*
- c. Next, add the following to your Key Word Bookmark. Then read the psalm, marking the words on your bookmark.
 - 1) *wait*
 - 2) *deliver, redeem* * the way you mark *salvation*
 - 3) *sins, * transgressions*
 - 4) *covenant* *
- d. Add to your list on the Lord in the Appendix.
- e. Now use words from the text to write themes for the stanzas below or on your Observation Worksheet.
 - 1) 1-3

 - 2) 4-7

 - 3) 8-11

 - 4) 12-15

 - 5) 16-22
- f. Record a theme for this psalm at the top of your “At a Glance” chart.

g. Now let's look at the stanzas. Remember to keep your list on the Lord handy as you move through the text.

1) Verses 1-3.

What did David request of the Lord in this part of his prayer?

2) Now verses 4-7.

a) What did David request?

b) How do these requests connect with what he asked for in verses 1-3?

- 3) Review verses 8-11.
 - a) Who is this third stanza mainly about?
 - b) Consider verse 9. How does an attitude of humility fit with what the Lord does?
 - c) What did God say about those who keep His covenant?

- 4) Read the question that begins verses 12-15.
 - a) What do these verses say about the man who fears the Lord?
 - b) What did David say about himself?
 - c) How does this stanza connect with the previous ones?

5) Now let's focus on verses 16-22.

What do you learn about David? Below and on the next page, list what you observe about:

David's requests

David's circumstances

4. Let's study **Psalm 26**, but before we do, pray Psalm 25:4-5.
 - a. Now read the psalm, looking for the main characters.
 - b. You've probably noticed characters are sometimes individuals and sometimes groups. Read Psalm 26 again and mark David the psalmist, including pronouns.
 - c. Read another time and mark *Lord*, including pronouns. Also mark the *wicked*, including pronouns and synonyms, such as *deceitful men*.
 - d. Next mark the key words on your bookmark, as well as *examine (try, test)*.
 - e. Add to your list about the Lord.

f. Think through how the stanzas connect to one another as you summarize the stanzas below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet.

1) 1-7

2) 8-12

g. Is there a phrase from the text that summarizes what this psalm is mainly about? Write that theme on “Psalms 23–41 at a Glance.”

h. As we’ve seen previously, it’s helpful to think through the psalm, stanza by stanza. This is #8 of our general pattern.

Again, let’s walk through that process together with Psalm 26.

1) We’ll begin with the first stanza, verses 1-7.

a) What were David’s requests?

b) On what basis did he make these requests? List or summarize what he said about himself.

- 2) Now the second stanza.
 - a) What do you learn about David in verses 8-12?

- b) In contrast, how is the sinner described?

5. Finally, **Psalm 27**, our last psalm this week.
 - a. Read it, noting the superscription and identify main characters.
 - b. Read and mark those two main characters. Then read again and mark the group mentioned.
 - c. Again read the psalm at least a couple of times to mark the key words on your bookmark. If you see other words repeated several times, you may want to mark them also.
 - d. Don't forget to add to your list on the Lord.
 - e. As you've done in previous psalms, summarize the stanzas below or on your Observation Worksheet, observing how each stanza relates to the others.
 - 1) 1-3
 - 2) 4-6

3) 7-10

4) 11-14

- f. Record the theme for Psalm 27 on your At a Glance chart.
- g. With our list on the Lord in hand, let's begin examining the stanzas more closely.
- 1) Summarize what you learn about David and the Lord from verses 1-3.

 - 2) Read verses 4-6.
 - a) This time mark *house, temple, tabernacle, * tent* all the same way if you haven't already marked them.
 - b) What do you learn about the Lord's house, His temple?

4. According to Psalm 25, how does waiting for the Lord fit together with lifting up your soul to the Lord in prayer and worship? How do they fit in your life? Is there something you're waiting for?

Brothers and sisters, how are you seeking God's face—seeking to know Him more intimately? How are you waiting for Him? Confidently, with eagerness? Are you looking forward to dwelling in His house forever?

*Wait for the LORD;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the LORD.*

—Psalm 27:14

PSALM 23

Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme _____

A Psalm of David.

THE LORD is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside quiet waters.

3 He restores my soul;

He guides me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil, for You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my
life,

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

PSALM 24

Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme _____

A Psalm of David.

THE earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains,

The world, and those who dwell in it.

2 For He has founded it upon the seas

And established it upon the rivers.

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?

And who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood

And has not sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD

And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of those who seek Him,

Who seek Your face—even Jacob.

¹Selah.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates,

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,

That the King of glory may come in!

8 Who is the King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty,

The LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O gates,

And lift *them* up, O ancient doors,

That the King of glory may come in!

¹ *Selah* may mean: *Pause, Crescendo* or *Musical interlude*

10 Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
He is the King of glory.

Selah.

PSALM 25

Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme _____

A Psalm of David.

- TO You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- 2 O my God, in You I trust,
Do not let me be ashamed;
Do not let my enemies exult over me.
- 3 Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed;
Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.
- 4 Make me know Your ways, O LORD;
Teach me Your paths.
- 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
For You I wait all the day.
- 6 Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses,
For they have been from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
According to Your lovingkindness remember me,
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.
- 8 Good and upright is the LORD;
Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
- 9 He leads the humble in justice,
And He teaches the humble His way.
- 10 All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth
To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
- 11 For Your name's sake, O LORD,
Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

- 12 Who is the man who fears the LORD?
He will instruct him in the way he should choose.
- 13 His soul will abide in prosperity,
And his descendants will inherit the land.
- 14 The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him,
And He will make them know His covenant.
- 15 My eyes are continually toward the LORD,
For He will pluck my feet out of the net.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
For I am lonely and afflicted.
- 17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
Bring me out of my distresses.
- 18 Look upon my affliction and my trouble,
And forgive all my sins.
- 19 Look upon my enemies, for they are many,
And they hate me with violent hatred.
- 20 Guard my soul and deliver me;
Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You.
- 21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
For I wait for You.
- 22 Redeem Israel, O God,
Out of all his troubles.

PSALM 26

Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme _____

A Psalm of David.

VINDICATE me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,

And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and try me;

Test my mind and my heart.

3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,

And I have walked in Your truth.

4 I do not sit with deceitful men,

Nor will I go with pretenders.

5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,

And I will not sit with the wicked.

6 I shall wash my hands in innocence,

And I will go about Your altar, O LORD,

7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving

And declare all Your wonders.

8 O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house

And the place where Your glory dwells.

9 Do not take my soul away *along* with sinners,

Nor my life with men of bloodshed,

10 In whose hands is a wicked scheme,

And whose right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;

Redeem me, and be gracious to me.

12 My foot stands on a level place;

In the congregations I shall bless the LORD.

PSALM 27

Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme _____

A Psalm of David.

- THE LORD is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the defense of my life;
Whom shall I dread?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh,
My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though a host encamp against me,
My heart will not fear;
Though war arise against me,
In *spite of* this I shall be confident.
- 4 One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD
And to meditate in His temple.
- 5 For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle;
In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;
He will lift me up on a rock.
- 6 And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,
And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.
- 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice,
And be gracious to me and answer me.

- 8 *When You said, “Seek My face,” my heart said to You,
“Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.”*
- 9 Do not hide Your face from me,
Do not turn Your servant away in anger;
You have been my help;
Do not abandon me nor forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
- 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
But the LORD will take me up.
- 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD,
And lead me in a level path
Because of my foes.
- 12 Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries,
For false witnesses have risen against me,
And such as breathe out violence.
- 13 *I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness
of the LORD
In the land of the living.*
- 14 Wait for the LORD;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the LORD.

PSALMS 23–41 AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Author:

Key Words:

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Psalms Part 2

Psalms 23–41 at a Glance

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GENERAL PATTERN FOR STUDYING THE PSALMS

1. Read the superscription for any background information about the psalm.
2. Read the psalm to observe who the main characters are.
3. Read again and mark the main characters. Always mark the Lord, even if His name is not mentioned often in the psalm.
4. Read again and mark key words.
5. List truths about the Lord.
6. Summarize a theme for each stanza from what you've observed, thinking about the flow of thought from stanza to stanza.
7. Review your stanza themes, then use a few words from the psalm to summarize the main theme.
8. Reason through the psalm stanza by stanza.
9. Now consider the following: What do you learn about the Lord in this psalm and how does this impact your life and relationship with Him? What can you learn for your life from the people in this psalm?

THE LORD

