

## Psalms 116 – 150

Psalm 116: (a continuation of the great hallel (113-118) used at the major Jewish festivals)

- How can we repay the Lord for all his goodness to us?

Psalm 117: (quoted in Romans 15:7-11, God always intended salvation for the Gentiles, the shortest chapter and the center of the Hebrew Bible)

- For what two things does the psalmist encourage us to praise the Lord?

Psalm 118: (Quoted about and by Jesus, one of Luther's favorite psalms)

- Who is the stone the builders rejected? Explain (Mt 21:42, Mk 12:10, Lk 20:17, Ac 4:11, 1 Pe 2:7)
- O Lord, save us (v. 25) is Hosanna in Hebrew. Who quoted these verses? When?

Psalm 119: (a very complicated acrostic poem, 22 stanzas, one for each Hebrew letter, each stanza containing 8 verses all starting with the same Hebrew letter)

There are five major themes in this psalm:

1. God's Word rebukes, corrects, and condemns. But it also gives life.
2. The characteristics of the Word: righteous, dependable, unshakeable, limitless.
3. Our attitude toward the Word, characterized by such words as delight and love.
4. The blessings of God's Word. For example, it gives life, freedom, light, and stability.
5. Opposition from enemies of the Word and the psalmist's attitude toward them.

- In section 1, (v. 1-8) find seven different terms for God's word.
- What helps us keep from sinning? (v11)
- What should be our prayer whenever we study God's word? (v 18)
- When only will we run in the path of God's commands? (v 32)
- What gives us comfort in suffering? (v 50)
- Why does the psalmist say that it is good to be afflicted? (v 71)
- What aspect of God and his word is highlighted in v. 89-96?
- What does God's word do for us? V. 97-104
- What do we want to learn to say with the psalmist? (v 115, v 128)
- What about God and his word makes us tremble (v 161, 168)?
- Why do we still have hope? (v 170, 174)

Psalm 120: (120-133 are psalms of ascent, priests ascending temple steps, pilgrims going up to Jerusalem, exiles returning to Jerusalem)

- What does living on earth among sin and unbelief move us to do?

Psalm 121:

- What thoughts from this psalm are most comforting to you?

Psalm 122:

- Why is the psalmist (why are we) so happy to go to the house of the Lord?

Psalm 123:

- What point is the psalmist making with the illustration of slaves, masters, maids and mistresses?

Psalm 124:

- What would happen if God were not on our side?
- How do we know he is on our side?

Psalm 125:

- When can we be confident that we will not be shaken?

Psalm 126:

- What was the greatest thing about the fact that God brought people back to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon?

Psalm 127: (one of two psalms by Solomon)

- What is the relationship between hard work and God's blessings?
- How are parents to view their children?

Psalm 128:

- What blessings are promised to those who fear the Lord?

Psalm 129:

- What may our enemies do? What can they never do?

Psalm 130: (the sixth penitential psalm)

- In what sense is it true that God does not keep a record of our sins?

Psalm 131:

- What are things too wonderful for us with which we need not concern ourselves?

Psalm 132: (occasion 2 Samuel 7, 2 Chronicles 6:41-42)

- What did David promise to do? Why?
- What did God promise David? How was this fulfilled?

Psalm 133: (the second last of the psalms of ascent, the pilgrims have arrived)

- What is especially good and pleasant?

Psalm 134: (the last of the psalms of ascent, the pilgrims prepare to return home)

- About whom are the pilgrims speaking in the psalm?
- What do they ask them to do? What do the pilgrims ask God to do?

Psalm 135: (called the “mosaic” psalm since it makes use of verses from so many other places in the Bible)

- List some reasons the psalmist gives that the Lord is worthy of praise.

Psalm 136: (the conclusion of the great hallel, usually sung at the end of the Passover celebration)

- For what reason and for that reason alone does God act on our behalf?

Psalm 137:

- Why would the Babylonians want to hear the songs of Zion?
- Why didn't the psalmist want to sing them?

Psalm 138:

- What is it that David, and we, pray for? (v 4)
- What is our part in making this happen?

Psalm 139:

- David speaks of the omniscience of God. How is God's omniscience scary? How is it comforting?

Psalm 140:

- Why doesn't David want the plans of the wicked to succeed? (v 8)

Psalm 141:

- When are our prayers like incense and like the evening sacrifice?
- How can a righteous man striking us be a kindness?

Psalm 142: (occasion 1 Samuel 22 & 24)

- How did David feel as he was writing this psalm? (v 4)
- What allowed him to move on?

Psalm 143: (the last (7<sup>th</sup>) penitential psalm)

- What does David ask God not to do?
- What requests does David make of God?

Psalm 144:

- Some Christians today are offended by allusions to Christians as soldiers doing battle, and references like “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Why might this be the case? Why is it important that we see ourselves as soldiers doing battle?

Psalm 145: (an acrostic psalm)

- The psalmist lists many reasons that God is worthy of our praise every day. What is another reason for us to give praise to God every day? (v 4)

Psalm 146: (the first of five Hallelujah Psalms that conclude the book of Psalms)

- Why is it foolish to put your trust in princes? (What makes God different)

Psalm 147: (some attribute this psalm to Haggai and Zechariah who encouraged the exiles to finish the rebuilding of the temple)

- In whom does the Lord delight?
- Especially for what blessing is the Lord to be praised? (v 19)

Psalm 148: (this psalm has a chiasmic arrangement)

- From whom/what does God deserve praise?

Psalm 149:

- What makes a song a “new” song?

Psalm 150:

- What does this psalm say about how God is to be praised?
- What does this psalm have to say to those who are opposed to “praise songs”?