

## GREATEST CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE-03

### Psalms, Chapter 01

#### I. INTRODUCTION.

##### A. Scripture text: **Psalms 1:1-6.**

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! [2] But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. [3] And he will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. [4] The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. [5] Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. [6] For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

##### B. Of course, the entire Bible is important; but some passages speak louder than others do. I have chosen 20 chapters that I believe are "mountains" in the landscape of the Bible.

- |                    |              |              |               |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Gen. 01.        | 6. Psa. 119. | 11. Mt. 06.  | 16. 1Cor. 13. |
| 2. Ex. 20.         | 7. Prov. 31. | 12. Mt. 07.  | 17. 1Cor. 15. |
| 3. <u>Psa. 01.</u> | 8. Isa. 40.  | 13. Jn. 17.  | 18. Eph. 02.  |
| 4. Psa. 23.        | 9. Isa. 53.  | 14. Ac. 02.  | 19. Heb. 11.  |
| 5. Psa. 51.        | 10. Mt. 05.  | 15. Rom. 08. | 20. Jas. 02   |

#### II. UNDERSTANDING THE PSALMS.

##### A. "Psalms" is unique among the books of the Bible:

1. It is the longest book.
2. It is the center book.
3. It is a song book.
4. It is the book most frequently quoted in the NT.

##### B. The psalms were written by several different individuals:

1. The source of them all is God.
2. The oldest manuscripts have inscriptions at the beginning of some of the psalms giving authors, and sometimes, circumstances of the writing.
3. These inscriptions are very old.
4. They attribute psalms to:
  - a. David = 73 psalms.
  - b. Solomon = 2 psalms.
  - c. Ethan = 1 psalm.
  - d. Sons of Koran = 8-10 psalms.
  - e. Asaph = 12 psalms.
  - f. Moses = 1 psalm.
  - g. Heman = 1 psalm.
  - h. No heading given for nearly 50 psalms.

5. Peter and John quote from Psa. 2 and attribute it to David, (Ac. 4:25).

6. The Hebrews writer attributes Psa. 95 to David, (Heb. 4:7).

##### C. The time of writing would be from Moses, Psa. 90, (1500BC) to 500BC for Psa. 137, commemorating the rededication of the temple in time of Ezra.

##### D. Psalms are "profitable for doctrine" (see 2Tim. 3:16,17):

1. It is the most frequently quoted book of the OT by NT writers.
2. It is quoted to establish doctrine.
3. Psalms are frequently quoted as "He says," (God) or "the Holy Spirit says."

##### E. The book of Psalms is divided into five parts like the books of the Law of Moses:

1. Psalms 001-041; about man and creation - corresponds to Genesis.
2. Psalms 042-072; about Israel and redemption - corresponds to Exodus.
3. Psalms 073-089; about worship and the temple - corresponds to Leviticus.
4. Psalms 096-106; about our sojourn on the earth - corresponds to Numbers.
5. Psalms 107-150; about praise and the word of God - corresponds to Deuteronomy.

##### F. Some characteristics of the Psalms that will help apply them to our own lives:

1. Their literary form is Hebrew poetry.
2. Jesus' use of the Psalms gives us an indication of their value.

3. The predictions made in the Psalms about X, show their dependability.
4. We will notice some guidelines for their use today.

### III. PSALM 1:1-3.

#### A. The text:

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! [2] But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. [3] And he will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

#### B. The Blessedness of the Righteous.

#### C. The righteous man is characterized by:

##### 1. His abstention from evil (1:1).

Notice the thrice-repeated formula of verse 1:

- |    |                                    |          |          |    |           |
|----|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----|-----------|
| a. | The righteous person does not ...  | walk,    | stand,   | or | sit.      |
| b. | They do not take their place in... | counsel, | way,     | or | seat.     |
| c. | They are not like the...           | wicked,  | sinners, | or | scoffers. |

##### 2. His delight in God's law (1:2).

The righteous person delights, and meditates in the law, and in the Lord.

##### 3. His prosperity; being like a tree nourished by plenteous water (1:3).

- a. "Transplanted" which implies that the prosperity is due to God's action.
- b. Yielding fruit as it should (in season).
- c. Steadfast; the leaf does not wither.

### IV. PSALM 1:4,5.

#### A. The text:

The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. [5] Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

#### B. The Fate of the Wicked.

1. The simile continues and the wicked are seen as chaff.
2. They are driven away (God will not bless them as He does the righteous).
3. They will not stand (approved) in the judgment.
4. They will not be grouped with the assembly of the righteous (see Mt. 25:31-34a).

### V. PSALM 1:6.

#### A. The text:

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

#### B. God Knows (watches over and preserves).

#### C. The word 'know' has a deeper meaning than a relationship. It means God's great providential care both physically and spiritually.

#### D. The choice is clear: do God's will and be blessed or reject God and be damned.

### VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

#### A. The first Psalm is a perfect introduction the rest of the psalms.

#### B. It cuts to the most important aspect and challenges the reader at the entry to the Psalter to make clear his decision before entering. Live under God's care, or do not live at all!

#### C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.