

THE MINI STUDIES

~A MONTH IN PSALMS 90-118~

These mini studies are designed to keep you in the Word by building daily habits studying the Bible *and* by helping you grow in your Bible study skills of observation, interpretation, and application. I have purposely kept these studies short, limiting the questions, but you can bless your own spiritual socks by adding your own observations about the psalm. You can train yourself to ask and then answer questions like “*What situation does the psalmist find himself in?*” “*What does the psalmist ask of God?*” “*What does the psalmist know about God?*” “*How does God help the psalmist?*”

Please note that these mini studies *primarily* and *purposely* focus on what you can *observe* in the text itself. Without a doubt, your understanding would be greatly aided if I added cross references to provide insight into what the psalm writer is expressing. The use of cross references is a valuable Bible study tool and is one of many tools I employ in my *longer* Bible studies. Yet taking the time to do this kind of systematizing of what the Bible teaches on a subject would defeat the purpose of these daily, mini lessons. Please use these mini studies as a way hone your observation Bible study skills by simply looking at text itself.

To deepen your study time as you read through each psalm, or *any* portion of Scripture, learn to ask: “*What can I learn about God’s character from this Psalm or portion of Scripture?*” “*What truths transcend time and culture that I can apply to my own life?*” “*Are there any attitudes in my own heart that need changed?*” “*What truths can be in my mind and heart throughout the day?*”

Ready to get started?

1. Day 1. *Read Psalm 90.*

- a. This wonderful psalm was written by Moses. What does he communicate about God in verse 1? Why would this truth be particularly encouraging to someone who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years (See Numbers 14:20-38)? Consider what it means in your life when God is your *dwelling* place. How does it change your perspective and responses?
- b. What else does Moses reflect upon in verse 2?
- c. Compare what you learn about God versus man from verses 3-6.

- d. How does sin affect your relationship with God according to verses 7-11?
 - e. After reflecting on God's holiness, what does Moses ask of the Lord in verses 12-17?
 - f. Consider how you can apply verses 12 and 14 in your heart and life today.
2. Day 2. *Read Psalm 91.*
- a. What picture of God and His care are described in verses 1-4?
 - b. What is the result of entrusting yourself to God's care and protection according to verses 5-13?
 - c. What steps of trust and faith do you see the psalmist making in verses 1-13?
 - d. How does the Lord respond to those who love Him according to verses 14-16?
 - e. What truths about God strengthen your heart today as seen in this psalm?
3. Day 3. *Read Psalm 92.*
- a. What is it good to do according to verses 1-3? Why? See verse 4.

- b. What do you learn about God versus those who don't put their trust in Him from verses 5-9?
 - c. List what you learn about those who put their trust in the Lord from verses 10-15.
 - d. What truths from this psalm encourage and strengthen you today? What steps of faith do you want to apply?
4. Day 4. *Read Psalm 93.*
- a. What do you learn about God from verse 1? How do those truths affect the world?
 - b. How does the created world respond to God? Why? See verses 3-4.
 - c. What final aspect of praise for God does the psalmist call to mind in verse 5?
 - d. How can meditating on these truths about God help you with the things that concern you today?
5. Day 5. *Read Psalm 94.*
- a. What is the psalmist requesting of the Lord in verses 1-2?
 - b. What situation prompts him to pray this way? See verses 3-7.
 - c. What does the psalmist desire the wicked to understand? See verses 8-11.

- d. What truths bolster the psalmist as he thinks about the Lord according to verses 12-15?

- e. What other truths about God strengthen the psalmist's heart in verses 16-19?

- f. What does the psalmist understand about living a life that pleases God from verses 20-23?

6. Day 6. *Read Psalm 95.*

- a. How are you to worship the Lord according to verses 1-5? What reasons are given for worshipping God in this way (see verses 1-5)?

- b. What truths about God does the psalmist put on display as he calls you to worship the Lord in verses 1-5?

- c. What further instructions for worship does the psalmist urge you to engage in? See verse 6.

- d. What reason for worshipping God is given according to verse 7?

- e. What does God desire from all those who worship Him according to verses 7-11?

- f. What lessons about worshipping God do you see in this psalm?

7. Day 7. *Read Psalm 96.*

- a. What are you to do in the opening verses of this psalm? See verses 1-3.
 - b. What reason is given in verses 4-6 about why you should do the things from verses 1-3?
 - c. More elements of your worship are outlined in verses 7-9. Summarize what you see in those verses about how you are to worship the Lord.
 - d. What do you need to know, understand, and believe so you can tell it to others according to verse 10?
 - e. What does the psalmist call creation to do from verses 11-12? Why? See verse 13.
 - f. What things do you need to “tweak” so your worship of the Lord in your prayer time reflects the example you see in Psalm 96?
8. Day 8. *Read Psalm 97.*
- a. What picture of God do you see in verses 1-5?
 - b. What is the purpose of seeing God in all His glory according to verse 6?
 - c. With a view of such a glorious God, what does the psalmist urge of all people according to verse 7?
 - d. How did Israel respond to this call to worship the Lord according to verse 8? Why (see verse 9)?

- e. How is life different, transformed, or changed because you are living for that majestic God? See verses 10-12.

9. Day 9. *Read Psalm 98.*

- a. What do you learn about the Lord from verses 1-3?
- b. After seeing the greatness of God, how should you respond according to verses 4-6?
- c. What does the psalmist call upon creation to do according to verses 7-8? Why? See verse 9.
- d. What aspects of this psalm do you need to incorporate more of in your own prayer time? Take some time right now to praise the Lord in Psalm 98 fashion.

10. Day 10. *Read Psalm 99.*

- a. List what you learn about God from verses 1-5.
- b. The psalmist names some of those who served in the Lord's presence. What do you learn about them from verses 6-8?
- c. Knowing that God is unchanging in His character and nature, you can be comforted God remains the same for your life today. What are you called upon to do according to verse 9?

- d. Take some time to think on God's attributes as seen in this psalm. How can this view of God encourage you when life seems overwhelming?

11. Day 11. *Read Psalm 100.*

- a. List all the actions of worship according to verses 1-4.
- b. Describe what these actions of worship ask of you when it comes to your inward heart responses and your outward practice.
- c. Why should you even "bother" serving God this way? See verses 1-5.

12. Day 12. *Read Psalm 101.*

- a. In this psalm, David's desire to honor the Lord shows up in his many "I will" statements and things he intends to do. List the things David wants to do to worship the Lord from verses 1-5.
- b. What are the characteristics of the those who David will learn from and follow? See verses 6-7.
- c. As David considers the example of those who follow the Lord faithfully, what attitude and motivation does it build in him? See verse 8.
- d. David's response is very all in and committed to God's way. All who follow the Lord readily concede that there's a battle between the flesh and the Spirit who resides in us. We daily face the disparity between desire and practice, yet our longing to do what is right always precedes what we live out. Consider the desires and motivations of your own heart in following the Lord. Do you find in your own heart similar desires to David's as recorded in this psalm?

13. Day 13. *Read Psalm 102.*

- a. How does the psalmist describe himself in verses 1-7? What does he desire the Lord to do in those verses?
- b. What are some of the trials the psalmist is facing in verses 8-11?
- c. Though the psalmist is low in spirit, he by faith lifts his soul to truths about God. What do you learn from those truths about God that revive your soul from verses 12-17?
- d. What does the psalmist want future generation to know about the Lord from verses 18-22?
- e. What contrast does the psalmist paint about his life and the eternity of God in verses 23-28?
- f. List at least one thing from this psalm that has encouraged you today.

14. Day 14. *Read Psalm 103.*

- a. What does David desire to do in verses 1-2? What are some of the “benefits” from God that he lists in verses 3-5? Add a few more from your own life.
- b. David continues to think on the Lord in the following verses. List what you learn about God from verses 6-14.
- c. What contrast is painted between man and God according to verses 15-18?

- d. What do you learn about the Lord from verse 19? How should that final picture of God prompt you to worship according to verse 20-22?
- e. What truths from this psalm do you desire to take with you today?

15. Day 15. *Read Psalm 104.*

- a. This psalm rejoices in God's care over all His works, but first the psalmist establishes that God's power and might enables Him to do so. What do you learn about the Lord from verses 1-4?
- b. What does God do in verses 5-13?
- c. How is God's care for creation seen in verses 14-23?
- d. What do you learn about the Lord and creation from verses 24-30?
- e. How does the psalmist respond to the Lord after he reflects on the Lord's unchanging care and power to sustain creation? See verses 31-35.
- f. What truths in this psalm strengthen your heart as you consider God's care in your life?

16. Day 16. *Read Psalm 105.*

- a. List the important things you are called to do according to verses 1-7.

- b. Verses 8-24 summarize the early part of Israel's story. How did God care for the fledgling nation?

 - c. God's sovereign power over all things is seen in the next section of this psalm. What are some of the ways God's power was put on display as He watched over Israel from verses 25-44?

 - d. Verses 42-44 reveal God's faithfulness to keep His promise to Abraham. How do you see God maintaining His promise in this psalm? Be sure to look at verses 8-12 as you begin.

 - e. All of God's interactions with Israel are summed up with one grand purpose in verse 45. What do you learn? How is that true for you too?

 - f. How can you apply verses 1-7 in light of all you've observed about the Lord from this psalm?
17. Day 17. Read Psalm 106.
- a. Psalm 106 is like Psalm 105 in that it summarizes and recounts different pieces of Israel's history. What things about God cause the psalmist to rejoice according to verses 1-3? What does he ask of the Lord in verses 4-5? Why?

 - b. What does the psalmist confess to the Lord in verses 6-7? In spite of that stark reality, how did God respond? See verses 8-12.

 - c. How would you describe the interactions between God and Israel from verses 13-43? Think of one or two words that describe Israel's response to God's incredible faithfulness.

- d. What do you learn about God in verses 44-46? How do those truths about His character and nature encourage you when you feel overwhelmed by your own unfaithfulness and unbelief?
- e. The psalmist's purpose in reviewing Israel's history is revealed in verses 47-48. What does he ask and what does he hope to do (see verses 47-48)?

18. Day 18. *Read Psalm 107.*

- a. This psalm gives you a few things to do right off the bat. What are they? See verses 1-3.
- b. In this psalm you can read about 4 different groups of people, their circumstances, their needs, and how the Lord provided for them. The first scenario is given in verses 4-9. What situation does this group find themselves in (verses 4-9)?
- c. From verses 4-9 please answer: What is this group's need? What did they do in their need? What did the Lord do to meet their need according to verses 4-9?
- d. What situation does the next group find themselves in according to verses 10-16? What reason is given for this group's afflictions?
- e. From verses 10-16 please answer: What is their need as seen in these verses? What did they do in their need? What did the Lord do to meet their need?
- f. You'll finish looking at this psalm tomorrow, but for now, consider some of the encouragements you can glean about the Lord and His work in the lives of His children from verses 1-16.

19. Day 19. Read Psalm 107.

- a. People who need the Lord's help are depicted in the third scenario of this psalm. What situation does this group find themselves in according to verses 17-22? What reason is given for this group's afflictions?
- b. From verses 17-22 please answer: What is this group's need? What did they do when they recognized their need? What did the Lord do to meet their need?
- c. The final scenario is seen in verses 23-32. What situation does this group find themselves in according to these verses?
- d. From verses 23-32 please answer: What is this group's need? What did they do in their need? What did the Lord do to meet their need?
- e. In verses 33-42 what do you learn about God and His ability to meet you in every situation and difficulty in life?
- f. What does the psalmist call you to do in verse 43? Why is verse 43 such a practical response to the varied instances of life and our own hearts?

20. Day 20. Read Psalm 108.

- a. What does David proclaim about his heart from verse 1?
- b. What does David do as a result of his heart's fullness? See verses 2-6.
- c. What truths about God prompt this response? See verses 2-6.

- d. What does God proclaim in verses 7-9? What message about God comes through loud and clear, even if you don't understand the specific details?
- e. What things does David plead before the Lord in verses 10-13? What truths about God comfort Him? How can those same truths comfort you?

21. Day 21. *Read Psalm 109.*

- a. What situation does David bring before the Lord in verses 1-5?
- b. David appeals to God to bring justice against his oppressor in verses 6-15, 19-20. How would you characterize the things he asks of the Lord in those verses?
- c. What reason does David give for his unusual request of the Lord in verses 16-18?
- d. What is David's prayer request in verses 21-29?
- e. What reasons does David give for making such a bold request? See verses 21 and 26. How can those very reasons give you boldness in your own requests to the Lord?
- f. What final truths do you learn about God in verses 30-31? How can those same truths encourage you today?

22. Day 22. *Read Psalm 110.*

- a. David wrote this psalm reflecting on the Lord's many kindnesses to him, yet it is also predictive of Christ. Many prophecies have both a near and a far fulfillment.

In this case, the near fulfillment is in David, while the far fulfillment is in Jesus Christ. First, consider what the Lord God says to David in verse 1.

- b. What other pronouncements of blessing does the Lord God make to David in verses 2-4?
 - c. What does David know and understand about God's help as seen in verses 5-7?
 - d. From this psalm, summarize what David understood about God's intentions for him and his earthly rule?
 - e. From this psalm, what things can you identify that are true about the Lord Jesus' rule and reign?
 - f. How does this psalm strengthen and encourage your heart today?
23. Day 23. *Read Psalm 111.*
- a. David begins this psalm with the intention of his heart. What is it according to verse 1?
 - b. What do you learn about God's works from verses 2-9?
 - c. What is your responsibility and privilege when it comes to God's works? See verses 2 and 4.
 - d. How can you apply verses 2 and 4 in your life today and every day?

- e. When you apply verses 1-9, what is the result in your life according to verse 10?

24. Day 24. *Read Psalm 112.*

- a. What do you learn right off the bat in verse 1?
- b. Before you go any further in your study, consider to what degree your own heart and life reflects verse 1.
- c. How does God bless those who seek Him according to verses 2-3?
- d. What is the character of the upright man who loves the Lord? See verses 4-10.
- e. Next to verse 1, verses 7-8 contain life-changing truths. When your life belongs to God and you delight in Him, what is true about you according to verses 7-8?

25. Day 25. *Read Psalm 113.*

- a. What are all those who seek and serve the Lord supposed to do according to verse 1?
- b. What further details about praising the Lord do you see in verses 2-4? Why are you to praise the Lord according to verse 4?
- c. More details about God are given in verses 5-9. What does He do and why is it praiseworthy?

- d. What further reasons for praising the Lord can you discover from your own life?

26. Day 26. Read Psalm 114.

- a. What do you learn about God's dwelling place according to verses 1-2?
- b. How did creation respond to the Lord according to verses 3-6?
- c. What admonition is given to all creation according to verses 7-8? What reason is given in those verses?

27. Day 27. Read Psalm 115.

- a. Where should glory be given and why according to verse 1?
- b. What contrast is painted between God and the idols of the nations in verses 2-8?
- c. Rather than trusting in idols or any manmade anything, what are you urged to do according to verses 9-11? Why?
- d. What happens when the Lord is *mindful* or *remembers* those who fear Him according to verses 12-15?
- e. What possibly surprising truths do you learn from verses 16-18 about God and mankind? How should these truths change your daily life according to verses 16-18?

28. Day 28. Read Psalm 116.

- a. Why does the psalmist love the Lord according to verse 1? List some of the reasons why you love the Lord.
- b. How does the comfort of God's lovingkindness and attentiveness move the psalmist according to verses 2-4?
- c. In his distress, the psalmist recounts the life-giving truths about God that bring steadfast courage and hope. What do you learn from verses 5-11? How does the psalmist describe his situation in those verses?
- d. The psalmist desires to bless the Lord for His many kindnesses. What does he desire to do according to verses 12-19?
- e. What are some ways you can put verse 12 into practice in your life today?

29. Day 29. Read Psalm 117.

- a. This short psalm is long on truths to encourage and strengthen your faith. List as many observations as you can about this psalm.
- b. What are some of the ways you have experienced the Lord's lovingkindness in your life?
- c. How is God's truthfulness or faithfulness praiseworthy?
- d. How does God's eternity intersect with God's other attributes? Why is His eternity worthy of praise?

30. Day 30. Read Psalm 118.

- a. Why are you to give thanks to the Lord according to verse 1? What other groups are called to give thanks to the Lord in verses 2-4?
- b. What does the refrain from verses 1-4 reinforce?
- c. What do you learn about the Lord from verses 5-9?
- d. What situation does the psalmist find himself in according to verses 10-14?
- e. What things does the psalmist rejoice in from verses 15-29? How are those same attributes of God at work in your life? Now consider how you can praise Him for them.
- f. How can the truths in this psalm strengthen your heart today?

"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings."
—Psalm 112:7

Christian, you ought not to dread the arrival of evil tidings; because if you are distressed by them, *what do you more than other men?* Other men have not your God to fly to; they have never proved his faithfulness as you have done, and it is no wonder if they are bowed down with alarm and cowed with fear: but you profess to be of another spirit; you have been begotten again unto a lively hope, and your heart lives in heaven and not on earthly things; now, if you are seen to be distracted as other men, what is the value of that grace which you profess to have received? Where is the dignity of that new nature which you claim to possess?

Again, if you should be filled with alarm, as others are, *you would, doubtless, be led into the sins so common to others under trying circumstances.* The ungodly, when they are overtaken by evil tidings, rebel against God; they

murmur, and think that God deals hardly with them. Will you fall into that same sin? Will you provoke the Lord as they do?

Moreover, unconverted men often run to wrong means in order to escape from difficulties, and you will be sure to do the same if your mind yields to the present pressure. Trust in the Lord, and wait patiently for him. Your wisest course is to do as Moses did at the Red Sea, "Stand still and see the salvation of God." For if you give way to fear when you hear of evil tidings, you will be unable to meet the trouble with that calm composure which nerves for duty, and sustains under adversity. How can you glorify God if you play the coward? Saints have often sung God's high praises in the fires, but will your doubting and desponding, as if you had none to help you, magnify the Most High? Then take courage, and relying in sure confidence upon the faithfulness of your covenant God, "let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."¹ ~Charles Spurgeon

¹ C. H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings* (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1896). Morning, September 15.