



Day 43

Psalm 107
Psalm 108
Psalm 109

In the first verse of Psalm 107, the psalmist writes, "O give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Before you read today, give thanks to God for who He is. We are encouraged in Psalm 107 to praise Him but also go proclaim to others what He has done. (vs. 2) What could this look like in your life today? How will you go the extra mile to proclaim the goodness of God to others today? David writes in Psalm 108:5, "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!" Take a moment and pray for God to be exalted on high and for His glory to be over all the earth. This verse is showing us that God desires to gather worshippers from every tribe, tongue and nation. (Revelation 7:9) Knowing that God is for the nations, pray specifically for the nations that do not yet know Jesus or even have a way to know Him. Matthew 9:37 tells us that "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few". Pray for missionaries to be raised up and sent into these nations to proclaim the saving grace of Jesus. (Matthew 9:38) As you read through Psalm 109, keep verse 21 in mind. David is proclaiming God's protection over his life in the midst of suffering and trials. To tie all of these things together, remember God is worthy of our every praise, He desires to be worshipped among the nations and He is our ever present help, worship Him today for this.

Day 44

Psalm 110
Psalm 111
Psalm 112

Psalm 110 is one of the clearest pictures of Jesus we see in the entire Old Testament. Quoted frequently in the New Testament, this psalm tells of a coming Messiah who will serve as even David's Lord. Not only that, but this Lord will also serve as a priest and judge to all the nations. Today, we see the fulfillment of David's words and live under Jesus' lordship, if indeed we have placed our faith in him. We know that Jesus, having defeated all enemies—death included—ascended into heaven to take his rightful place as Lord (Acts 2:34). We know also that Jesus—like Melchizedek—is our priest forever and even today intercedes for us (Heb. 7:17, 25). As you read these psalms, consider the honor of living under the lordship of Jesus. Other rulers exercise authority with fear and terror, but Jesus rules with grace and mercy (read Psalm 111 and 112 with this in mind). Those who submit to Jesus' lordship fear his righteousness, knowing that although we deserve judgment, we receive mercy and grace because he always keeps his covenants. Those who refuse Jesus' lordship and live in wicked ways will fear him, for his judgement will cause them to perish. As you pray, ask yourself: *Have I surrendered every area of my life to the Lord?* If not, pray confidently, knowing "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!" (111:10)



Day 45

Psalm 113
Psalm 114
Psalm 115

Psalm 115 is a sobering reminder of the futility of trusting in and worshipping created things - whether it be idols or ourselves, rather than the living God who is over all, in all, and through all. In this Psalm Israel is being mocked by the surrounding nations for worshipping a God they cannot see. In response, the psalmist exhorts all of Israel to praise God, alone, for several reasons. The idols of the surrounding nations and made-made. Our God made man. Their idols were made in man's image, but man is made in the image of God. How silly would it be to see a beautiful painting and give glory and honor to the painting rather than the artist? We were created to give glory to our creator, God. Further, three times the leader of the choir gives forth the call—"Trust in the Lord"—and three times the choir responds with the acknowledgment that he, and he alone, "is their Help and Shield." (v. 9-11) We see the psalmist reasons for trusting in God and his protection in verse 2 when he petitions God to act for the sake of his name; specifically for the outworking of His faithfulness and love so that the nations might see His acts and give glory to Him because of them. *Faithfulness* in verse 2 is translated "hesed" in Hebrew and means Yahweh's covenant love for his people. In the New Testament, John 1:17 shows us that Jesus is and was the fulfillment of God's covenant love when John uses the same word, "hesed", in stating "grace and truth came through Jesus Christ". How much more should our lives reflect and glorify our Creator now that we have the complete revelation of His trustworthiness and faithfulness in the person of Christ and His spirit whom enables us to glorify him in the outworking of our faith? It is because of the trustworthiness of God's character that the Psalmist ends the song with an exhortation for all believers to praise the living God, today and forever.

Day 46

Proverbs 21
Proverbs 22
Proverbs 23

In these chapters we find more and more of the seemingly infinite knowledge that God installed in the Proverbs. We see continued calls for wisdom, discernment, steadfastness and humility. The choices contrasted are obvious as to which ones honor God and which ones do not. Wisdom is greater than foolishness and discernment better than hastiness. Likewise, steadfastness is more honoring to God than flimsy faith and humility more Christ-like than a prideful ego. But where Proverbs goes a step further is to emphasize not what we should choose, but who we should choose! If it is up to us to choose virtue over vice, we will pick the same fruit as Adam and Eve over and over again. Proverbs, however, says seek God as the fountain and foundation of all these things! Proverbs says choose the Weaver of wisdom, the Decider of discernment, the Sustainer of steadfastness, the Herald of humility. The most important choice we must make each day is to choose God over ourselves. Once we accept God as the beautiful and awesome authority over our lives, only then do we begin to tread the righteous trail He has paved for us.



Day 47

Psalm 116

Psalm 117

Psalm 118

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! God is good! God is love! And His goodness and love endure forever! This is the sign of devotion to God. Praise is the fruit of a relationship with Christ, bound in His grace. To worship God is the end for which we were created. Through Christ we find the renewed desire, purpose and ability to do just that. We praise Him for who He is. We praise Him for what He's done. We praise Him for the promises He has made and the promises He has kept. We praise Him for His desire and devotion to share Himself with us. We praise Him for not giving us what we deserved. In our praise we cry: "Oh Lord, because you have not withheld yourself from me, I will not withhold myself from you!" Salvation, righteousness, love in abundance is what He has poured out on us. He has made His light shine upon us, even when we were lost in darkness. Oh Lord, merciful and magnificent, all I can do is praise You! I praise You! I praise You!

Day 48

Psalm 119

The first phrase of verse 1 of Psalm 119 is fascinating: *"Blessed are they whose ways are blameless."* Various translations of the Bible word it differently, but in general, this phrasing can be broken down in to two parts. Part one: *How happy/blessed/joyful* describes a state of being. This state of being is the case due to a person's status before God. This status is described in Part 2: *whose way is blameless/has integrity/is undefiled*. Together, Parts 1 and 2 claim that those who are blameless before God are in fact happy, joyful, and blessed. One can then reverse-engineer this statement then to ask the question: is the reason why you may not be in state of joy and contentment because you feel like you are in some way a failure before God? This is the power of Gospel, which is the knowledge that despite our feelings or our guilt, we are in fact blameless before God because we have been redeemed by Jesus. Therefore, while we struggle with this truth, it is vital that we pray and be soothed in our souls to know that God has given us the reality to step into joy because we know we are blameless before Him.

**Day 49****Psalm 120****Psalm 121****Psalm 122**

Many Christians find themselves referring to Psalm 121 for the purpose of calming their anxieties in the face of circumstances that may involve danger (traveling long distances, moving to a new area, etc). However, the intent of this Psalm was to instill courage in those who were making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Therefore, how can this Psalm be relevant to the modern day believer? We can apply this Psalm to encourage us that God cares for us now and forever, and that His protection, keeping, and care of us goes far beyond our mortal state here on earth. God cares, loves, and will keep us for eternity with Him, and our live here on earth is to be oriented to know that until He sees fit that we die and join Him in eternity, that we will continue to be His agents responsible with spreading His glory throughout the earth.