

SLOW FOOD: PSALMS 91-120 (32 studies) published as a supplement to TNV 48

At first sight the Psalms may not seem ideal for a 'Slow Food' approach, being of unequal length and often full of complex changes of mood. We tend to grab devotional nuggets from them rather than follow the Psalmist's shifting train of thought. This section of the psalter also contains some very long ones! However, the treasures here are enormous and we neglect them to our loss. The first person singular is normally used, in order to encourage personal application; for group study, it can be personalised. Cross-references chase up one or two ideas in the psalm.

Recommended commentaries include Derek Kidner *Psalms 73-150* (Tyndale/IVP 1973 and 1975); Michael Wilcock *The Message of Psalms 73-150* (BST 2001); Warren Wiersbe *Be Exultant* (Psalms 90-150, Victor 2004).

For earlier sets of studies on the Psalms see: TNV no. 30, April 2003 (Psalms 1-15); no. 33, May 2004 (Psalms 16-30); no. 40, October 2006 (Psalms 31-60); no. 46, September 2008 (Psalms 61-90). (All are available free from the TISCA office on request)

Psalm 91 Does the Lord promise that nothing will go wrong today? *Job 5:17-26; Ps 121:7-8; Rom 8:35-37.*

Psalm 92 is titled A Song for the Sabbath. Are my Sundays spiritually refreshing? *Neh 8:10; Isa 40:13; Isa 58:13-14.*

Psalm 93 If 'the pounding waves' (v3) sometimes obscure my view of 'the Lord on high' (v5), how can I regain my perspective? *Ps 46:1-3; Mt 14:25-33; Rev 15:3-4.*

Psalm 94 Are unbelieving opponents (who are not necessarily 'wicked' v3!) giving me a hard time for my faith? What can I do about it? *2 Tim 2:24-26; Tit 3:2; 1 Pet 3:14-16.*

Psalm 95 Given a choice between 'singing for joy' (v1) and hardening my heart' (v8), which should I choose and why? *Ps 66:10-12; Prov 28:14; Rom 5:1-5.*

Psalm 96 Have I (ever so slightly) lost sight of the greatness of God? *Isa 2:2-4; Lk 1:32; 1 Pet 1:15-16.*

Psalm 97 How does this Psalm help me to pray for the world and for other Christians? *Jn 17:9; 1 Tim 2:1-4; Rev 11:15.*

Psalm 98 'Empty rhetoric and mindless optimism – when will the Psalmist wake up to the realities of life in a fallen world?' Discuss. *Isa 59:15-17; Rom 8:19-22; Rev 19:11-16.*

Psalm 99 How can my intercession affect the rule God exercises in my work (or home) situation? *Ps 103:13-19; Heb 4:14-16; Rev 8:3-5.*

Psalm 100 Does God's love to me in Christ bring me 'gladness' (v2)? *Ex 19:5-6; Jn 16:24; Heb 13:20-21.*

Psalm 101 If I have been entrusted with some form of leadership, what standards should I set in my personal life and pray for in those in my charge? *2 Tim 2:20-22; Tit 1:7-9; 1 Pet 5:2-4.*

Psalm 102 If I feel that the Lord has 'hidden his face' (v2) from me, is there something wrong with my faith? *Ps 31:22; Jn 14:18; 2 Cor 1:9.*

Psalm 103 Am I in danger of forgetting God's 'benefits' (v2)? *Dt 8:11; Ps 78:11; 1 Th 5:18.*

Psalm 104 We now come to several long Psalms (104-107) which are distinct in character. 104 is almost a documentary on the wonders of the natural creation. Faced with the evidence of God's wisdom, power and loving provision in the natural world, what should my reaction be? *Acts 14:15-17; 17:24-28; Rom 1:20.*

Psalm 105 What is the secret of joy? (see esp. 1-4, 42-45). *Rom 5:11; Phil 4:4; 1 Pet 1:8.*

Psalm 106 How can active faith turn into active disobedience? If I am in danger of this happening, what is the immediate remedy? *2 Cor 7:1; Heb 6:11, 12; James 4:3-6a.*

Psalm 107 Which of these stories of redemption do I identify with most strongly? Am I still grateful? *Lk 15:21-24; 1 Tim 1:13-17; 1 Pet 2:9-10.*

Psalm 108 Have I correctly identified my 'enemies' (v13) and how to defeat them? *Isa 41:11ff; 1 Jn 4:4; Rev 12:11.*

Psalm 109 The last, 'and perhaps the worst' (C S Lewis *Reflections*) of the imprecatory Psalms. Very difficult to use devotionally. A chance to examine our real feelings about a person or some people who have caused us loss and damage, and to bring these feelings to the Lord for him to deal with. *Acts 5:3-4; Rom 12:17-21; Jn20:23.*

Psalm 110 What does Jesus' place at the right hand of God mean for me? *Lk 22:32; Rom 8:34; Eph 4:8; Heb 7:25.*

Psalm 111 Find as many attributes of God as time permits. Which one means most to me just now? *Mic 6:8; Mal 3:10; Rom 2:4.*

Psalm 112 What do I want from God? *Ps 37:4; Mt 6:33; Phil 4:11-12.*

Psalm 113 If the examples given in vv7-9 haven't happened for me or for some people I know, does this invalidate vv1-6? *1 Sam 1:20; Hab 3:17-18; Eph 3:20-21.*

Psalm 114 What will the Lord's presence mean for me in the next 24 hours? *Isa 43:2; Mt 28:18-20; Rom 8:31.*

Psalm 115 To what 'idols' (v4) are teachers prone to pay homage? Am I seeking my own glory in anything? *Mk 10:37; 1 Cor 10:31; Eph 5:5.*

Psalm 116 In what ways have I experienced God's grace? How have I responded? *Jn 1:16-17; Rom 6:13-14; Jas 4:6a.*

Psalm 117 The shortest Psalm of all (but Ps 119 is coming up!). Do I consider people of other faiths to be outside the circle of God's love? *Acts 10:34-35; 13:47; Rom 15:8-13.*

Psalm 118 Could I ever regret believing in the Lord Jesus Christ? *Jn 6:66-69; 2 Tim 4:7; Heb 10:32-35.*

Ps 119 is not designed to be studied as a single unit. Most of the verses are stand-alone and can be used e.g. to suggest prayers before we read Scripture. However, each group of eight verses offers a miscellany of reasons why God's word is so vital for our lives - so we will look at just three sections. Those who wish to study the whole Psalm are referred to the week of questions in *Search the Scriptures*.

Psalm 119:9-16 What could result from neglecting God's word (v16)? *Ps 19:11-13; Jn 15:5-7; 2 Pet 1:4.*

Psalm 119:97-104 Am I getting full value from my times of devotion? *Josh 3:8; Lk 10:38-42; 2 Cor 3:15-18.*

Psalm 119:161-168 Has reading the Bible regularly become a form of legalism for me? *Jn 6:63; Rom 10:1-4; Jas 1:22-25*

Psalm 120 The places in v5 were in Gentile or Arab territory and symbolise an environment of unbelief and antagonism towards Jehovah. How do I cope if the general atmosphere is one of cynicism and back-biting? *Prov 16:7; Rom 12:18; 1 Pet 2:21-23.*

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