



May

BIBLE
DISCOVERY

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..... MAY 2024

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Sinless Songs

The Book of Job shows the unpopular truths of life. The reality of evil having its way is real. We often tend to cast blame on others, but Job cast evil's blame to God. This is hard. God is testing Job by letting evil run its course, but he does not know it. Yet at the end of Job's book we see God revealing His omnipotence to Job, asking him over one hundred questions impossible for Job to answer. And they were good and real questions designed to help all of us see the truths about how little we actually know. As a result of Job's book, we learn that evil has been set loose in our world by satan and through our own inclinations toward sin. We need to understand that we are not living in a world that owes us anything. In fact, our sin-filled world reaps more than it sows. But Jesus Christ has come to give His life for the sins of the world. He paid

the cost of sin with His perfect, sinless life and rose from the dead to give us eternal life. Today, we each have the opportunity to invite the LORD into our life and take our sins away. I suggest we do that!

Following the book of Job, the Psalms help us to learn and understand who God is and what it means to give our lives to Him. I don't think it is a coincidence that the Bible is about one-third music. There is no better way to keep our minds tuned into what God is doing than by reading His Word daily, and the Psalms are a wonderful way to do just that.



Rod Hembree, Th.D, DE.



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MAY 2024

How to use this Guide

Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



SPOTLIGHT ON...

In every Guide, you'll find a section with specific highlights from the perspectives of history, apologetics, theology, and more. These viewpoints provide a holistic context from which to view the month's Bible reading, giving us a greater understanding of the Word, and equipping us to grasp the impact of the Bible in these important fields.



DAILY READING

The readings are in traditional order, with a date corresponding to the Hebrew calendar. Each reading consists of a daily insight and a focus on three major takeaways from the day's Bible passage. Challenge yourself to meditate on the *Discovering The Truth* and *Today's Prayer* sections as you go about your day.



WATCH THE DAILY SHOW

Catch our companion TV series for even more valuable insight and theological discussion, hosted daily by the Hembree family. Join Rod, Janice, Ryan and Corie in this thirty-minute devotional show that will change the way you see and read the Bible. Visit **BibleDiscoveryTv.com** to watch our show online or to find a TV channel in your area.

The Pleiades & Orion

by Ryan Hembree



Perhaps nearly as old as the stars themselves are the constellations. Indeed, out of the 88 officially recognized constellations today, 48 of them were handed down to us by the ancient Greeks who in turn had relied heavily on even more ancient sources which are now lost to us.

star cluster contains about 1,000 stars. The Pleiades is sometimes called the Seven Sisters³... In Amos 5:8, the King James Version renders it ‘the seven stars,’ though more modern translations call it the Pleiades.”⁴ Nevertheless, in all three Biblical occurrences the Hebrew word is the same and means a “heap” or “pile.”

EXAMINING ALL THE OCCURRENCES OF ORION AND THE PLEIADES IN THE BIBLE.

A constellation is a group of stars that is arranged in a familiar shape such as a person, an animal, or an object. The word constellation is fittingly accurate since it is comprised of the Latin words *con*, meaning “together,” and *stella*, meaning “star.”¹ What’s more, “There are a few unofficial groupings of stars either within a single constellation or spanning several constellations” which astronomers call asterisms. Some examples of asterisms include the Big Dipper (which is part of the Big Bear) as well as the Summer Triangle (which are three bright stars each in separate constellations).²

Interestingly, the Bible makes a few references to some of these stars and constellations. For example, the Pleiades are mentioned no less than three times in Scripture. Twice in Job 9:9 and Job 38:31 and once in Amos 5:8. Of course, the Pleiades is neither a constellation nor an asterism but rather a star cluster. As astronomer Dr. Danny Faulkner explains, “The Pleiades appears as a tight knot of stars visible high overhead during winter evenings in the northern hemisphere. Six or seven Pleiads (what we call the individual members of the Pleiades) can easily be seen on a dark, clear night, though the

Similarly, all three of the occurrences where Pleiades is mentioned Orion is also mentioned in conjunction. However, unlike the Pleiades, Orion is a constellation. Known as the hunter, “Orion resembles the figure of a man, and it is relatively easy to pick it out. The Hebrew word used for Orion in the Old Testament is כְּסִיל (kesil), a word that is translated the other 70 times that it occurs as “fool.” Notably, the word appears translated as “fool” 11 times in Proverbs 26. Jewish tradition identifies Orion with Nimrod, whom Genesis 10:8–9 calls a mighty hunter. However, record of this identification dates to medieval times, so it is not clear that the ancient Hebrews would have identified Orion with Nimrod.”⁵

What is clear is that in all three of these Bible passages God, and God alone, is acknowledged as the Creator of these magnificent heavenly bodies. As God Himself rhetorically asks Job (and by extension us), “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?”

(JOB 38:31).

SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

- 1 Danny Faulkner, *The Created Cosmos*, 68.
- 2 *Ibid.*
- 3 In Japan it is called Subaru, which is where the name of the auto company comes from.
- 4 Danny Faulkner, *The Created Cosmos*, 68–69.
- 5 *Ibid.*, 69.

Royal Burials of Judah

by Corie Bobecko



The royal tombs and burials of ancient Judah present us with several mysteries. On the one hand, the Bible provides us with brief descriptions of the general location of each of Jerusalem's kingly resting places. On the other hand, some of the Bible's finer details leave many questions.

First, there is the mystery presented by the death formulas of the kings of Jerusalem. For almost all the kings it says that they died or rested with their ancestors and were buried in the City of David. Burial within the city's limits seems to have been exclusively reserved for Jerusalem's royals. All twelve kings from David to Ahaz, use this similar death formula or saying, and are said to have been buried in the city of David, with only five of these kings (namely, Asa, Jehoram, Joash, Azariah/Uzziah, Ahaz) being buried in their own tombs rather than in the proper tombs of the kings, and for various reasons.

This all changes with Ahaz's son, the reformer king, Hezekiah who ruled Judah during the devastating Assyrian invasion. He is the first king in the book of Kings whose death formula just says that he died, it reads quite simply, "Hezekiah rested with his ancestors" (2 KINGS 20:21, NIV). 2 Chronicles adds that Hezekiah was buried on the hill where the tombs of David's descendants are. So, not in the tombs of the kings within the city of David, but rather in a royal family cemetery nearby. Hezekiah's son and grandson, kings Manasseh and Amon are then said to have been buried in their palace garden, the garden of Uzza. The next king, Josiah is likewise said to have been buried in Jerusalem, not the smaller acropolis of the city of David, and in his own tomb. The last four kings of Jerusalem all died and were buried in various exiles; Jehoahaz went to Egypt. and Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah to Babylon.

So, this leaves us with questions that researchers debate: Where exactly were the proper tombs of the kings, where and what is the garden of Uzza, and why was there a shift away from burial in the tombs of the kings and into a palace garden and personal tombs?

Some believe that the ministry of the prophet Ezekiel initiated the switch. In Ezekiel 43 (EZEK. 43:7-9), God indicts Jerusalem for burying her kings so close to the Temple, and for accompanying their deaths with offerings. In this view, kings from Hezekiah onward were buried farther away from the Temple to curry God's favor once again.

There is also an interesting cultural association with kings and gardens, garden tombs located in palace complexes were kingly places of burial in the cultures surrounding Judah. So perhaps King Manasseh's association with Assyria led him to choose a garden burial.

These answers have led us to our next mystery. What were the unacceptable royal funeral offerings mentioned by Ezekiel? We know from King Asa's reign that his body was laid on a bier that was covered in spices and perfumes (2 CHR. 16:14), we don't know if this was in his tomb, or if his body was displayed for a funeral. We also know from this account and from a mention in the book of Jeremiah (JER. 34:4-5) that it was customary to have a large fire in honour of a dead king. Archaeologically, there are no known remains of a king's burial in or around Jerusalem, however from more common graves it's known that many funeral offerings and, perhaps, even yearly offerings were given to or on behalf of the dead. These were practical offerings like food, wine, and spices. Perhaps these were also offered for the kings, and in larger, grander quantities, and at least the prophet Ezekiel did not approve. ■



2024 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

May

JOB — PSALMS



Why?

JOB 1-3

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Job is considered to be one of the oldest in the Bible by many scholars. There are a number of reasons for this, but tradition says that Moses knew and told this story to his people. To the best of our knowledge, the story seems to be set in the time of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The book of Job wrestles with the question why: *Why does evil happen to good men and women?* My personal belief is that the Biblical book of Job should be read and discussed as a major part of every philosophical class in the world. The question of “why?” is a great question. It is a natural human response to discomfort, loss, and suffering, and so it still dominates our thoughts and ideas today. How can a man who loses everything still love God? And how can God be just if a good man can lose everything despite being righteous? In the end, Job’s story closes with the blessings of God. Remember, God continues to make us better people when we submit to Him.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 2:1-13

– 1 –

Satan came to God a second time, and Job is mentioned again.

The LORD gives us strength to overcome, through His Holy Spirit.

(v. 1-6)

– 2 –

Satan can cause physical disease, but God gives us His grace to endure to healing. Our lives are eternal as children of God.

(v. 7-10)

– 3 –

Job’s affliction was so bad that his friends could not speak for seven days.

Sometimes there is nothing we can say to bring relief. We should pray.

(v. 11-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The book of Job tells us that we will be confronted with the reality of evil in our lives. As followers of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit helps us to overcome or be completely healed.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO
LEARN AND GROW IN YOU.**

God Is Good

JOB 4-7

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we pay attention, we can see the goodness of God every day in our lives, and we can also see evil. The book of Job showcases the complex and troubling difficulty that comes with the battle between good and evil. For our part, we need to remember that God is good no matter what, and that evil will ultimately fail and fall. Evil may not fail when we expect it to, and we may even interfere in the process. What I mean is that we often choose the wrong things when faced with life choices. There are always consequences to our actions and decisions, that much is true. Praise God that He still works with us and sometimes despite us, for our own good. God is good. Part of that goodness means allowing us to battle with these things in our lives. How will you choose today? As Christians, we can't just do what we want, we must prioritize God's morality, we must do what Christ tells us through His life and the Word. That's what it means to follow God. We won't be perfect, but God is bigger and stronger than our imperfection.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 5:1-16

— 1 —

Eliphaz claims he has the answers for Job. The real question is not why Job is suffering, but does God see Job's suffering.
(v. 1-8)

— 2 —

Eliphaz's view of God lacks understanding. We should seek what God is doing.
(v. 9-11)

— 3 —

Eliphaz states the obvious about God, but God is so much more than the obvious. We would do well to seek God, rather than try to explain all things.
(v. 12-16)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Bible shows us interesting interactions between people and between people and God. From them, we learn the way God moves, reacts, and responds. The Bible isn't as obvious as it is faithful, and that's ok. Through it we search for God and wrestle with His truth.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HOLY SPIRIT WHO
LEADS AND TEACHES ME.**

Job to Bildad

JOB 8–11

DISCOVERING THE WORD

We learn a lot about Job and what he's going through in his responses to his friends. The men have come to comfort Job but end up doing just the opposite. They are presenting their ideas and religious philosophies, trying to explain what Job is going through. Part of their facts are right, but most of their arguments are wrong. This is because they are really limited in their understanding of God and His motivation here. In the end, this will be exposed, and they will be humbled by God. Job also does not understand what is happening to him. God is testing him, but we don't normally see our life on earth as a test. Through the Bible, we have learned that this life is not all that there is. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we have the gift of eternal life, which really puts this time on earth into perspective. This isn't all that there is. Like Job, we have to wrestle with his circumstances and with the seeming unresponsiveness of God, at first. What is God teaching us?

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 9:1–12

— 1 —

Job tells Bildad the truth: God is all wise and powerful. God encourages us to pray to Him, even though He knows our needs.

(v. 1–4)

— 2 —

Job explains that God is over all things. God encourages us to call on His name because He is LORD over all.

(v. 5–9)

— 3 —

God is the LORD over all things, yet He gives us free will. The LORD allows us to make wrong decisions, but we should seek Him.

(v. 10–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is the LORD over all things and helps us to understand the depth of His wisdom if we seek His face. We are encouraged to seek after and follow the LORD Jesus Christ with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I COMMIT MY LIFE TO SEEK AFTER YOU. HELP ME TO LEARN AND GROW IN YOUR WORD.

Job Answers His Critics

JOB 12–15

DISCOVERING THE WORD

You can win an argument and still be wrong. Zophar, the friend of Job, would have learned this in the end. Zophar had some hard questions for Job who was suffering not only with the death of his children, but the loss of his wealth, and of his health. For all practical purposes, Zophar was right, it seemed that God had abandoned Job. It seemed from his life circumstances that God had already answered Job's questions by allowing all of this evil to happen to him in the first place. Job seemed the one to blame, it looked like he needed to repent. In the eyes of all who came to see Job, it would have looked like Zophar was right. But he wasn't. Eventually, Job would be vindicated by God's presence and answers. Surprisingly, God doesn't answer each line of argumentation but sticks with a main one: His character and nature. We will all see how wrong Zophar was, and how wrong we can be if we aren't careful. Let's depend on God's wisdom and default to trusting Him when life seems confusing. God is faithful.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 12:1–13

— 1 —

Job confronts the arrogance of the men who came to comfort him.

We are no better than anyone and we don't have all the answers.

(v. 1–3)

— 2 —

Job says that while it may seem God ignores those who violate His covenant, He does not. God knows

and sees everything, everywhere.

(v. 4–6)

— 3 —

Wisdom and understanding come with time in the LORD, not from our own intellect.

The LORD uses what seems weak to confound what seems strong.

(v. 7–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As we read the book of Job, we begin to learn and understand what God is doing in this world. Our lives are not the centre of God's creation, but a part of the total picture. Each one of us is placed and lives in the time that the LORD has assigned for His reason and purpose.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO BE A WITNESS AND TESTIMONY OF YOU IN MY LIFE, AS I FOLLOW YOU.

The Prophetic in Pain

JOB 16-19

DISCOVERING THE WORD

So often, the Biblical prophets spoke in times of great change, pain, and sorrow. A large portion of Biblical prophecy seems to be to convict God's people of sin and explain to them why they will be coming under judgment. This call to repentance is something that we all need. It is easy to justify our sin or our errant views of God if we judge ourselves based on the world around us, but when we begin to look back at the Scriptures, we can see how we fall short, our views can be corrected, and we can wrestle with the truth of God. Psalm 107:20 says, "He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." It worries me how ignorant of God's Word the Church seems to be today. This is why we tolerate false teaching, and even false prophecy. We need to know how God speaks and have a measure with which to evaluate other messages. Let's focus our attention on God, just as Job tries to do in the time of his greatest pain.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 19:13-27

— 1 —

It seems as though Job has lost everything. In times of great defeat and distress, we must bring ourselves back to God's way.
(v. 13-20)

— 2 —

Job is reeling in pain and his friends are not helping. It is good to listen and pray for those who are in distress.
(v. 21-22)

— 3 —

God has not abandoned His plan: Jesus Christ is LORD. We should remember the suffering the LORD went through and absorb God's grace in our troubles.
(v. 23-27)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When Paul the apostle was suffering the LORD told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 CORINTHIANS 12:9). The LORD makes us stronger and extends His grace to us as we live our lives to follow Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO HEAR
YOUR WORD TO ME TODAY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
AMAZING GRACE.**

Close To God

JOB 20-23

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It is extremely disheartening to see human evil and wickedness today. The ease with which so many people seem to take up dark ways and set themselves against goodness and morality is disturbing. Especially as we try to orient our lives to follow after God, the evil around us can be really troubling. It is so important for us not to become too distracted with this though, let's set our eyes upon God and focus on hearing Him. Job had it a little bit different, it was he who was being accused of evil by his friends, and it was he who had been seemingly punished by losing everything. What we see though is that Job was complaining to God and not to man. He knew he needed God to answer. Only God truly knew what was going on. Only God could satisfy Job's heart and mind. Why couldn't Job's friends see this? They needed to pray with him, not accuse him or complain about him.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 21:1-16

– 1 –

Job's complaint is directed at God. When we encounter trouble, we should pray for God's direction and action.

(v. 1-5)

– 2 –

Job says that the success of the wicked is troubling. Too often we look at others, instead of God, when we face difficulty.

(v. 6-10)

– 3 –

The counsel of the wicked is far from Job. We should stay close to the counsel of God in troubled times.

(v. 11-16)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God will help to keep us on the straight and narrow as we follow Him. God knows all about our life situations, even when they make no sense to us. Let's stay close to God and seek to trust Him always – in good times and in bad.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, DRAW ME CLOSE TO YOUR WORD AND HELP ME TO HEAR YOU TODAY.

Does Evil Succeed?

JOB 24–28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It is galling to live in this life with so many who are thriving in evil. Especially when you are trying to follow God and coming up against struggles. This can give us a sense of how Job must have felt. He had lost everything and didn't know why. He had been trying! He had been doing everything that he knew how to follow God. But now, everything he owned, every child he had was dead, and his body was covered in festering boils from head to toe. He was living with what should only be reserved for the worst of the worst. And that is what his friends thought too. They concluded that God had judged Job because of his own disobedience. Job could now add friends to the list of things he had lost. But God was testing Job. Soon Job descended into depression and began to become bitter about life.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 24:1–12

— 1 —

Job emphasizes God's timing. We see day to day, but God sees all of time.

(v. 1)

— 2 —

Job highlights a culture of evil that grows in the world.

Christians are called to live and grow in God's culture.

(v. 2–8)

— 3 —

The culture of evil seems to get away with what they cause. But the truth is: God does act in His time. God is the perfect Judge.

(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Although we may become discouraged with the evil that seems to prevail around us, there will come a time when God brings judgment on evil. God's timing and justice is perfect. We would do well to seek God and live our lives to serve Him in this world.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I PRAY FOR MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO SEE YOU AND GIVE THEIR LIVES TO FOLLOW YOU.

Am I Wrong?

JOB 29–32

DISCOVERING THE WORD

We often assume that God would do things exactly the way we would. But God thinks in much different ways than we do. God is an entirely different being than we are. He is inherently holy, eternal, moral, and good. We are bound to time and experiences, and sin has affected the way we think. We are clouded, imperfect beings. Still, God extends an invitation to Isaiah: “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool’” (ISAIAH 1:18).

God encourages us to think about our deficient way of thinking and come to Him for help. Job admits that he has seen his need for God and he has made a covenant with the LORD. Job remains in this covenant, even though it seems to him that the LORD has abandoned him. This is where Job gets it right. He stayed, he waited, he also complained, but ultimately, he tried to keep his promises to God.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 31:1–12

— 1 —

Job’s covenant with God remains, even though he has lost everything.

Our promise to follow God changes how we live, regardless of the circumstance. (v. 1–4)

— 2 —

Job puts himself on God’s measuring scales.

Christians are called to live as Jesus Christ lived.

(v. 5–8)

— 3 —

Job reminds us that there is a cost to sin. Jesus Christ has

taken our sin away. We must live for Christ, and turn away from sin.

(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We are not doomed to live in evil and sin, we can live for God, with God, as He helps us become more like Him. We aren’t perfect but, with time, we change. God will bring us closer to Him and His perfect will.

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE YOU.

Elihu Speaks

JOB 33–36

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When you are truly in need it can be a really difficult thing to listen to someone who is full of themselves. Elihu seems to be such a man, full of pride. He listened to the arguments of Job's friends and was frustrated that they failed to move Job. So now, it is his turn. Elihu's name means "He is my God" in Hebrew, and it's interesting to note that Elihu isn't mentioned in the closing verses of Job like the other men are. This has prompted some scholars to suggest that Elihu's words represent a later argument that was added in for a new generation of readers. But I think that Elihu's words have been preserved so that we can see how pride works its way into our hearts. Pride is an enemy of our soul; it is the beginning of destruction. None of us should ever give into pride, its draw is so great, but its end is awful.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 33:1–11

— 1 —

Elihu believes his mouth is anointed and set apart for God to use.

We must never believe our own public relations.

(v. 1–4)

— 2 —

Elihu assured Job that he wouldn't treat him with a heavy hand. We should never assume we are better than anyone else.

(v. 5–7)

— 3 —

Elihu judges Job's words instead of listening to Job's heart. We should never judge anyone. Listening is a great way to witness.

(v. 8–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Sometimes it's difficult to know how to begin conversations about Jesus Christ with others. However, the more we listen the more we have opportunity to drop in the words of Christ at the right times. God makes us ready to hear people and gives us the words to speak.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, TEACH ME TO LISTEN WELL TO OTHERS. GIVE ME OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR GOSPEL WITH THOSE AROUND ME.

Questions of God

JOB 37–39

DISCOVERING THE WORD

If you were asking God questions about why your life is so bad, what would you expect Him to say? I'm not sure what Job was expecting, but God did certainly meet him in his needs. God confronts Job about life and about realities of living on the earth. He asked Job questions that reminded Job of his place and God's place. It reminded Job of the working of God. There were a lot of them too, about 105 questions that point to God's mighty power. The LORD seems to be de-programming Job from his time in darkness. The reader knows that satan is being proven wrong by Job who loves God. And we get to see in perhaps an unexpected way, how God prompts Job onto deeper trust and healing.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 39:1–12

— 1 —

God has programmed nature to His time and His way. We should line up our lives to God's plan and not our own.

(v. 1–4)

— 2 —

God cares for the wild donkey and has placed every animal in its proper environment. How much more then, does God provide for those who love Him.

(v. 5–8)

— 3 —

Only God can control the wild ox. The strength of God is immeasurable and we can fully trust in Him.

(v. 9–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we learn and understand that God has our lives in His hands, and that He desires for our good and our healing, then our lives are changed. Our Christian walk is a daily one, as we learn to lean and trust in Him more and more.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO FOLLOW
YOUR LEAD IN MY LIFE,
EVERY DAY.**

The Final Word

JOB 40–42

DISCOVERING THE WORD

While we often consider that Job was rewarded for persevering through God’s test, we often overlook something really important: Satan was wrong—dead wrong. Job’s testimony is proof of that. It is an amazing story about our call to faithfulness and resilience during trials and tribulations, and how we should be anchored in God’s unchanging, eternal power. How we live right now is directly affected by our hope in God’s future plan for us, our children, and humanity itself. The LORD wakes us up and changes us with the power of His Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul describes it this way, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 CORINTHIANS 5:17). Job’s friends were a snare to him, almost as if satan was speaking through them to push Job over the edge to curse God. But satan’s plan failed. The final word on Job’s life comes at the end of his book. “After this Job lived one hundred and forty years and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations” (JOB 42:17).

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 42:11–17

– 1 –

Job’s friends and family came and gave him gifts to comfort him. One of the best ways we can comfort each other is through recognizing God’s work in the lives of others.

(v. 11)

– 2 –

Job’s daughter’s names are mentioned in this ancient text. God made a point of power and protection to Job.

(v. 12–14)

– 3 –

Job’s daughters were given an inheritance, unlike other women of this time. God does things in spite of our ways or culture.

(v. 15–17)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God speaks to us through Job that we must never bring judgment on the LORD for our difficulties but, rather, we should pray that He makes us stronger than those troubles.

TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, WITH YOUR HELP,
MAKE ME STRONGER THAN
ANYTHING THE ENEMY CAN
TOSS MY WAY.**

The Book of Music

PSALMS 1-8

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Psalms is the largest book in the Bible with a collection of 150 hymns and prayers. From the first to the last, it is a book of poetry. The word for psalms in Hebrew is *Tehilim*, and the English title comes from the Greek translation *Psalmoi*, which means “songs of praise”. It has been called by some as Israel’s hymnbook. While there are many messages in the psalms, they serve the purpose of teaching us about God and how to pray and live before Him in different circumstances in our lives. The psalms teach us about God’s sovereignty and goodness for His people, and that inspires a confidence in those who trust in Him. The first chapter of Psalms is a great introduction to the rest of the book. And the last chapter end with, “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!” (PSALM 150:6). What a great way to think about the LORD through our praise to Him!

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 2:1-12

— 1 —

Psalms asks: Why do the nations and leaders encourage people to break away from God? There is no friendship with God to those who do not want to live under God’s reign in this world. (v. 1-3)

— 2 —

God laughs at rebellion to His work and Word. The LORD is not timid to resistance and rebellion. (v. 4-6)

— 3 —

Nations are instructed to change their ways and submit to God as King. Each of us must make ourselves at peace with God’s supremacy through Christ the LORD. (v. 7-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The day in which we live is filled with evil in every corridor of existence. The best way to confront evil in our lives is to come to Jesus Christ and confess His Lordship over our decisions. The way we live is reflected by who or what we believe in. Is Jesus LORD of your life?

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I COMMIT MY LIFE TO YOU. I BELIEVE AND TRUST IN YOU ALONE.

Do Not Fear

PSALMS 9–14

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Fear is one of the more powerful emotions that drives our decisions. Sometimes this is good but many times it is not. We look both ways before crossing a busy street for fear of being hit by a car. That is a healthy fear. Some of us fear the discipline of God, or even His wrath. That is a very good fear! A fear that leads to wisdom. But if we serve the LORD and obey His commands, we should not put our fears above His provision. If we do that, then fear will overpower our faith. We should not put faith in the stuff we have, in our own strength and abilities, in the things of this world. We should put our faith in Christ alone. We are called to be a radiant light in the city of darkness, to have a Godfearing faith that overpowers the fear of self-preservation permeating the world around us. Psalms is a book that speaks about our fears and the trouble that brings with it. Psalm 11:1, says, “In the LORD I put my trust.” That is a short but powerful statement. We should meditate on it and take it seriously. What or whom do we trust? In this life we will find many people and places that we have trusted and have failed us, but God never, ever fails us!

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 11:1–7

— 1 —

Psalm 11 tells us in the first three verses that evil is always after the righteous.

God knows and protects those who love and follow Him.

(v. 1–3)

— 2 —

Those who pursue evil will fail in the end.

God is our strength and our hope; nothing can go against His will.

(v. 4–6)

— 3 —

When we pursue God, His very presence blesses and protects us.

We serve the most powerful being ever, Almighty God!

(v. 7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we face evil in this world, we should always pray. The LORD is faithful to help us as we follow Him with our lives. When we stay close to God and His Word, we are promised His deliverance and His salvation.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR YOUR
HELP AND STRENGTH.
THANK YOU, FATHER.**

Pleasure

PSALMS 15-18

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Pleasure is such a powerful, dominating sensation that it often overrides our reason and decisions. Some people will do anything for immediate gratification. But intense pleasure is not evil in itself because God designed us to feel pleasure. The problem is when we desire great pleasure for our own sake, outside of God's design, because we are corrupted by sin. But is there pleasure which rings down into the depths of our soul and spirit? Yes! God designed us to be people who experience pleasure and not necessarily the deep, dark tunnels of sorrow, despair, and death. The LORD God has preserved a way that He has created in which we can experience both the physical and spiritual pleasures of His greatness. This starts with obeying the ways of God as proclaimed in the Bible. Why? Because physical pleasure needs spiritual pleasure to work properly, not the other way around. Physical pleasure was designed to permanently delight in the unshakable joy and eternal peace of mind of following the LORD with our whole heart, which is how we can rejoice and praise His name under severe persecution and suffering (**ROMANS 5:3-5**).

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 16:1-11

— 1 —

The goodness we have comes from God and not from ourselves. The LORD has raised our spirits from the dead, He is our life.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

There is only one God who can save our soul. Our eternal life comes from knowing the living God.

(v. 4)

— 3 —

God is our life and has set our path. We should always follow the LORD's path for us.

(v. 5-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Psalm 16 reminds us that we have God's counsel in difficult times. When we commit our lives to follow Him, God equips us and keeps us ready to do His will and speak His Word. God is faithful!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I PROMISE TO PLACE YOU IN FRONT OF MY DESIRES TODAY, ALWAYS AND FOREVER.

The Heavens

PSALMS 19–23

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It was the LORD who instructed Abraham to look up at the stars and count them if he could (**GENESIS 15:5**). Of course, we know that it was an impossible task. Yet in Psalm 147:4, we learn that God cannot only count the stars but knows them all by name! It is impossible for our human minds to understand the vastness of God's intelligence. In fact, many people do not believe in God for that very reason; they simply cannot understand how God could have created the vast universe. It's a struggle for some to understand the concept of an all-knowing God also being a personal God. 'If He even exists', they ask, 'does God really listen, does He care?' Psalm 19 is a beautiful piece of music given to the Chief Musician by David about the witness of creation and Scripture, a song and a prayer to be learned by God's people. It begins with: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (**PSALM 19:1**). In other words, the stars speak for themselves of their Creator, God Almighty.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 19:1–11

— 1 —

God is for everyone, everywhere. God's message goes out day and night without ceasing, for all of creation.

(v. 1–3)

— 2 —

God can be heard by anyone and everyone who wants to know Him.

Nothing is hidden from God. We need to come to Him.

There is no excuse.

(v. 4–6)

— 3 —

God rewards those who try to keep His Word. We should not only read the Bible but obey His Word in our lives every day.

(v. 7–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Reading the Bible and prayer is the only way to keep our lives right and in sync with God. If we do our best to keep ourselves renewed in the Spirit of God, He will take care of us and keep us from all evil in our hearts.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, PLEASE HELP ME UNDERSTAND AND GROW AS I READ YOUR WORD AND PRAY EVERY DAY.

King of Glory

PSALMS 24–28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In the Bible, God is given the title the King of Glory. In Psalm 24, the Hebrew word for "glory" is *kavod* meaning glory, honour, and wealth or abundance. In other words, God is the King of everything. If this is true, then when we pray and give praise to the LORD, we are speaking to the One who created and reigns over everything. There is nothing that God lacks. In fact, we are loved by God not because He needs us but because He truly loves us. Romans 5:8 says: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This love is so amazing to me because I know myself, I know how often I fail, I know how imperfect I really am, and yet, God loves. It is important for us to try and digest a small part of who God is, as we pray and praise Him. God is the King of Glory, strong and mighty. He is the LORD and King who is worthy of all our praise!

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 24:1–10

— 1 —

There is no way we can effectively praise God, until we have given our life to Him. Now is the time to come to Christ!

(v. 1–4)

— 2 —

Our praise to God is where we find the strength to overcome and be victorious in Christ. We are only victorious through the LORD Jesus.

(v. 5–8)

— 3 —

God is the LORD of hosts, the King of all. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess: Jesus is LORD.

(v. 9–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As we read through the Psalms, we encounter the character of God. We can see words that reflect His sovereignty and goodness, His mighty strength and power, His vast greatness and faithfulness. Only He is worthy of all our praise!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, YOU ALONE ARE WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE!

God Saves

PSALMS 29–32

DISCOVERING THE WORD

For Christians, praising God just makes sense. We know that God is good, and we believe that He has saved us from hell. The concept of praise, however, is easily misunderstood by people on the outside. A friend of mine once told me that someone had approached him, knowing that he was a Christian, so that he could voice his opinion of God. He said something like, “Your God is a real selfish one, commanding people to praise Him, needing constant worship!” Do you see how easy it is to misunderstand God? How easy it is for us to make Him a fallible human like us? It isn’t as if God needs the worship. Worship is telling the truth. It combats our innate sinful pride and helps us remember who God is and who we are. Worship can change our attitude; it can help us survive very dark times by reminding us of the nature of God. God will always tell us the truth, and in return, we should also be all about the truth.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 30:1–12

— 1 —

There are times of trouble in this life but that will all end in eternity with God.

God has given us eternal life in His Son Jesus Christ. Come to Him today.

(v. 1–5)

— 2 —

The LORD is our help and the reason we can stand.

Christians know beyond any doubt that God is our strength and not we ourselves.

(v. 6–10)

— 3 —

We praise the LORD because our best life is still to come.

Our suffering here is temporary; our best life is yet to come in Heaven.

(v. 11–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Some preachers and teachers would have us believe that God will make us happy and trouble free when we begin to follow Him. Yet, that’s just not true considering Scripture and our experiences around the world. Let’s remember 2 Corinthians 12:9, God’s grace is sufficient for us.

TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, I WILL FOLLOW YOU
ALL MY DAYS. HELP ME TO
KEEP MY PROMISES.**

Two Lives

PSALMS 33–36

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are two different kinds of lives portrayed in Psalm 36, one life is lived with God at the centre, and the other is not. There is a great contrast of wickedness and righteousness, and the end destination of these lives are very different. In our society today, we have too often confused wickedness and righteousness. On so many issues we have switched the meanings of evil and good. Nevertheless, I find it interesting that so many of us, saved and unsaved, feel a sense of moral duty to help those in need. Where does that moral duty come from? Why should we feel that if there isn't a moral God who has built it into us? Of course, I think that it is evidence of a moral God. It is a call that we all feel to righteousness. As we read Psalm 36 today, let's remember why we live the way that we do.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 36:1–12

— 1 —

When evil drives the life of the wicked there is nothing good in their thinking.

We should live our life to do what God desires and keep His Word in our heart.

(v. 1–4)

— 2 —

The LORD gives us His great blessings, as we put our trust in Him.

Our merciful God satisfies all our needs; we don't need to look anywhere else.

(v. 5–9)

— 3 —

We should pray for God's desire to stay at the centre of our lives.

A big part of praising God is to daily live for Him.

(v. 10–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Praising the name of the LORD is more than just singing or saying "PRAISE THE LORD!" When we live our lives to please God, it is only the Holy Spirit who can keep us strong enough to fulfill what God commands us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO LIVE MY LIFE TO FOLLOW YOU.

The Power of Words

PSALMS 37-40

DISCOVERING THE WORD

As a young boy, I remember the poem I would chant when someone called me a bad name or a name that hurt my feelings: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!” Later on in life, I realized just how untrue that poem was. Words are very powerful! I think we like to forget that in our world today where, often, our words flow freely like a rushing river. Words still bring consequences and there is an accountability before God – in that sense, there is no free speech, everything costs something. Psalm 39 is a prayer that reminds us of the power and devastation that words can cause. It begins this way, “I said, ‘I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue’” (PSALM 39:1). The mouth can be a dangerous weapon or a sweet fountain of life. As believers in Jesus Christ, we are reminded to keep our mouth tamed. Complaining is never a good thing, in the eyes of God.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 39:1-13

— 1 —

It is good to remember how fragile we are in the presence of God. Our life is best when we keep only God at the focus of it.

(v. 1-5)

— 2 —

It is best to keep all our hope in the LORD. Our future is best because God has given us eternal life.

(v. 6-7)

— 3 —

We are nothing more than a vapor in the presence of God. Our hope and salvation is in the LORD, let's stay focused on Him.

(v. 8-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is important to keep the LORD in our life daily. He is our hope and our salvation. We will keep ourselves out of trouble, if we stay close to the Holy Spirit. The best way we can do that is to read the Bible and pray on a daily basis.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I DESIRE TO HAVE YOU CLOSE TO ME AT ALL TIMES.

Hope in God

PSALMS 41–44

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Psalm 42 marks the beginning of book two within the Psalms. It is a song that was written by someone seeking and calling out for God in a time of distress. This author is longing for the LORD, “As the deep pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God” (PSALM 42:1). It is amazing that we can be separated from this person by thousands of years and yet we can feel connected in our struggles. There are times when nothing can help us except a genuine connection with God. There are ways that we might try to medicate ourselves, but this generally leaves us addicted to our Band-Aids and unsatisfied with the results. When we experience disappointment, trouble, great sadness, let’s take our cue from Psalm 42 and reach out to God. God can and will help us to find reason and purpose for living again. Psalm 42 offers hope when we feel hopeless, it is a great one to memorize and meditate on. We need God and His presence in our lives.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 42:1–11

— 1 —

When we have separated ourselves from God, we must call out to Him.

The best place for us to be is before God in repentance.

(v. 1–4)

— 2 —

Remembering the testimony of God’s help in the past will help us navigate the future.

Our only hope is in the God of eternity.

(v. 5–8)

— 3 —

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the LORD Jesus Christ, in whom we hope. Faith in Jesus Christ is faith in God.

(v. 9–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

While talking on the phone, my father would often doodle the words JESUS IS LORD on anything he had available to write on. I never understood the meaning of those three words until I invited Jesus into my life to become my God and my LORD. The truth is: JESUS IS LORD of all things!

TODAY’S PRAYER

JESUS, YOU ARE THE LORD OF MY LIFE AND ALL EXISTENCE!

God Is Our Refuge

PSALMS 45-49

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God is the definition of strength! He *is* life. He is the essence of power. That is why it is so important for us to sing and pray Psalm 46, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (PSALM 46:1). When we believe that, and live that, then the reality of the LORD our God, Jesus Christ, is shown to others. It is one thing to say that God is the LORD of our life, and it is another to demonstrate that God is the LORD of our life. These songs are paramount to how we should think and express ourselves; each Psalm is a great reminder to keep God our focal point every single day. Likewise, we should keep the Psalms in front of our eyes and in our hearts as we go about our business. Amazingly, the Holy Spirit will teach us the meaning of His Word as we live our lives. He will demonstrate His power in our lives as we demonstrate His power to others. When we praise the LORD, sing the Psalms, and pray His commands, we declare that Jesus Christ is King of kings and the LORD of lords.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 46:1-11

— 1 —

We are urged not to fear, even in very unstable and troubled times. Fear is a dominant motivator, but faith in God is a sure foundation.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

God is stronger than all the power on the earth. When we act on our faith and do not respond to fear, God is glorified.

(v. 4-7)

— 3 —

God controls all warfare and peace; we must be still and know that He is God. We must never bind ourselves in fear, but clothe ourselves in the faith of Christ Jesus.

(v. 8-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is an easy thing to make decisions based on fear. But it is more challenging to base our decisions on faith. As we live to follow the LORD, let's remember to make all our decisions before Him in faith and not in fear.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, YOU ARE MY REFUGE AND STRENGTH, HELP ME TO MAKE ALL MY DECISIONS IN FAITH.

David's Thoughts

PSALMS 50-54

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are some days when it feels like everything we do is too hard and it's all going in the wrong direction, and there are some people who seem to have a difficult time in life no matter what they do. In this instance, when someone works hard to help his employer, yet is punished for the good he has done, he might feel like giving up and not do anything else to help his employer in the future. 'What's the point?' He may wonder. If you feel like one of those persons, it would be good for you to know that David went through similar troubles. He was so troubled, in fact, that he began to cry out to God in his music. Many of these are now known as the Psalms. Psalm 52 is one of those pieces of music. When King Saul was attempting to kill David, and Doeg the Edomite gave David's hiding place away, David wrote Psalm 52 for all of us to see. The lyrics to this psalm are the sound of his soul. Everyone can relate to this piece, at some point in their life. God has placed in words what David felt and how he reasoned with the LORD. This is the beauty of the book of Psalms. We should meditate on it.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 52:1-9

— 1 —

Evil words are destructive.

God helps us to steer clear of gossip and slander wherever we are, whether personal conversation or social media.

(v. 1-4)

— 2 —

God will ultimately judge everyone for how they lived.

If we confess our sins to the LORD and follow Him, we are saved from God's judgment.

(v. 5-7)

— 3 —

God has provided Jesus Christ to take our sins away and heal us from evil.

Now is the time to come to the LORD Jesus.

(v. 8-9)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

If we don't believe in sin or the influence of evil in our lives, then there is no reason for Jesus Christ. But when we understand what the LORD has done for our sins, we are ready to repent and come to Him for our rescue. The truth is that all have sinned and come short of God's glory.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR RESCUING MY SOUL FROM DEATH. I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU AND SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE WITH OTHERS.

On Fear

PSALMS 55-59

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Nothing! There is absolutely nothing as desolating and paralyzing as fear. It moves us into areas we would never go, forces our hand to do things we would not normally do. There is nothing quite like the motivating power of fear. Yet Jesus Christ said something very interesting about fear. He said “fear not” to His disciples again and again. They were used to operating in fear, as most of us are. But God does not build His Kingdom with fear. It is the power of faith that moves mountains, not fear. Fear seizes up resources and clasps down on talent. Fear kills. Faith sets us free from the penalty and burden of death. Many people are very fearful of death, yet Paul the apostle tells us not to fear death: “O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?” (1 CORINTHIANS 15:55). For all who believe and trust in Jesus Christ as LORD, death is simply a transition to eternal life with Him.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 56:1-13

— 1 —

Mankind is weak but God and His Word is strong and steady. Every day we make choices about how we respond to life. Trust in God.

(v. 1-4)

— 2 —

God will destroy those who do not respond to Him in faith. This is the time we must learn to trust in God.

(v. 5-7)

— 3 —

God preserves those who trust in Him. Many are captivated by the troubles of life, but we must put our trust in God who saves.

(v. 8-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is real! Jesus Christ is real! Yet many today are bent on believing that only what they feel is real. But what we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell is not all there is! God has told His creation that there is more. Christians will be rewarded for their faith.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO BUILD MY FAITH UPON YOUR WORD AND PUT MY TRUST IN YOU ALONE.

How to Get Stronger Daily

PSALMS 60–64

DISCOVERING THE WORD

How can you truly know someone if you don't spend time with them? The LORD promised us that He would meet with us, if we make the time to get together with Him. For Christians, this time with God is critical for our existence; we daily meet with the LORD, by prayer or by reading His Word, to gain substance for our survival in a world that is against us. When we are born again, we are a new and changed people. This world is filled with sin and is motivated by selfishness. But the follower of Christ Jesus is newly-born into a walk of selflessness and hope. Ultimately, we do not depend on anything in this world to motivate us. We are promised by God to live forever. Also, when two or more are gathered in His name, whether in worship, Communion, praying or learning together, Christ is among us. Both individually and communally, internally and externally, God is present. So, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the obedience to our LORD Jesus Christ, God will support and strengthen us together. But He can only strengthen us together when we all take the time to meet with Him daily.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 61:1–8

— 1 —

The Rock of God is the Person of Jesus Christ.

When we spend time to seek God through prayer and reading the Bible, we are strengthened.

(v. 1–2)

— 2 —

God's tabernacle is the Person of Jesus Christ.

Christians are also the tabernacle of the LORD.

(v. 3–4)

— 3 —

God is building His Kingdom, every day.

We are a part of God's Kingdom. Hallelujah!

(v. 5–8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The best way we can live for God is to read His Word and spend time with the LORD in prayer. Prayer is not simply asking God to fulfill our needs, but to spend time listening and learning to hear and know what the LORD is speaking to us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I LOVE TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU IN YOUR WORD AND IN PRAYER. OPEN MY HEART TO LEARN AND HEAR FROM YOU.

Connection

PSALMS 65–68

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There is a connection with God that is unique and different than any other connection in our lives. But it only comes when we give our lives to follow Jesus Christ and make Him the LORD of all we do and who we are. This is why we read the Bible and spend time with God in prayer. This connection is not something that comes only to someone who is achieved or talented in any way, it comes to anyone, anywhere, who willingly comes to God to follow the LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ. This is a lifetime commitment of surrender, and your life is eternal. The book of Psalms is a celebration of that surrender. When there is no one else to turn to, there is God. When there is no other place to go to, there is the LORD. We celebrate this connection with the LORD by praising His name, always and forever. Psalms helps us to do that. Psalm 67:1 highlights the connection with God in the first line: “God be merciful to us and bless us.” Mercy is not something that we see frequently in today’s culture. But it is absolutely necessary.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 67:1–7

– 1 –

God rules over every nation on earth. We do not choose or vote who gets to be king of all things. God is King. We must decide if we will follow Him or not.
(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

We praise God for His righteousness; He alone is worthy of all praise. We are only made righteous through the power of the LORD Jesus.
(v. 3–4)

– 3 –

The fear of God is respect and praise, not human fear. Christians fear God in His awesome holiness.
(v. 5–7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Proverbs 1:7 tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Too often, fear is seen as the human emotion that drives our decisions. But God, in His merciful grace, speaks to us in faith. Our sense of fear must be transformed by the renewal of our minds.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO FEAR YOU IN YOUR AWESOME HOLINESS.

The Deliverer

PSALMS 69-72

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In Psalm 70, David refers to God as his deliverer, and if anyone knew about deliverance it was David. He was rescued time and time again from situations that were out of his control. He often had enemies trying to kill him. As a result of God's constant faithfulness, David wrote this piece of music, and he addressed it to the Chief Musician. It highlights God as the helper, rescuer, and ultimate security of David. The Hebrew word used for "escape" here means to slip away, escape, or move away from danger. It is God alone who is able to deliver us from evil and from the enemy of our soul. We may not be in physical danger like David, but all of us are in spiritual danger unless we have come to faith in God through Christ. And all of us can benefit from God's faithfulness in our daily lives. Let's always remember where and from whom our help comes from.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 70:1-5

— 1 —

It is God who can deliver us from those who hate us and want to destroy our work. The life of a Christian is not easy, but the LORD makes us stronger through it.
(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

We should praise the LORD at all times, no matter what happens to us. There is nothing that can destroy our soul, we belong to the LORD.
(v. 4)

— 3 —

When we pray for God's help, He responds. We are dependent on the LORD for His ever-present help and deliverance.
(v. 5)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is our deliverer; He alone is the one who has the power to relieve our suffering. Sin causes suffering and death, but through the finished work of Jesus Christ we can overcome sin and its cost. Come to the LORD Jesus today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED YOUR HELP
TO MOVE YOUR KINGDOM
FORWARD.**

Fame

PSALMS 73–76

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Today, fame and success seem to be measured by how many people follow you or view your social media posts. But fame is not the true measure of success, and it is very deceptive. Christians are not supposed to seek fame and success, we are supposed to be about being righteous. This is what the LORD commands us to do. Righteousness means to be right with God. Fame has to do with being known, with having widespread reputation, especially of a good, positive character, and public importance. Having a good reputation is, of course, important for a Christian, but we need to care more about what God thinks of us, than what people think of us. Our first goal is to be right with God. The LORD must be the first of our priorities in everything. Then, if fame comes, we know how to handle it. Everything comes back to seeking Jesus Christ first. The more we live, the more we move our strength toward doing the things the LORD desires us to do. It's about Him, not us!

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 75:1–10

— 1 —

God gave His Son Jesus to have dominion over our sin. Those whose sins have been forgiven know the LORD and His great power.

(v. 1–3)

— 2 —

It is the LORD who lifts us up. When we promote ourselves in pride or boast in our own strength, it is always a problem.

(v. 4–8)

— 3 —

God promotes those who are right with Him. We should seek to follow God, and do the things He has assigned us.

(v. 9–10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We are moving in the right direction when we make the decision to live God's way. By reading the Bible and praying daily, we can know right and wrong according to God's Word, not just based on our own thoughts and feelings.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO SEEK
YOUR WAYS AND PATHS
FOR MY LIFE EVERY DAY.**

Israel

PSALMS 77-79

DISCOVERING THE WORD

This world can be so depressing! Our taxes are spent on things that grieve God and violate His morality. There is war, death, suffering. And where there is no war, death, or suffering, we fight over who we should support in their war, death, and suffering. A case in point is the whole awful situation with modern Israel and the war she has found herself in. Tragedy on tragedy. It was sin that drove the terrorists to attack on October 7th, 2023. And I think this is a time when we will see more and more sin exposed. As we look around, it strikes me that we would do well not to identify ourselves so much with the nations of this world. Rather, we need to align ourselves with the God of heaven. He is not tolerant of sin but has made a way for us to be restored to Him. If we repent of our sinful ways, we will be saved.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 79:1-13

— 1 —

Israel is God's nation, they are His chosen people.

While the world strays from God, we must diligently seek Him.

(v. 1-4)

— 2 —

The LORD will punish those who oppose and hate Him. As Christians, we must know and live out God's Word in this world.

(v. 5-12)

— 3 —

God's people will praise Him forever for His salvation. Let our voices and our lives give praise and honour to God.

(v.13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

One-third of the Bible is prophecy. God has told us in His Word what will happen in the last days. When we read the passages from God's Word, it's like reading a news story from today. LORD Jesus, come back soon!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I HEAR YOUR PROPHECY NOW.
HELP ME TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT YOU.

Justice & Righteousness

PSALMS 80-84

DISCOVERING THE WORD

My great friend, Jim Cantelon, often speaks about what God says to us in the Old Testament: “The Bible speaks of justice and righteousness.” He goes on to explain that the LORD is consistent with His call on all our lives, to do justice and righteousness. What happens when we do not pursue these things? Does God really judge? Does evil get away with evil? Psalm 82 gives an opening statement that helps us understand: “God stands in the congregation of the mighty, He judges among the gods (the mighty ones).” Psalm 82 reminds us that evil does not get away with evil. God is the ultimate and perfect judge and will cast His ruling at the end of time. If we have taken Jesus Christ as our LORD and Saviour, then God looks at us and sees the work of Christ in us. The Holy Spirit of God is evident in our lives until the LORD makes everything new and right again.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 82:1-8

— 1 —

There are consequences for the decisions we make in life. Christians choose to seek after God, and turn away from sin.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

Christians are held accountable to the LORD Jesus Christ. We know that God calls us to obedience.

(v. 3-4)

— 3 —

God’s judgment of all things will come at the end of time. There is an end to our time and space. God is perfect and will judge those who ignore Him.

(v. 5-8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God has made a way for us to be forgiven and avoid His judgment, through the LORD Jesus Christ. We are wise to come to the LORD Jesus and confess our sins to Him today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PERFECT JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. I ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS TODAY.

Presence of God

PSALMS 85-89

DISCOVERING THE WORD

A lot of people claim to believe in God, or give God credit for working in their lives, but which God are they speaking of? Let's not trick ourselves into following something or someone who is not really God! It's important to name Him, the God of creation, the God of the Bible, Jesus Christ! From our reading today, Psalm 87 demonstrates that God is not finished with the earth, and that always makes me think of the saving work of Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus came to the earth to live with us, give His life for us, and three days later to raise from the tomb in victory over death. He was dead and now He is alive forever. By dealing with sin then, we know He will be faithful to deal with all sin in the future. He can deal with our sin! We were never meant to be filled with sin, it troubles us, it sinks us. But thanks to Christ's work, we will live with Him forever. Let's keep Him as the LORD of our lives.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 87:1-7

— 1 —

There is a city where God will return and reign from. Jerusalem is the city of God.

(v. 1-3)

— 2 —

God announces His city and place to everyone in the future. The last days are a time when God is known. Jesus Christ will come back and reign.

(v. 4)

— 3 —

The Biblical name of God's city is Zion. The ancient Hebrew meaning for Zion is sanctuary or refuge.

(v. 5-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit when we come to Jesus Christ and commit our lives to Him. We are never alone and, at the same time, never crowded.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, CONTINUE TO FILL ME MORE AND MORE WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, AS I LIVE TO FOLLOW YOU.

Under the Shadow

PSALMS 90-94

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Psalm 91 is a great psalm for us to memorize when we find ourselves in times of trouble and difficulty. It was written and recorded in the Bible so that we could remind ourselves of who God is, no matter where we find ourselves. One of my favorite lines is, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (PSALM 91:1). Where is this secret place? In Psalm 91, “secret place” refers to a shelter, covering, or a hiding place. The secret place of God is where He covers our sins and mistakes, where He keeps us safe from judgment. This is Jesus Christ, the provision of God! Just as other Psalms affirm, God is our refuge and our fortress. He promises us amazing provision in the face of impossible odds. Remember that the LORD helps us, always.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 91:1-13

— 1 —

We can absolutely trust in the provision of God's grace through Jesus Christ.

God sees the LORD Jesus, when He looks at our lives.

(v. 1-2)

— 2 —

God promises to protect our future from all things.

The LORD has healed our lives for eternity.

(v. 3-6)

— 3 —

God gives the ability to conquer satan's schemes as we obey His Word. Jesus has freed us from sin so that we can pursue God with passion.

God gives the ability to conquer satan's schemes as we obey His Word. Jesus has freed us from sin so that we can pursue God with passion.

(v. 7-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As our relationship with the LORD deepens and grows, His presence becomes stronger with us. While growing old certainly has its challenges, how amazing it is to grow old in the LORD, knowing that He has us and our future in His hands.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ABIDING PRESENCE AND THE SECURITY I HAVE IN YOU.

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