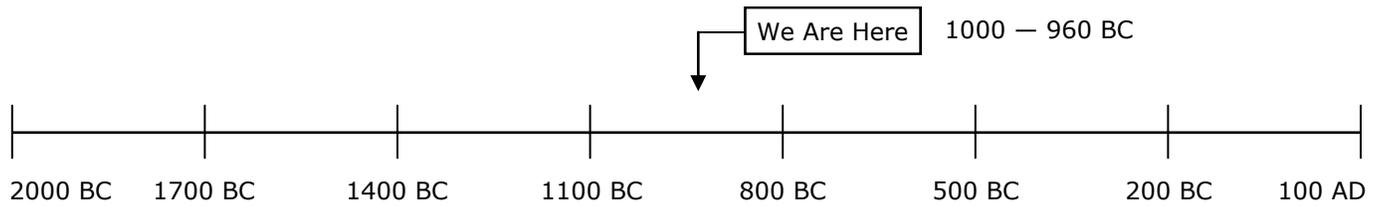


The Baker and His Bread

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Week 20: May 14-20 — *Various Psalms*

38% Complete — 225 Days to Go



Helpful Resource

Overview of Bible History (p.37)

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

Let's look more carefully at how the *Psalms* were compiled in their five books:

Book I (*Psalms 1-41*)

The first collection of psalms is similar to the book of *Genesis*. Just as *Genesis* tells how mankind was created, fell into sin, and was then promised redemption, many of these psalms discuss humans as blessed, fallen, and redeemed by God (*Psalms 8, 14, 25-33* as examples).

Book II (*Psalms 42-72*)

This collection of psalms is similar to the book of *Exodus*. Just as *Exodus* describes the nation of Israel, many of these psalms describe the nation as ruined but recovered. As God rescued the nation of Israel, He also rescues us. We do not have to work out solutions first, but we can go to God with our problems and ask Him to help (*Psalms 49-53, 69-72* for examples).

Book III (*Psalms 73-89*)

This collection of psalms is similar to the book of *Leviticus*. Just as *Leviticus* discusses the Tabernacle and God's holiness, many of these psalms discuss the Temple and God's enthronement. Because God is almighty, we can turn to Him for deliverance. These psalms praise God because He is holy, and His perfect holiness deserves our worship and reverence (*84-89*).

Book IV (*Psalms 90-106*)

This collection of psalms is similar to the book of *Numbers*. Just as *Numbers* discusses the relationship of Israel to surrounding nations, these psalms often mention the relationship of God's overruling Kingdom to other nations. Because we are citizens of God's Kingdom, we can keep the events and troubles of earth in their proper perspective (*93-99* for examples).

Book V (*Psalms 107-150*)

This collection of psalms is similar to the book of *Deuteronomy*. Just as *Deuteronomy* was concerned with God and His Word, these psalms are anthems of praise and thanksgiving for God and His Word. Most of the psalms were originally set to music and used in worship. We can use these psalms today as they were used in the past, as a hymnbook of praise and worship (*Psalms 119, 146-150* for examples).

“Why were the psalms arranged in these five books? No one knows for sure; but we do know that Jewish tradition appealed to the number five and alleged that these divisions echoed the *Pentateuch*. However, no one configuration unlocks the mystery as to the organizing theme of this five-book arrangement” (John MacArthur). However, *Psalms* is the most read book over the centuries, and there are many reasons that we should read it today. Check out this list of reasons to read the *Psalms* (from the Life Application Bible):

When You Want...

Read...

To know how to come to God	<i>Psalm 5</i>
To understand yourself more clearly	<i>Psalm 8</i>
To please God	<i>Psalm 15</i>
To find comfort in your circumstances	<i>Psalm 23</i>
To learn more about God	<i>Psalm 24</i>
To be forgiven of your sins	<i>Psalm 51</i>
To meet God intimately	<i>Psalm 103</i>
To know why you should worship God	<i>Psalm 104</i>
To understand why to read the Bible	<i>Psalm 119</i>
To give thanks to God	<i>Psalm 136</i>
To feel worthwhile about yourself	<i>Psalm 139</i>
To give praise to God	<i>Psalm 145</i>
To know that God is in control	<i>Psalm 146</i>

- Prophetic Passages

1. **Christ Given Vinegar** (*Ps. 69:19-21*): “They offer Me sour wine to satisfy My thirst.”
2. **Christ to Rule Over All** (*110:1*): “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit in honor at My right hand, until I humble Your enemies and make them a footstool under Your feet.’”
3. **Christ in Line of Melchizedek** (*110:4*): “You are a priest in the line of Melchizedek.”

- Personal Application

“God’s Word was written to be studied, understood, and applied, and the book of *Psalms* lends itself most directly to application. We understand the psalms best when we “stand under” them and allow them to flow over us like a rain shower. We may turn to the *Psalms* looking for something, but sooner or later we will meet Someone” (Life Application Bible).

The Baker and His Bread: Oftentimes we get caught up with eating “our daily bread,” and we neglect to honor the One who gave it to us. We sometimes focus on what we can get out of the Word and we fail to thank the Author who wrote the Word. Behind our daily bread, there is a wonderful Baker who desires to meet with us and to feed us. Make sure, the next time you sit down to eat your bread, to thank the Baker who has provided it for you.

The Bottom Line

Behind our “daily bread” is our dependable *Baker*; read the *Word* to discover the *Author*.

Questions to Consider

1. If you had to write a psalm (song) of your life, what would be its theme? Explain.
2. Are you guilty of eating the bread and neglecting the Baker?