

UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

In my daily reading of the **Psalms (16—20)** I was aware of notations I made on the pages to remind me of what God's written Word is saying to us. **Chapter 19** reminds us that the heavens declare God's glory (as does **Romans chapter one**)—useful passages when talking to doubters or atheists. In future meditations I will share other powerful arguments to prove that God exists, that He created every thing in the universe and that when we believe and yield to His Lordship He places a witness of joy and freedom within us that confirms that He accepts our confession and repentance. The Holy Spirit will also convict us when we do wrong and give us inner peace when we make things right.

As I read I realized that for years I never analyzed the Scripture to understand the principles and truths it was teaching. While I learned and applied some principles my understanding and growth was stunted—and I am sorry I missed so much when I was younger. Now, some times I can still read a chapter and never think about “**what**” it says unless I notice my markings and go back and break it apart for meditation. The Lord prompted me to share this value, and suggest a plan with **Mighty Men** in the making, so they can begin now to understand who God is speaking to and exactly what He is saying. This will make the **Bible** more understandable and establish divine principles that we need to apply in our daily lives—and it has other values as well.

Therefore I will prepare an outline of **Psalms 1—15** for your consideration. I underline, and use an * in the margin by a word or passage, I also bracket one or more verses. I use a colored pen to draw my attention to key words or verses. I number blessings, evils to avoid, God's provisions, the things He expects us to do in response to, or to qualify, to receive the list of provisions. You will notice these things as you review the outline which follows. You can create your own marking system, and make adjustments from time to time; and you can finish marking the Psalms through the years. You can also mark Proverbs and any other Books of the Bible to help you grow and mature spiritually.

- Psalm 1 **verse 1** where believers should not walk, stand or sit.
 2 believers should delight and meditate in God's law,
 3 The result of vs **1 & 2**: the believer will be like a tree planted by water that will never die; that will have fruit in season; its leaves will not wither; everything you do will prosper (you will have a formula for success).
 4—6 applies to non-believers and ends with separation from God, which is death.
- Psalm 2 this Psalm was true for that time, but some scholars believe it also applies to the future.
 verses 1—3 describes wicked leaders past and present (compare with USA today).
 4 & 5 God's response to the wicked
 6—9 Messianic
 10-12 God's instructions to good and bad leaders and individuals. Note the importance of godly fear (v.11) and trust (v.12)
- Psalm 3 The entire Psalm reminds us that when we have trouble, *our help comes from God*. He is our shield, He lifts our head up (in hope & trust), He sustains us, He deals with our enemies, He is our salvation (from trouble) and He blesses us.
- Psalm 4 **verses 3—8** **nine divine principles**: 1-God sets apart the godly; 2-God hears our prayers; 3-control anger without sinning; 4-meditate in our heart and in bed; 5-praise is our sacrifice to God; 6-trust in God; 7-God gives us gladness no matter what (if we understand and take it); 8-God gives us peaceful sleep; 9-God alone enables us to live safely no matter what comes our way
- Psalm 5 This Psalm contrasts believers with unbelievers:

verses 1—3 to believers. Note the importance of daily morning prayer
verses 4—6 to non-believers: note the categories of sin and wickedness; the list continues in **vs. 9 & 10**
verses 11,12 Can you pick out the 8 attributes or blessings of those who trust God?

- Psalm 6 The importance of prayer (spiritual warfare too) and the confidence God will answer; enemies in **vs 7,8 & 10** could be wicked people (neighbors or rulers), demons, Satan; (for spiritual warfare read **Ephesians 6:10—18 and James 4:6—10**)
- Psalm 7 **verses 3—5** self examination
6 call for God to arise and help
8 God considers our integrity
9 God tests our hearts
14-16 Gods judgement of the wicked
17 Conclusion: sing praise to the Lord
- Psalm 8 Recognition of the Lord and Messianic implications
verse 4—9 What is Man? his dominion over the earth; his responsibility
- Psalm 9 **verses 1—2** Acknowledging God and His marvelous works with our heart & praise
3—6 God rebuked and punished people & nations
7—10 What God will do in righteous judgment (with **vs. 15—20**)
- Psalm 10 **verses 1—11** What the wicked do
12 + Call for God to arise and act to help the believer and punish the sinner
- Psalm 11 Our trust must be in God; wherever we go God will be there; He is always in His holy temple; God always tests the righteous; He always punishes the wicked—but He also forgives those who repent.
- Psalm 12 **verses 1—4** The unrighteous flatter and deceive and lie; and they reject God. Compare these verses with politicians, leaders and news media today.
Verses 5—7 God will arise and answer prayer, His words are pure as refined by fire.
- Psalm 13 **This Psalm** echoes the truth that God is trustworthy and we can faithfully pray, praise and worship Him.
- Psalm 14 **verse 1** The fools error: he rejects God, doesn't believe there is a God, or that God pays any attention to what men do.
- Psalm 15 Who may dwell in God's holy hill (heaven, eternity with God). Those who:
1-walk uprightly 2-work righteousness 3-speak truth in their hearts 4-don't talk back
5-treat their neighbors well 6-no reproach against friends 7-despise a vile person's actions
8-fear the Lord 9-swear to their own hurt 10-lend to needy friends without interest
11-don't take bribes against the innocent. These people will never be moved or shaken; they will always stand trusting and have favor with God in time and eternity.

If you have any questions email them to me. We are partners together in this project.

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