

We will begin our 10th lecture on the book of Psalms. /Our message is from Psalm 43. /I will go to the God of joy and gladness.

/Verses 1-2. Let us read. /Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

/God is my refuge. /It feels as though God has abandoned me. /The believer is experiencing trials and suffering. /God, I am fighting an ungodly people.

/They are ruthless people. /These people are unfriendly. /They persecute me. /O Lord, defend me and deliver me. / “Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”

/Verses 3-4. /Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

/Send your light and your truth. /God shines his light on us. /It is a light that guides us. /2 Peter 1:19 discusses this. /The verse tells us to wait until the morning star rises.

/This light refers to God’s word. /Send your truth and guide me. /Lead me to your holy hill and your dwelling. /Where is God’s holy hill? /Psalm 121 tells us the answer.

/I lift my eyes to the mountain. /Where does my help come from? /The Lord’s holy hill refers to God’s world. /It is a world of truth. /It is a holy world. /This is the place of God’s dwelling. /It is where God dwells.

/It is where God is present. /Lead me to this place. /Then I will go to the altar of God. /It is the place where the God of joy and gladness dwells.

/God is a God of joy and gladness. /Is this joy among you? /We believers of Jesus must have a faith that always rejoices. /We must repent of our sins before God.

/Even as we weep over our sins, our spirit must always be joyful. /Where does this joy and gladness come from? /They stem from true satisfaction. /Do you have the satisfaction that God gives to us?

/We must be people who rejoice in God alone. /We need to be satisfied with God alone. /What gives you satisfaction? /1 Timothy 6:8 talks about this. /If we have food and clothing, we will be content.

/The verse is telling us to be content with God. /We must be content with God. /Then, joy will overflow from within us. /We must praise the Lord.

/Verse 5. /Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

/My soul, why are you cast down and in turmoil? /Why do you despair? /Why is your heart in despair? /Don't believers also get disappointed? /How disheartened are we? /How anxious are we? /Why are we in turmoil?

/Fear and terror sweep over us. /Where does that fear and terror begin? /It is produced when we sin. /Proverbs 28:1 says that /the wicked flee when no one pursues.

/However, the righteous are bold as a lion. /The righteous have the heart of a lion. /Fear and terror can come upon anyone. /Can you overcome fear and terror?

/Fear and terror are part of our nature. /What should we do when these things attack us? /We must acknowledge them. /We must accept fear and terror as they approach us.

/What should we do next? /We must look to God. /We must trust in God. /If we do these things, fear and terror will fade away like the fog.

/ "You will hope in God!" / "I will praise him, my salvation and my God." /Hope in God. /Then you will find great joy and gladness.

/We will continue with Psalm 44. /Shine the light of your face on me, God. /Verse 3 mentions the light of God's face.

/Verses 1-3. Let us read. /O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old: you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free; for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.

/We hear with our ears. /We remember the things that God had performed in the past. /We know his works. /We remember the things God has done for Israel. /We remember God's deeds of the past.

/We are continuing to hear of the things that God is doing. /Through God's servants, through his word, we are listening to his stories. /Verse 2 says that God drove out the seven nations of Canaan with his hand.

/He then planted the Israelites in that land. /God made our ancestors prosperous. /God struck Egypt with the ten plagues. /How do the Israelites take the land of Canaan in verse 3?

/They do not win the land with their own sword. /They do not claim it because they have power. /God helps Israel with his right hand and right arm.

/The right hand is the hand of power. /It is the hand of authority. /The arm refers to the works of God. /They are God's deeds. /Also, God saves them with the light of his face. /The light of God's face refers to God's glory.

/God does these things for his own glory. /God helps Israel because he loves them /and delights in them. /We delight in seeing our children. /Even if they do wrong, we still love our children. /God looks at his believers and his church in joy.

/Verses 4-10. /You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob! Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down those who rise up against us. For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me. But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us. In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. *Selah* But you have rejected us and disgraced us and have not gone out with our armies. You have made us turn back from the foe, and those who hate us have gotten spoil.

/God shows us his grace of salvation because he is our king. /Who will stand against us and defeat us? /Who can defeat those who stand to strike us? /In verse 6, I do not trust in my bow.

/I do not rely on my abilities. /My sword cannot save me. /1 Samuel 17:45 talks about this. /David is speaking to Goliath. /He says, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, /but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel."

/What is our weapon? /We cannot see our weapon. /Our faith is our weapon. /God is our weapon. /What happens when we do not acknowledge this God? /Then who will help us?

/We cannot defeat the enemy with our own strength. /How long can you last in war with a bow and sword? /Believers! What happens when you run out of arrows? /What happens if your sword breaks? /What happens when you lose your strength?

/Let us not trust in the bow. /Our sword cannot save us. /We must trust in the power of God. /We can be victorious with the power of the Lord.

/Verse 7 says that God is the one who saves us from our foes. /He delivers us from those who hate us. /In verse 8, I continually boast in God alone.

/However, why does God abandon me in verse 9? /Why are we put to shame? /Why don't we go out with our armies? /We are retreating from our enemies.

/Those who hate us have captured us. /Our enemies have taken away our sheep, and they have disdained our people. /We are being put to shame.

/Verses 11-16. /You have made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations. You have sold your people for a trifle, demanding no high price for them. You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us. You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples. All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

/Verse 13 says, “You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us.” /Verse 9 says that God has forsaken me. /He has made us the taunt of our enemies. /God does not go out with our armies.

/In verse 10, our enemies have plundered us. /In verse 11, God has made us like sheep for slaughter and have scattered us among the nations. /Verse 12 says, “You have sold your people for a trifle. /Verse 13 says, “You have made us the taunt of our neighbors.”

/Verse 14 says, “You have made us... a laughingstock among the peoples.” /Believers have become the object of derision. /We have become a laughingstock. /Why is this happening? /In verse 15, shame has covered my face.

/What do we do when we are suffering? /We can do nothing but go before God. /We become humble. /We go to a place of prayer. /In the past, we have tried to do things on our own. /We have tried to do things according to our will.

/In our past, we thought we could do things in our own power. /However, I now go before God. /I will not forget the Lord.

/Verses 17-18. /All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant. Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way;

/All this has come upon us. /This great thing has befallen us. /We will not forget the Lord. /We will hope in God. /And we will not be false to your covenant. /We will keep your commandments.

/Verse 18 says that our heart will not turn back. /We will not be dismayed, nor will we be regretful. /Now, our steps will not depart from the Lord’s way. /This is our faith. /The faith of believers has stood upright again. /Even still, in verse 19, the Lord has broken us in the place of jackals.

/Verses 19-22. /yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death. If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart. Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.

/God has pushed us into the cave of wolves. /He has covered us with the shadow of death.
/Have I forgotten the name of God? /Have I trusted in idols? /Why is God doing this?
/God knows the secrets of my heart.

/God knows everything about us. /He knows the deepest corners of our hearts. /Verse 22 says that we are like sheep to be slaughtered. /This is a preview of Jesus Christ's future suffering. /Isaiah 53:7.

/Verses 22-26. /Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever! Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression? For our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly clings to the ground. Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!

/All day long, we are killed for your sake. /Romans 8:36 applies this message. /Isaiah 53:7. /We are like sheep led to the slaughter. /Verse 23 says, "Awake! / "Why are you sleeping, O LORD?" / "Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!"

/The believer who is going through hardship is crying out to God. /God makes us through our suffering. /Romans 5:3 says that we build patience. /God tests us in our patience. /He continues to test us.

/In verse 24, it seems like God is hiding his face from us. /It appears as though he has forgotten our pain and oppression. /We are almost dead. /We cannot fail any more.

/Verse 26 says, "Rise up; come to our help!" /Please give me your love. /Please shine the light of your face on me. /We need to seek God's face, and we need to long for his grace.

/We will continue with Psalm 45. /The king's arrows are sharp. /God pierces the enemies' heart with the arrows.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

/My heart is overflowing with a pleasing theme. /I am writing a song for the king, and my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe. /The king here is King David. /Ultimately, the king is a symbol for Jesus Christ.

/The Psalmist has composed songs for the king, and these songs are very beautiful. /In spiritual terms, the king refers to Jesus Christ.

/Verses 2-5. /You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever. Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty! In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds! Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you.

/The king is most handsome of the sons of men. /Jesus Christ is more beautiful than any person. /Grace flows from his lips. /Song of Solomon 4:11 says this. / “Your lips drip nectar, my bride.”

/God rejoices when we praise him. /The words of the Lord are sweeter than honey and the honeycomb. /God has blessed the king with an eternal blessing. /Verse 3 says, “Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty!”

/The king has splendor and majesty. /Verse 4 says that the king possesses truth, meekness, and righteousness. /Jesus Christ is truthful. /He is humble. /He is righteous. /He is the king of truth. /Verse 5 says that the king’s arrows are sharp.

/What are the king’s arrows? /They symbolize the word of God. /Ephesians 6:17 tells us to carry the sword of the Spirit into battle. /Hebrews 4:12 says that the word of God is like a double-edged sword. /The word of God pierces and divides the soul, spirit, and joints.

/The word of God reveals what is within us. /The arrows of the king are extremely sharp. /They pierce the heart of the enemy. /Every person falls before the Lord.

/Verses 6-9. /Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

/The Lord’s throne is forever, and the scepter of his kingdom is one of uprightness. /God’s kingship exists on righteousness. /Verse 7 says that God anoints the king with oil of gladness. /God’s world is a world of joy and gladness.

/Jesus Christ is greater than anyone of his kind. This symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus Christ. /Verse 8 says that the king’s robes are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia. /This means that the king’s deeds are good and righteous.

/In verse 9, the king views highly of some ladies. /They are God’s people. /They are the believers. /God loves his believers. /He clothes them in the gold of Ophir.

/Who are the “daughters of the king”? /They are the believers of Jesus Christ who come from different nations of the world. /Who is the queen? / “The queen” refers to the faithful believers who are distinguished from other believers. /It refers to the holy believers. /God will decorate them in the gold of Ophir. /They stand at the right hand of the king.

/Verses 10-17. /Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house, and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him. The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people. All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold. In many-colored robes she is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her. With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king. In place of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

/Verse 10 says, "Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear." / "Forget your people and your father's house." /God commands Abraham in Genesis 12:1. /He tells Abraham to leave his land, relatives, and the house of his father.

/This means to leave the world we lived in prior to having faith. /We must not have our hope in this world. /We may live in our flesh in this world, but we must not put our hopes in the world. /We must not put our trust in the world.

/Forget the house of your father! /And trust in God. /He is your Lord. /He loves you. /Verse 13 says that the princess is all glorious in her chamber. /In verse 14, God makes his believers beautiful. /God makes his believers honorable.

/Verse 15 says that God gives his believers joy and gladness. /We must not forget the world of Christ. /It is a world of faith and grace. /We must work hard to not forget the world of God. /We can only protect that world if we try our best.

/We will continue with Psalm 46. /God's river is flowing. /This river makes glad the holy habitation of God.

/Verses 1-3. Let us read. /God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*

/God is our refuge and our strength. /God is our very present help when we are in trouble.

/Verse 2 says that whether the earth gives way, /though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, /though the waters roar and foam, /and though the mountains tremble at its swelling, /we believers will not fear.

/Great disasters will happen to us. /A city that existed yesterday will cease to exist today. /Many people have lived in that city, /but they are all dead. /Psalm 90:5 says that / God sweeps them away as with a flood.

/How does God sweep people away? /He sweeps them away with disasters. /He also sweeps them away with war. /Finally, God sweeps them away with plagues and diseases.

/Who is the refuge and strength for believers? /Who must we trust in during these hardships? /We must trust only in God. /Then we will not be afraid.

/Verses 4-7. /There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

/There is a river. /The streams of the river flow into the city of God. /This river symbolizes God's work of life. /It symbolizes God's work of salvation, /the work of life.

/Jesus says in John 4:14, / "But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. /The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

/Water flowed from the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2:10. /Four rivers wetted the lands as they flowed. /The Garden of Eden is God's world. /Ezekiel 47 says that /water flows from the throne of God.

/God's work is like a great river. /The river of life is flowing. /This is a river that gives joy. /In verse 5, God is in the midst of the city. /When God is there, the city is not shaken. /God will help her when morning comes.

/God is a God who helps when morning dawns. /When is the morning? /It is the time that comes after night. /Night has almost passed away. /The darkness has gone. /This means that the believer has passed through his suffering.

/The believer has endured the trials of darkness in his faith. /Morning is approaching us. /We also need to pray early in the morning. /Then God will help us at dawn. /Verse 6 says that the nations rage and the kingdoms totter. /However, in verse 7, God is our fortress.

/Verses 8-11. /Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

/Verse 8 says, "Come, behold the works of the LORD." /Verse 10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God." /You will not be anxious. /Do not be afraid. /This means to hope in God. /God is our refuge.

/We will continue with Psalm 47. /God is my heritage. /God is our heritage.

/Verses 1-4. Let us read. /Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*

/God says he will give us our heritage. /Verse 3 says that God puts the nations under our feet. /God subdues them for us. /God works for his believers.

/Verses 5-9. /God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

/Verse 6 says, “Sing praises to God, sing praises!” /What does verse 8 say about God? /God is a God who reigns over the nations and sits on his holy throne.

/Verse 9 says that the shields of the earth belong to God. /God rules over the nations of the world. /He rules over our families.

/We will continue with Psalm 48.

/Verses 1-3. Let us read. /Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.

/The LORD is a great God. /Our God is praised in his city, his holy mountain. /Verse 2 says that God’s city is Mount Zion. /Mount Zion is located in the far north. /It is a high and beautiful mountain. /The king dwells within the mountain.

/Spiritually, Mount Zion refers to Jerusalem. /In today’s New Testament times, Mount Zion refers to the church. /It is God’s world, the world of truth. /In verse 3, God is our fortress.

/Verses 4-8. /For behold, the kings assembled; they came on together. As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic; they took to flight. Trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a woman in labor. By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever. *Selah*

/The kings come together and attack, but they take flight. /They run away after seeing that God helps his people. /Verse 8 says that we have seen the city of God. /It is a city that God will establish forever.

/Verses 9-14. /We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness. Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments! Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.

/Verse 9 says, “We have thought on your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.” /Verse 14 says, “That this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever.”

/This concludes the 10th lecture on the book of Psalms. /Thank you.