

Syllabus

BIB 225: Psalms **Genesis Bible Institute**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the message, purpose, themes, and relevance of the book of Psalms. Students learn the importance of Psalms as the songbook of God's people in both their private devotion and gathered worship. Special emphasis is given to practical application; learners are challenged to put into practice the spiritual truths God reveals to them.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Quote Psalm 23 from memory;
- Identify the Psalms' examples of worship, praise, sacrifice, and repentance;
- Identify, discuss, and apply spiritual truths found in each of the five books of the Psalms;
- Apply the content of the Psalms to the life and Messianic Mission of the Lord Jesus;
- Recognize the attributes of God found in the Psalms;
- Summarize incidents in David's life as found in the Psalms;
- Analyze Psalms to determine their connections to other Bible prophecies, promises, and narratives;
- Analyze the use of metaphor in the Psalms;
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of structure and purpose for Psalms by creating your own psalm.

REQUIRED READING

- The book of Psalms in one of the following translations: ESV, NKJV, NRSV, RSV, NIV.
- Study Guide: A Refreshing Journey through the Psalms.
- DelHousaye, John. "Across the Kidron: Reading the Psalms with David and Jesus," in *Scripture and the People of God: Essays in Honor of Wayne Grudem*. Edited by John DelHousaye, John J. Hughes, and Jeff T. Purswell. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018, pp. 117-132. Print. This essay will be provided for you.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Maclaren, Alexander. *The Expositor's Bible: The Psalms Vol. 1-3*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1894. E-book, Securus Tablet.
- Keller, Timothy. Gospel in Life Sermons Podcast. <http://gospelinlife.com>. Securus Tablet.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- *Study Guide Answers* (worth 60 points / 60% of grade)

In Units 1-5, you will answer eight content questions on each of the five books of Psalms. You will also answer two reflection questions that will help identify principles and spiritual truths and apply them to your life. These ten questions are worth one point each. In Unit 6, you will examine the backstory of five events in David's life as described in 1 and 2 Samuel, reflecting on David's reaction to these events as described in the Psalms. Unit 6 has five writing responses, and each is worth two points.

- **Assignment 1: Write a Psalm** (worth 5 points / 5% of grade)
You will write your own psalm that will be used to comfort others or inspire them in their faith. Your psalm must be 10 verses long and must be your own original work. Each verse is worth 0.5 points.
- **Assignment 2: Messianic Psalms** (worth 10 points / 10% of grade)
For this assignment you will complete a chart that contains several Messianic psalms and their New Testament citations (where applicable) and then describe the prophetic aspects, emotions, or experiences of Christ that are found in each Messianic psalm. You will also write a reflection on what you learned or enjoyed the most about viewing Christ in the Psalms.
- **Assignment 3: Reading the Psalms with David and Jesus** (worth 15 points / 15% of grade)
After reading John DelHousaye's essay, "Across the Kidron: Reading the Psalms with David and Jesus," you will write a 5-paragraph describing how the Psalms are the words of David, Jesus, and God's people. You will focus on: [Fred, please bullet these]
 - the EMOTIONS of David and God's people in the Psalms
 - the EXPERIENCES of Jesus prophetically in Psalms and their New Testament fulfillments
 - the END TIMES, the future promises to God's people, and the coming reign of Christ. Refer to the *Genesis Writer's Manual* for instructions on how to structure this writing assignment.
- **Final Exam** (worth 10 points / 10% of grade)
The Final Exam will consist of eight matching questions and the six Bible verses you memorized in this course. Use the Study Guide Introduction as a review for this exam. The matching questions are drawn from vocabulary and historical background on Psalms found in the Study Guide Introduction.

Summary of Assignments and Grading		
Study Guide Answers	60 points	60%
Write a Psalm	5 points	5%
Messianic Psalms	10 points	10%
Reading the Psalms with David and Jesus	15 points	15%



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Final Exam	10 points	10%
Total	100 points	100%