

Psalms

5 Divisions

1.	Psalm	1-41
2	Psalm	42-71
3.	Psalm	73-89
4.	Psalm	90-106
5	Psalm	107-150

Reflections on Psalms

Reading synoptically through Psalms or synthetically through Psalms

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Psalms is the playlist for the saints. It reflects not only on the state of affairs for the people who dare to keep it real with life, but also on the God who keeps it real with God's people even when God's presence, peace, and power are not always noticeable. Have accusers, adversity, or abandonment ever made you wonder whether or not doing the right thing is worth it? Have burdens, bereftment, or bereavement ever made you wonder whether or not serving the Lord will pay off after a while? Have calamities, causticness, or casualties ever coaxed you to question why evildoers seem to do well when do-gooders don't seem to do too good? The songs in the Psalms wrestle with questions like these and challenge us when we face such questions to respond with worship that declares our God is still worthy even when the challenges of life lead us to wonder if it's worth it.

Additionally, the songs in Psalms help us not only to look at the heart of the Psalmist as one who observes the challenges of life situations, but also to look at the heart of the Psalmist as one who cries out to a God of deliverance. We see in the Psalms not only the sufferer's intercession of prayer, but also the Psalmist's interjections of praise even before they find deliverance from the situation. Ultimately, as the psalmists rehearse their history, peer at their purpose, and praise their Protector, the psalmists often find encouragement to persevere recognizing that there is no better shelter than the Sovereign which also leads to the confident conclusion that serving the Lord will pay off. Additionally, the Psalmists remind us not to fear anyone more than God or to follow anyone more than God. The Psalmists exercise faith by anticipating vindication, validation, and victory in God; consequently, the Psalmists' songs are often songs of encouragement to keep on keeping on even when we don't feel like going on!