



MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2016

SERIES: PSALMS 1 -8

Read: Psalm 1

Plug In...

For the next three weeks, the *Daily Bible Reading Email* will track through the first eight psalms. This will be different to what is covered at Sunday Church and Growth Groups due those occasions undertaking a special focus.

Here, we'll meditate on a single psalm for two days.

Psalm 1 states a fact about the fabric of God's universe. That is, the one who meditates on God's word day and night and does not stray from God's path will prosper. Conversely, the person who strays will be destroyed.

Chew It Over...

This truth should be startling with our first response as: woe is me! But wait, there's more. The book of Psalms was most likely compiled during the exile. The people of Israel in exile had no kingdom, no king. Here, they remembered God's promise of a Messiah-King and drew together everything they knew that God had said about this king. They knew God has promised a king from David (2 Samuel 7:11-16) and that God had said this king will keep the Bible on his bedside-table; learning and following everything in it

(Deuteronomy 17:19-20). While this psalm commends us to do the same, given its context it first causes us to remember God provided a king which the people in exiles had hoped for. A king, the blessed man (of Psalm 1), who certainly never strayed from God's path on behalf of his people.

Prayer Suggestion

Help us Lord to know our God through these psalms. May we see your mercy, love, and fulfilment of everything in Jesus as anticipated in the psalms.



The Lakes

TUESDAY 30 AUGUST 2016

SERIES: PSALMS 1 -8

Read: Psalm 1:2

Plug In...

Let's take a second pass through Psalm 1. The psalm promises the good life to the person who follows God's Word. The person is described as "delighting" and "meditating" in God's Word. This captures the relationship between God and this person. The person *wants* to listen to and *wants* be with God.

Chew It Over...

How is your Bible reading going? Has it become a chore? When did it become such a burden?

Think about what drives your Bible reading. Consistent and sustained Bible reading comes from a deep desire to know your God.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that God will deepen your relationship with Him. Ask that you can continue to trust that God has and will prosper you in Jesus, in time. Pray that this trust continues even when you may feel surrounded by the wicked and their pressures.



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WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST 2016

SERIES: PSALMS 1 -8

Read: Psalm 2

Plug In...

In the first instance, Psalm 2 would have been powerful to those in exile. It establishes that God is Lord over all the earth. It states matter-of-factly that God has installed a King which all other kings will tremble before.

Chew It Over...

Think about the Jews in exile singing this psalm. They sang it while there evidently was no king for Israel. They sang it while being oppressed by the Babylonians. Yet their confidence was such that they could speak of the future king God would install in the past tense. They describe it as already having happened. Our situation is both similar and different. We proclaim Jesus as king and lord over all, but it is not self-evident. However, we know that God's anointed king has been installed through the cross and resurrection. The delay between then and his appearing in glory is to give people opportunity to pay homage to the Son. This comes through the gospel lest they be destroyed.

Prayer Suggestion

Praise God using verse 12. That meditating on God's Word includes the delighting in the comforting word that refuge can be found in a king that died for us.



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THURSDAY 01 SEPTEMBER 2016

SERIES: PSALMS 1 -8

Read: Psalm 2:10-11

Plug In...

The kings of the earth are called to respond to the installation of God's King. The response should be reverential awe and obeying his instruction. This psalm states the comprehensive lordship of God through His installed King.

Chew It Over...

How do you feel when you have opportunity to share the gospel or express a Christian view? Given that Jesus is Lord over all – as this psalm shows – how should it shape and control any nervousness and reservations we might have?

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that we grasp the lordship of Christ. Pray that understanding his comprehensive ownership, rulership, and lordship over every human individual will make us bold. That clearly understanding Jesus' lordship means we acknowledge the 'right' (not just responsibility) we have to proclaim the gospel to everyone.



The Lakes

FRIDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2016

SERIES: PSALMS 1-8

Read: Psalm 3

Plug In...

This psalm takes us to King David on the run from his son Absalom (*cf.* 2 Samuel 15:1-14). God had said that David would be king and establish his kingdom forever (*cf.* 2 Samuel 7:11-16). All David sees at this moment, is his enemies surrounding him, mocking him, about to crush him. Verses 3-4 show David trusting in God despite this reality. Again, so confident is David's trust that his rescue is described as having already happened (past tense).

Chew It Over...

Like David, we see Jesus trusting in God's promise to restore him after enduring suffering (Matthew 26:42). How is David, and then Jesus, an example to us when things do not seem as God has said they are?

Prayer Suggestion

Praise God for the guaranteed rescue He has provided through Jesus. Ask for solid trust when life's circumstances huff-and-puff against you; tempting you to come up with your own rescue plan.



The Lakes

WEEKEND 03-04 SEPTEMBER 2016

SERIES: PSALMS 1-8

Read: Psalm 3:5

Plug In...

David is homeless, on the run, at death's door, and then does a surprising thing. He lays down to sleep.

Chew It Over...

Is this the release-valve to anxiety? Despite all the threats around him and the corresponding fears, once David remembers God's promise, his heart and mind set at rest. This trust frees him to continue on with the normal rhythms of life: going to sleep and getting up again in the morning.

If you are having trouble sleeping because of worries, then hold in your heart again that Jesus has done and conquered all. You can lie down and sleep.

Prayer Suggestion

Thankyou God that Jesus has done it, therefore we can sleep at night!