Using The Psalms

Ken Chapman · Series: **A Year in the Psalms**

INTRODUCTION

- One of the goals of this style of annual Bible reading is so that you can dig a little deeper into the text rather than just reading on a rapid pace to get through the entire Bible in a year.
- We're going to look at the first twelve Psalms and use them as a guideline for using the Psalms for the particular purpose of gaining a closer walk with God.
- The Psalms serve many purposes for us today, and one of those purposes is to help us gain a closer walk with God.

1 The Psalms Bring Us to Know God

Psalm 2:1–6; Psalm 3:3–6; Psalm 8:3–5

- One of our goals, in fact, I would argue a primary goal of Bible study ought to be this: to know God.
- God doesn't want these disconnected task bearers. God wants fellowship. God wants communion.
- We learn here that God is going to accomplish His purposes no matter what.
- We learned in Psalm 2 of the undefeatable power of God, and now in the third Psalm, we read that He'll use that power to uphold and to sustain us.
- As we grow in our appreciation and our understanding of Him, then almost a natural result of that is we will grow in our service and our obedience.
- The more you know about God, the more you know God, the better you'll be.

2 The Psalms Teach Us to Pray

Psalm 5:1–3; Psalm 6:1–10; Psalm 12:1

- If you really want to learn how to pray to God, what better place than the Psalms? Because so many of the Psalms are prayers.
- What we have here is an inspired tutorial on prayer.
- The largest category is psalms of lament. A psalm of lament is just a psalm that says, Woe is me. Please, God hear my cry.
- It's far more dangerous to allow those feelings and those doubts to fester and to sour.
- These Psalms of lament so often follow a pattern of lament to praise.
- These Psalms teach us how to articulate our hurt. And turn them over to God.

3 How the People of God Should Praise Him

Colossians 3:16; Psalm 5:11; Psalm 7:17

- How can I express my profound love, appreciation, and trust in God. I don't have the words. Yes, you do. They don't have to be your words.

- How did Moses respond to God's deliverance of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt? He sang a psalm.
- Singing the Psalms allows us to proclaim the words of God and let them dwell richly within us.
- Let those rejoice who put their trust in you, let them ever shout for joy, because you defend them.
- I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness.

MY NOTES