

Session 2: The Central Message of the Psalms

The Psalms as a “little Bible” (Martin Luther)

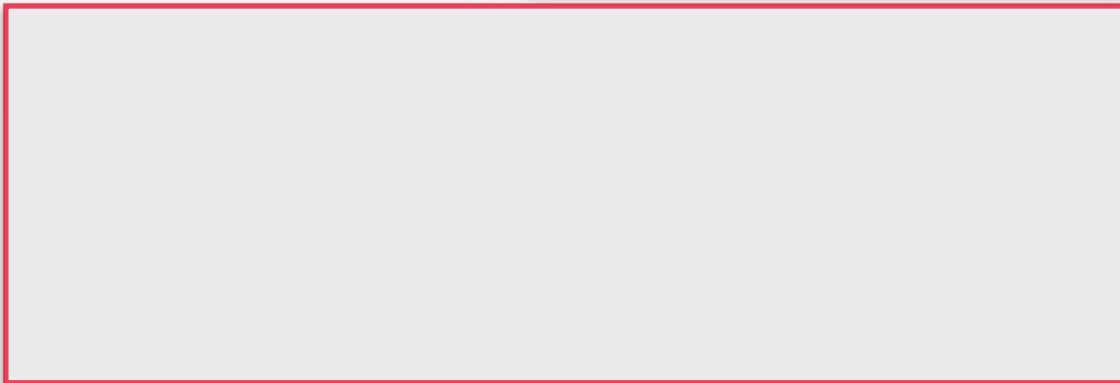
The Psalter ought to be a precious and beloved book, if for no other reason than this: it promises Christ’s death and resurrection so clearly— and pictures his kingdom and the condition and nature of all Christendom— that it might well be called a little Bible.

In it is comprehended most beautifully and briefly everything that is in the entire Bible. It is really a fine enchiridion or handbook. In fact, I have a notion that the Holy Spirit wanted to take the trouble himself to compile a short Bible and book of examples of all Christendom or all saints, so that anyone who could not read the whole Bible would here have anyway almost an entire summary of it, comprised in one little book.

(Luther’s Works Volume 35: 254, American Edition)

The Psalms (and the Bible):

It’s a book about ...



The Old Testament “Scriptures” consist of ...

1. The 5 books of Moses called the Law or the Torah
2. The Prophets
3. The Writings or the Psalms

What is the central message of the Bible?

Luke 24:25-27: He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"

And beginning **with Moses** and **all the Prophets**, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:44-49: He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the **Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**"

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Further Testimony of the Scriptures:

John 1:45: Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 5:39-47: You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

"But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.

John 20:30-31: Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 2:14-41: But he (David) was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. (2:30-32)

Acts 3:11-26: Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. (3:17-18)

Acts 4:25: You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.' (4:25-26)

Acts 8:26-35: Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. (8:35)

Acts 10:43: All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (10:43)

Acts 13:13-52: The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. (13:27)

Acts 17:1-15: As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ, " he said. (17:2-3)

Acts 26: I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen--that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles. (26:22-23)

Romans 1:1-7: "... set apart for the gospel of God-- the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ..." (1:1-2)

Romans 3:9-26: But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. (3:21)

1 Corinthians 15: For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. (15:3-5)

1 Peter 1:10-11: Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

2 Peter 1:16-21: Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (1:20-21)

The Psalms (and the Bible):

It's a book about ...

**Jesus Christ crucified, dead and risen
for the forgiveness of sins.**

The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Scriptures

Acts 1:15-17: "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus--he was one of our number and shared in this ministry." (1:16-17)

Acts 2:14-41: But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. (2:30-31)

Acts 3:17-20: Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. (3:17-18)

Acts 4:25-26: You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.' (4:25-26)

2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (3:16-17)

1 Peter 1:10-11: Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (1:10-11)

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The Real Teacher of the Scriptures is the Holy Spirit.

The man without the Spirit cannot grasp the meaning of the Scriptures. And Christians, because we are still burdened by sin, continually require the help and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

Ephesians 1:15-ff

Psalms 119

Oratio: Prayer to the Holy Spirit to Teach Us

Meditatio: Meditation on the Word of God

Tentatio: Struggle and Trouble