

# Psalms Primer

A 6-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®  
Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

## About This Series

This six-lesson study provides a foundational understanding of the doctrinal significance, design, and role of the book of Psalms within God’s program with the nation Israel. Rather than treating the Psalms as a personal devotional collection, Keith Blades examines them as a doctrinally structured whole — organized around the five mandates of the Davidic Covenant. Each of the five books of the Psalms corresponds to one of the five roles the Messiah fulfills for Israel: Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, and Blessor. The primary audience for the Psalms is the believing remnant of Israel in the fifth and final installment of the fifth course of punishment — the day of the Lord. This primer equips students to handle the Psalms accurately, avoiding the common misapplication that arises from failing to rightly divide the word of truth and recognize the Psalms’ dispensational context.



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## Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
<b>Lesson 1</b>	The Position of the Psalms — dispensational context, doctrinal design, and primary audience
<b>Lesson 2</b>	The Davidic Covenant — God’s Jehovahhness and the five mandates as the organizing structure of the Psalms
<b>Lesson 3</b>	The First Book of the Psalms (Psalms 1–41) — the Redeemer and His Redemption
<b>Lesson 4</b>	The Second and Third Books (Psalms 42–89) — the Deliverer and the Avenger
<b>Lesson 5</b>	The Fourth and Fifth Books (Psalms 90–150) — the King and the Blessor
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Representative Psalms — Psalm 23 and others examined in their proper dispensational context

## Lesson Summaries

## L1

### **The Position of the Psalms** *Foundations of Dispensational Understanding*

- The book of Psalms is not a random collection — every psalm is in the precise order God intended, with deliberate doctrinal design and structure
- The Psalms belong to God's program with Israel (Genesis–Malachi and the Gospels), not to Paul's epistles for the Body of Christ today
- The primary users of the Psalms in God's program will be the believing remnant of Israel in the fifth and final installment of the fifth course of punishment — the day of the Lord
- The current Dispensation of Grace is a parenthesis that has suspended God's program with Israel; when it concludes at the Rapture, Israel's program resumes

#### **Common Misuse:**

- Christians often misapply psalms such as Psalm 23, not recognizing their dispensational context and primary audience — a misuse that leads to genuine doctrinal loss
- Each of the five books of the Psalms corresponds to one of the five mandates of the Davidic Covenant — the key to understanding the entire book

## L2

### **The Davidic Covenant and the Structure of the Psalms** *God's Jehovahness and the Five Mandates*

- The Psalms cannot be properly understood without first understanding the Davidic Covenant and what God promised David
- God's Jehovahness — the "I AM" concept — declares He would be whatever Israel needed; the Davidic Covenant is the mechanics by which He puts that into effect
- The Messiah, enfleshed in the line of the seed of David, fulfills five mandates: Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, and Blessor
- Isaiah 9:6 names the Messiah in five titles corresponding exactly to the five mandates of the Davidic Covenant
  - Everlasting Father, Mighty God, Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace — each name describes His role in fulfilling a specific mandate for Israel
- Hosea 13–14 illustrates Israel's five-fold need and God's declaration to meet it through His Jehovahness
- Each of the five books of the Psalms focuses upon one mandate in sequential order, reflecting the historical outworking of God's program with Israel
- The remnant of Israel in the day of the Lord is the primary audience the Psalms are designed to instruct, comfort, and sustain

## L3

### **The First Book of the Psalms (Psalms 1–41)** *The Redeemer and His Redemption*

- The first book of the Psalms (Psalms 1–41) focuses on the first mandate of the Davidic Covenant: the Redeemer and His redemption
- The core Psalms of the first book are Psalms 22, 23, and 24 — dealing respectively with the cross, the Shepherd's leading, and the King's entry into His domain

- Psalm 22 opens with Christ's words from the cross and describes the mechanics of redemption — the Redeemer bearing the sins of the many as set forth in Isaiah 53
- David functioned as a type of the remnant's experience in the day of the Lord; his persecutions foreshadow those the remnant will endure under the fifth course of punishment

**Structure of the Book:**

- Each book of the Psalms follows a consistent pattern: preceding psalms build the case for the need, core psalms present the mechanics of fulfillment, subsequent psalms describe the benefits that accrue
- The second book of the Psalms (Psalms 42–72) deals with the Deliverer and His deliverance; core Psalms 50–60 open with “the mighty God” — the Messiah's title as Deliverer in Isaiah 9:6

**L4**

**The Second and Third Books of the Psalms (Psalms 42–89)**

*The Deliverer and the Avenger*

- The second book of the Psalms (Psalms 42–72) focuses on the Deliverer and His deliverance; core Psalms are Psalms 50–60
- Psalm 50 opens with “the mighty God” — the precise title given to the Messiah as Deliverer in Isaiah 9:6 — establishing the doctrinal connection
- David's recorded experiences (persecution by Saul, Philistines, and Edomites) serve as types of what the remnant will face in the day of the Lord
- The third book of the Psalms (Psalms 73–89) focuses on the Avenger and His avengement; core Psalms are Psalms 79–83

**Deliverer vs. Avenger:**

- Though both aspects of the Messiah's work operate simultaneously in the day of the Lord, they represent distinct functions with distinct results
  - Deliverance = the rescue of the believing remnant from their enemies;
  - Avengement = God's judicial action against those enemies on His cause's behalf
- Psalm 79 illustrates the mechanics of avengement: the remnant's cry for God to act and the Lord's responding judgment upon the nations
- The Gentile nations are brought into submission through the Lord's avengement and are then offered the opportunity for kingdom blessing

**L5**

**The Fourth and Fifth Books of the Psalms (Psalms 90–150)**

*The King and the Blessor*

- The fourth book of the Psalms (Psalms 90–106) focuses on the King and His Kingdom; core Psalms are Psalms 95–100 — the “new song” kingdom psalms
- Psalm 90 (Moses) opens the fourth book, looking back on Israel's history as context for the coming of the kingdom and the King's reign
- The fifth book of the Psalms (Psalms 107–150) focuses on the Blessor and His blessings; core Psalms are the Songs of Degrees (Psalms 120–134)
- The Songs of Degrees are pilgrim psalms for the remnant's journey to and experience in the kingdom, centered on Zion
- El Elyon — the LORD that made heaven and earth — functions in Zion, and

the blessing flows outward to all the families of the earth

**Israel to the Nations:**

- The Abrahamic Covenant undergirds the fifth book: “I’ll bless thee and thou shalt be a blessing, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed”
  - Ezekiel 36–37 describes Israel’s cleansing and their restored desire to see the nations blessed as they have been blessed
- The five-fold survey is complete: Redeemer → Deliverer → Avenger → King → Blessor — the full sequential outworking of the Davidic Covenant in the Psalms

**L6**

**Representative Psalms — Examined in Context** *Psalm 23 and Others Rightly Divided*

- Lesson 6 applies the doctrinal framework of the series to specific Psalms commonly misused or misunderstood by Christians today

**Psalm 23:**

- The most misapplied Psalm in Scripture — misuse has so deeply entrenched misunderstanding that its true audience and purpose are rarely recognized
- Psalms 22, 23, and 24 form the core triad of the first book; all seven compound names of Jehovah are found within this triad
  - Psalm 22 = Jehovah Jireh (the cross and redemption); Psalm 23 = Jehovah Rohi (the Shepherd leading the remnant through the day of the Lord); Psalm 24 = the King entering His domain

**Psalm 37:**

- “The meek shall inherit the earth” (v. 11) — the inheritance doctrine for the remnant in the kingdom; quoted by the Lord in Matthew 5:5 (the Sermon on the Mount)
  - James 2–3 and Hebrews 13 extensively align with Psalm 37 — confirming they are written to the same remnant audience
- Hebrews and James quote extensively from the Psalms because they are written to the same audience — Israel’s remnant — with the same doctrinal purpose
- The Psalms form the devotional and doctrinal curriculum designed by God for His remnant; rightly dividing them protects against abuse and opens their genuine richness

## Key Doctrinal Distinctions

### Right Division and the Psalms

The book of Psalms belongs to the “times past” portion of Scripture — God’s program with Israel. It is not written to or for the Body of Christ today. The failure to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) leads to the consistent misapplication of the Psalms, turning scriptures designed for Israel’s remnant in

the day of the Lord into personal devotional comfort for Christians today. Recognizing the dispensational context is the essential first step to handling the Psalms accurately.

## **God’s Jehovahness and the Davidic Covenant**

The name Jehovah — the “I AM” — expresses God’s commitment to be whatever Israel needs Him to be. The Davidic Covenant provides the precise mechanics by which He fulfills that commitment, through the Messiah enfleshed in the line of the seed of David. The five mandates of the Davidic Covenant (Redeemer, Deliverer, Avenger, King, Blessor) correspond exactly to the five things Israel needs and to the five titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6.

## **The Remnant of Israel — Primary Audience of the Psalms**

The bulk of the Psalms pertain to the believing remnant of Israel in the fifth and final installment of the fifth course of punishment — the day of the Lord and the great tribulation period. The Psalms were designed by God as the doctrinal and devotional resource for this remnant: to instruct them in what the Messiah will do for them, to give language to their prayers, and to sustain their faith through the most intense period of Israel’s persecution.

## **The Current Dispensation as Parenthesis**

The Dispensation of Grace in which we now live has suspended God’s prophetic program with Israel. It is depicted on the biblical timeline as a parenthesis between the fourth and fifth installments of Israel’s fifth course of punishment. When this dispensation concludes at the Rapture, God resumes His program with Israel — and it is within the resumption of that program that the Psalms find their primary application and fulfillment.

## **Hebrews, James, and the Psalms — A Shared Audience**

The New Testament books of Hebrews and James are written to the same audience as the Psalms: Israel’s remnant. This explains why both books quote extensively from the Psalms and align doctrinally with their content. James’ exhortations on the tongue (James 3), on showing mercy (James 2), and on inheriting the earth align directly with Psalms 37, 34, and others. Hebrews 13 quotes Psalm 37:28 concerning the Lord’s faithfulness to His saints — confirming the shared audience across these scriptures.

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## **Key Scripture References**

<b>2 Samuel 7</b>	The Davidic Covenant — God’s five-fold promise to David; the organizing principle of the book of Psalms
<b>Isaiah 9:6</b>	Five names of the Messiah corresponding exactly to the five mandates of the Davidic Covenant
<b>Hosea 13–14</b>	Israel’s five-fold need and God’s declaration of His Jehovahness to meet it

<b>Psalm 22</b>	Core Psalm of the first book — the mechanics of the cross and the Redeemer's work
<b>Psalm 23</b>	Core Psalm of the first book — the Shepherd leading the remnant through the day of the Lord
<b>Psalm 24</b>	Core Psalm of the first book — the King entering His domain at kingdom establishment
<b>Psalm 37</b>	The meek shall inherit the earth — the remnant's kingdom inheritance; quoted in Matthew 5:5, James 2–3, and Hebrews 13
<b>Psalm 50</b>	Core Psalm of the second book — “the mighty God” as Deliverer (Isaiah 9:6 title)
<b>Psalm 79</b>	Core Psalm of the third book — the Avenger's action against Israel's enemies in the day of the Lord
<b>Psalms 95–100</b>	Core Psalms of the fourth book — “new song” kingdom psalms celebrating the King and His kingdom
<b>Psalms 120–134</b>	Songs of Degrees — core Psalms of the fifth book; the remnant's pilgrim songs of blessing from Zion
<b>2 Timothy 2:15</b>	Rightly dividing the word of truth — the foundational principle for correct application of the Psalms
<b>Ezekiel 36–37</b>	Israel's cleansing and restored purpose; Israel's desire to bless the nations from Zion
<b>Matthew 5:5</b>	The meek shall inherit the earth — the Lord's Sermon on the Mount quoting Psalm 37:11 for Israel's remnant

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