

# Encouraged by God's Sovereign Reign



**A Study of the Psalms**

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- **Jan 4**—The Language World of the Psalms
- **Jan 11**—The Root Metaphor—“The Lord Reigns”
- **Jan 18**—The Prayers in the Psalms
- **Jan 25**—Means of Grace: The Benefits of Prayer in the Psalms



- **Feb 1**—Question of Identity: The Expressive “I”
- **Feb 8**—“Help Me! Help Me!”—A Threefold Sequence
- **Feb 15**—Psalms as Instruction in Praise
- **Feb 22**—Acclaim, Serve, Enter: Threefold Actions of the Assembly



- **Mar 1**—The David of the Psalms
- **Mar 8**—Portrayal of the Messiah in the Psalms (22 and 110)
- **Mar 15**—You are my Son—Psalm 2
- **Mar 22**—A Guide to Reading the Psalms
- **Mar 29**—The Place of the Torah Psalms—Psalm 1



- **April 5**—The Place of the Torah Psalms—  
Psalm 19
- **April 12**—The Place of the Torah Psalms—  
Psalm 119
- **April 19**—Psalm 118: A Song of Salvation
- **April 26**—Hebrew Poetry and its Power in  
the Psalms



- **May 3**—Faithful Lament in the Psalms
- **May 10**—Psalms of Ascents
- **May 17**—How can we Pray the Imprecatory Psalms? [Wishing harm to our enemies]
- **May 24**—The Crucible of Pain in the Psalms
- **May 31**—God as Shepherd in the Psalms

## Lesson #1

# The Language World of the Psalms



# Introduction



- **New emphasis on “living in the world of Scripture.”**
- **World of the Psalms recognizes power of language**
- **Threefold Power of Psalms’ language—  
experience, reflect and shape**
- **“Blessed is the man...” sets the stage for the  
entire collection**



# Introduction



- **Psalm 1 and 2 serve as introductory preamble, framed by “blessed”**
- **Look at entire study...Encouraged by God’s Sovereign Reign**
- **Only when we accept it, can our lives be blessed and encouraged!**
- **Think of the opposite...cursed and discouraged!**

# LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE



- **Vocabulary for a new language to shape & mold us**
- **In his *Confessions*, Augustine revealed how he used the Psalms.**
- **Vocabulary of prayer and praise**
- **Role Psalms would play in Christianity**
- **Accompanied by Psalmody.**
- **Its differentiating and distinguishing effect**

# **DOUBLE LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE & ASSEMBLY**



- **Scripture speaks to us, we speak Scripture**
- **Clear words of Scripture to instruct...1**  
**Corinthians 14:6-19**
- **Identity as Scripture**
- **Psalms as Hymns**

# THE LANGUAGE OF SOVEREIGNTY



- **Sovereign language depicts God’s active involvement**
- **Yhwh malak—“The Lord reigns”**
- **Root metaphor—next week**
- **Two patterns of divine activity**
- **Response of psalm language**
- **“Sovereign language”—God acts**

# THEOLOGICAL FORCE OF ITS LANGUAGE



- **Shapes and forms our faith in many ways**
  - **The Lord reigns and knows in every sphere of life**
- **The Lord is God of gods=absolute power**
- **Maker of heaven and earth**
- **God is Lord of the nations**
- **Instructions, Torah, for living in covenant**

# **DISSONANCE OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE PSALTER**



- **Challenges contemporary worldview**
- **Incongruity of sensibilities with modernity**
- **Ancient language**
- **Another time and another culture**
- **Religious language of another**

# Conclusion



- Challenge is to let the Psalter furnish our “Christian” vocabulary for praise & prayer
- We need to become more cognizant of how the Psalms are used individually and communally in our practice

# The “language world” of the Psalms



- Provides vocabulary for a new language that can shape and mold us
- Scripture speaks to us, and we speak Scripture
- Sovereign language depicts God’s active involvement
- Shapes and forms our faith in many ways
- Challenges contemporary worldview