



# KINGDOM PSALMS

## PART 3

Forty Daily Devotions  
from Psalms 73-106  
(Based on the NKJV)

## Introduction

These songs of praise and heartfelt prayers reach to every need of the human heart and soul. They were written in good times and bad, in times of plenty and poverty, and in times of rejoicing and remorse. There is no place that a believer can find himself that they cannot find a psalm that helps them to understand their situation and teaches them to bear their load with complete confidence that the Lord is always with them and that his presence will help to sustain them through their trials! If we learn nothing else from these writings, we certainly learn that the presence of God makes a difference!

## Daily Reading Schedule

| Day | Scripture Reading | Date     |
|-----|-------------------|----------|
| 1   | Psalms 73:1-14    | 02/27/22 |
| 2   | Psalms 73:15-28   | 02/28/22 |
| 3   | Psalms 74         | 03/01/22 |
| 4   | Psalms 75 & 76    | 03/02/22 |
| 5   | Psalms 77         | 03/03/22 |
| 6   | Psalms 78:1-24    | 03/04/22 |
| 7   | Psalms 78:25-49   | 03/05/22 |
| 8   | Psalms 78:50-72   | 03/06/22 |
| 9   | Psalms 79         | 03/07/22 |
| 10  | Psalms 80         | 03/08/22 |
| 11  | Psalms 81         | 03/09/22 |
| 12  | Psalms 82         | 03/10/22 |
| 13  | Psalms 83         | 03/11/22 |
| 14  | Psalms 84         | 03/12/22 |
| 15  | Psalms 85         | 03/13/22 |
| 16  | Psalms 86         | 03/14/22 |
| 17  | Psalms 87         | 03/15/22 |
| 18  | Psalms 88         | 03/16/22 |
| 19  | Psalms 89:1-17    | 03/17/22 |
| 20  | Psalms 89:18-37   | 03/18/22 |

| Day | Scripture Reading     | Date     |
|-----|-----------------------|----------|
| 21  | Psalms 89:38-52       | 03/19/22 |
| 22  | Psalms 90             | 03/20/22 |
| 23  | Psalms 91             | 03/21/22 |
| 24  | Psalms 92 & 93        | 03/22/22 |
| 25  | Psalms 94             | 03/23/22 |
| 26  | Psalms 95             | 03/24/22 |
| 27  | Psalms 96             | 03/25/22 |
| 28  | Psalms 97 & 98        | 03/26/22 |
| 29  | Psalms 99, 100, & 101 | 03/27/22 |
| 30  | Psalms 102:1-14       | 03/28/22 |
| 31  | Psalms 102:15-28      | 03/29/22 |
| 32  | Psalms 103            | 03/30/22 |
| 33  | Psalms 104:1-18       | 03/31/22 |
| 34  | Psalms 104:19-35      | 04/01/22 |
| 35  | Psalms 105:1-15       | 04/02/22 |
| 36  | Psalms 105:16-30      | 04/03/22 |
| 37  | Psalms 105:31-45      | 04/04/22 |
| 38  | Psalms 106:1-15       | 04/05/22 |
| 39  | Psalms 106:16-31      | 04/06/22 |
| 40  | Psalms 106:32-48      | 04/07/22 |

## Day 1: Psalm 73:1-14

*“Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart.” (Psalm 73:1)*

### *Pure in Heart*

Psalm 73 was written by Asaph, one of the Levites that David appointed to minister before the Ark of the LORD (1 Chronicles 16:4-5). This psalm begins with the statement that God is good to those who are “pure in heart.” The Hebrew word translated “pure” here is only found in the Wisdom Books of the Bible (Job – Song of Solomon) and is only found in those books seven times. In the Bible, this word is used, literally, to describe the condition in which one kept the stalls and mangers of their oxen and, figuratively, to describe the condition of an individual’s heart. All who sang this song were reminded that all individuals, saved and unsaved alike, are flawed and prone to stray from the paths of righteousness. The cause for our straying is often due to misguided priorities. The psalmist readily admitted that he had nearly “stumbled” because he had taken his eyes off of God and had begun to notice the “prosperity” (material possessions) “of the wicked” (vs. 2-3). Soon, his misguided priorities led to some misguided philosophies. He believed that he had wasted his time and energy by trying to live a godly life while others around him continued to live in an ungodly manner yet seemed to be continually prospering. While the wicked seemed to get away with doing evil, God “chastened” (NKJV) or “punished” (NIV) him every morning (v. 14). However, I am sure that Asaph abandoned that way of thinking the moment that he met God face to face in heaven! So shall it be for us. We will never regret having lived our lives for God’s glory!

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Refuse** to be distracted by what is happening in the lives of others. **Realize** that we are all susceptible to sin and remind yourself, and others, to be faithful to God and stay the course!

## Day 2: Psalm 73:15-28

*“Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (Psalm 73:25-26)*

### *A Very Good Question!*

Two great benefits to public worship are education and association. The writer of this psalm learned a few things by being in church with his fellow believers. When he entered the sanctuary of God, he realized that he was guilty of some wrong thinking. He asked a very good question of God. “Whom have I in heaven but you?” Public worship helped to remind him that his priorities needed to be placed in a Person and not in possessions! His very good question led to some very good conclusions. He soon realized that this world had nothing to offer when compared to God and His blessings. So, the man who began this psalm with some strong, heart-felt *concerns* (vs. 1-2) ended the psalm with some strong, heart-felt *conclusions*. He chose to take his eyes off of others and to keep his eyes on God. He concluded that God was the strength of his heart and that the best thing that he could do was to be as near to God as possible.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Search** your heart and make sure that you have not allowed anything to take your eyes off of God and His blessings. **Be faithful** to public worship because public worship is good for your personal walk! **Make** wise decisions about your associations and make strong friendships with strong believers. Never be envious of the wicked!

## Day 3: Psalm 74

*“The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun. You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter.” (Psalm 74:16-17)*

### Day and Night

It would do us well for every believer to know that the God who created “day” is the same God who created “night.” The thought that God “made summer and winter” causes us to realize that God has ordained that there are seasons to our lives. As believers, we cannot expect to enjoy the light of day and to never have to endure the darkness of a long night. The believer’s life is one of triumph, but it also has its share of trouble. We cannot expect to experience only the warmth of summer and never know the blight of winter. Asaph, our psalm writer, seems to have concluded that, whatever state he was in, God was there with him, and that God’s presence was enough to comfort him. The Almighty God who set all the “borders” (NKJV) or “boundaries” (NIV) of the earth – that is – the One who told the rivers how far they could run and the oceans how far they could reach, is the God who rules in our lives and controls the ebb and flow of our seasons and situations. Both the summer and winter are necessary for success in the growth of crops as well as in the growth of Christians.

**Prayer Emphasis: Trust** God in all the seasons of your life! **Remember** that the whole creation is subject to His command. **Realize** that we are never alone and **thank** Him for the light of His presence! **Encourage** someone who is walking through some “winter” times today.

## Day 4: Psalms 75 & 76

*“But I will declare forever, I will sing praises to the God of Jacob...At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and the horse were cast into a dead sleep.” (Psalm 75:9 & 76:6)*

### The God of Jacob

As you read through these two shorter psalms, you could mark the word “God” seven times. (Three times in Psalm 75 and four times in Psalm 76.) In all of these verses, the Hebrew name used for God is Elohim. This is the first name for God found in the Bible (Genesis 1:1). This name for God is found more than 30 times in the first chapter of Genesis alone and is found more than 2,000 times throughout the Old Testament. It is this word for God that is found in the phrase the “God of Jacob” in Psalm 75:9 and Psalm 76:6. If you recall, Jacob was the one who “wrestled” with God and said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me” (Genesis 32:24-26). Both psalms that we read today mention times of difficulty and strife. It is certain that those who sang or heard this psalm could relate to Asaph as he sang of difficult circumstances. There is hardly a life situation that is not somewhere addressed in the psalms. Just like they could relate to Asaph’s problems, they could also relate to Asaph’s vow to sing God’s praises forever! Since God eventually changed Jacob’s name to Israel, all of God’s people could look to God for safety and protection. God was faithful to deliver Jacob out of many difficulties, and He will be faithful to do the same for us.

**Prayer Emphasis: Remember** that God is always working in your best interest. His promises are forever true – to all believers in all generations. **Accept** the tough times and **watch** for God to act on your behalf. **Commit** to being faithful to praise God despite your circumstances. When things are looking down, believers should be looking up!

## Day 5: Psalm 77

*“I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search.” (Psalm 77:6)*

### *Songs in the Night*

No matter what translation you read from, the first five verses of this psalm tell a sad story! We find the writer crying, troubled, sick, and pleading for God’s help. Yet, in the midst of all of his troubles, he was able to remember past nights that were filled with singing and joy. The word translated “remembrance” (NKJV) or “remembered” (NIV) is an important word to understand if we are going to receive the full blessing from this psalm. The first four times that this word is found in the Bible, it is used to describe something that God “remembered.” God “remembered” Noah (Genesis 8:1). Then God “remembered” the covenant that He had made with mankind (Genesis 9:15-16). Next, we are told that God “remembered” Abraham and His promises to him (Genesis 19:29). Finally, we are told that God “remembered” Rachel, and blessed her with a promised child (Genesis 30:22). When we think about how faithful God has been in the past, and are faithful to remember His many blessings, we are beginning to think the way that God thinks! In times of trouble, count your blessings! When you do, you will remember that you can always count on God!

**Prayer Emphasis: Commit** yourself to praise regardless of the circumstances that might await you today. **Realize** that the God who has never forsaken you in the past is the God that you are serving in the present! **Look** for an opportunity to encourage someone who may be experiencing difficult times right now. **Ask** God to grow your faith and to put a song in your heart at all times.

## Day 6: Psalm 78:1-24

*“We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” (Psalm 78:4)*

### *“His Wonderful Works”*

Part of every generation’s responsibility is to pass down a record of the “wonderful works” (NKJV) or “wonders” (NIV) with which God has so richly blessed us. Music has forever been one of the ways that our history is recorded. The purpose of perpetuating our rich history of God’s blessings is to show the generations after us that they should put their trust in God, make their own records of His many blessings, and completely trust in Him (v. 7). In theory, each generation was to learn from the former generation and grow in wisdom and commitment along the way. There were some ways that they were to avoid being “like their fathers” who were said to be “a stubborn and rebellious generation” (v. 8). The word “wonders” is found again in verse 11 and then many of those wonders are recounted in this psalm. Perhaps the greatest “wonder” of all was the wonder of God’s grace! When they complained and rebelled against Him, did God rain down fire and brimstone? Strong judgment? Chastisement? No! He “rained down manna”, the “bread of heaven”, for them (v. 24). How many times has God done that for us by showing us His wonders when we deserved the whip?

**Prayer Emphasis: Recount** some of the times that God has blessed us on an “in spite of” basis. **Praise** Him for His wonderful grace and commitment to His people. **Thank** Him for never giving up on you! **Tell** someone about one of the ways that God has provided for you in the past and then let him or her know you are fully relying on Him to take care of you in the present as well.

## Day 7: Psalm 78:25-49

*“For He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again.”  
(Psalm 78:39)*

### What God Remembers That We Forget

After Israel complained against God, He graciously provided them “angels’ food” (v. 25). Some translations, like the NIV, call this supernaturally provided food “the bread of angels.” God had also provided His people with meat in a miraculous way. There had to have been no question as to the source of this manna and meat. It was miraculous in its *source*, as well as in its *supply*. Every one of them had “food to the full” (v. 25). However, in spite of God’s continual provision, “they still sinned, and did not believe in His wondrous works” (v. 32). Some of the manifestations of their unbelief were lying, disloyalty, and unfaithfulness. Yet God was “full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them” (v. 38). He showed mercy towards His people by repeatedly restraining His anger and withholding His wrath. Why? Because God remembered something that we often forget! He “remembered” that they were “but flesh.” Life would be better for all of us if we could remember this simple truth as we work together for God’s glory through the church. Praise God this “flesh” phase is only temporary. Notice that God sees our time in human bodies as “a breath that passes away and does not come again.

**Prayer Emphasis: Remember** that life is short and that we only get one shot at living in the flesh. **Raise** the level of your own personal commitment to God and **lower** your level of expectations about the flesh! When people fail you, **pray** for them and **love** them despite their flaws and weaknesses.

## Day 8: Psalm 78:50-72

*“For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, and moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.” (Psalm 78:58)*

### High Places

Psalm 78 is all about helping future generations to remember all the mighty works that God performed for His people when He brought them out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land. The first verses that we read today remind us of some of the things that God did against the enemies of His people and of some of the things that He did for His own as they traveled to, and after they had entered, the holy land. Soon after their arrival to the land that God had given them, Israel “provoked the Most High God, and did not keep His testimonies” (v. 56). The reference to God’s “glory” going “into the enemy’s hand” (v. 61) probably referred to the ark being taken into captivity and ties this psalm to the events recorded in 1 Samuel 4. God’s people had been allowed to bring some necessary things with them from Egypt, but they had also brought some very unnecessary things, as well. Among those unnecessary things were hearts that were given to idolatry. Soon after their arrival in Canaan, they were building high places and worshipping the pagan gods of the Canaanites. How could they have received so much *from* God and return so little *to* Him? Was this any way to respond to the One who had “made His own people go forth as sheep” and Who had “guided them in the wilderness like a flock” (v. 52).

**Prayer Emphasis: Protect** your heart from idolatry. **Refuse** to allow anything to become more important than your personal relationship with God. Making room for “high places” (idolatry) is one of the lowest things that a believer could ever do!

## Day 9: Psalm 79

*“Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been brought very low.” (Psalm 79:8)*

### *The High Cost of High Places*

After Jerusalem had been devastated and many of God’s people had been killed by their invading enemies, Israel began to sing the blues. They cried out to God because they had “been brought very low” (NKJV) or were in a time of “desperate need” (NIV). The events described in this psalm associate it with the time of the exile – the time when God allowed His people, because of their sins, to be taken into captivity by their enemies. Because of defective hearts, hands that had been created to serve God were now serving foreign enemies in a strange land. This is just another story of the high cost of forgetting God and fostering attitudes of self-gratification and glorification. When we put ourselves before God, we will soon find ourselves in our own times of desperate need. The saddest part about this psalm is that the ones who were now singing it were not even there when Israel had turned from God and turned to idols. The generation of Psalm 79 was being forced to sing such sad songs because of the sins of their fathers. They were now pleading for God’s mercy to come quickly and restore their relationship with Him. They made a vow of praise to God (v. 13) and pledged to never sacrifice their own children’s future on the altars of their own idolatry and disobedience.

**Prayer Emphasis: Pray** for your children and grandchildren today – and for the generation that is to follow us. **Live** for God in their presence and set a godly example for them. **Encourage** one of our children’s workers today and let them know that you appreciate their faithful service.

## Day 10: Psalm 80

*“Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!” (Psalm 80:3)*

### *Restore Us*

Verses 3, 7, and 19 seem to make up the “chorus” for this psalm that could very well be a familiar chorus to all of us. Three times in this one psalm God was asked to “restore” Israel to a place where they once again sensed the power and blessing of His presence. The prayer was that God would restore them by returning to them (v. 14) and reviving them (v. 18). The sincerity of their plea is marked by their repetition. The words of this thrice repeated chorus remind us of the priestly blessing that God instructed Moses to have Aaron and his sons pronounce upon His people in Numbers 6:24-26: “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon, you and give you peace.” This threefold blessing includes a promise for protection, prosperity, and the peace of God’s presence for God’s people. Take a moment to review Psalms 4:6 and 13:1 to see that this prayer for God’s presence (His “face”) is nothing new for God’s people. It is an old song that has been re-written many times. It is a song of God’s people seeking God’s presence and blessings in their daily walk. Isn’t it amazing how God’s people are so quick to hold God to His promises and so quick to forget the promises that we have made to Him?

**Prayer Emphasis: Claim** the promise of His presence! Day 10 of our last devotional guide contained that same phrase as well as the ones that follow. **Call** out to Him and you will soon learn that He is not hard to find when you need Him. **Encourage** someone today by reminding them of this wonderful promise of God’s presence! These admonitions, like an old song, are worth repeating!



## Day 11: Psalm 81

*“He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat; and with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you.” (Psalm 81:16)*

### *Honey from the Rock*

Isaiah 7:19 speaks of bees that would, “rest in the desolate valleys and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all thorns and in all pastures.” In those words, God was using an illustration from nature to teach a spiritual truth. The “bees” of that story were representative of an enemy that would outnumber God’s people and eventually overcome them. To help Israel see how this could happen, God used the illustration of the bees and their ability to hide in the crevices of the rocks to avoid anyone being able to capture their golden syrup. In other words, getting the enemy out of their land was going to be as difficult as getting honey out of the rocks! However, what may not be possible for man is easily possible for God. The message in this psalm is that God can do for us what we could never do for ourselves. It is futile for us to believe that we can live without God’s blessings and divine assistance. Notice the things that God says to His people in verse 13. As God’s people, we are to “listen” to Him and then “walk” in His ways! When we do those things, when we listen to Him and walk in His ways, we will soon see Him doing for us things that we could never do for ourselves!

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Make** wise choices! **Concentrate** on being obedient to God’s commands! **Believe** that God doing the impossible is not only possible but probable! This would be another good day to ask for God’s help in something that you could never do without him. **Make** a note of your request and return to this page to praise Him when He answers that prayer!

## Day 12: Psalm 82

*“God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods...Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You shall inherit all nations.” (Psalm 82:1&8)*

### *God Presides*

This psalm begins by reminding us that God “stands” (NKJV) or “presides” (NIV) over His people. The word “gods” in this verse represents those whom God had allowed to rise to positions of authority in the kingdoms of the world. In our day, we would consider these people to be leaders or possibly even the civil authorities that serve and protect us. These people were to remember that they were going to be accountable to God for how they ruled over their people. Just as there are people who serve in positions of authority in a civil capacity, there are those who have been blessed to serve in positions of authority in spiritual capacities. Whether civil or spiritual, all who have been blessed with the opportunity to lead must remember that they will be held accountable to God for the way that they have led His people. Verse 8 declares that all the “nations” (literally “peoples”) of the earth are His! If they are “His” people, we should learn to treat them like He would treat them. He expects that from us, and He will one day inspect the way we have used our authority.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Remember** that we will one day be judged for the way that we have treated others, especially if you have been given the opportunity to lead. When it comes to leadership, the best rule is the Golden Rule.

## Day 13: Psalm 83

*“Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.” (Psalm 83:17-18)*

### *The Ultimate Goal*

Asaph is the writer of this psalm. In it he discloses his knowledge of a great truth. In verse 2 he says, “For behold, *Your* enemies make a tumult; and those who hate *You* have lifted up their head.” Verses 3 and 4 disclose the “crafty counsel” that God’s enemies had taken against Israel, and the “confederacy” that they had formed against God. It is difficult to place the events spoken of in this psalm to any particular time in the history of Israel. The closest description of any group of nations joining together in attacking Israel in the Bible is the one found in 2 Chronicles 20. It is possible that this psalm was written to commemorate many separate battles against multiple enemies. In the time that it was first written, the purpose of the psalm may have been to praise God for His swift and sure victories over the enemies of His people and to recount the amazing ways that He had delivered them in the past. However, the final verse in the psalm helps us to understand the ultimate goal of all spiritual warfare. We battle today for the same reasons that God had His people do battle in the past: That people may come to know that the God we serve is “the Most High over all the earth!”

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Enter** the arena boldly today. **Remember** that you share a common purpose with God in that your greatest desire is that people would know the amazing God that has done so much for all of us. **Seek** a way to mention a few victories that He has given you as you witness to others today.

## Day 14: Psalm 84

*“For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” (Psalm 84:10)*

### *Love and Loyalty*

This psalm begins with the writer expressing his love for God’s house and his desire to be there to serve and worship God. He states that his “soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD” (v. 2). It is obvious that this individual loved being in God’s house because he loved God! In his effort to try to explain just how much his time and service in the tabernacle meant to him, the psalmist declared that he would rather spend one day worshipping in God’s house than a thousand days doing anything else, anywhere else. The Hebrew word translated “better” is the same word that is translated “good” in the first chapter of Genesis when God declared the light, and everything else that He had made, to be “good” (Genesis 1:4 and 1:31). This is, first, a statement of love. The psalmist obviously loved serving in God’s house, and he sensed the same personal satisfaction from it as God did when he completed His work of creation. It was such a blessed experience that he stated that one day of service to God was more fulfilling than 1,000 days doing anything else! Secondly, this is a statement of loyalty. The writer declares that he would rather be a doorkeeper (one of the lowest stations of service) in God’s house than to hold a higher position anywhere else.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Seek** out a place of service in God’s house. **Serve** Him because you love Him. Be faithful to **fulfill** that service to Him because you are loyal to Him. When we come to church to serve the Lord, we are more likely to leave the church with a greater sense of fulfillment.

## Day 15: Psalm 85

*“Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yes, the LORD will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.” (Psalm 85:11-13)*

### Good

It is interesting that the word translated “good” in Psalm 85:12 is the same word translated “better” in yesterday’s focus verse (Psalm 84:10). Perhaps, then, the reason that the psalmist felt that it was “better” to spend one day serving God than 1,000 days doing anything else was because he got some “good” out of it – the kind of “good” that only God can give! He states that the LORD “will” (NKJV) or “will indeed” (NIV) give what is “good” to those whom He loves. That is as solid a promise as you will ever find in the Bible! This verse is very much like the Romans 8:28 of the Old Testament! We can always be assured that God is working in our best interest and for our best good. He loves us and is faithful to show that love to us. When the people yielded their lives to God He blessed the work of their hands and caused their harvests to “increase.” You can find some of the “good” things that God gives His people in verses 10: “Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.”

**Prayer Emphasis:** Take some time to **thank** God for the good that He has brought into your life. **Praise** Him for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon you. **Pray** for someone who is seeking employment or experiencing financial difficulties and encourage them by letting them know that you are praying for them.

## Day 16: Psalm 86

*“All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O LORD, and shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.” (Psalm 86:9-10)*

### Wondrous Things

The word translated “wondrous things” (NKJV) or “marvelous deeds” (NIV) in the focus verses is the same word that was translated “marvelous works” (NKJV) or “wonders” (NIV) back in Psalm 9:1. This is a word that is consistently used throughout the Old Testament to describe God’s mighty, saving acts, especially those that involve miracles. For example, such things as the exodus from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea were considered to be among God’s “wondrous things.” When we recall the story of Moses and the exodus, we realize that it was God’s “wonders” (same word) that were performed before Pharaoh and his people that convinced them to let His people go (Exodus 3:20)! This word is found in 69 verses in the Old Testament with 30 of them being in the Psalms! One of the things that the singers and songwriters did for Israel was to record (pun intended) the “wondrous things” of God in a way that would make them easy to remember. But, above all of the wonderful things that God had done for Israel, some very important things were mentioned in this psalm. They sang, “But You, O LORD, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth” (v. 15). Because God is all powerful, He *can* do “wondrous things.” And because He is all-loving, He *will* do “wondrous things”.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Recall** a few of God’s “wondrous things” that He has done for you in the past. **Thank** Him for the way that He has consistently provided for you and your family. **Consider** a need that is beyond your own ability to meet and seek out a few prayer partners to join you in asking God to meet that need. **Make** a note of it and then come back to Psalm 86:10 and sing of God’s greatness!

## Day 17: Psalm 87

*“Both the singers and the players on instruments say, ‘All my springs are in you.’” (Psalm 87:7)*

### **Rejoicing and Refreshment**

Psalm 87 is one of the psalms written by the Sons of Korah. It may be one of the shorter psalms, but it is long on truth! While many people consider Zion and Jerusalem to be different names for the same place, Zion is actually a word that describes a certain part of Jerusalem. It is the place in Jerusalem where David, under God’s direction, decided to relocate the Ark of the Covenant and determined to eventually build the Temple of God. It was a place where the presence of God was to be most enjoyed and appreciated among God’s people. Concerning Zion, God said, “The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob” (v. 2). It was in this place (the place of God’s presence) that the people were reminded of two very specific things: rejoicing and refreshment. When we sense the presence of God in our midst, we will surely rejoice. That is why the people gathered there to worship the LORD in song. Rejoicing is a wonderful thing, but we should not overlook the cause for their rejoicing. They were rejoicing because they believed that God was the source of their refreshment. Zion literally means, “a parched, or dry place.” The cause for rejoicing was that God had provided “springs” (NKJV) or “fountains” (NIV) in a once dry and barren place by putting them within His people.

**Prayer Emphasis: Acknowledge** the presence of God in every place and situation you visit or experience, and you will soon find that every place is a place of rejoicing and refreshment. **Remind** yourself that such blessings are not found in a place but in a Person.

## Day 18: Psalm 88

*“Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise You? Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?” (Psalm 88:10-12)*

### **A Very Good Question!**

The “Sons of Korah” ask some very good questions in this psalm. They want to know if God’s “wonders” (the same word translated “wondrous things” back in Psalm 86:10) can be seen even in the “dark” (NKJV) or the “places of darkness” (NIV). You only have to read the first few verses of this psalm to see that the writers are talking about some very difficult times to which they refer to as “the dark.” The singer says, “You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths” (v. 6). It isn’t easy to see in dark places. However, there are no places where we cannot see the hand of God at work in our lives. When we pay careful attention, we can always see that God is with us in every situation and circumstance that He calls us to face. We are never alone or in a place where God’s loving presence cannot be known, felt, or even “seen.” The first place where the word for this kind of “darkness” is ever used in the Bible is in Genesis 1:2 where the earth was said to be “without form and void” and filled with “darkness” (NKJV). The next sentence in Genesis 1:2 informs us that, “The Spirit of God” moved upon the face of that darkness and then God said, “Let there be light!” (Genesis 1:3) That same God is still sending light into the darkness today!

**Prayer Emphasis:** The answer to this very good question is always a resounding, “Yes!” **Believe** that God can, and will, bring light to our dark places. When we trust God, we will always be able to see Him moving, even in the dark! **Ask** God for this kind of night vision in your very next trial or temptation.

## Day 19: Psalm 89:1-17

*“And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.”*  
(Psalm 89:5)

### *A Taste of Heaven on Earth!*

Although there are at least four different Ethans mentioned in the Bible, the title to this psalm identifies its writer to be “Ethan the Ezrahite.” Therefore, we know that this Ethan is the man who is first mentioned in I Kings 4:31 and then again as the writer of Psalm 89. In his only psalm that was to be included in this book, we find Ethan declaring that the residents of Heaven praise God for His “wonders” and “faithfulness.” Just as many of our hymnals and songbooks do today, the Psalms are sometimes arranged in themes. We see the theme of God’s “wonders” continues into this particular psalm. What are they praising God for in Heaven? They are praising Him for his “wonders” (the same word for those “wondrous things” that we have been reading about). They are quick to note that God is faithful in the performance of His “wonders.” If we would only learn to praise God for such things, we would be singing the same songs and saying the same things that our dear, departed loved ones are singing and saying in Heaven! As soon as I finish this devotion, I am going to take a few moments and sing some praises with those who are singing in heaven!

**Prayer Emphasis: Realize** that we never have to wonder if God is going to perform His “wonders” in our lives. We may face many disappointments in life, but none of them will come from the hand of God. He may allow them for a season, but He always allows them for a reason! **Believe** that there is always good reason to praise God for His faithfulness to meet our every need!

## Day 20: Psalm 89:18-37

*“But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him, and in My name his horn shall be exalted.”*  
(Psalm 89:24)

### *God’s “Faithful Love”*

Ethan may have only had one of his psalms included in God’s hymnbook, but it is a very long one and it covers many wonderful subjects! In verse 24, he speaks of God’s “faithfulness” and “mercy” (NKJV) or God’s “faithful love” (NIV). The preceding verses, beginning at verse 19, help us to understand that Ethan based his belief that God’s love was faithful on certain promises that God had made to His people. This “faithful love” was a part of God’s promise and Ethan’s song reminds us all to believe in the faithfulness of God to keep His promises! There may be many things that we might consider to be uncertain in this life, but God’s love cannot be counted among them! His love is an *unending* love, so we never live one moment of one day outside of it. His love is an *unconditional* love, so we can never do anything that will move us outside of it. God’s love is unending and unconditional because He is faithful to express it to even the undeserving. How wonderful life is when we learn that we do not have to do anything to earn God’s love.

**Prayer Emphasis: Believe** that God’s love is faithful and praise Him for it today! **Share** a testimony of God’s faithful love with someone that you meet today. **Look** for an opportunity to boast of God’s undeserved, unending, and unconditional love to someone. **Seek** to express that kind of love to someone who may need to hear about it today.

## Day 21: Psalm 89:38-52

*“Lord, where are Your former lovingkindnesses, which You swore to David in Your truth?” (Psalm 89:49)*

### Questions

It is apparent that Ethan wrote this song during a time when he had many questions in his life or, at least, about the circumstances that he, and all of God’s people, were facing. If you take the time to count the question marks that punctuate this psalm, you will count 10 of them in the NKJV and 7 in the NIV. In both translations, over half of the question marks are found in this last section that we are reading today. However, Ethan began this psalm with a vow of praise by saying, “I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever” and to “make known (God’s) faithfulness to all generations” (v. 1). He then concluded this great psalm with a very definite statement when he said, “Blessed be the LORD forevermore” (v. 52). One cannot help but notice that this psalm contains so many “question marks” yet begins with a promise to praise and ends with an exclamation of God’s faithfulness! We may not always understand God’s plans, but we can always trust His purposes! This psalm concludes “Book Four” of the psalms with the words, “Amen and Amen.” “Amen” means “Truly” or “so be it!” We can all say “truly” or “so be it” to the statement that God is worthy of the praises of His people!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Believe that the answer to most of our questions can be found in the knowledge that God is faithful! As you claim His promises of faithfulness to you, make your own promise to be faithful to Him! **Promise** to trust Him in spite of the times, circumstances, and situations wherein questions might arise and you will be able to say “Amen and Amen” in every conversation with, and about, Him!

## Day 22: Psalm 90

*“And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.” (Psalm 90:17)*

### A Worthwhile Prayer

We should remember that the psalms are not arranged in chronological order but by subject matter. Each “Book” of the psalms contains psalms about varying subjects and themes. Each one was diverse enough to allow those who read and sang those psalms to gain great understanding and knowledge about God and their service to Him. Psalm 90 begins “Book Four” of the Psalms and opens with what must have been one of the oldest psalms ever written. The first song recorded in the Bible (Exodus 15:1-18) was written by Moses. Psalm 90 is one of the two psalms that are also attributed to Moses. This psalm concludes with a two-fold prayer that should be prayed by every generation of believers. First, Moses asked that the “beauty” (NKJV) or “favor” (NIV) of God “be upon” (NKJV) or “rest” (NIV) on His people. By that, he was asking that God’s lovingkindness always be evident in the lives of His people. He then asked God to “establish” the work of their hands. The Hebrew word used in that verse indicates the “making ready” or “preparing” of something. The first time that it is used in the Bible is in Genesis 43:16 where Joseph told the steward of his house to “make ready” (NKJV) or “prepare” (NIV) a meal for his brothers. The second part of Moses’ prayer was that God would “prepare” (“make ready”) their hands for service.

**Prayer Emphasis:** There should be no greater motivation for serving God than the lovingkindness that He has shown to us. **Ask** God to make our hands “ready” and available to serve Him. **Prioritize** your schedule to assure that there is always time to give God that which He so readily deserves.

## Day 23: Psalm 91

*“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.” (Psalm 91:14)*

### *The Real Reason for God’s Blessings*

Psalm 91 is the last of the psalms that are believed to be written by Moses. When we consider the subject matter of this psalm, we can see that Moses, of all people, might clearly understand about God being a shelter, refuge, and fortress (vs. 1-2). By personal experience, he would understand being spared from pestilence and plagues (v. 6). There is a great cause and effect statement in verses 9-10: “Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.” The word translated “befall” is found only once in the psalms and only four times in all of the Old Testament. It is a word that means to “slay or defeat.” The promise is not that God will protect us from problems, but that He will protect us from being defeated by those problems. Why is God so good to us? The answer is found in verse 14. God’s reason for protecting us is not that we deserve it or that we are in some ways more worthy than others. His motivation for protecting us is love. When we love God, we will “acknowledge His name” (v. 14, NIV). God says that when we “call upon” Him, He will “answer” and “be with” us “in trouble” (v. 15).

**Prayer Emphasis: Focus** on the word “deliver” (NKJV) or “protect” (NIV) in verse 14. The word literally means to “raise someone to a high, secure place.” **Trust** God to do that for you simply because He loves you. **Commit** yourself to returning love to the One who is willing to love you in such a wonderful way!

## Day 24: Psalms 92 & 93

*“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night,” (Psalm 92:1-2)*

### *A Continuous Sacrifice*

Psalm 92 is the 15th psalm that contains the Hebrew word for “song” in its title. This is a different word than the word translated “psalm” in several of the titles that include the words “song” and “psalm” in them. By that, we should clearly understand that some “psalms” were considered “songs” while others were not. This particular psalm is said to be a song for “the Sabbath Day.” It was this psalm that was sung at the time of the morning sacrifice in the tabernacle or temple. The phrase in verse 2 that references “morning” and “night” could literally be translated to “all day long.” The spirit in which God’s people approached Him when they made their morning offerings on the Sabbath Day was the spirit in which He expected them to live continuously. It went beyond meaning all day, to all week, all month, all year, and for all of their lives! Our praise is to be a continuous sacrifice unto God. It is more than a ritualistic, religious gesture made in public worship. It is a pledge of our continual praise and worship of God in even the most private and personal times of our lives. When we praise God when no one else is looking or listening, then we are praising God for His sake and His sake alone - and not just to be seen or heard by others. Our service to God is only as *powerful as it is personal*.

**Prayer Emphasis: Ask** God to give you a life-long sense of praise and worship. **Honor** God by observing every day as the Lord’s Day and **commit** even your most private times and experiences to His praise and glory. **Encourage** others to praise God on a continual basis. He is worthy of such praise!

## Day 25: Psalm 94

*“If I say, ‘My foot slips,’ Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.” (Psalm 94:18-19)*

### *Our Most Sure Foundation*

When the writer of Psalm 94 felt that his foot was slipping, he acknowledged that it was God’s “mercy” (NKJV) or “love” (NIV) that would “hold” him “up” (NKJV) or that “supported” (NIV) him. The kind of love that the psalmist speaks of here is the kind of love that represents a befriending. God’s loving Israel in that way was a fulfillment of the promises, or covenant, made with them in Deuteronomy 7:9 where God said, “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” Then, in Deuteronomy 7:12, God added, “Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.” He continued that covenant with the same promises to David and his descendants in 2 Samuel 7:15. Thus, the surety is found in the promises of God and His Word. When we feel as if we have lost our grip – our spiritual footing – then we can find solid footing on the sure foundation of God’s Word. When we get a grip on God’s promises, we will soon find our “anxieties” are turned to “comforts” (NKJV) or “consolations” (NIV) that bring “delight” (NKJV) or “joy” (NIV) to our souls.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Believe that God is a “very present” (NKJV) or “ever-present” (NIV) help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1) and that He never abandons us to fend for ourselves or to find our own way through life. Ask God to both guide and guard your steps as you seek to follow Him today.

## Day 26: Psalm 95

*“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.” (Psalm 95:6-7)*

### *“Bow Down” and “Kneel”*

At first consideration, we might think that “bowing down” and “kneeling” are the same thing. However, it is clear from the teaching of this psalm that two very different things are meant by these words. To “bow down” meant to go down to one knee. With animals, this word is used to define their bowing down to rest, but with men it is usually associated with worship or obedience. From the story of Gideon’s army, we learn that bowing down meant to render one’s self vulnerable (Judges 7:6). To “bow down” before God was to put your life at His mercy by making yourself vulnerable before Him. The Bible projects another image altogether when it speaks of “kneeling.” This posture was closely associated with the receiving of a blessing in the Bible. Therefore, when we bow down to God, we are posturing ourselves for a blessing. We are saying that we are trusting Him enough to, if need be, render our lives vulnerable in order that we might, through obedience, receive His blessing. One term means to trust God enough to take a risk while the other represents the reward that comes to those who are willing to trust Him in even the most daring situations.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Ask yourself, “How long has it been since I literally bowed down and got on my knees before God?” When we provide an honest answer to that question, we might also provide some insight as to why we might so seldom sense His divine presence and blessing. Find some time to get on your knees before God and let Him know that you are willing to submit your life to His will.



## Day 27: Psalm 96

*“Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.” (Psalm 96:2-4)*

### Two Great Reasons to Sing

The earliest readers of God’s Word understood the importance that was to be placed on repeated words and phrases. Two very good illustrations of this style of writing are found in this psalm. First, we see the word “sing” repeated three times in the first two verses. Then we see the command to “give to” (NKJV) or to “ascribe” (NIV) glory unto the LORD three times in verses 7-8. When the people of God read these verses, they heard “Sing, sing, sing” and “give glory, give glory, give glory” and recognized that this repetition demanded an appropriate amount of reflection on their part. When it came to singing, the psalmist gave some very good reasons for doing so. First, he stated that our singing will “bless” (NKJV) or bring “praise” (NIV) to God’s name. Then, he said something more about our singing. He stated that singing is not only a way to “praise” God, but that it is also a way to “proclaim” His salvation and declare His glory among the nations. What is a suggested subject matter for our songs and singing? It comes right back to those “wonders” (NKJV) or “marvelous deeds” (NIV) that we have talked about so many times before. We should never grow weary of praising God and proclaiming His marvelous deeds to any and all that are willing to listen.

**Prayer Emphasis: Commit** to praising God and proclaiming His marvelous deeds to those you meet along life’s way. **Realize** that the song that God has put in your heart may be the only sermon that some people will ever hear!

## Day 28: Psalms 97 & 98

*“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.” (Psalm 98:1-2)*

### New Song — Same Subject!

We are commanded to sing unto the LORD a “new song”, but this new song is to be based on a very old subject. Our new song is to be about the “marvelous things” that He has done for us. You guessed it! Those “marvelous things” come from the same Hebrew word that we have seen translated “wonders” and “marvelous deeds” in earlier psalms. The word “new” in this psalm literally means “new” or “one that follows after” another. The first time that it is ever used in the Bible is in Exodus 1:8 where we are told that a “new” king rose up over Egypt. It is entirely appropriate that “new” songs will be written. Many of those “new” songs are worthy to be sung. However, both the song, and the singing of it, should be to magnify God and His glorious works. All our songs (new and old) are to be about Him and for His glory. We must learn to be tolerant enough to allow people to express praise to God for His mighty works in new songs, but we must be most intolerant of allowing any song to magnify anything or anyone other than God and His “marvelous things”!

**Prayer Emphasis: Look and listen** closely to the songs that you bring into your home and family. **Seek** to honor God in all your music. As much as possible, **avoid** listening to music that glorifies sin or the flesh and disallow and/or discontinue the playing of songs with vulgar, unscriptural, or indecent content.

## Day 29: Psalms 99, 100, & 101

*“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing.” (Psalm 100:1-2)*

### *That Old “Joyful” Noise*

We have all heard it said that we are to “make a joyful noise unto the LORD” (KJV). Here in the NKJV the word translated “noise” is translated “shout”. This is not the only verse that so instructs us, but it is the most often quoted of all the verses that do. The “noise” that is referenced here is literally that – NOISE! It is not a word that is ever translated “sing” or “singing” anywhere in the Bible. In the NIV, the word is found first in the verse and it is translated, “Shout.” This same word is the word that is translated “shout” several times in Joshua 6 when God’s people “shouted” at God’s command just before the walls of Jericho crumbled, then tumbled to the ground! The remaining verses of this psalm provide much to shout about! He is our God and we are His people! He is good and His “mercy” (NKJV) or “love” (NIV) is everlasting! One of the most blessed benefits of our making “noise” for and about God is that His love and faithfulness continues to all generations. I certainly do not want my children, grandchildren, or even great grandchildren to miss the blessings that come from serving God because I was not willing to make some “noise” in my lifetime.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Find your own way to make some “noise” for God’s glory! It might be through speaking or singing. It might come from a lesson taught or a testimony given for God’s glory. Whatever the case, do not allow Satan to keep you silent about God and His marvelous love for all people.

## Day 30: Psalm 102:1-14

*“You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come. For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust.” (Psalm 102:13-14)*

### *An “Anonymous” Psalm*

It is clear that the writer of this psalm chose to remain anonymous. The inscription, or title, describes only some of the conditions that inspired his song of lament unto God. It reads, “A prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before the LORD.” Here was a man who was not only “afflicted,” but one who was “overwhelmed” (NKJV title) by those afflictions. He is described as a person who poured out his “complaint” (NKJV) or “lament” (NIV) before the LORD. Several things came to mind as I read the first half of this psalm. It occurred to me that this man might have poured out his grief and concern to the LORD because he felt that it was something that he should do. Perhaps he felt that it was wise to be honest in what he said to the One who knew his every thought! When we have questions about God’s plans, perhaps we should go to Him in prayer and ask Him about the things that have us confused or bewildered. It also occurred to me that this man might have poured his heart out to the LORD because he knew that he could do so without fear of rebuke or reprisal. God welcomes us to His throne and does not punish us for our inability to see all things as clearly as He sees them. God certainly never punishes us for our honesty.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Pour your heart out to God! Do not fear to ask Him any question. Believe that He will love you even when you admit that you do not fully understand all that is happening to you or when you admit to Him that you have lost sight of His plan for your life. Express confidence in God and commit to loyalty on a “no-matter-what” basis.

## Day 31: Psalm 102:15-28

*“To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and His praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.” (Psalm 102:21-22)*

### Zion and Jerusalem

The mention of Zion and Jerusalem in this verse supports the teaching on Psalm 87 back on Day 17. Zion was the part of Jerusalem wherein the palace of David was located and where the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant sat. This was also the site where the temple would eventually be built. Jerusalem, though, referred to the city as a whole that encompassed the area known as Zion. When God’s people were faithful to “declare the name of the LORD in Zion,” (the seat of government and worship for the entire city of Jerusalem) then God’s praise would be heard throughout Jerusalem as the people came together to worship the LORD. When God’s people prayed for Jerusalem, they were praying for their city. When they prayed for Zion, they were praying for the leadership of their city – both political and spiritual – since both the palace and the tabernacle made up that area. We are doing the right thing when we pray for our churches and spiritual leaders. However, we should be faithful to pray for our civil leaders and our houses of government, as well. We should never criticize politicians for whom we have forgotten to pray!

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Pray** for those who hold political offices on a local and national basis. **Lift** them up before the Lord and **ask** Him to lead them as they make decisions that affect our freedom to assemble and worship. How can we complain that our leaders are failing us when we fail to pray for them?

## Day 32: Psalm 103

*“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.” (Psalm 103:10)*

### All that is Within Me

In the opening verse of this psalm, David sang, “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.” It was David’s desire to “bless” (NKJV) or “praise” (NIV) the LORD with “all that” was “within” him (NKJV). Some translations use the words “inmost being” to describe David’s desire to be a source of praise to God. This psalm begins with two stanzas encouraging us to “bless” or “praise” the LORD and then concludes with three stanzas encouraging us to do the same thing. All the verses in between provide ample reasons for God’s people to be “blessing” or “praising” the LORD! We should praise Him for His benefits, forgiveness, and for the fact that He has redeemed us through His love and compassion. We should praise Him because He satisfies our desires with good things and renews our youth like He does for the eagle. We should praise Him because He is compassionate and gracious and because He is slow to anger and abounding in love. However, verse 10 provides us with what may be the best reason of all for praising the LORD. There we are told to praise Him because, “*He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.*” Why has God not dealt with “us” as our sins deserve? Why has He not repaid us according to our iniquities? The answer is simple but profound! God does not deal with us directly because He has already dealt with our sins at the cross where He allowed His Son to die in our place! When He placed our sin on the Sinless One, He removed our sin “as far as the east is from the west” (v. 12)!

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Imagine** the outstretched arms of Jesus on the cross and **remember** that God has completely and permanently removed our sins from us “as far as the east is from the west.” **Remember** this fact and **refuse** to pass judgment upon anyone who sins against you.

## Day 33: Psalm 104:1-18

*“Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty,” (Psalm 104:1)*

### Second Verse?

Psalm 104 begins, and ends, with the same words as Psalm 103. Both begin, and end, with an admonishment to “Bless” (NKJV) or “Praise” the LORD from our “soul,” meaning our innermost being. As we read this psalm, it seems as if it might have been a continuation of the psalm before. We know that Psalm 103 was written by David, and it is assumed that he is the author of Psalm 104 as well. In Psalm 103 God is praised for His wonderful *compassion* and in Psalm 104 He is praised for His wonderful *creation*. In Psalm 103:3, God is praised for all that He has *forgiven* while Psalm 104 praises Him for all that He has *given*. Verses 6 – 10 read as if they might have been written about the flood, but they are actually speaking of the condition of the earth at the time of creation. In verses 10-18 God is praised for the many provisions that He has made for man and beast alike, including the places where the animals could live. He mentions the fact that “the birds make their nests” in “the cedars of Lebanon which (God) planted”. He goes on to say that “the stork has her home in the fir trees,” while the “wild goats” and “badgers” dwell in the “high hills” and “cliffs.” Psalm 104 may have been about creation, but the psalmist found it impossible to speak of God without mentioning His compassion and provision, even for the animals.

**Prayer Emphasis: Remember** that God cares for all His creation and that He specifically cares for you! **Praise** God today for His wonderful compassion and for His wonderful provision, as well. **Share** a story about God’s provision with someone that you meet today.

## Day 34: Psalm 104:19-35

*“I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.”*  
(Psalm 104:33)

### Another Great “Vow of Praise”

Psalms that contain a vow of praise are often referred to as “Songs of Trust.” In these songs, the writer expresses a commitment to praise God for a blessing or event that is yet to transpire. In other words, the writers of such psalms planned, and promised, to trust God on a “no matter what” basis. It is almost like giving God a “blank check” that allows us to praise Him as much and as often as He desires it. In this psalm, the writer commits to singing praise to the LORD for as long as he lives. Since so many of David’s psalms contained such vows, the presence of this vow of praise is considered to be evidence of his authorship of Psalm 104. Notice that the vow of praise is immediately followed by a vow to meditate on things that are pleasing to the LORD and to be “glad” (NKJV) or to “rejoice” (NIV) in the LORD (v. 34). Prayer and meditation may not eliminate all our physical problems, but prayer and meditation will, at least, allow us to face our problems with a spiritual perspective. When the psalmist considered the care that God gave to the feeding of the “beasts of the forest” (v. 20), he knew that he could safely trust God to meet all of his needs, as well.

**Prayer Emphasis: Plan** to praise God today – whether you do so on a “because of” or “in spite of” basis. **Promise** to give Him the glory for all things and **commit** now to praise Him for the rest of your life. **Trust** God to be worthy of such a commitment.

## Day 35: Psalm 105:1-15

*“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works.” (Psalm 105:1-2)*

### Ten Commandments?

The first 15 verses of this psalm are also found in 1 Chronicles 16:8-22. Although there is no inscription for this psalm, 1 Chronicles 17:7 tells us that it was a psalm of thanksgiving written by David and given over to Asaph for use in Israel’s worship. The first few verses of this psalm contain ten imperatives or commandments. Israel is encouraged to: 1) Give thanks unto the LORD; 2) Call on His name; 3) Make known among the nations what He has done; 4) Sing praises to Him; 5) Tell of His wonderful acts; 6) Glory in His name; 7) Seek the LORD with rejoicing; 8) Look to the LORD for their strength; 9) Seek His face always; and 10) Remember the wonders He has done. Can you imagine how powerful our witness would be if only we would seek to do these same things? Verses 1 and 2 remind us that God has some very specific reasons for asking us to sing. Our songs are to “make known His deeds among the peoples” and to “talk of all His wondrous works.” Those “wondrous works” are none other than those “wonders” that we have spoken of so many times throughout these devotionals. These praise-worthy acts of God are mentioned in 30 verses in the Book of Psalms. That is 24 times more than any other book in the Bible!

**Prayer Emphasis: Remember** that the number 10 is closely associated with totality in the Scriptures. These 10 “imperatives,” just like the 10 Commandments, demand a total commitment to God. **Make** that kind of commitment so that His wonderful acts can be known to those whose paths we cross today.

## Day 36: Psalm 105:16-30

*“He increased His people greatly, and made them stronger than their enemies. He turned their heart to hate His people, to deal craftily with His servants.” (Psalm 105:24-25)*

### Looking to the Past — Living for the Future

Beginning at verse 16, God gives Israel a history lesson to remind them of how He had caused some of the greatest times of persecution to become some of their greatest times of prosperity. Beginning with Joseph, God reminds them that He had taken the burdens of His people and turned them into blessings. It was God that had Joseph elevated to a place of leadership – moving him from a dungeon to a mansion (see Genesis 40:15). When Jacob (Israel) was eventually led into Egypt with the rest of the family, he only “dwelt” there as a stranger or an “alien” (v. 23, NIV) by the people there. Yet, we are told that, even in such desperate times and in such an unfortunate situation, God “increased His people greatly, and made them stronger”, or “more numerous” (NIV) than their enemies (v. 24). God then reminded His people of how He had been with Moses and Aaron as they led the people out of Egypt. God permitted His people to go to Egypt and then provided for them while they were there, and they prospered even though they suffered great trials. We would do well to realize that God could use some of the present situations in our lives to bring blessings to future believers.

**Prayer Emphasis: Look** in your spiritual rear view mirror and **thank** God for the many burdens that He has turned into blessings in your own life. **Share** one of those stories with someone who may need to be encouraged

## Day 37: Psalm 105:31-45

*“He also brought them out with silver and gold, and there was none feeble among His tribes. Egypt was glad when they departed, for the fear of them had fallen upon them.” (Psalm 105:37-38)*

### Silver and Gold

It should not surprise us at all that Israel went down to Egypt in a time of poverty (famine) only to come out of Egypt 400 years later in a time of plenty (silver and gold). However, what might have been even greater than this financial blessing was the physical blessing that is also cited in our focus verse. We are told that, of the estimated 2,000,000 (or more) people that came out of Egypt, there was “none feeble among His tribes” (v. 37). When we consider the fact that the Hebrew people had been in Egypt during all the infectious plagues that God sent upon their captors, this is a miraculous statement indeed! It is obvious that God had protected His people and that they had been made stronger as a result of their servitude to another nation. Because of this, many consider Psalm 105:7 to be one of the “Romans 8:28’s” of the Old Testament! But God did more than just protect His people. He also provided for them in miraculous ways. Verses 39-41 remind us of some of the wonderful things that God did for His people after they came out of Egypt. Verse 42 reminds us of God’s promise to Abraham. The protection and provision of God led to His people leaving Egypt and heading for the Promised Land “with joy” and “with gladness” (v. 43).

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Believe** that trials and persecution can serve to make us stronger on the way out than we were on the way in! **Trust** God in every situation and always **believe** that He is working on your behalf and in your best interest!

## Day 38: Psalm 106:1-15

*“Then they believed His words; they sang His praise. They soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert. And He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul.” (Psalm 106:12-15)*

### Sad Words

It is difficult to believe that the same people who “believed” God’s “words” and “sang His praise” were the same people who “soon forgot His works” (vs. 12-13). The NKJV states that the people who had “believed His words” and “sang His praise...soon forgot His works.” We come across some sad stories as we walk our way through the Bible, but this is one of the saddest. It is not so sad because they forgot all that God had done for them. We are all guilty of forgetting how good God is to us. What is sad about this story is that they soon forgot what God had done for them. It is as if only moments passed between the time when “they believed” and “they soon forgot”. Soon after forgetting what God had done in the past, they were neglecting God’s counsel for the future. When we allow ourselves to forget how much we need the Lord, we may very well forget to ask for His blessings. One can rest assured that God had Israel’s full attention during the entire time that they were in bondage in Egypt! In this situation, the word “soon” is one of the saddest words that we will ever read in the Bible!

**Prayer Emphasis:** The best way to remember God’s blessings is to remind ourselves of them on a regular basis. **Take** some time at your next meal to go around the table and take turns recalling some of the ways that God has blessed your family. God’s blessings are best remembered when they are often reviewed!

## Day 39: Psalm 106:16-31

*“Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stopped. And that was accounted to him for righteousness to all generations forevermore.” (Psalm 106:30-31)*

### Phinehas

There are three men named Phinehas mentioned in the Bible. The one referred to here is the first one mentioned back in Exodus 6:25 and Numbers 25:7-11. He was the grandson of Aaron. He appears in Scripture during one of the darker scenes in Israel’s history. In the early part of Numbers 25, we learn that God’s people had given themselves over to sexual immorality and idolatry. As a result of these terrible sins, God sent a terrible, deadly plague upon His people. Phinehas took some drastic measures to stand for God, stem the tide, and stop both the sin and the plague. Here is what the LORD had to say to Moses about Phinehas, “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal” (Numbers 25:11). In some translations, the word “consume” in that verse is translated “put an end to them.” Because of his loyalty, God made this special covenant with Phinehas and his descendants: “and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel” (Numbers 25:13).

**Prayer Emphasis:** We may often feel like we are just one person and that there is little that we can do to help our country. However, our personal walk with God can be a powerful tool against God’s enemies. **Make** every effort to **stand** for God, **stem** the tide and to **stop** the plague that sin brings upon our country.

## Day 40: Psalm 106:32-48

*“Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise. Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, ‘Amen!’ Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 106:47-48)*

### Words Worth Repeating

Our focus verses mark yet another time that a part of the song in 1 Chronicles 16 is repeated in Psalms 105 and 106. On day 35, we mentioned that the first 15 verses of Psalm 105 were quoted from 1 Chronicles 16:8-22. Now, on the last day of this devotional guide, we see 1 Chronicles 16:35-36 quoted in verses 47-48 of Psalm 106. In 1 Chronicles 16:36, we are told that, after the people sang, “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting!” After that statement God adds these words: “And all the people said, ‘Amen!’ and praised the LORD.” As it was then, so it was to be on the days that this psalm was sung during times that God’s people worshipped in the temple or tabernacle. In the last words of Psalm 106, and this fourth “Book” of the Psalms, we are reminded to do the same thing. Here we find some words that simply cannot be repeated too often, or even often enough: “Let all the people” say “Amen!” and praise the LORD. Review those verses once more and note that these are words well worth repeating. Not just now, but for generations to come!

**Prayer Emphasis: Thank** God for the many people who wrote the psalms and for those who were faithful to make sure that this book was preserved for people like you and me. **Read** some from this book every day, and you will find that it will help you to keep a song in your heart through even the darkest times. Thank you for reading with us. Contact me at [gary@seminolebc.com](mailto:gary@seminolebc.com) if I can serve you in any way.