

SONGS OF HOPE

(Re)discovering Hope in Jesus through the Lens of the Psalms

The book of Psalms is found in the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) and is a collection of 150 Hebrew poems, songs, and prayers that come from all different periods of Israel's history. This collection holds a tension between lament of the tragic state of the world, while embracing the hope of the Messianic Kingdom to come. In other words, the Psalms is a deeply honest collection of work inspired by the Holy Spirit while also pouring out of the human heart and all its emotions.

With 41% of the New Testament (NT) citations of the Old Testament being Psalms, it is clear the NT writers understood this collection of songs and poetry as pointing to Jesus. He affirms this himself by pointing to the Psalms more than 50 times and saying clearly in Luke 24:44:

"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." – Jesus

In Hebrew the "Psalms" are called "Sephar Tehillim", meaning "book of praises". Used throughout Jewish history by choirs that sang in Israel's temple, many of the Psalms were songs of hope during circumstantial and spiritual darkness. That said, our goal in this study is to use selected Psalms as our guide in continuing to embrace the truth that the books of the Bible are not 66 separate stories, but one story moving towards their culmination in Jesus. Welcome to Songs of Hope!

Week 1 – February 11

- Focus – Jesus' love stands firm forever
- Key Verses – Psalm 89:1-4 & Luke 1:32-33

Week 2 – February 18

- Focus – Jesus is the Son of God
- Key Verses – Psalm 2:7 & Matthew 3:17

Week 3 – February 25

- Focus – The kings of the earth rise up against Jesus
- Key Verses – Psalm 2:2 & Acts 4:25-27

Week 4 – March 3

- Focus – Jesus is our High Priest
- Key Verses – Psalm 110:4 & Hebrews 5:6

Week 5 – March 10

- Focus – Jesus prays for His enemies
- Key Verses – Psalm 109:4-5 & Luke 23:34

Week 6 – March 17

- Focus – Jesus the Cornerstone is rejected
- Key Verses – Psalm 118:22-23 & Matthew 21:42

Palm Sunday – March 24

- Focus – Jesus Enters Jerusalem
- Key Verses – Psalm 118:26 & Matthew 21:9

Good Friday – March 29

- Focus – Jesus is crucified
- Key Verses – Psalm 22:1, 7, 8, 15, 16, 18; 31:5; 34:20

Easter Sunday – March 31

- Focus – Jesus is Resurrected
- Key Verses – Psalm 16:9-10 & Acts 13:32-41

Week 10 – April 7

- Focus – Jesus Ascends
- Key Verses – Psalm 68:18 & Acts 1:9-11