

Survey of Psalms Part 1

by
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Survey of Psalms - Part 1

**A study of the book of Psalms - Part 1 for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

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Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Psalms - Part 1. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Psalms - Part 1. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

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Survey of Psalms
Lesson 1
Psalm 1:1-4:8

Today we will be starting our study of the book of Psalms. The Psalms were originally known as the Book of Praises in the Hebrew language. We could also call the Psalms a hymn book because these were the songs that the Jewish people sang accompanied by various musical instruments. Some of the Psalms were especially songs that were sung during the various feasts of the Jews. The book of Psalms also provides the background for many of the songs that we sing even today. As we study the New Testament, we also see that the book of Psalms is quoted many times. Throughout the book of Psalms we will see that there are many prophecies about Christ.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about the two ways.
- Explain what you learn about Christ.
- Explain what David said about God when he fled from Absalom.
- Explain what will make it possible for us to sleep in peace.

As we begin our study of the book of Psalms, we start our study by learning about the two ways that every person must choose between. This Psalm gives us an introduction to the entire book of Psalms. God began by showing the way that people openly mock and make fun of God. First, they begin to walk with the ungodly and enjoy their fellowship. Then they begin to go with the ungodly to the places where the ungodly carry out their evil plans. Finally they begin mocking God along with the rest of their evil companions. God says that we will be blessed if we do not begin to follow the ways of evil people. Instead our desire should be to lead people to the Lord.

1. Read Psalm 1:1-6 and write in what the man that is blessed by the Lord delights.
2. Explain why people begin to walk with the ungodly, then they begin to talk like the ungodly and finally they begin to mock with the ungodly.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord promises blessing to those who choose to avoid the way of the ungodly.

The man that is blessed by the Lord is the one that loves the Word of God. He chooses to think about the Word of God day and night. This was at a time when people did not have copies of the Word of God so they had to memorize it in order to have it in their thoughts. In order to meditate on the Word of God we see that we choose to do several things. First we study the Word of God so that we understand what it says. Then we memorize it so that we have it in our minds. Finally we meditate (think) about the Word of God day and night so that we know what the Lord wants us to do moment by moment. As we think about the Word of God, we begin to understand the Word even better. As a result, we are able to live the way that God wants us to live.

4. Read Psalm 1:1-16 and write what we will be like if we choose to meditate on the Word of God day and night.
5. Explain why it is important for the person that wants to have his or her life transformed to hear, read, study, memorize the Word and then meditate on the Word of God so that they learn to think in a Biblical way instead of a worldly way.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord is changing and transforming your life as you meditate on the Word of God day and night.

Here we see that meditation on the Word of God will cause us to become strong and mature in

our Christian lives. A tree that is planted by a river develops strong roots that go very deep. Such a tree is not bothered when strong winds come. At the same time it continues to produce plenty of fruit because it is well watered. If we continually meditate on the Word of God, we will become strong and we will not be confused by false teachers and their false doctrines. Our lives will also become fruitful and will produce fruit for the Lord. Everything that we do will be blessed by the Lord. Continual meditation prevents us from having times when our spiritual lives become like dry ground that causes the leaves to wither.

7. Read Psalm 1:1-6 and write what the ungodly are like.

8. Explain why daily meditation on the Word of God will help a person to grow and mature and become fruitful in his or her spiritual life.

9. Explain why you think that it is important for you to meditate on the Word of God so that your life will also become fruitful.

Chaff is the little pieces of straw that are left in the grain when the grain has been harvested. When the grain is thrown into the air, the chaff is blown away by the wind. Those who do not have their trust in the Lord are like the chaff because they are spiritually unstable and follow every false doctrine that comes along. As a result, they will not be able to stand when the Day of Judgment comes. God knows those who trust in Him. God also knows all of those who are ungodly. He will judge all of the people that are ungodly when the Day of Judgment comes and they will not be able to stand before God in that day.

10. Read Psalm 1:1-6 and write what the Lord knows about the righteous.

11. Explain why we will become strong Christians if we learn to meditate on the Word of God day and night.

12. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord promises to transform your life as you meditate upon His Word.

Psalm one shows us the two choices that every person faces. Psalm two then goes on to show us the two choices that face every nation and kingdom. The nations of the world throughout history have chosen to live in rebellion against God. They have also plotted together to destroy the people of God. They have particularly centered this rebellion against Christ, the anointed One of God. These nations have felt that they could break the bonds of God that control them so that they can do as much evil as they choose. Men and nations have always deceived themselves into thinking that they can destroy the power of God that is controlling them.

13. Read Psalm 2:1-12 and write what God does as He sees the efforts of men to break the control of God over them.

14. Explain why the nations of the world throughout history have chosen to live in rebellion against God.

15. Explain why you think that the nations have particularly centered this rebellion against Christ.

The Lord laughs at the efforts of people as they try to reject the power of God. These efforts show how little such people know and understand about the power of God. God will judge people for their rebellion against Him and they will not be able to escape that judgment. God also says that He will set His king on the holy hill of Zion. Zion was the place where Solomon built the original temple of Israel. This promise that Christ will one day be the king of the entire earth will be fulfilled according to Revelation 20:4-6. In that day people will be forced to recognize that Christ is the Son of God. Christ is the only One that can fill all of the requirements that are mentioned in this chapter.

16. Read Psalm 2:1-12 and write what God will give Christ as an inheritance.

17. Explain why God will one day in the future make Christ the king of the entire earth for a thousand years.

18. Explain why you think that it is important to learn to depend on the power of God for your life instead of rejecting the power of God as the nations rejected His power.

The Father will give Christ all of the nations of the earth for Christ to rule. In that day Christ will judge and rule the earth with a rod of iron. Those who rebel against Him will be broken into pieces. As a result, God tells the kings and the nations to be wise and recognize Christ as their ruler. They need to fear the Lord. To kiss the Son means to recognize Christ as the Lord of their lives. All those who fail to recognize that Christ is the One that must be the Lord of their lives will be destroyed. They will experience the wrath of God while those who trust in the Lord will be blessed.

19. Read Psalm 2:1-12 and write what group of people are promised blessing by the Lord.

20. Explain why it is also important for us to recognize Christ as the Lord of our lives.

21. Explain why you think that God invites the kings and the nations to be wise and recognize Christ as their ruler.

As we come to Psalm three, we see that this Psalm was written when David was fleeing to escape from his son, Absalom. As a result, this Psalm gives us an example of the kind of attitude that we should have when we are in any time of trouble. David began by telling the Lord about his problem. The number of people that were trying to destroy David was very great. In fact it seemed like there were more that were rising up against him all of the time. These people were saying that the Lord would not help David. Suddenly we come to the word, Selah. Selah was probably a word that was for the ones that were accompanying the singing of the Psalm with musical instruments and meant a change of mood or a rest.

22. Read Psalm 3:1-8 and write what David said the Lord was to him during this time of trouble in his life.

23. Explain why it is important to see the attitude that David had when he was fleeing from his son when Absalom was trying to kill him.

24. Explain why you think that it is important to pray and talk to the Lord when we are facing any problem.

The enemies were surrounding David but he was not afraid. Instead David knew that the Lord was a shield to protect him. He knew that he could depend on the Lord to care for him and hold him up. David knew that the Lord would protect him because he had asked the Lord for help. As a result, David was able to lie down and sleep without worrying even though he was surrounded by enemies. When he woke up, the Lord encouraged David and met his needs.

25. Read Psalm 3:1-8 and write what David said would not cause him to be afraid.

26. Explain why David knew that he could depend on the Lord to care for him and hold him up even though his son was trying to kill him.

27. Explain why you think that David was able to lie down and sleep without worrying even though he was surrounded by enemies.

David knew that he did not need to be afraid regardless of the number of enemies that surrounded him. When our trust is in the Lord, we do not need to be afraid either. We know that we can call to the Lord for protection. He is always ready to help those who have their trust in Him. God is the One that can destroy the ungodly and bring judgment upon them. The Lord is also the One that provides us with salvation. The Lord is the One that blesses those who trust in Him. Since this is true, we do not need to be afraid when we have our trust in the Lord.

28. Read Psalm 3:1-8 and write what David said God had done to the teeth of the ungodly.

29. Explain what you learn about the way that the Lord protects us according to these verses.

30. Explain why you think that we do not need to be fearful or afraid when our trust is in the Lord.

Psalm four is another Psalm that was written by David. In this Psalm David again asked the Lord to hear him when he called to the Lord. Each time that David had called to the Lord in the past, the Lord had heard his prayer and had encouraged him. The Lord is always ready to hear

our prayers and encourage us when we are in distress if we have our trust in Him. He is glad to show mercy to those who have placed their trust in Him. David was calling to the Lord for help because evil men were trying to destroy the good name of David by speaking lies about him.

31. Read Psalm 4:1-8 and write who the Lord has set apart for Himself.

32. Explain why it is important to talk to the Lord when evil people are speaking lies and trying to destroy your good name.

33. Explain why you think that evil men were trying to destroy the good name of David by speaking lies about him.

This explains the reason why we know that the Lord will hear our prayers. When we have placed our trust in the Lord, we can be certain of the fact that the Lord will hear us when we call to Him. We should stand in amazement as we recognize how eager the Lord is to answer our prayers. This should cause us to want to avoid any sin that would break our fellowship with the God. When we have confessed any sin in our lives, then we can have sweet fellowship with the Lord and our lives will be filled with peace and quietness.

34. Read Psalm 4:1-8 and write what kind of sacrifices David said were to be offered to the Lord.

35. Explain why the Lord is eager to answer the prayers of those who have placed their trust in the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord is eager to answer our prayers and not just ignore them.

During the Old Testament times, the people were to offer sacrifices as a covering for their sins. When the people offered these sacrifices, they were to offer them with hearts that were right with God. Now Christ has become our sacrifice that came to take away our sins as well as to cover them. However, we still need to have hearts that are righteous as we come before the Lord. A clean heart is the requirement for true fellowship. This is what we need at all times as we have our trust in the Lord. Then the Lord will fill our lives with the light of His presence.

37. Read Psalm 4:1-8 and write how David said that he would sleep.

38. Explain why a heart that is righteous is the key to enjoying true fellowship with the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that we need to confess our sin so that we have a clean heart before the Lord.

Today we have many people that are like the people that lived in the time of David. These people are discontented and see nothing that can encourage them. However, as we trust the Lord, He fills our hearts with gladness. We do not have the same attitude as those that do not have their trust in Christ. People that are without Christ must depend on things like wine and other similar things to help them forget so that they can enjoy even a moment of happiness. However, the happiness and peace that the Lord gives to us as we enjoy fellowship with Him causes us to have a peaceful and restful sleep.

40. Read Psalm 4:1-8 and write how the Lord makes us dwell when our trust is in Him.

41. Explain why discontented and angry people need to use things that will help them to forget to even enjoy a moment of happiness.

42. Explain why you think that Christians in fellowship with the Lord are able to enjoy a peaceful and restful sleep.

Now reread Psalm 1:1-4:8 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 2
Psalm 5:1-8:9

Today we will be studying four more of the Psalms that were written by David. In these Psalms David talks about several very important subjects. We can gain godly wisdom as we learn to practice the things that are mentioned in these Psalms. Many times people do not know what they should do. However, the answer to this problem will be found in our study today. We will see that when we do not know what to do that we can pray to the Lord for guidance and that He will guide and lead us. The Lord will hear our prayer for guidance. Then He will provide us with the guidance that we need.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what David taught about praying to the Lord for guidance.
- Explain why David cried to the Lord for mercy.
- Explain what you learn as David prayed to the Lord for deliverance.
- Explain what you learn about the greatness and glory of God.

As we begin our study of Psalm five, we see that David asked the Lord to hear his words. David wanted the Lord to listen to his thoughts as he spoke to the Lord. This should also be our attitude. As we study other Scriptures, we see that the Lord does hear us when we pray to Him. Then David mentioned one of the times that He prayed and spoke to the Lord. We see that David began each morning by speaking to the Lord. Each morning he directed his prayer to the Lord and looked to the Lord for guidance for the activities of that day. As Christians, we need to do the same thing. We need to begin each day by asking the Lord for guidance for the things that we will be doing during that day. We need the Lord to guide our steps throughout the day.

1. Read Psalm 5:1-12 and write what does not give pleasure to the God.
2. Explain why it is important for every Christian to pray each morning and ask the Lord for guidance for the things that they will be doing that day.
3. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to let the Lord guide your steps throughout the day.

The Lord does not enjoy wickedness and sin. In fact the Lord hates evil. He cannot do evil because He is God. Because He is God, He also hates every form of evil. Those who do evil and foolish things cannot stand in front of the Lord because of their sin. God hates those who are evil workers. God will also destroy all of those who speak lies. The person that sheds the blood of others is also hated by the Lord. God also says that He hates those who try to deceive others. Here we see the attitude of God toward sin. God hates sin and will judge sin. However, the Lord also loves the sinner and will forgive every person that comes to Him in true repentance.

4. Read Psalm 5:1-12 and write how David asked the Lord to lead him.
5. Explain what we mean when we say that God hates sin but loves the sinner and will forgive every one that comes to Him in true repentance.
6. Explain why God hates every form of evil and cannot look at evil in the life of any person with approval.

David did not want to follow the ways of evil men. Instead he wanted to walk in the ways of the Lord. David wanted to worship and serve the Lord. As a result, David asked the Lord to lead him in the ways of righteousness. David knew that if the Lord failed to lead him that his enemies would lead him in the wrong way. The Lord was the One that could show him the straight way to go. David could not trust the words of people because the words of people were not always true. Their words are guided by their evil thoughts when they do not have their trust

in the Lord.

7. Read Psalm 5:1-12 and write what the throats of such men are like.

8. Explain why it is important for us to let the Lord lead us so that we will not be led astray by others.

9. Explain why you think that the words of sinful people that do not know Christ will be guided by their evil thoughts.

Here we see that evil people use their words to destroy others. They use their words to flatter others while at the very same time they are planning to do evil. As a result, David asked the Lord to destroy such evil men. David understood that these evil people would fall by their own plans because of the fact that they were in rebellion against God. In contrast, those who put their trust in the Lord can rejoice because the Lord is watching over them. They can shout for joy because the Lord is protecting them. Those who serve the Lord will experience the joy of the Lord. This is due to the fact that the Lord is the One that blesses the righteous. God will provide the righteous with His shield of protection.

10. Read Psalm 5:1-12 and write what all those who trust in the Lord can do with their words.

11. Explain what you learn about the guidance of the Lord from these verses.

12. Explain why you think that God says that those who place their trust in Him can rejoice and shout for joy.

Psalm six gives us a picture of a man that is enduring great suffering as a result of sickness. The writer of this Psalm knew that this sickness was a result of his sin. The New Testament also tells us that sickness is sometimes caused by sin. When we know that we are not dealing with sin in our own lives, we should realize in such a case that the Lord may be allowing sickness in our lives to bring us to the point where there will be repentance for sin and the restoration of fellowship. David asked the Lord not to judge him for his sin while the Lord was angry. Instead he asked the Lord to show mercy to him. He asked the Lord to heal him because he was very weak. In addition to physical suffering, David was also suffering in his soul. Our minds always suffer when we know that we are being disciplined for our sins.

13. Read Psalm 6:1-10 and write what David asked the Lord to save him from his suffering.

14. Explain how Christians can know if they are experiencing sickness due to unconfessed sin in their lives.

15. Explain why you think that our minds as well as our bodies are affected when we know that we are being disciplined for our sins.

David knew that he deserved the discipline that he was receiving from the Lord. However, he asked the Lord to spare his life because of the mercy of the Lord. He was enduring great suffering and yet he did not want death to come to him. He was becoming tired from the suffering and pain that he was experiencing. Every night he cried as he lay upon his bed. As a result, his bed had become wet with tears. His eyes had become sore because of his crying due to the suffering. His physical suffering was causing him to grow old rapidly.

16. Read Psalm 6:1-10 and write who David asked to depart from him.

17. Explain why we can know that the Lord will show mercy when we confess our sins and depart from them.

18. Explain why you think that David felt that his physical suffering was causing him to grow old rapidly.

David had people that had come to torment him in his suffering very similar to the way that the three friends of Job had tormented him as he suffered. David did not want to listen to the evil words of these men because he knew that the Lord had heard his cry for mercy. As a result, David knew that the Lord would answer his prayer for help. As Christians we can also know that the Lord will hear and answer our prayers when we cry to the Lord for help in times of trouble. Even though others may make fun of us, the Lord will cause them to be ashamed when

He answers our prayers by showing mercy.

19. Read Psalm 6:1-10 and write how quickly the Lord will cause our enemies to be ashamed.

20. Explain why we do not need to be afraid to cry to the Lord for mercy even when we have been guilty of sin.

21. Explain why you know that you can have confidence that the Lord will answer your prayers when you have confessed your sins to Him.

As we come to Psalm seven, we see that this Psalm is also the cry of a person that is suffering. However, this Psalm is the cry of one that is being persecuted by his enemies. Even when we are suffering persecution from those who are against us, we do not need to be afraid. When our trust is in the Lord, He is able to deliver us from the persecution of these who are treating us as enemies. There are many enemies in the world that try to destroy those who have their trust in the Lord. However, their efforts will never succeed because they do not know or understand the power of God. When we are suffering, one thing we need to do is examine our own lives to make certain that we are not allowing sin to remain in our lives. Sometimes God does allow the persecution of our enemies to convict us of unconfessed sin.

22. Read Psalm 7:1-17 and write how David asked the Lord to arise to judge those who were making him suffer.

23. Explain why those who are enemies of the Lord will persecute those who follow Christ in an effort to destroy our faith.

24. Explain why you think that we can experience peace as we trust in the Lord even when our enemies are making us suffer.

Here we see the appeal of David to the Lord to judge evil. The Lord is the One that must judge those who are persecuting us. We are not to take judgment into our own hands. At the same time that we pray and ask the Lord to judge others, we should also ask Him to examine our own lives to see if there is sin that needs to be confessed. It may be that we have a self righteous attitude that we also need to allow the Lord to correct in our lives. God is the One that will bring the wicked to an end and establish the just. He is a righteous God that knows our minds and our hearts.

25. Read Psalm 7:1-17 and write where our defense should be.

26. Explain why it is important for Christians not to try and take judgment into their own hands.

27. Explain why you think that it is important for us to regularly examine our own lives to make certain that we do not allow any self righteous attitudes to develop.

There is a reason why we should allow the Lord to be the One that defends us instead of trying to defend ourselves. God is the One that is righteous. He is also the One that judges the righteous and pours out His anger upon the wicked. If the wicked man does not turn from his evil ways, He will experience the sword of judgment of the Lord. Here we see why we are not to judge those who do evil to us. God is prepared to judge them in the final judgment. Therefore, we should leave all judgment to the Lord instead of trying to take judgment into our own hands. God is the One that will judge in the right way and also show mercy to those who repent.

28. Read Psalm 7:1-17 and write what happens when an evil man digs a pit to try and destroy others.

29. Explain why we should cry to the Lord when we are suffering persecution instead of trying to judge others ourselves.

30. Explain why you know that God will judge all those who fail to repent of their sin.

This Psalm also gives us a description of what the evil man is like. He is filled with evil. He plans evil and tells lies. He makes a trap for others and then he falls into his own trap. Here we see another reason why we should leave all judgment to the Lord. God promises that the actions of an evil man will return upon his own head and he will suffer the results of his sin.

Because we know that the Lord is the One that judges evil, we can offer our praises to the Lord because we know that He is the One that is righteous. He will always do what is right.

31. Read Psalm 7:1-17 and write to whom we should sing praises.

32. Explain why God will cause the actions of an evil person to return upon his own head and bring judgment to him.

33. Explain why you think that we can give praise to the Lord because of the fact that He will always do what is right.

Our desire should be to sing praises to the Lord because of His greatness. As we come to Psalm eight, we suddenly come to a beautiful picture of the glory of the Lord. We serve a Lord whose name is excellent in every part of the earth. His glory is greater than the glory of the heavens. The enemies of God will try to speak against Him. However, God is able to use the words of young children to still the words of the enemies. This is an example of the greatness and power of the Lord. God can speak through His children and silence the words of Satan.

34. Read Psalm 8:1-9 and write how God made mankind since God is so great.

35. Explain what this Psalm teaches you about the greatness and the glory of the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord can even use the words of young children to silence the words of the enemies.

Here we have a comparison of the greatness of God with mankind. God is the One that made the heavens. They are the work of His fingers. God also made the moon and the stars. He plans the route that each star travels. In comparison to God, man is nothing. It is amazing that God even keeps us in His thoughts. However, we see that we are in the center of the thoughts of God even though we are nothing. Even though we are a little lower than the angels, God has crowned us with glory and honor.

37. Read Psalm 8:1-9 and write over what God has given mankind dominion.

38. Explain why the fact that God plans the path that each star travels is one of the pictures of the greatness of the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that God is so concerned about us when He is great and we are so small.

In addition to crowning us with glory and honor, God had also given us the responsibility for the care of the things that He has created on this earth. Here we see that in addition to being in the thoughts of God that He has a purpose for each of us in our lives. He has given us control over all of the sheep and the oxen. These are the animals that are tame. In addition, God has also given us control over the wild animals. The birds of the air have also been placed under our control. Even the fish and the other animals of the sea are not free from the control of man. In this way we see that one of the purposes that God has for each one of us is to care for the creation that He created.

40. Read Psalm 8:1-9 and write what the name of the Lord is like throughout the earth.

41. Explain why it is important for mankind to understand that the Lord has given us control over all of the things that He has created on the earth.

42. Explain why you think it is important to know that God keeps you in His thoughts and also has a specific purpose for your life.

Now reread Psalm 5:1-8:9 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 3
Psalm 9:1-12:8

In our last lesson we studied a Psalm in which David prayed and asked the Lord to deliver him from his enemies. As we studied that Psalm, we saw that David was certain that the Lord would answer his prayer and bring judgment on his enemies. Many times we ask God for help when we are in trouble. Then we forget to thank God when He delivers us from our trouble. This was not true of David. Instead we see that David realized the importance of giving all praise and glory to the Lord. In our study today we will see his praise to the Lord for giving him victory over his enemies.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why David gave praise to the Lord.
- Explain why this is followed by a plea for judgment.
- Explain why the Lord is also our refuge.
- Explain what the Lord says about sinful speech.

As we begin Psalm nine, we see the way that we should praise the Lord for what He has done for us in our lives. We should praise Him with our whole heart. We should be eager to speak of the marvelous works of the Lord. We should be glad and rejoice in the Lord. Our desire should be to sing praises in the name of the Lord. God is the One that judges all of our enemies. Those who are evil cannot stand in the presence of God. The Lord is the One that maintains our cause when we are righteous. He sits on His throne judging the right and the wrong. He is the One that rebukes the nations and destroys those who are wicked.

1. Read Psalm 9:1-20 and write how long the name of the wicked is gone when the wicked are destroyed.
2. Explain why Christians should be eager to praise the Lord with their whole heart and speak of His marvelous works.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for you to sing praises to the Lord to thank Him for what He has done for you.

When God destroys our enemies, we see that He does it completely. Even their cities are destroyed so that there is nothing that remains to show their former greatness. Evil men last only a short time but the Lord endures forever. God is the One that will judge the world. When He judges, His judgment will be righteous. At the same time He will provide a refuge for those who are suffering. Those who know the name of the Lord will put their trust in Him because He will never forsake those who have placed their trust in Him.

4. Read Psalm 9:1-20 and write what we should sing since all of these things are true.
5. Explain why God says that His judgment of evil men will be a complete judgment so that nothing remains of their former greatness.
6. Explain why you think it is important for every Christian to understand that the Lord will never forsake them.

Our desire should be to sing praises to the Lord so that those around us may know of the wonderful works of the Lord. When the Lord judges those who do evil, He remembers those who have placed their trust in Him. The Lord never forgets the cry of the humble. This is the reason that we can cry to the Lord for mercy when we are suffering from the persecution of those who hate us. Because the Lord does show mercy to us in our times of suffering, we know that we can express our praise to Him. We can rejoice in the salvation that He has provided for us. The nations have prepared a pit to capture others. However, they will be caught in their

own trap.

7. Read Psalm 9:1-20 and write by what the Lord is known.
8. Explain why it should be our desire for those around us to know about the wonderful works of the Lord.
9. Explain why it is important to you to know that the Lord will never forget the cry of the humble.

Evil men are trapped by their own wickedness because the Lord is the Righteous Judge. All those who reject the Lord will be brought before Him and will be judged. They will be condemned to eternal separation from God in the lake of fire and brimstone because they have forgotten God. However, the poor and the needy that have placed their trust in the Lord will not be forgotten by the Lord in the day when the Lord comes. All of those who have placed their trust in the Lord will be given eternal life and will not perish. The evil nations will not have victory in the end because the Lord is the One that is the final judge. As the people of the nations compare themselves with God, they will realize that they are only men.

10. Read Psalm 9:1-20 and write what David asked the Lord to do to the nations.
11. Explain why we should give all praise to the Lord when He gives us victory over our enemies.
12. Explain why you know that those who have placed their trust in the Lord will not be forgotten in the day when the Lord comes.

Psalm nine talked about the wicked nations. Psalm ten also speaks of the wicked. However, this Psalm speaks of wicked individuals. It seemed to the writer of this Psalm that the Lord was waiting a long time to judge those who were evil. In this Psalm we are given a summary of some of the things that evil men do. They persecute the poor. Wicked men do this because they are filled with pride. The wicked also boast about all of the things that they are going to do. The wicked also bless those who desire to do evil. Because of the pride of the wicked, they do not want to seek God. In fact they do everything possible to keep God out of their thoughts.

13. Read Psalm 10:1-18 and write what the ways of wicked men are like.
14. Explain why those who are controlled by pride do not even want to allow God to be in their thoughts.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord warns so often about the dangers of pride in the life of any person.

The ways of the wicked are always very evil. The wicked are so evil that they do not even think of the fact that they face the judgment of God in the future. Instead they spend their time boasting about the things that they will do to their enemies. Such people think that no one can stop them from carrying out their evil plans. Here we see the such individuals have even deceived themselves. The words of the wicked are also very evil. They curse both God and man. They use their words to deceive and cheat. Their tongues are filled with mischief and evil. Such individuals lie in wait to do evil. They secretly murder those who are innocent. They have set their eyes and made their plans to do evil to the poor.

16. Read Psalm 10:1-18 and write how they lie in wait.
17. Explain why the wicked spend their time boasting about what they are going to do in the present instead of spending time preparing for the future.
18. Explain why you think that those who are controlled by evil make their plans to do evil to those who cannot defend themselves.

Those who devise evil and mischief make their sinful plans in secret and then wait for the opportunity to carry out those evil plans. They catch the poor with their traps. We also see the reason why evil people do all of these evil things. They think that God does not know what they are doing. They think that God has forgotten the things that they have done in the past. They think that the Lord does not see the things that they are doing in the present. As a result,

they think that the Lord will never see them when they do evil. Here we see that evil people have deceived themselves by their own lack of understanding of God.

19. Read Psalm 10:1-18 and write what David said is the desire of the humble.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the ignorance of the true character of God by the wicked.

21. Explain why the wicked think that God does not know what they are thinking and doing in their lives.

We see that evil people think that they can escape the judgment of God. However, the Lord will rise up and judge such people. God is a holy God and must judge sin. He sees all of the things that the evil do. They cannot hide their evil actions from Him. As a result, the Day of Judgment will come for those who practice evil even if that day does not come immediately.

God will also show His kindness to the poor and to the fatherless. The Lord hears the prayer of the humble. He will prepare their hearts and cause them to hear His Word. He will work in their lives in such a way that the day will come when the wicked can no longer oppress them.

22. Read Psalm 10:1-18 and write how long the Lord will be the King when He begins to rule.

23. Explain why God will show His kindness to the poor and to the fatherless and will hear the prayer of the humble.

24. Explain why you think that God is so patient with evil men that He waits until the Judgment Day to bring their judgment.

As we come to Psalm eleven, we see that the Lord is the One that is our refuge and protection even when evil men try to harm us. As we come to this Psalm, we also see the difference between trusting the words of men and trusting the Word of the Lord. In the time of danger, people that trust in their own wisdom say flee to the mountain where there are plenty of hiding places. Such individuals suggest this because they see the enemy coming prepared to destroy them. People that are depending on themselves think that fleeing to a place of hiding is the only way to escape from those who are trying to destroy them.

25. Read Psalm 11:1-7 and write the question that is asked in this chapter.

26. Explain why people that are depending on themselves think that they can escape from those who are trying to destroy them.

27. Explain why you know that the Lord is the One that is our real source of protection from those who do evil.

Here we see why we do not need to flee when our trust is in the Lord. If we flee from our problems, we are admitting that our faith is weak. Our faith is not of any value if we allow the foundation of that faith to be destroyed by trusting the advice of men rather than putting our trust in the Lord. The Lord is in heaven and so our trust in Him can be complete. The Lord is watching over us. He is able to protect us from all evil so that we do not need to depend on the advice of people. Instead we can place our faith and confidence in the Lord and depend on Him.

28. Read Psalm 11:1-7 and write what the righteous Lord loves.

29. Explain why it is important to learn to trust the Lord instead of trusting in the advice of men.

30. Explain why you think that many Christians seek the advice of sinful men instead of trusting the Lord to guide them.

Because the Lord watches over us, He allows tests to come into our lives from time to time to remind us to keep our trust in Him. This is the reason why we are faced with various kinds of problems and trials in our daily lives. The Lord allows these tests to strengthen our trust in Him. At the same time the Lord hates the sins of those who love violence and evil. The Lord is going to bring great judgment on those who continue to follow their evil ways. This judgment will be an eternal judgment. It will be a judgment of fire and brimstone. This is the judgment that was prepared for the devil and his angels. Those who continue to follow Satan will also

share in his judgment because of the choice that they have made.

31. Read Psalm 11:1-7 and write what the righteous Lord loves.

32. Explain why the Lord allows tests and trials in our lives to help strengthen us in our spiritual lives.

33. Explain why you realize that some of the most important lessons that you have learned in your life have been learned in times of testing.

As we come to Psalm twelve, we see that David was concerned because it seemed that the number of godly men was becoming less and less. Today we are also living in a day in which the same thing seems to be happening. Instead of speaking the truth, many people are speaking what others want to hear. They try to impress others by saying good things about them. However, they do not mean what they are saying when they speak those flattering words. Instead their talk is double talk to cover up the fact that they are trying to take advantage of the people to whom they are talking.

34. Read Psalm 12:1-8 and write what the Lord is going to do to all those who do not speak the truth.

35. Explain why you think that people choose to listen to those who tell them what they want to hear instead of listening to those who tell them the truth.

36. Explain why you think that many people will speak flattering words that they do not mean in order to take advantage of the people to whom they are talking.

The people that are using their words to flatter and deceive think that they will get exactly what they want. They think that they are in complete control of their lives and that no one can stop them from carrying out their evil plans. However, such individuals fail to realize that the Lord is watching them when they are taking advantage of the poor with their false words. The Lord also hears the sighing of the needy. As a result, the Lord promises to protect the poor and the needy from those who are boasting with proud words. The Lord also says that He will destroy those who speak with such words.

37. Read Psalm 12:1-8 and write what kind of words the Lord speaks.

38. Explain what you learn from this Psalm about those who try to deceive others with their words.

39. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord hears the sighing of the needy and promises to protect them from those that boast with proud words.

The words of the Lord are exactly the opposite of the words of proud and wicked men. The words of the Lord are pure. His words are like silver that has been refined in the fire. The Lord will do exactly as He has promised because His words are lasting. The words of the Lord do not change like the words of evil men. Because the Word of God is unchangeable, we can put our complete trust in His Word because we know that the Word of God will never change. The Lord will cause His words to be preserved forever because He is unchangeable.

40. Read Psalm 12:1-8 and write how pure the Word of God is.

41. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that the Lord will do exactly as He has promised because His words are unchangeable.

42. Explain why you think that it is important for you to understand in your own life that you can trust the Word of the Lord.

Now reread Psalm 9:1-12:8 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 4
Psalm 13:1-17:15

Today we live in a day when everyone seems to be in a hurry. This is true both among Christians and those who are not following Christ. We want each thing that happens to be done right away. This attitude shows up in the prayers of Christians to the Lord. We want Him to answer our prayers immediately. Sometimes we become discouraged when our prayers are not answered immediately. Many people find it difficult to be patient when they are bringing their requests to the Lord in prayer. However, we are not the first people to want immediate answers to our prayers. This same thing was also true in the life of David. Today we will learn how David learned to trust the Lord to answer his prayers.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why we should trust the Lord when our prayers are not answered immediately.
- Explain what God says about a fool.
- Tell about the promise that we are given about death.
- Explain why we can depend on the Lord in all situations.

As we begin Psalm thirteen, we see that David was wondering how long the Lord was going to forget him. David was facing a problem and it seemed to him that the Lord was forgetting him because the Lord did not answer his prayer immediately. Sometimes we also think that the Lord has forgotten us when we pray to Him because He does not answer our prayers immediately. The problem is not with the Lord. Instead we are the person with the problem. The Lord will certainly answer our prayer. However, the Lord will answer our prayer according to His plan and His time and not according to our plan or time. Instead of complaining to the Lord when we do not get an immediate answer, we need to humbly ask the Lord to hear us.

1. Read Psalm 13:1-6 and write what God will do to our eyes.
2. Explain why the Lord will answer our prayers according to His time and His plan and not according to our time and plan.
3. Explain why you think that many Christians find it hard to wait patiently for the Lord to answer their prayers.

When we wait for the Lord to answer our prayer with patience, the Lord will encourage us and take away that sorrow that is showing in our eyes. God will do this so that our enemies cannot boast. Now we come to the real key when we are discouraged. We can trust in the mercy of the Lord. When we place our trust in the Lord instead of focusing on our problems, our hearts will be filled with joy. We will be able to rejoice in the salvation that the Lord has provided for us. Many times we want to see the answer to our prayers before we will let the Lord give us victory over our fear and discouragement. However, we will truly experience the joy of the Lord when we learn to trust in the Lord and thank Him even when we have not yet seen the answer to our prayers.

4. Read Psalm 13:1-6 and write why we should sing to the Lord.
5. Explain why it is important to trust the Lord to answer our prayers rather than let fear and discouragement take control of our lives.
6. Explain why you think that we can really learn to experience the joy of the Lord as we wait expectantly for Him to answer our prayers.

In the New Testament, we are warned not to call a person a fool. The Lord is the only One that can call a person a fool because the Lord is the One that knows the heart of a person. God

describes what makes a person a fool. A fool is a person that says in his heart that there is no God. Then he carries out the activities in his life as if there is no God. God says that the ways of a fool are corrupt. His works are very evil. He has no desire to do what is right. This is true because of the fact that he expects no judgment from the Lord. In fact when we look at the world we see that as a result of sin that no person desires to do what is right without Christ.

7. Read Psalm 14:1-7 and write what God looked for when He looked down from heaven at mankind.

8. Explain why a person is a fool when he carries out the activities of his life as if there is no God.

9. Explain why you think that many people go through their lives acting as if there is no God even if they claim to believe in God.

Throughout history God has been looking for people that seek Him. However, we see that people do not seek God. Instead all people go their own way. They have all become filled with sin. Every single person does evil. There is not a single person on the entire earth that does what is good in the sight of God. People have no knowledge of what is right and true. They destroy others. They do not call to the Lord for help. Here we see that all people without Christ live like fools even if they do not deny the existence of God in their hearts. They ignore God and do not trust in Him.

10. Read Psalm 14:1-7 and write what people experience in their lives when they live as if there is no God.

11. Explain what these verses teach about a person that is a fool.

12. Explain why you think that people do not seek God even when their lives are controlled by fear.

Those who do not trust in the Lord live in great fear because they do not have the peace that the Lord gives. However, God lives in the lives of those who are righteous. Those people that are without God also reject the poor. Even when the poor are rejected by those who do not know God, we see that the poor are not forgotten. God provides a place of refuge for the poor. There is still hope even when people have rejected the Lord and turned away from Him. The Lord is still able to provide salvation for His people. He is still able to bring them back from their captivity especially from their captivity to sin and evil.

13. Read Psalm 14:1-7 and write what the people of Israel will do when the Lord brings them back from their captivity.

14. Explain why God does not forget the poor even when they are rejected by those who ignore God.

15. Explain why you think that we should continue to pray for those people that have rejected the Lord and turned away from Him.

We have just seen what the fool is like. This brings us to the question of what the person that trusts in the Lord is like. How does a person act when he is in fellowship with the Lord? Psalm fifteen gives us a description of the person that is walking in fellowship with the Lord. First, that person is in a right relationship with the Lord. This is pointed out by the fact that he walks in an upright way. Such a person works righteousness and speaks truth in his heart. These things all point to a person that has a right relationship with the Lord.

16. Read Psalm 15:1-5 and write down the first thing that speaks of the right relationship with other people.

17. Explain why a person that is in a right relationship with the Lord wants to do the things that are righteous and speak the things that are truth.

18. Explain why you think that it is important to you in your own life to have a right relationship with the Lord.

A person that is right with the Lord will not slander his neighbor. He will not do evil to his

neighbor. He will not speak evil about his neighbor. The man that is right with the Lord does not follow the ways of evil men. Instead the Lord honors those who fear the Lord. When a person that is right with the Lord makes a promise, he keeps his word regardless of how much it costs him to keep that promise. Such a person does not charge interest when he loans his money. Neither does he take a bribe to change his testimony against those who are innocent. God says that the person that does these things will be a stable person that does not change.

19. Read Psalm 15:1-5 and write what the person speaks in his heart that is in a right relationship with the Lord.

20. Explain what the person that fears the Lord is like.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord wants us to understand what we will do when we are in a right relationship with Him.

Today we have many people that do not worship the Lord. Instead they worship other things. In Psalm sixteen we see the difference between those who trust in the Lord and those who trust in other things. When our trust is in the Lord, we know that our lives will be filled with joy. We realize that the Lord is the One that preserves us. The Lord is the One that brings goodness into our lives because we do not have goodness within ourselves. This goodness that comes from the Lord is extended to all of those who delight in the Lord. This is the reason why every Christian can be filled with joy regardless of what is happening around each Christian.

22. Read Psalm 16:1-11 and write what happens to those who hasten after another god.

23. Explain why it is important to realize that the Lord will bring goodness into our lives as we delight in Him.

24. Explain why you think that it is important for every Christian to realize that the Lord is the One that preserves us.

Those who are not following the Lord will find that their unhappiness continues to increase as they go through life. As a result, the writer of this Psalm said that he would not have any Part In the worship of other gods. Instead his dependence would be with the Lord. The Lord had blessed him and had given him a reason to be filled with joy. The Lord is also the One that gives us a reason to be filled with joy. We also read that the Lord is the One that gives us counsel so that we know what is right. He is the One that teaches us in the night. This is the reason why we need to follow the Lord at all times. When we are following Him, we will not be moved by the things that are happening around us.

25. Read Psalm 16:1-11 and write what the writer said about his heart.

26. Explain why it is important to follow the counsel of the Lord so that we know what is right.

27. Explain why you think that you can experience the peace of the Lord and not be moved or upset by the things that are happening around you.

The Lord is the One that gives us gladness in our lives. He gives us a reason to rejoice. In addition, the Lord gives us a future hope. This hope is Christ. Verse ten is quoted in the New Testament to show what happened to Christ. When Christ died, he did not remain dead. The body of Christ did not rot. Instead God raised Christ from the dead and He is alive today. This is the reason for our hope. We are not serving a dead idol. Because Christ is alive, He shows us the path of life. He fills our lives with joy. We can look forward to the fact that we will be in His presence forever.

28. Read Psalm 16:1-11 and write what we experience when we are walking in the presence of the Lord.

29. Explain why it is possible for a Christian to be filled with joy regardless of what is happening in the life of that Christian.

30. Explain why you understand that the resurrection is the reason that Christians can be filled with hope.

As we come to Psalm seventeen, we see the prayer of David when he was falsely accused of doing wrong. Instead of complaining to people, David cried to the Lord and asked the Lord to

hear his prayer. He told the Lord that his prayer was a true prayer. As a result, he wanted his sentence to come from the Lord and not from the false words of man. The Lord knew the heart of David just as He knows our hearts. David asked the Lord to visit him and test him to show that he was innocent. His desire was to avoid committing any sin with his words. He had not followed the words of men. The word of the Lord had kept him from the paths of evil.

31. Read Psalm 17:1-15 and write how David wanted to walk.

32. Explain why it is important to cry to the Lord instead of complaining to people when others accuse us falsely.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord can give us true inner peace even when there are people that are accusing us falsely.

David knew how easy it is to be led in the wrong way. As a result, he asked the Lord to help him walk in the paths of the Lord. We need to realize what David realized. We will fall if we are walking in our own strength. However, the Lord is able to hold us up. When we call to the Lord for help, we know that He will hear us. The ears of the Lord are open to hear our prayers. Because of this, we know that the Lord will show His marvelous lovingkindness to us. The Lord saves those who trust in Him. He protects them from those who would try to destroy them.

34. Read Psalm 17:1-15 and write how David asked the Lord to keep him.

35. Explain why we need to pray and ask the Lord to guide us and lead us in the paths of the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord will show us the way to walk as we depend on Him instead of our own strength.

The phrase “keep me as the apple of the eye” occurs five times in the Bible. Each time it points to the fact that those who are kept in the apple of God’s eye are in the center of His attention. The Lord is the One that provides protection from the enemies that would try to destroy those who trust in the Lord. Those who are evil are trapped by their own evil. At the same time they are boasting about their own strength. The enemies try to follow and destroy those who follow the Lord. These people are like lions that are greedy for their prey. Here we see that the ways of those who are evil are exactly the opposite of the ways of those who trust in the Lord.

37. Read Psalm 17:1-15 and write how David wanted to behold the face of the Lord.

38. Explain what this Psalm teaches about the fact that we should pray to the Lord when others falsely accuse us of evil.

39. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that the Lord will “keep you as the apple of His eye.”

David asked the Lord to hear him. Next he told the Lord the reason why he needed help. As we come to the final part of this Psalm, we see that David asked the Lord for deliverance. The Lord is the One that can cast down the wicked and deliver us from them. Even though people are very evil, God still has control over them. The whole thought of these people is of their life here on this earth. They do not give any thought to what will happen in the future. Only those who trust in the Lord want His desire for their lives. They are the ones who look forward to the day when they will be with Christ and will be like Him.

40. Read Psalm 17:1-15 and write what David said would cause him to be satisfied.

41. Explain why people that are controlled by evil are not giving any thought to their future.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to pray for those who are evil and warn them about their future.

Now reread Psalm 13:1-17:15 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 5
Psalm 18:1- 20:9

Many times we pray to the Lord and ask Him to help us in our lives. The Lord hears our prayers and provides us with the help that we need. However, we often forget to thank the Lord for the help that He has provided. Such forgetfulness actually shows a lack of love for the Lord. True love will produce thankfulness. In our study today we will be learning about the way that we should give thanksgiving to the Lord. The Lord had delivered David from his enemies and from Saul. As a result, David expressed his thanks to the Lord. We will be studying that Psalm of thanksgiving today.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why the Lord had delivered David from his enemies.
- Explain what you learn about the importance of giving thanks to God.
- Explain what you learn about the greatness of the works and Word of God.
- Explain why David asked the Lord for help.

David began his thanks to the Lord by telling of his love for the Lord. The Lord is the One that is our protection and strength. He is the One that has provided our salvation. David said that this is the reason why we should call to the Lord for protection from those who would try to destroy us. The Lord is also the One that is worthy to be praised. Those who are ungodly try to make us fearful and afraid. They even try to make us fearful at the thought of death. However, David said that when our trust is in the Lord that we do not need to allow fear to remain in our lives. In our distress we can call to the Lord for help. The Lord is always ready to listen to His children when we pray to Him and ask for help.

1. Read Psalm 18:1-30 and write how the Lord showed His power when David prayed to Him for help.
2. Explain why it is important in our own lives to give thanks to the Lord for all that He has done for us.
3. Explain why you think that we will not need to let fear remain in our lives when we are trusting in the Lord.

Many times we will see a real demonstration of the power of the Lord. The Lord is the One that causes the earth to quake so that the hills move and shake. He is the One that causes the mountains to erupt. The heavens are also under His complete control. The Lord is the One that controls the light and the darkness. The clouds are also directed by Him. At the same time the Lord is the One that sends out the lightning and the thunder. When God speaks, the channels of water and the foundations of the earth can all be seen. God is the One that has all power. Because of His greatness, He is the One that controls all things.

4. Read Psalm 18:1:-30 and write from where the Lord drew David.
5. Explain why the creation of the Lord reminds us of the power of the Lord in many different ways.
6. Explain why you think that many people fail to recognize God even though they see His power in His creation.

The Lord is the One that controls the entire universe. At the same time the Lord is also concerned about our individual needs. He protects us from those who hate us. Such people may try to destroy us but the Lord is our protection and security. The Lord provides deliverance to those who trust in Him because He delights in them. The Lord also rewards us when we follow His ways instead of following the ways of evil men. We are able to follow the ways of the Lord as we constantly keep His Word in our minds and in our thoughts. Here we

see again the importance of continually meditating on the Word of God.

7. Read Psalm 18:1-30 and write from what David said that he kept himself.

8. Explain why it is important to keep the Word of God continually in our thoughts so that we know how to follow the Lord.

9. Explain why you know that the Lord will provide deliverance to you because of the fact that your trust is in Him.

David chose to walk in the ways of the Lord instead of choosing to follow his own sinful desires. As a result, David knew that the Lord had blessed and rewarded him. The Lord is merciful to those who choose to show mercy to others. The Lord always rewards us according to what we are. Those who continue in their evil ways will one day face the judgment of God. At the same time the Lord is also glad to save those who are suffering when they trust in Him. The Lord will also be our light so that we do not need to walk in darkness. As we see the greatness of the Lord, we see that His way is perfect and His words have been proved. He is also a shield to all those who place their trust in Him.

10. Read Psalm 18:1-30 and write what the Lord will do to our lamp.

11. Explain what the Lord does for each person that follows Him according to these verses.

12. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord says that He will be our light so that we do not need to walk in darkness.

Since the Lord is the One that does all of these things mentioned in Psalm eighteen, it is to Him that we should give our praise. He gives us strength and guides us in our ways. He also teaches us. God was also the One that had taught David to fight so that he was able to defeat his enemies. Just as the Lord did these things for David, the Lord also provides us with the shield of His salvation. We are held by His hand. At the same time the Lord enlarges our steps so that we can serve Him in greater ways. While enlarging our steps, the Lord also keeps us from falling. Because the Lord was with David, he was able to overtake his enemies and destroy them.

13. Read Psalm 18:31-50 and write what happened when David wounded his enemies.

14. Explain why it is important for all Christians to know that the Lord will give us strength and guide our ways as we are obedient to Him.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord wants to enlarge our steps and provide us with greater ways to serve Him.

When David was on the battlefield, the Lord gave David complete victory so that his enemies would not be able to come back and fight against him again. The Lord strengthened David and He stopped the enemies that rose up against David. The Lord was the One that made total victory possible. When the enemy cried for help, there was no one to save them. They even cried to the Lord but He did not answer them because they were not serving Him. As a result, the enemy was beaten and scattered so that none remained.

16. Read Psalm 18:31-50 and write from what the Lord had delivered David.

17. Explain why the Lord chose to give David a complete victory on the battlefield over His enemies.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord will also give you victory in your own life over those who treat you as an enemy.

Because of the victories that the Lord gave to David, he became the ruler of nations that he did not even know. These foreigners heard about David and decided to obey him to make certain that he did not decide to come and fight against them. Like David, we need to realize that the Lord is the One that has done all of these things. Because the Lord is alive, He is our rock and our salvation. As a result, He is the One to whom we should give thanks. We should sing praises to His name. Many times we forget to thank the Lord for all of the things that He has done for us.

19. Read Psalm 18:31-50 and write where David said that He would give thanks to the Lord.

20. Explain why we should remember to thank the Lord continually for the things that He does day by day in our lives.
21. Explain why you think the Lord says that He is our rock and our salvation.

As we come to Psalm nineteen, we go on to read about the glory of God. There are many things that show us the glory of God. First, we see that the heavens show us His glory. At the same time the earth shows the works of His hands. Each day that comes also speaks of the glory of God because the day could not come except for the fact that God is in control. The nights also show the knowledge of God. Not a single person can say that he knows nothing about God. There is no place on the earth where the glory of God cannot be seen in His creation. His works can be seen by the people of each tongue and nation throughout the earth.

22. Read Psalm 19:1-14 and write what has gone out through all of the earth.
23. Explain some of the ways that the heavens help you to see the glory of God as you look at them.
24. Explain why you think that God has made His entire creation in such a way so that it can reveal His glory.

The works and the words of the Lord show that His influence extends to the ends of the earth. In the middle of the heavens God has prepared a place for the sun so that the sun can also speak of His great glory. Each morning the sun comes out just as a bridegroom comes of his room on his wedding day. The sun is like a man that is running a race. It goes from one end of the heavens to the other. It has a certain circuit that it follows as it travels. As the sun travels, there is nothing that can hide from its heat. Everything on the earth feels the heat of the sun as the sun travels the path that God has given for it to travel.

25. Read Psalm 19:1-14 and write what the law of God is like.
26. Explain why David said that the sun revealed the great glory of the Lord in many different ways.
27. Explain why you think that many people are so blinded by their own sin that they cannot see the glory of God as they look at His creation.

In this Psalm we are given six words to describe the Word of God. Each of these words is used to describe one of the things that the Word of God does. The Word of God is used to bring salvation to a person and leads that person to place his trust in Christ. The Word of God also gives wisdom to those who lack wisdom. The Word causes a person to be filled with joy. The Word also causes a person to have his understanding enlightened. We also know that the Word of God will last forever. Finally we know that the entire Bible is true and that it will produce righteousness.

28. Read Psalm 19:1-14 and write how David describes the value of the Word of God.
29. Explain what you learn about the Word of God from these verses.
30. Explain why you think that the Lord used David to describe some of the things that the Word of God does for us.

The Word of God is so wonderful that it is worth more than the finest gold. It is also sweeter than the sweetest honey. It warns us so that we know how to avoid the things that are sin. At the same time there is a great reward for those who choose to obey the Word of God. In ourselves we do not realize all of the things that are wrong and evil. However, if we will meditate on the Word of God, it will bring cleansing to our lives. The Word will give us victory over sin. Sin will not have control over our lives as we meditate on the Word of God and ask the Lord to give us His strength to be obedient to the Word.

31. Read Psalm 19:1-14 and write what we should want the words of our mouth and the meditation of our heart to be.
32. Explain why the Word of God will enlighten the soul as we study and meditate on the Word.

33. Explain why you realize that the Word of God is so powerful that it is able to give you victory over sin in your life.

The words that we speak come from the thoughts that we think. If we are thinking about the Word of God, then we will be prepared to share the Word of God with others. We will be prepared to tell others about the fact that Christ is our strength and that He is the One that has redeemed us from our sin. As we go on to Psalm 20, we see that the Lord is the One that hears us when we are in trouble. We have just seen that the Lord is our strength. As a result, He is the One that is able to provide help for us. The Lord is the One that is able to strengthen His people in the day that they go to fight against their enemies.

34. Read Psalm 20:1-9 and write what will cause rejoicing to the army of His people.

35. Explain why we should be prepared to share the Word of God with others to help them in their own lives.

36. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that as you think about the Word of God that the Lord prepares you to share the Word of God with others.

Psalm 20 was the Psalm that the people repeated as they gathered in front of the tabernacle or temple before going to war. There the people would offer their sacrifices to the Lord and ask Him to give them victory over their enemies. As long as the people of Israel trusted in the Lord, they realized that their strength must come from the Lord. That was the reason why the people could rejoice in the salvation that God provided. They knew that they would have victory when they had their trust in the Lord instead of themselves. They knew that the Lord would hear and answer their prayers when they were walking in obedience to Him.

37. Read Psalm 20:1-9 and write what the world trusts in order to give them military victories.

38. Explain why the people of God living at any time can trust the Lord to give them victory in their lives as they are obedient to Him.

39. Explain why it is important to know in your own life that the Lord is the source of your strength.

When the people had come to the Lord in prayer and asked that His will would be done, then they could rest in the promise that the Lord would save His chosen people. God always hears the prayers of His people. Then He provides His strength to those who trust in Him. In that day Israel knew that their enemies were putting their trust in their chariots and their horses. Their enemies thought that they could trust their own methods for victory. Today people are still putting their trust in their own plans and methods. Only as we trust in the Lord can we know that we will have strength and victory.

40. Read Psalm 20:1-9 and write what happens to those who depend on their own plans and efforts.

41. Explain why it is important to ask the Lord for His will to be done when we come to Him in prayer.

42. Explain why you think that most people put their trust in their own plans and methods instead of being obedient to the Word of God.

Now reread Psalm 18:1-20:9 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 6
Psalm 21:1-24:10

Today we will be studying one of the best known chapters in the entire Bible. However, we often study Psalm 23 without studying the Psalm that is prior to Psalm 23 and the Psalm that comes after Psalm 23. Without studying the Psalms that go before and after Psalm 23, we will miss some great blessings in our understanding of the work of Christ. Today we will be studying these Psalms as a group. Psalm 22 gives us a beautiful picture of Christ, our suffering Savior. Psalm 23 gives us a picture of Christ, our caring Shepherd. Then Psalm 24 gives us a picture of Christ our coming King. Together these three Psalms give us a picture of Christ in the past, the present and the future.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about the way that the Lord blesses.
- Explain what you learn about the sufferings of Christ.
- Explain what you learn about the way that Christ leads us.
- Explain what you learn about Christ, the coming King.

David had been chosen to be the king of Israel by the Lord. As a result, David knew that he must trust in the Lord for strength to lead the nation of Israel. David was rejoicing in the fact that the Lord was the One that gave him strength and salvation. The Lord had given David everything that David had requested of the Lord. There was nothing that the Lord had kept back from David. The Lord had blessed David with goodness. When David asked the Lord for life, the Lord had given him a long life. In fact the Lord had also promised him eternal life. This is the same promise that the Lord makes to us when we place our trust in Him. In fact the Lord does all of the things that He did for David for those who have their trust in Him.

1. Read Psalm 21:1-13 and write for how long the Lord promised blessings to David.
2. Explain why it was important for David to look to the Lord for strength to lead the nation of Israel.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord had chosen to bless David and gave David everything that he requested.

The Lord had given David great majesty and glory. David was promised eternal blessing by the Lord. Because of the love of the Lord for David, the heart of David was filled with gladness. At the same time David realized that he could not trust in himself. Instead he had his trust in the Lord. David knew that it was only through the mercy of the Lord that he was able to stand firm without being moved. David also knew that God is the One that would give him victory over all of his enemies. Even the enemies of David were under the control of the Lord. As a result, the Lord would judge them with fire. This speaks of the eternal judgment from which there is no escape.

4. Read Psalm 21:1-13 and write what will happen to the fruit of the enemies.
5. Explain why David was so aware of the love that the Lord had for him in his life.
6. Explain why you think that it is important for you to grow in your own understanding of the love of God for you.

God spoke of the fact that He would destroy the families of evil men when He said that they would be destroyed. There were people that had planned to do evil and so God is the One that will judge them. They planned evil but God said that they will not continue to carry out the evil that they had planned. God will make those who rebel against Him and against His people to turn their backs. God will complete His judgment of those who are in rebellion against Him. However, the Lord will be exalted and praised for the way that He works. We can sing and

praise God for His power that is able to defeat all of those who are our enemies.

7. Read Psalm 21:1-13 and write what David said that he would do because of the power of the Lord.

8. Explain why the Lord chooses to bless those who place their trust in Him.

9. Explain why you think that God limits the evil actions of those who plan evil and does not let them carry out all of their plans.

During a time of great suffering in the life of David, the Lord caused David to write Psalm 22. This Psalm spoke of the sufferings that David was experiencing but it actually gives us a real picture of the sufferings of Christ. As Christ hung on the cross, He spoke the words that begin this Psalm, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Christ made this statement after the earth had been covered with darkness for three hours. The Father had to forsake Him because He was bearing our sins and paying the penalty for our sins during that time. It seemed to the writer of the Psalm that God did not hear when he prayed. When the fathers had trusted in the Lord, the Lord heard their prayers and answered them. God had provided deliverance for them. Now it seemed to David that he had been forgotten by God.

10. Read Psalm 22:1-31 and write what all those who looked at Christ did as He hung on the cross.

11. Explain why there were times in the life of David that he felt like he had been forgotten by the Lord.

12. Explain why that there are also times in your own life when you think that the Lord has forgotten you.

Those who were gathered around the cross when Christ died mocked Him and laughed at Him. They said that He should come down from the cross and be delivered if He were truly God. Here we see a real picture of that mocking. God is the One that watches over all people from the time that they are born. This is the reason why we know that the Lord is not far from us when we are in the middle of any trouble. As the Lord hung on the cross, those surrounding the cross spoke evil of Christ. They were like a group of hungry lions. As Christ hung on the cross, His bones were pulled out of joint although none of them were broken.

13. Read Psalm 22:1-31 and write what evil men did to the hands and feet of Christ before they placed Him on the cross.

14. Explain why the Father allowed Christ to be mocked by the crowd as He hung on the cross bearing our sins.

15. Explain why you think that God allowed David to go through a time of suffering so that he would write this Psalm.

As Christ hung on the cross, His tongue became swollen because He was very thirsty. Through His suffering on the cross Christ was brought to death. The men who were at the cross surrounded Christ like a pack of wild dogs. They nailed His hands and His feet to the cross. Then they stood and stared at Him although they did not break any of His bones. The soldiers divided His clothes among them and then they gambled for His coat. Although our suffering is not like the sufferings of Christ, we can still call to the Lord for help in our time of need. He will hear us and will deliver us.

16. Read Psalm 22:1-31 and write what we should declare to others about Christ.

17. Explain why God allowed so many of the things mentioned in this chapter to be fulfilled on the day that Christ was crucified.

18. Explain why you think that God included many passages in the Old Testament to help us understand the suffering and death of Christ.

As we see what Christ has done for us, we should be eager to speak for Christ to those around us. Our praise should be to the Lord. When we cry to the Lord for help, we know that He hears us. When we seek the Lord, we will also praise the Lord for what He has done for us. God

even tells us in advance that there will be some from all of the nations of the earth that will turn to Him. Then this group will speak for Christ and tell others about Him. The message that we should share is the fact that the righteousness of Christ made it possible for Him to pay the penalty for our sin.

19. Read Psalm 22:1-31 and write what David said that all of the people groups or kindreds of the earth would one day do.

20. Explain what this chapter teaches about the sufferings of Christ at the time of His death on the cross.

21. Explain why you think that David predicted that the day would come when people from every tribe and family would worship Christ.

Because Christ was willing to be our Savior and die for us, He is now our Shepherd and the One that leads us in our lives. After His death, Christ rose again to give us life and then lead us. When we ask Christ to become our Shepherd, He does many things for us in our lives. We see that He will meet our needs. Once we become Christians, Christ also provides what we need to grow as Christians. Plenty of spiritual food is the key to spiritual growth. As a result, the Lord takes us to the places where the pastures are green. He gives us water in the places that are safe. In our spiritual lives we need the spiritual food and protection that the Lord provides.

22. Read Psalm 23:1-6 and write what Christ does for our soul.

23. Explain why the Lord wants to provide all Christians with the spiritual food and protection that we need.

24. Explain why you think that it is important to serve the Lord by helping others to receive spiritual food from the Word of God.

As Christians we have committed sins in our lives. However we also know that we are restored to fellowship with the Lord as we confess our sins to Him. Christ leads us in the right ways so that we will not want to continue to do evil. We do not need to be fearful or afraid even when we face danger or death. Christ is there to protect us from the evil one. He has both a rod and a staff as He leads us. Shepherds in Israel used both. The rod was used to protect the sheep from the attacks of wild animals. The staff was used to lift the sheep out of danger when they got into danger because they were following their own ways.

25. Read Psalm 23:1-6 and write what Christ prepares for us.

26. Explain why the Lord is ready both to protect us from false teachers and also to rescue us out of danger when we have followed our own way.

27. Explain why you think that as we learn to follow the Lord that we will not want to continue to do evil.

In addition to providing us with protection from those who would attack us and deliverance from our own failures, the Lord also treats us as His royal guests. He prepared a banquet for us right in the middle of our enemies. This reminds us that Christ provides for our every need. As a result, we know that the goodness and the mercy of the Lord will follow us throughout our lives. The Lord never forgets those who place their trust in Him. When we place our trust in Christ as our Lord and Master, we know that we cannot lose the salvation that He has given to us. We also know that we will live with the Lord forever.

28. Read Psalm 23:1-6 and write what we do not need to fear as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

29. Explain why we can trust the Lord to bless us with His goodness and mercy throughout our lives.

30. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that the Lord is your Shepherd.

The Lord came to suffer for our sin. Christ also came to be our shepherd. In addition, Christ will one day come to be our King. He has the right to be our King because He is the One that created the earth and it belongs to Him. Christ is in control of the entire earth as well as all of

the people that live on the earth. He is the One that separated the water from the land. He is the One that established every part of the earth. As a result, the Lord is the One that determines who has the right to come before His presence and enjoy fellowship with Him.

31. Read Psalm 24:1-10 and write who can stand before the Lord.

32. Explain why the Lord is the One that has the right to be the King of kings and the Lord or lords.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord has given you the privilege to come into His presence and fellowship with Him.

Because Christ is holy, not everyone can enter into His presence. In order to stand before Christ, we must have clean hands. We receive the right to come before Him when we turn from our sin and turn to Him in repentance and faith. Then each time that we sin, we need to confess our sins to Christ so that our hands are clean as we stand before Him. In addition, we should also make certain that our hearts are right with God. We should not be looking for ways to do evil. As we speak, we should not try to deceive. When we are right with the Lord, we will receive blessings from Him because the Lord is eager to bless His children.

34. Read Psalm 24:1-10 and write from whom we will receive righteousness.

35. Explain why it is important for us to confess our sins so that we can continue to enjoy fellowship with the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to make certain that your heart is right before the Lord.

When we become Christians, Christ places His righteousness on us so that we can be holy as we stand before God. Christ does this for all those who seek Him and place their trust in Him. Even though we are sinful, the righteousness of Christ is placed on us. God does not see our sin as He looks at us. Instead the Father sees the righteousness of Christ. Many times Christians worry that they might lose their salvation. However, this is impossible because Christ has placed His righteousness on us and we do not stand in our own righteousness.

37. Read Psalm 24:1-10 and write who will enter when the everlasting doors are lifted up.

38. Explain why you know that you can stand before the Lord with clean hands and a clean heart.

39. Explain why you think that it is important for Christians to understand that they cannot lose their salvation because they stand in the righteousness of Christ.

The Lord is the One that controls the entire earth. As a result, Christ is the One that rules all things. Christ is so great that the gates will be lifted up as He comes through them. The Lord is also the One that is strong and mighty. He is the One that wins the victory in all battles. When the gates are opened and lifted up, Christ will come into our lives. One day Christ will rule on the earth. Christ will also dwell as in the lives of all those who put their trust in Him. We see that Christ will rule on the earth for one thousand years.

40. Read Psalm 24:1-10 and write the final answer that is given to the question, "Who is this king of glory?"

41. Explain what this Psalm teaches about the ministry of Christ in the future.

42. Explain why you think that Christ is called the One that is strong and mighty.

Now reread Psalm 21:1-24:10 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 7
Psalm 25:1-28:9

As we have studied the first part of the book of Psalm, we have seen that there are many different things for which we can give praise to the Lord. Today we will learn about several additional things for which we can give praise to the Lord. Sometimes we only sing to the Lord in times of joy. However, we have already seen in our study of this book that we can also sing to the Lord in times of suffering and persecution as well. As the same time we can bring our needs to the Lord in prayer. Today we will be studying both about bringing our needs to Him and the fact that we can trust the Lord to answer our prayers as we come to Him in prayer.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why we can always ask the Lord to forgive us.
- Explain what you learn about the life of David from these Psalms.
- Explain what you learn about faith.
- Tell about the way that the Lord hears our prayers.

As we begin Psalm 25, we see that it begins with a request for protection. When we need help and protection, the Lord is the One to whom we can turn and ask for that help and protection. God is the One in whom we can place our trust. Those who trust in the Lord will not need to be ashamed because the Lord will protect them. When we ask the Lord to show us His ways, He will both teach us His ways and also teach us how to walk in His ways. He will show us the way that we should walk in our own lives. In addition, God will lead us into an understanding of His truth. God is the One that will teach us because He has provided our salvation. We should seek His will for our lives throughout the day.

1. Read Psalm 25:1-22 and write what we should ask the Lord to remember.
2. Explain why we can know that the Lord will both teach us His ways and show us how to walk in His ways.
3. Explain why you think that it is important to ask the Lord to lead you into an understanding of His truth.

As we pray to the Lord and ask for protection, we can ask the Lord for His help on the basis of His love and mercy. God has showed both love and mercy to mankind ever since God created the first man. At the same time we can be thankful that God has chosen to remember no more all of the sins that we have confessed to Him. To remember no more means that God no longer holds our sins against us. Because God is a God of love and mercy, He will teach sinners how to walk in the right way. He will also guide the meek in the ways of justice and teach them His ways. The ways of the Lord are ways of mercy and truth to those who follow His commandments and obey His ways. That is why it should be our desire to walk in His ways.

4. Read Psalm 25:1-22 and write the reason why we should ask the Lord to pardon our sins and our iniquities.
5. Explain why Christians are able to walk in mercy and truth as we obey the commandments of the Lord.
6. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to have a strong desire to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Here we have the reason why God forgives our sins explained to us. The Lord does not forgive our sins because we do the things that are good and right because we know that it is impossible for us to do what is right. Instead we read that the Lord forgives our sins for the sake of His own name. God is holy and He cannot break His promise to forgive our sins when we confess

those sins to Him. The Lord also gives some wonderful promises for those who fear and serve Him. He will teach them His ways. He will cause them to live in peace. He says that their families will inherit the earth. The Lord also says that they will know the secrets of the Lord. God will instruct them in His covenant that He has made with mankind.

7. Read Psalm 25:1-22 and write what way we should direct our eyes.

8. Explain why it is important to know that the Lord forgives us of our sins for the sake of His own name.

9. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that the Lord will reveal His secrets to you as you fear and serve Him.

As we fear and serve the Lord, we need to keep our eyes on the Lord at all times. He is the One that protects us from the traps that the enemy has prepared for us. The Lord is the One that will have mercy on us when we feel that we are alone and suffering. When our troubles seem to increase, the Lord is there to deliver us. He sees our suffering and forgives our sins. When we are afraid of our enemies, we can ask the Lord to take care of our enemies and let Him judge them. The Lord will keep us and deliver us when we put our trust in Him.

10. Read Psalm 25:1-22 and write from what David asked God to redeem Israel.

11. Explain why you know that you can depend on the Lord for protection even when it seems like your troubles are increasing.

12. Explain why you realize that even when your troubles seem to increase that the Lord is there to deliver you.

There were many times in the history of Israel when those who were ungodly were in control of the nation. In fact the ungodly have been in control of most nations throughout history.

However, the writer of Psalm 26 did not want to be grouped with those who are ungodly. He asked the Lord to examine his life and judge him. He had his trust in the Lord. As a result, he was glad to have the Lord examine his heart and his mind. He had kept the loving-kindness of the Lord in front of his eyes. He had walked in the ways of truth. In his desire to follow the ways of the Lord, he had not sat with evil men and joined them in their plans.

13. Read Psalm 26:1-12 and write what kind of congregation the writer hated.

14. Explain why David could be glad to have the Lord examine both his mind and his heart.

15. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to walk in such a way that you can also invite the Lord to examine your mind and heart.

In every period of history there have always been many that have followed the ways of evil. Their whole desire has been to reject God and the ways of God. However, when our trust is in the Lord, our desire should be to avoid the ways of evil men. If we follow such people, they will lead us in the wrong ways. Instead our desire should be to remain innocent of their evil ways. When we have chosen to be cleansed by the Lord, our desire will be to make known the wondrous ways of the Lord to those who do not know His wondrous ways. We will be thankful to be able to tell all that the Lord has done for us.

16. Read Psalm 26:1-12 and write where David loved to spend his time.

17. Explain why it is important for Christians to avoid following the plans and ways of evil men

18. Explain why you think that you can trust the Lord to lead you in the right ways as you choose to follow Him and His ways.

David wanted to spend his time with the Lord instead of following the ways of evil men. He wanted to be in places where the name of the Lord was honored. He did not want to be grouped with evil men. He did not want to join in their evil plans and follow their sinful ways. These were men that had gained riches by accepting bribes. Like David, our desire should be to walk in the ways of the Lord. Our desire should be to be redeemed by the Lord so that we can share the mercy of the Lord with the people that we meet in our lives.

19. Read Psalm 26:1-12 and write where David said that he wanted his feet to stand.

20. Explain why all followers of the Lord should desire to walk in the ways of the Lord and not in the ways of evil men.
21. Explain why you think that it is important for you to share the message of the mercy of the Lord even with those who are evil men.

As we come to Psalm 27, we see a picture of a person that has a strong faith in the Lord. When we have a strong faith in Him, we will realize that the Lord is our light and our salvation. This is the only place in the Old Testament where God is called a Light. Since the Lord is our light, we have no reason to be fearful. Because the Lord is our strength, we do not need to be afraid. God will cause those who rise up against us to stumble and fall. Even when a large group of enemies surrounds us, we do not need to be fearful or afraid. When war comes, we can be confident if our trust is in the Lord.

22. Read Psalm 27:1-14 and write the one thing that the writer was seeking after as he followed the Lord.
23. Explain why it is important to know that the Lord is both our source of light and our source of strength.
24. Explain why you know that you do not need to be fearful even when there are a large number of people against you.

Here we see that it should be our desire to be in fellowship with the Lord throughout our lives. We should desire to see the beauty of the Lord. We should want to look to Him for guidance. When we are seeking the guidance of the Lord, we can count on Him to watch over us in the time of trouble. He will set our feet upon a rock. This will provide protection from all enemies. Regardless of what they do to us physically, they can never affect our relationship with the Lord. In the New Testament we learn that Christ is our Rock. He is our sure foundation that will stand regardless of what happens around us. As a result, our desire should be to sing praises to the Lord.

25. Read Psalm 27:1-14 and write when we want the Lord to hear us.
26. Explain why it is important for every Christian to seek the daily guidance of the Lord in their lives.
27. Explain why you are thankful that Christ is your Rock and your sure foundation that makes it possible for you to stand.

Our desire should be that the Lord will hear us whenever we cry to Him. Because He is God, we do know that He does hear us and will always hear us. The Lord tells us to seek His face. Today we will continue growing in our spiritual lives as we spend more time fellowshiping with the Lord in prayer and Bible study. As we meditate on the Word of God, the Lord is able to help us in all of our problems. The Lord is ready and eager to help us. He will not forsake us even if our parents forsake us. God is always there when we have no one else to help us. This is the reason why we should ask the Lord to teach us His ways.

28. Read Psalm 27:1-14 and write what we need to pray and ask the Lord to teach us in our lives.
29. Explain why the Lord helps us to learn how to solve our problems as we meditate on the Word of God.
30. Explain why you think that it is important to you in your own life to meditate on the Word of God each day.

As we ask the Lord to teach us His way, He will lead us in a plain path. It is not hard to know His way when we ask Him to teach us. The Lord will protect and deliver us from our enemies. Even if the enemy sets up false witnesses against us, God will provide deliverance to those who have their trust in Him. If we were forced to depend on ourselves, we would faint. However, we do not need to depend on ourselves. Instead as we believe and trust in the Lord, we will see the goodness of the Lord. We are to wait on the Lord and trust in Him. Then He will fill our

lives with courage.

31. Read Psalm 27:1-14 and write what the Lord will do to our hearts if we choose to wait on Him.

32. Explain why as Christians we can trust the Lord to provide us with deliverance from false witnesses.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord will fill our lives with courage as we wait on Him and trust in Him.

When we face problems in our lives, we need to realize the importance of bringing those problems to the Lord in prayer. That is what David did when he faced any kind of problem. He said that he would bring his cry to the Lord. He asked the Lord to hear his prayer and not be silent as He was silent when people prayed to false gods. David realized that the Lord is the One that is able to hear the prayers of those who have their trust in Him. This is why David asked the Lord not to include him with the workers of evil. There were many evil workers. They would speak peace to their neighbors and then do evil instead.

34. Read Psalm 28:1-9 and write how David said such men should be rewarded.

35. Explain why all those who trust in the Lord can know that the Lord will hear their prayer and answer them.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to bring our problems to the Lord in prayer instead of trying to solve those problems ourselves.

The prayer of David was that the Lord would reward evil men according to what they had done. Those who had done evil were to be rewarded with evil. David asked the Lord to do to them exactly what they had done to others. David wanted them to be punished for their evil works because they refused to recognize the works of God. However, he wanted the Lord to be the One that took vengeance and did not want to become the judge himself. As a result, David knew that God would destroy those evil men and would not build them up in their evil. As David finished his prayer, he thanked the Lord for hearing his prayer.

37. Read Psalm 28:1-9 and write what David experienced in his life as he looked to the Lord for strength and trusted in Him.

38. Explain why we should bring our requests to the Lord and then thank Him for answering our prayers.

39. Explain why you think that it is important to let the Lord take vengeance and not try to make yourself a judge of others.

We can be certain that the Lord will answer our prayers if we have our trust in the Lord. He will be our strength and shield because we have placed our trust in Him. Because the Lord is the One that helps us, our hearts can be filled with joy. This is the reason why we can rejoice and sing praises to the Lord. The Lord is the One that is our strength. He is the One that saves His people when they place their trust in Him. God is also the One that blesses His people and supplies their need for food.

40. Read Psalm 28:1-9 and write how long God will lift up His people.

41. Explain why it is important for every Christian to trust in the Lord and recognize that He is our strength and shield.

42. Explain why you know that you can trust the Lord to help you in your own life as you depend on Him for strength.

Now reread Psalm 25:1-28:9 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 8
Psalm 29:1-32:11

As we study the Psalms that we will be studying today, we will be learning about several very important topics. Many times it is easy to forget about the greatness of the power of the Lord. Today we will be learning several lessons about the power of the Lord. We will also learn some important lessons about the way that we should praise the Lord for the deliverance that He provides to us. One of the greatest lessons that we can learn is to learn about the joy that we can experience when our sins are forgiven by the Lord. This is a real blessing.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about the power of God.
- Explain why we should praise God for the deliverance that He gives us.
- Explain how the Lord protects us.
- Explain why we are blessed when our sins are forgiven.

As we come to Psalm 29, we see a beautiful picture of the power of God as it is displayed in the thunderstorm. As we see the power of God demonstrated in this way, we need to give glory and praise to the Lord for His great power. We need to recognize that we are held by the power and strength of the Lord. As a result, we need to give Him the glory that is due to Him. That is why we come before the Lord with an attitude of worship when we recognize His greatness. Seven times in this Psalm mention is made of the voice of the Lord. We see that this voice is in the thunder. Many times people are afraid when they hear thunder. However, we do not need to be afraid of the thunder because it is the voice of the Lord.

1. Read Psalm 29:1-11 and write where the voice of the Lord is when we first read about it in this Psalm.
2. Explain why the greatness of the Lord should want us to come to Him with an attitude of worship in our lives.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord says that one of the ways that He speaks to us is through the thunder.

The thunder may be heard at almost any place on the earth at one time or another. Here we see a picture of a thunder storm that is over a sea such as the Mediterranean Sea. When the thunder is heard, people are reminded of the power of God. The thunder also gives a picture of the greatness and glory of the Lord. The storm is even able to break the great cedar trees. This is true even of the cedars of Lebanon. When the lightning that accompanies the thunder strikes a cedar tree, the tree jumps like a calf or a wild ox. The lightning also divides the tree into parts and causes the parts to catch fire.

4. Read Psalm 29:1-11 and write what the voice of the Lord does to the wilderness.
5. Explain why the Lord also chooses to show His power through the lightning.
6. Explain why you think that God had created so many ways that show His greatness and His glory.

The storm has great power as it moves forward. It is able to shake the wilderness as it moves. When the animals hear the thunder, they are filled with fear. This fear causes them to give birth to their young before they are due to bring forth those young. The thunder and the lightning are just a little example of the power of God over everything that He has created in His universe. This is the reason why everyone should speak of the glory of the Lord. Since the Lord is in control of all things, He is able to give strength to His people. He is able to bless His people with peace when their trust is in the Lord instead of themselves.

7. Read Psalm 29:1-11 and write where the Lord is when there is a flood.
8. Explain why we can be thankful for the fact that the Lord has great power and that He is able to control all things.
9. Explain why you think that many people fail to realize that the Lord can give them strength even when they see His great strength in His creation.

As we come to Psalm 30, we see that this Psalm is a Psalm of praise to the Lord because the Lord had given recovery from sickness. Many times when we are sick we pray and ask the Lord to strengthen and heal us. However, we often forget to thank the Lord when He does heal us. In this Psalm we see that David wanted to express his praise to the Lord for the fact that the Lord had caused him to recover from his sickness. As a result, this Psalm gives us an example to follow when we thank the Lord when He has answered prayer for us in our times of sickness. We see that because of the recovery of David that his enemies were not able to rejoice. Instead David was the one that was rejoicing. David had cried to the Lord for help.

10. Read Psalm 30:1-12 and write what the Lord did when David cried to Him for help.
11. Explain why all Christians need to be thankful to the Lord and give praise to Him when He heals us from sickness.
12. Explain why you think that many people pray to the Lord in times of need and then forget to thank Him when He answers their prayer.

The Lord was the One that had healed David when he was very close to the point of death. At the very time when David thought that he was going to the grave, the Lord had kept him alive. Because of what the Lord had done by giving him continuing life, David wanted to sing to the Lord. He wanted to express his praise for what God had done. He also wanted those who trusted in the Lord to sing with him. As they sang to the Lord, David wanted the people to remember the holiness of the Lord. Even when the Lord finds it necessary to exercise His anger against sin and discipline the saints, that anger only lasts for a short time. Even when there is weeping at night, we read that joy comes in the morning.

13. Read Psalm 30:1-12 and write what David said in his prosperity.
14. Explain why it is a great privilege to be able to sing praises to the Lord for the things that He has done in our lives.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord has given us music so that we can express our praise for what He does in our lives.

When we have our trust in the Lord, we can trust Him to provide us with the strength that we need each day. The Lord will hear our prayer and show His favor to us. As a result, we will be able to stand strong. It had seemed to David that the Lord was hiding His face from David when the Lord did not answer his prayer immediately. Then David cried again to the Lord and asked the Lord to hear his prayer and help him in his sickness. David told the Lord that he would not be able to offer praise to the Lord anymore on this earth if the Lord allowed him to die during the time of his sickness.

16. Read Psalm 30:1-12 and write what David asked the Lord to show to him in his time of sickness.
17. Explain why David wanted to be able to continue to give praise to the Lord on the earth.
18. Explain why you think that many Christians think that the Lord is hiding His face from them when He does not answer their prayers immediately.

David knew the secret that we should all know as Christians. If we ask the Lord to have mercy on us, the Lord is always ready to show His mercy to those who follow Him. The Lord may show that mercy in many different ways. David said that as he saw the mercy of the Lord that it turned his sorrow into joy. Instead of wearing sackcloth to show sorrow, those who trust in the Lord will be able to be filled with gladness. When the Lord answers our prayers, it should be our desire to sing praises to Him instead of keeping silent. The Lord is our God. We should

rejoice because we will be able to give thanks to Him forever.

19. Read Psalm 30:1-12 and write to what David said that the Lord had turned his mourning.

20. Explain why we should give thanks to the Lord when He answers our prayers and not just forget what He has done.

21. Explain why you think that as we see the mercy of the Lord in our lives that His mercy should also fill us with joy.

Psalm 31 is another Psalm where David asked for the protection of the Lord. As we begin this Psalm, we see the key to protection by the Lord. We begin to know and understand the protection of the Lord when we place our trust in Him. When our trust is in the Lord, we will not be ashamed. The Lord is like a strong rock. He is our protection and fortress. As we depend on the Lord for strength and guidance, He will protect us from the traps of the enemy. The Lord knows those traps and is able to protect us from them when our trust is in Him. Just as Christ did on the cross, we need to commit our spirit to the Lord because He is the One that has redeemed us and paid the penalty so that our sin could be forgiven.

22. Read Psalm 31:1-24 and write who David said that he hated.

23. Explain why a person will never begin to understand the protection of the Lord until the person puts his or her trust in Him.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord will protect us from the traps of the enemy when our trust is in Him.

David had his trust in the Lord. He realized that he could not place his trust in those who told lies. When we have our trust in the Lord, we can be glad and rejoice in His mercy. We need to remember that the Lord knows all about our problems and He is always ready to help us when we come to Him with our prayer. David was filled with sorrow at the time that he wrote this Psalm because of his enemies. Even his neighbors had turned against him. His friends were afraid to visit him. It seemed to him that he had been forgotten by everyone just like a man that is dead.

25. Read Psalm 31:1-24 and write what David saw and felt on every side.

26. Explain why it is important to pray and talk to the Lord about our problems even though He already knows the problems that we face.

27. Explain why you think that David was filled with sorrow because of the fact that his friends were afraid to visit him.

People on all sides of David were speaking evil of David and trying to fill him with fear. They were even planning together to kill him. However, David had his trust in the Lord. He knew that the Lord is the One that appoints the day of death for every person. David knew that the Lord could deliver him from the evil plans of his enemies. David was looking to the Lord for victory. He knew that he would not be ashamed as long as his trust was in the Lord. God would deal with his enemies and judge them according to their sins.

28. Read Psalm 31:1-24 and write where the Lord hides those who have their trust in Him.

29. Explain why we do not need to be fearful even when evil people are around us and want to destroy us.

30. Explain why you know that you do not need to fear death because of the fact that the Lord already knows the day that you will die.

David concluded this Psalm by thanking the Lord for the deliverance that he knew that the Lord would supply. The goodness of the Lord is great at any time in history. He will protect His own from the pride and evil tongues of other men. The Lord always shows great kindness to those who have placed their trust in Him. The Lord hears our prayers when we call to Him for help. As a result, we should have a great love for the Lord. The Lord preserves those who are faithful. He rewards people according to what they have done. He provides courage to those who have placed their trust in Him.

31. Read Psalm 31:1-24 and write what God does to the hearts of those men and women that

have their hope in Him.

32. Explain why those who have their trust in the Lord do not need to fear either the pride or the evil tongues of others.

33. Explain why you can thank the Lord in advance for the deliverance that He will give you for any trouble.

Psalm 42 speaks of the blessing of having our sins forgiven. Four different words are used to describe our sins. Transgression is the word that is used to describe willful rebellion or disobedience. Sin speaks of our failure to do what is right. Iniquity is a word used to describe the fact that we are sinful and perverse by nature. Guile speaks of the sin of deceiving ourselves or others. As long as we refuse to confess these sins, we become old quickly. We experience the heavy hand of the Lord upon us. There is no joy in our lives when we have unconfessed sin in our lives.

34. Read Psalm 32:1-11 and write what we need to acknowledge to the Lord.

35. Explain why the Lord uses different words to describe different kinds of sin that people commit in their lives.

36. Explain why you think that David said that we become old quickly when we refuse to confess our sins.

Here we see a very important lesson for our lives. When we have unconfessed sins in our lives, we need to confess those sins to the Lord so that we are back in fellowship with the Lord.

When we pray to the Lord and confess our sins, He is there to hear us. He is our hiding place and the One that provides deliverance from sin. When we have confessed our sins to the Lord, then we are able to teach and instruct others in the way that they should go. God uses the lessons that we have learned in our own lives to make us effective as we teach others.

37. Read Psalm 32:1-11 and write what this Psalm says that the wicked will experience in their lives.

38. Explain why the Lord is able to use our confession of our sins to make us effective as instructors and teachers of others.

39. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord even takes past sin in your own life and uses that to help you teach and instruct others because you confessed that sin to Him.

As we instruct others in the ways of the Lord, we need to encourage them not to be rebellious or stubborn against the Lord like a horse or a mule. Those animals have no understanding and must be guided by a bit and bridle. If people continue in their rebellion against the Lord, their lives will be filled with sorrow. They will not experience the joy that comes from trusting in the Lord. They will not experience His mercy or be able to share that mercy with others. When our trust is in the Lord, we can be glad and rejoice in Him.

40. Read Psalm 32:1-11 and write what group of people is told to shout for joy in this Psalm.

41. Explain why a person that is stubborn and rebellious against the Lord is like an animal that must be guided by a bit and bridle.

42. Explain why you think that Christians that are in temporary rebellion against the Lord will not experience joy in their lives.

Now reread Psalm 29:1-32:11 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 9
Psalm 33:1-36:12

Today we live in a day when many people are searching for happiness. They do many different things to try and find happiness for their lives. However, those who are searching for happiness often do not know where to find that happiness. In our study today we will learn about the true source of happiness and joy. We will see that we can be filled with joy when our trust is in the Lord. This is due to the fact that the Lord is the source of all joy. We will also learn that the Lord hears our prayers and provides us with deliverance when we call to Him for help.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about the true source of joy and blessing.
- Explain what you learn about the deliverance that the Lord gives to us.
- Tell about the prayer that David prayed regarding his enemies.
- Explain what you learn about the mercy of God from this study.

Psalm 33 is a Psalm of joy. When we are right with the Lord, we know that our hearts will be filled with rejoicing even when we are going through difficult times. In this Psalm there are several ways suggested that we can express our rejoicing. We can praise the Lord with musical instruments. We can praise the Lord by singing. We can praise the Lord by developing our musical skills. However, the first reason given for praising the Lord is for His Word. His Word is right and His works are done in truth. The Lord loves righteousness and justice. The earth is filled with His goodness. The heavens were made by the Word of the Lord. His breath brought them into existence. He is the One that gathered together the waters.

1. Read Psalm 33:1-22 and write what the entire earth should do because the Lord is the Creator of it.
2. Explain why the Lord has provided us with many different ways to express our praise to the Lord for what He has done.
3. Explain why you think that the most important way to show our praise to the Lord is to show our praise for His Word by studying and obeying it.

As we consider the Word and works of the Lord, we should be filled with fear and respect for the Lord. When God spoke the Word, the world was created. He gave His command and the earth stood firmly. We also need to thank the Lord for His counsel. He destroys the counsel and the plans of the nations. However, the counsel of the Lord stands forever. His thoughts continue to all generations. The nation that is serving the Lord will be blessed by the Lord. Those who have been chosen by the Lord are His inheritance. The Lord looks from heaven at the people of the earth. Here we see that we should thank the Lord for the fact that He watches over us.

4. Read Psalm 33:1-22 and write how the Lord fashions the hearts of those who have their trust in Him.
5. Explain why there are many things that we experience in our daily lives for which we should thank the Lord.
6. Explain why you are thankful that you can look to the Lord for counsel for the many situations that you face in your life.

The Lord is the One that has made the hearts of men. He considers the works of all those people that He has created. As a result, mankind cannot depend on a great army for strength. Mankind cannot depend on horses or military weapons for strength. Instead we need to realize that the eye of the Lord is on those who have trusted in Him. He will deliver their souls from

death and give them life. We need to wait on the Lord because He is our help and our shield. We can rejoice in the Lord because we have our trust in Him. This is the reason why we can ask the Lord to show His mercy to us. He is our source of help.

7. Read Psalm 33:1-22 and write what nation God says is blessed.

8. Explain what these verses teach about the fact that we can rejoice in the Lord.

9. Explain what it means to you in your own life to know that the Lord has delivered you from death and given you spiritual life.

Like Psalm 33, Psalm 34 is also a Psalm of joy and rejoicing. Our desire should be to bless the Lord at all times. His praises should be in our mouths continually. If we are going to boast, we should boast about what the Lord is doing. This will also cause the humble to be glad. We should join together to magnify the Lord and express our praise to Him. When we seek the Lord, He will hear us. He will deliver us from all of our fears. Because of the fact that the Lord has delivered us, we can lift up our faces and look to Him. We will not need to be ashamed as we look to the Lord because He is the One that has delivered us.

10. Read Psalm 34:1-22 and write what happened when the poor man cried to the Lord for help.

11. Explain why Christians do not need to be ashamed when they look to the Lord in their lives.

12. Explain why it is important for you to know in your own life that the Lord will deliver you from all of your fears.

The Lord hears all those who cry to Him. He is eagerly waiting to save and deliver them. At the same time the Lord watches over those who fear Him. He provides them with deliverance in their lives. This is the reason why we invite people to taste and see that the Lord is good. Those who accept this invitation from the Lord will be blessed by Him. The Lord also provides for the needs of those who fear Him. Young lions may lack and not be satisfied but those who fear and serve the Lord will never lack because the Lord will supply their needs. We need to invite both children and adults to hear our words about what the Lord does.

13. Read Psalm 32:1-22 and write what we should teach others as they listen to us.

14. Explain in your own words what it means to taste and see that the Lord is good.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord promises to supply the needs of those who fear and serve Him.

As we teach others, we should not try to teach these people to follow our ways. Instead we should teach them to fear the Lord. As we teach them to fear the Lord, we can also help them to realize the dangers of speaking evil or using guile. We need to encourage them to depart from evil and do good. People need to seek peace and pursue it with their whole heart. Such people need to realize that the Lord is watching over them. The Lord is ready and anxious to hear their cry. However, the Lord sets His face against those who do evil. He will cut off their name so that they are no longer remembered by the people on the earth.

16. Read Psalm 34:1-22 and write what happens when the righteous cry to the Lord in their times of trouble.

17. Explain why it is important for Christians to seek peace and pursue it with our whole hearts.

18. Explain why you think that the Lord says that He sets His face against those who continue to do evil.

The Lord is always ready and eager to hear the cry of the righteous and provide deliverance to them. The Lord is near those who have a broken heart. He gladly saves those who repent of their sin. The Lord also delivers the righteous out of all of their afflictions even though those afflictions are many. When Christ died, He kept all of His bones from being broken. We read that evil men will be destroyed by their own wickedness. However, the Lord will redeem the soul of His servants that have their trust in Him. Those who trust in the Lord will never be left desolate.

19. Read Psalm 34:1-22 and write what the Lord will do to the remembrance of those who do

evil.

20. Explain why the Lord is so eager to hear the cry of all those who have placed their trust in Him.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord promises to be near to those who have a broken heart.

As we come to Psalm 35, we see that David asked the Lord to plead his cause against his enemies. These enemies were former friends that had turned against David because they did not have their trust in the Lord. As a result, David asked the Lord to be his protection. David was depending on the Lord to defend him from his enemies. The Lord is the One that can confound any enemies and put them to shame. He can bring a complete stop to their plans. God can drive away the enemies like the chaff before the wind. This is why we can leave their judgment to the Lord.

22. Read Psalm 35:1-28 and write how David said destruction should come on such enemies.

23. Explain why the former friends of David had turned against him and were now his enemies.

24. Explain why you think that David had great confidence that the Lord would defend him from his enemies.

David asked the Lord to cause evil men to be caught by their own evil plans. Then he could be filled with joy because the Lord had provided him with salvation. He would rejoice as he saw the Lord deliver the poor and needy from those who were too strong for them. False witnesses had spoken against David and had accused him of things that he had not done. David had shown kindness to these men and they had rewarded him with evil. When they had been sick, David had expressed his sorrow by wearing sackcloth and fasting. David had treated these men like brothers in their time of sorrow.

25. Read Psalm 35:1-28 and write how these men were behaving when David was suffering.

26. Explain why people to whom David had shown kindness had turned and become false witnesses against him.

27. Explain why you think that David said he would be filled with joy as he saw the Lord deliver the poor and needy from those who were against them.

These men rejoiced to see David suffer because they did not have their trust in the Lord. Instead these godless men had gathered together against David. They wanted to make him suffer. They were trying to destroy him. Here we see that the desire of evil men is to destroy. David asked the Lord how long the Lord would allow them to continue before He would rescue David from their destruction. After bringing his request to the Lord, David thanked the Lord for what the Lord was going to do. He chose to praise the Lord for what the Lord was going to do even though his enemies were still speaking against him.

28. Read Psalm 35:1-28 and write how David asked the Lord to judge him.

29. Explain why it is important to learn to thank the Lord even though we have not seen the answer to our prayer yet.

30. Explain why you think that evil people have a desire to destroy others by their words and their actions.

The Lord had seen what the wicked men were doing to David even though He had not yet answered the prayers of David. Here we see that the Lord will listen to the cause of his people. David asked the Lord to be his judge so that evil men would not rejoice over him. The Lord is the One that can stop the words of any enemy. He can cause them to be ashamed for their evil. Those who favored the cause of David would be able to rejoice when they saw what the Lord would do for him. However, even though David was suffering at the hands of evil men, the desire of David was that the Lord would be magnified in whatever happened.

31. Read Psalm 35:1-28 and write what David said he would speak with his tongue.

32. Explain why David asked the Lord to judge him according to His righteousness.

33. Explain why you think that the desire of David was to see the Lord magnified regardless of

what happened to him.

Psalm 36 gives us a real picture of the contrast between evil men and the righteousness of God. The first thing that we see about evil men is that they have no fear of God before their eyes. They flatter themselves in their own eyes. The words of evil men are filled with evil. Evil men have stopped doing good to anyone because they lack wisdom. This is due to the fact that they are depending on human wisdom instead of asking the Lord to give them true wisdom. Evil people plan evil and devise mischief even when they are lying on their bed. Such individuals do not hate evil. Instead they love evil and look for every opportunity to do evil.

34. Read Psalm 36:1-12 and write where the mercy of the Lord is located.

35. Explain why evil people often boast and flatter themselves by what they say that they can do.

36. Explain why you think that evil people show that they have no fear of God in the words or in their actions.

The mercy of the Lord is very great. In fact his mercy is so great that it cannot be described. His faithfulness is also very great. God is also the One that demonstrates true righteousness. His righteousness is like the great mountains that cannot be moved. His judgments are perfect and beyond the understanding of mankind. The Lord is the One that preserves both men and animals. The loving-kindness of the Lord is also very excellent. This is the reason that people can put their trust in the Lord and look to Him for protection.

37. Read Psalm 36:1-12 and write to what David compares the righteousness of the Lord.

38. Explain what you learn about the character of God from this Psalm.

39. Explain why you realize that the ways of God are perfect and are beyond the understanding of mankind.

The Lord is able to bring complete satisfaction to all of those who place their trust in Him. The Lord is the One that is the fountain of life. He is able to provide life and light to all people. He will continue to show His loving-kindness to those who know Him. He will show His righteousness to those who are upright in heart. The Lord is able to exercise His control over the proud and the wicked even though they are in rebellion against Him. God is able to destroy the workers of iniquity and cast them down when they sin.

40. Read Psalm 36:1-12 and write what will happen to these men when they have been cast down by the Lord.

41. Explain what it means when it says that the Lord is the One that is the fountain of life.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord will destroy the workers of iniquity and cast them down when they sin.

Now reread Psalm 33:1-36:12 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 10
Psalm 37:1-40:17

Trust is a word that is mentioned many times in the book of Psalms. It is very important to understand what is meant by trust. Today in our study we will be learning several lessons about trust. People are not to place their trust in evil men because those evil men will destroy them. In the same way, evil people cannot trust in themselves because such trust will always bring failure. There is only one person in whom we can place our trust. That one person is the Lord. When we have placed our trust in the Lord, He will guide our lives. As we trust in the Lord He will put a new song in our mouth. He will also give us a message for others.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the results of placing our trust in the Lord.
- Explain what kind of sorrow we should have for our sin.
- Explain what we learn about mankind.
- Explain what you learn about the song that the Lord gives us.

As we begin Psalm 37, we see that we do not need to worry about evil men. Although they may seem very strong right now, they will soon be cut down like the grass. If we have our trust in the Lord, He will feed us. If we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart. If we commit our ways to the Lord, He will bring His plan for our lives to pass. At the same time the Lord will show us that we are in a right relationship with Him. Since these things are true, we can rest in the Lord and experience His peace. It does not need to bother us when we see the wicked prospering. We do not need to get angry or upset because God will cut off those who are following the way of evil.

1. Read Psalm 37:1-40 and write when the wicked will be cut off.
2. Explain why it is important to commit our way to the Lord so that He is able to give us purpose and fulfill the plan that He has for our lives.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord says that He will give us the desires of our heart when we delight ourselves in Him.

The wicked will soon be destroyed but those who wait on the Lord will inherit the earth and live in peace. Wicked men plot against those who are just but the Lord just laughs at them because He sees their day of judgment coming. The wicked take their swords and their bows to destroy the poor and the needy. However, the Lord will use their own weapons to destroy them. A righteous man with very little is better off than an evil man that has great riches. The Lord is the One that watches over the righteous. He will cause the righteous to live forever. However, the wicked will perish and be burned with everlasting fire.

4. Read Psalm 37:1-40 and write what God says about the steps of a good man.
5. Explain why a righteous man that has very little in this life is better off than an evil person that has great riches.
6. Explain why you think that God says that those who wait on the Lord will inherit the earth.

The man that is righteous is eager to show mercy. This is due to the fact that he is following the steps that the Lord commands. In fact the Lord delights in His way. Such a person is also happy as he follows the way of the Lord. Even when the righteous man falls, he does not fall completely because the Lord holds him up. The Lord never forgets the righteous. He and his family are blessed by the Lord. As a result, men are encouraged to depart from evil and do good. The Lord loves the saints and will never forsake them. They will inherit the land and live forever. They will speak wisdom and justice because the law of the Lord is in their hearts.

7. Read Psalm 37:1-40 and write the promise that is made to those who wait on the Lord and keep His way.
8. Explain why the Lord says that He delights in the righteous man that has chosen to follow His Word.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord promises that the righteous man will never completely fall.

Those who trust in the Lord will not be left in the hands of the wicked. Instead the Lord will exalt them. As we look around us, we often see wicked men that are very powerful. However, God says that such men will pass away. The man that is right with God will find that his end is peace. This salvation for the righteous comes from the Lord. The Lord provides strength in the time of trouble to those who have their trust in Him. The Lord will help and deliver His own. He will deliver them from the wicked because of the fact that they have placed their trust in Him.

10. Read Psalm 37:1-40 and write what the Lord will cause to happen to those who wait on the Lord and keep His way.
11. Explain what you learn about the way that the Lord will work in our lives as we have our trust in Him.
12. Explain why the person that is right with the Lord will experience the peace of the Lord in his life.

In the New Testament, we learn that some sicknesses are the result of sin. Psalm 38 is the prayer of a person that is suffering as a result of sin. The writer points out the fact that there is no soundness in his flesh because of the anger of the Lord. We see that the Lord had allowed some form of skin disease to come on David as a result of his sin. These wounds on his flesh caused him to realize the foolishness of his sin. He was enduring great suffering and sorrow as a result of his sin. His body was filled with this terrible disease. He felt feeble and broken as a result of his suffering. This gives us a real picture of the results of sin.

13. Read Psalm 38:1-22 and write how the friends and relatives of David had reacted to his suffering.
14. Explain why a follower of the Lord that is suffering because of his sin will feel like there is no soundness in his flesh.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord sometimes chooses to discipline Christians by allowing them to experience physical problems.

In addition to suffering sickness as a result of his sin, David was also suffering from loneliness and persecution. His friends and relatives did not come to him and comfort him in his time of suffering. Instead they stood afar off as if they did not want anything to do with him. At the same time the enemies of David were also using this opportunity to prepare traps to try and destroy David. They were speaking evil things about him. However, David was like a deaf man that did not hear their words. He did not try to answer them.

16. Read Psalm 38:1-22 and write what David was depending on for hope.
17. Explain why people that are following evil ways will be quick to speak against followers of the Lord when they are suffering.
18. Explain why you think that many of the friends and relatives did not come to comfort David during his time of suffering.

David was not depending on any man in order to bring hope into his life. He realized that the Lord was the only one that could bring hope to his life. As a result, David asked the Lord to listen to him. Then he confessed his sin to the Lord. He told the Lord that he was sorry for his sin. At the same time he realized that he was surrounded by enemies that were very strong. This caused David to realize that he did not want the Lord to forsake him. Instead he asked the Lord to help him and provide him with salvation in his situation.

19. Read Psalm 38:1-22 and write when David asked the Lord to begin helping him in his suffering.
20. Explain what we should do in our own lives when we realize that we are suffering as a result of sin.
21. Explain why you think that David quickly realized that the most important thing in his life was for the Lord not to forsake him.

Many times we are tempted to depend on our own strength. Psalm 39 is a reminder of the fact that we are just frail people. We have no strength in ourselves. The writer began by saying that he would watch his ways so that he would not be tempted to boast with his tongue. As a result, David kept quiet and did not speak either good or evil. Instead he let the Lord speak for him. As the Lord spoke, it was like there was a fire burning within David. Then David asked the Lord to show him what his life was like. He wanted to know his future. However, the reason that he wanted the Lord to show him these things was to cause him to realize how frail he was. He had no desire to boast in his own strength.

22. Read Psalm 39:1-13 and write what his age was like in comparison to God.
23. Explain why it is important to ask the Lord to speak to us and for us instead of depending on our own strength.
24. Explain why you think that when the Lord spoke to David that he felt like there was a fire burning within him.

David realized that the days of his life were very short. They were actually nothing in comparison to God. In fact our days here on earth are nothing in comparison to eternity either. Man is often very foolish in the way that he acts. Many people think that they are really accomplishing great things in their lives when they gather great riches. However, the person that gathers great riches does not know what will happen to those riches when he dies. As we realize that our life is actually nothing, we are forced to realize that our only hope is in the Lord. We need to ask Him to forgive our sins.

25. Read Psalm 39:1-13 and write why David said that he did not open his mouth.
26. Explain why it is important to evaluate regularly to see if we are focused on the world or focused on eternity in the way that we act and use our time.
27. Explain why you think that many decisions that we make about the way that we want to act will be different if we evaluate those decisions on the basis of their eternal effect.

As David realized that he was nothing, he saw that it was important to keep quiet and listen to God rather than speaking himself. The same is true for us in our own lives. When God corrects man, the pride of man is destroyed very suddenly. In comparison to God, people are forced to realize that their thoughts and plans are empty. When we realize this in our own lives, all that we can do is pray to the Lord and ask Him to hear our cry. We need to ask God to show mercy to us. We should do this because we realize that our lives on this earth are very temporary.

28. Read Psalm 39:1-13 and write what David asked the Lord to hear as he thought about his own frailty.
29. Explain what you learn from these verses about the fact that your own life is also very frail.
30. Explain why you think that it is important to listen to the Lord and not boast about our own thoughts and plans.

Psalm 40 is a Psalm that gives us a beautiful picture of the resurrection of Christ. We see first of all the joy of Christ in His resurrection. When Christ was buried, it was as though He had been placed in a horrible pit. However, the Father raised Christ from the dead. As a result, we now have a new song. This is a song of praise to our God. As people come to understand the resurrection of Christ, many of these people will come to the point where they place their trust in the Lord. Throughout the New Testament, we see that the resurrection is the message that we are to preach to those who are not Christians. It is only as they understand and place their trust in Christ and His resurrection that they are able to receive life.

31. Read Psalm 40:1-17 and write what God says about the man that puts his trust in the Lord.
32. Explain why the Lord allowed David to experience various things so that He could write things that give us a picture of the ministry and work of Christ.
33. Explain why you think that God brought Christ back from the grave and raised Him back to life.

When our trust is in the Lord and His resurrection, we will not follow the proud or those who speak lies. Instead we will be speaking about the wonderful works that the Lord has done. These works are so great that they are more than we can count. Old Testament sacrifices provided a covering for sin but they could never meet the holy requirements of God to take away sin. As a result, Christ came to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin. Christ was filled with joy that He could come to do the will of the Father. Christ did the will of the Father because He had the law of God within His heart.

34. Read Psalm 40:1-17 and write what we should preach as a result of what Christ did through His death and resurrection.
35. Explain why the Old Testament sacrifices only provided a covering for sin and could never take away sin.
36. Explain why you think that Christ was filled with joy because of the fact that He could come and do the will of the Father.

As we think of what Christ has done to provide righteousness for us, we should be eager to speak this message of righteousness to the world. That message is the message that Christ was without sin and could pay the penalty for sin because He was the perfect Son of God. We should not keep that message to ourselves. Instead it should be our desire to declare the faithfulness of the Lord and the salvation that the Lord has provided. This is the message of truth that the world needs. At the same time we should let the loving-kindness and truth that the Lord gives preserve us in our own lives. We need this preservation because we are sinful. In fact we cannot stand before God in our own strength because of our sinful condition.

37. Read Psalm 40:1-17 and write what those who love the salvation that the Lord has provided will say.
38. Explain why it should be our desire to speak the message of the death and resurrection of Christ to the people in the world around us.
39. Explain why you think that it is important to magnify the Lord by speaking continually of the salvation that He has provided.

As we consider our sinful condition, we need to ask the Lord to deliver us and help us. As we see those who are evil trying to destroy us, we can ask the Lord to stop them and put them to shame. We know that He will hear our prayer when our trust is in Him. As we seek the Lord, we can be glad and rejoice in Him. We will be able to magnify the name of the Lord because of the salvation that He has provided for us. In spite of our sinful and needy condition, the Lord has looked upon us and shown us His mercy. That is the reason that we can be filled with joy.

40. Read Psalm 40:1-17 and write what the Lord does for us in addition to thinking about us.
41. Explain why we can know that the Lord will hear our prayer because of the fact that our trust is in Him.
42. Explain why you think that it is important to ask the Lord to judge those who do evil to us instead of trying to judge them ourselves.

Now reread Psalm 37:1-40:17 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 11
Psalm 41:1-44:26

When Christ was on the earth, He said that there would always be people that were poor. That statement continues to remain true regardless of the things that the people and nations have tried to do to get rid of poverty. Today we will be learning about the attitude that we should have toward the poor. First we will see the attitude of God toward the poor. Then we will see the attitude of God toward those who help the poor. This will help us to understand why we should have the same concern for the poor as God has for the poor. In addition, we will be learning what our attitudes should be toward several other things.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the attitude of God is toward those who help the poor.
- Explain why we should have a real longing for God.
- Tell about the hope that we can have in God.
- Explain what we learn about praying for help from the Lord.

The Jews divided the book of Psalms into five books or sections. As we come to Psalm 41, we come to the final Psalm of the first book or section. As you have noticed, almost all of the Psalms in this first book were written by David. As we study the other sections or books, we will see that many of the remaining Psalms are written by other authors. As we begin this Psalm, we see that those who are concerned about the poor are blessed by the Lord. Here we see the concern of the Lord for the poor. Throughout the Bible we are reminded of the fact that God is concerned about the poor and the needy. When a person faithfully helps the poor, the Lord will also be ready to help that person when he or she is in trouble.

1. Read Psalm 41:1-13 and write the second thing that the Lord will do for that person.
2. Explain why God promises blessing to those who help the poor and needy.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to reach out to the poor and the needy.

Here we see that the person that shows kindness to the poor and needy will see the Lord preserve him in his life. The Lord also provides protection and blessing to those who worship and serve Him. Those who are concerned about the needs of others will not be delivered into the hands of their enemies. Instead the Lord will be their protection regardless of what their enemies may do to them. The Lord will also strengthen them when they are lying in bed and suffering with pain. David knew that the Lord is ready to help any person that is sick or suffering because David had experienced the help of the Lord many times when he was suffering. David had endured great suffering at different times in his life. Then he had called to the Lord for help and the Lord had heard and answered his prayer.

4. Read Psalm 41:1-13 and write what David said as he called to the Lord for help.
5. Explain why the Lord says that He will provide His protection to those who reach out to the poor and needy.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord gives you many opportunities to show kindness to the poor and the needy.

In his suffering, David had cried to the Lord and asked the Lord to show mercy to him. At the same time he had confessed his sins. David also described what his condition had been like. His enemies had spoken evil of David and had said that he would soon die. At the same time these enemies had been boasting and speaking about their own evil plans. We see that those who hated David had been carrying on a whispering campaign against him. They said that he would die soon and would rise no more. Even the friends of David did not encourage him. We

also see why the Lord allowed this to happen in the life of David.

7. Read Psalm 41:1-13 and write what his familiar friend had done.

8. Explain why David realized the importance of crying to the Lord and asking Him to show mercy as he suffered.

9. Explain why you think that even though David was called a friend of God that God allowed so much suffering in his life.

Christ quoted this verse about the familiar friend in John 13 to show what Judas would do to Christ that very night. In this way this Psalm speaks of Christ. God allowed this to happen to David because it would later happen to Christ. As David heard what his enemies were saying about him, he asked the Lord to show mercy and raise him up so that he could take care of his enemies. He knew already that the Lord was helping him because his enemies had not been victorious over him. The Lord had helped David even in his suffering. In addition, he knew that he would be with the Lord forever. As a result, he spoke of the fact that God will be blessed from everlasting to everlasting.

10. Read Psalm 41:1-13 and write out the verse that Christ quoted as He spoke about the fact that Judas would betray Him.

11. Explain why this Psalm actually gives us a picture of the sufferings of Christ since Christ quoted a verses from this Psalm to speak of Judas.

12. Explain why you think that the suffering that David experienced helped him to write many of the Psalms that Christ later fulfilled more fully.

As we come to Psalm 42, we come to the first Psalm of the second book. In this Psalm and the next, we see the desire of the writer to be in the presence of the Lord. He had the same desire to be with God that the deer has for a cool stream of water on a hot day. When a day is hot, the deer has a very great desire for cool water. In the same way, the writer of this Psalm said that His soul was thirsting for God. The soul includes our mind, emotions and will. As he thought about the Lord, the writer had a longing to be with the Lord. His desire was to come and appear before God. The writer had a longing for the Lord while those around him just made fun of him.

13. Read Psalm 42:1-11 and write the question that those around the writer were asking.

14. Explain what it means to you in your own life to have a great thirst for God in your soul.

15. Explain why you think that we should have this same longing and desire to be in the presence of the Lord.

It is also often hard for those who do not trust in the Lord to understand why Christians want to enjoy the presence of the Lord. We go on to see why the writer had such a longing to be in the presence of the Lord. It was the time of one of the holy days when the people all went to the tabernacle or temple to worship the Lord. The writer wanted to go with the people to worship the Lord but had been unable to do so for some reason. If he would have been able to go to the tabernacle, he would have been able to join with the other people as they expressed their joy and praise to the Lord.

16. Read Psalm 42:1-11 and write why the writer said he would yet hope in the Lord.

17. Explain why as Christians we should also have a longing to join with other Christians so that we can worship the Lord together.

18. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to want to enjoy the presence of the Lord in your life.

Here we see that the writer could still experience the joy of the Lord even though he had not been able to go with the other people to worship with them. Suddenly the writer realized that he could worship the Lord right where he was. We see that he lived in the northern part of the land of Israel. In fact he lived in the area north of the Sea of Galilee. Even though the writer was disappointed because he could not worship with the rest of the people, he realized that he

could worship the Lord right where he was at that very moment. In the same way we also need to realize that we can worship the Lord at all times and in all places.

19. Read Psalm 42:1-11 and write the question that the writer asked his own soul.

20. Explain why it is important for us to be able to worship the Lord wherever we are at and at any time.

21. Explain why you think that it is important to realize that we can worship the Lord even when we cannot get together with other Christians.

Once we realize that we can worship the Lord in any place, we realize that the Lord is able to show His loving-kindness to us wherever we are when we worship Him. He will place a song in our hearts and we can talk to Him in prayer. Then we will not be forced to question whether the Lord has forgotten us. We will not even be bothered by those around us that are trying to make us suffer. We will not get upset by those who question us and try to cause us to think that the Lord has forgotten us. Instead we will have our hope in the Lord. We will be able to praise Him for all that He has done for us in our lives.

22. Read Psalm 42:1-5 and write against what group the writer of this Psalm asked God to plead his cause.

23. Explain why we can always have our hope in the Lord because we know that He has not forgotten us.

24. Explain why you think that there are many Christians who do not understand that the Lord will never forget them.

Instead of trying to answer the enemies that surrounded him, the writer of Psalm 43 asked the Lord to plead his cause. He realized that the Lord was the only one that was able to deliver him from those who were trying to deceive. The Lord was also the only one that could deliver him from the unjust. The Lord was the one that was able to deliver him because of the fact that He is the Righteous Judge. God is also the only one that can give strength to us. If God were not able to help mankind, people would be forced to mourn because of the evil actions of the enemy. However, God is able and willing to help all those who have their trust in Him.

25. Read Psalm 43:1-5 and write what the Psalmist asked God to send to him to lead him.

26. Explain why it is important for all Christians to realize that the Lord is the only One that can deliver them from those who do evil.

27. Explain why you think that it is important for every Christian to realize that the Lord is the One that is the Righteous Judge.

Here we also see what we need to lead us in our lives. If we want to be led in the right way, we must be led by the light and the truth of the Lord. They will bring us into the presence of the Lord. We will then be able to worship the Lord. God is the One that will fill us with joy. The joy that the Lord gives to us is so great that it is beyond human description. This is the reason why we should want to sing praises to the Lord. He is the One that gives us hope. This is the reason why we can continue to praise the Lord. He gives us spiritual health and joy.

28. Read Psalm 43:1-5 and write in whom the writer of this Psalm said to hope.

29. Explain why we need the light and the truth of the Lord to lead us in our lives.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord is the only true source of hope in this world.

As we begin Psalm 44, we see that the writer tells about the things that the Lord had done for the nation of Israel in the past. The fathers had passed on to their sons the way that the Lord had worked to drive out the nations that lived in the land when God brought Israel out of the land of Egypt and into the land of Promise. The people had not conquered the land by their own strength or military power. Instead it was the arm of God that had defeated the power of all of the enemies of Israel. This was the reason why the writer of this Psalm recognized God as his king. God is the One that gives power to defeat the enemy.

31. Read Psalm 44:1-26 and write what the writer of this Psalm said what he would not trust to

protect him.

32. Explain why it was important to the writer of this Psalm that God was the One that drove out the nations that lived in the land of Promise.

33. Explain why you think that it was important for the nation of Israel to realize that they had not conquered the land by their own strength or military power.

We cannot trust in our own strength to save us because our strength will fail. The Lord is the One that saves us and puts our enemies to shame. That is why it is important to boast about what the Lord has done instead of talking about what we have done. We can do nothing in ourselves. Suddenly it seemed to the writer like God had forgotten His people. They had been forced to run from their enemies. Their enemies were destroying them and scattering them among the nations. The surrounding nations had begun to mock and make fun of the people of Israel. Everyone was amazed as they saw what was happening to the nation of Israel.

34. Read Psalm 44:1-26 and write what was continually before the writer.

35. Explain why God suddenly allowed the enemies of Israel to win victories over Israel and scatter them among the nations.

36. Explain why you think that God will allow judgment to come to those who live in rebellion against Him.

The writer of this Psalm had become very confused. The people of Israel were serving the Lord and yet they were suffering at the hands of their enemies. The enemies were laughing at them and speaking evil of God. This was happening to them at the same time that they were serving the Lord. The first chapter of Isaiah helps us to understand how the people could worship God and still be judged by God at the same time. In that book we learn that the people were going through all of the actions of serving God. However, their hearts were not right with God. Many times people will pretend to worship God while at the same time their heart is not truly worshiping Him. That was what had happened in Isaiah one.

37. Read Psalm 44:1-26 and write what God knows about the hearts of mankind.

38. Explain why there are times when God can judge His people even at a time when they are claiming to serve the Lord.

39. Explain why you think that many people can act like they are serving the Lord when in their hearts they are serving other things.

We also see what the people were not doing at that time. They were not serving false gods. They were not offering sacrifices to false gods or stretching out their hands to idols. As a result, the writer asked the Lord to examine their hearts. At that time it seemed like they were being judged and killed by God like a flock of sheep. As a result, the writer of this Psalm asked the Lord not to forget them forever. The suffering of the people was very great. It had almost brought the people to the point of death. They needed the help of the Lord.

40. Read Psalm 44:1-27 and write why the writer asked God to redeem them.

41. Explain why people can be avoiding the things that are sin and yet still not serve the Lord in their hearts.

42. Explain why you think that the writer of this Psalm felt that the Lord had almost brought the people of Israel to the point of death.

Now reread Psalm 41:1-44:26 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 12
Psalm 45:1-48:14

Today we will be studying a Psalm that speaks about the fact that Christ is our King. In the New Testament we see that this Psalm speaks of Christ. As we study our lesson today, we will learn many things about the greatness of Christ. He is the great King that rules over the entire universe. He is the One that will rule forever. No one will be able to destroy His rule. In addition to being our great King, Christ is also our source of refuge and strength. Because of the greatness of the Lord our desire should be to sing praises to Him. Truly the Lord is the King of the entire earth.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about Christ, our King.
- Explain why the Lord is our refuge and strength.
- Explain why we can sing praises to God.
- Explain what you learn about Mount Zion.

According to Hebrews 1:8, Psalm 45 is one of the Psalms that speaks about Christ. He is the One that is our Great King. The desire of the writer of this Psalm was to speak of our King. Christ is the One that is more beautiful than the children of men. He is the One that has been blessed by His Father forever. Christ is the One that is all powerful. There is no one that can be compared to the glory and majesty of Christ. Wherever Christ goes, He is the One that gives us a perfect example of true meekness and righteousness. He is the One that is able to teach us things that fill us with amazement and wonder. He is far greater than anyone else.

1. Read Psalm 45:1-17 and write what the throne of Christ is like.
2. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ is the One that is all powerful.
3. Explain why you think that it is important for you to have a perfect example of true meekness and righteousness for your own life.

The Lord is the One that has control over all of the nations on the earth. Christ is the One that will rule forever and ever. When Christ establishes His rule, He will rule with righteousness. He is the One that loves righteousness and hates evil. The Father also loves the righteousness of His Son. This is why the Father anointed Christ with the oil of gladness. His garments have the smell of beautiful spices. This is a reminder of the fact that the death and resurrection of Christ was a sweet smell to the Father. It was His death and resurrection that made it possible for us to have life so we can also be filled with thanksgiving and praise.

4. Read Psalm 45:1-17 and write what group of people is included in the honorable women.
5. Explain why it is important to know that when Christ establishes His rule that He will rule with righteousness.
6. Explain why you think that the death and resurrection of Christ were a sweet smell to the Father.

When we look at the New Testament, we see that the church is called the bride of Christ. Here we are reminded that we are the children of the King. As His children and also as His bride, our desire should be to do the will of our King. We are told to forget our own people and our father's house. Before we became Christians, we were under the influence and control of Satan. The control of Satan was broken at the moment that we became Christians. We were given new life by Christ. We no longer need to be controlled by our old sinful ways. As we learn to walk in the way of the Lord, we are beautiful in His sight.

7. Read Psalm 45:1-17 and write what we should do because of the fact that Christ has become

our Lord.

8. Explain why it is important for every Christian to understand that he or she has become a child of the King of kings.
9. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that you no longer need to be controlled by your old sinful ways as you learn to yield to the Holy Spirit in your life.

Christ is the One that deserves all of our worship because He is our Lord. As we worship the Lord, He causes us to become precious and beautiful. We are able to stand before Christ in perfect beauty because He has given us that beauty. Through our ministry to those around us, others will also be brought to Christ and they will be able to enter into His palace with us. Because we are the children of Christ as well as His bride, we also become princes and princesses. The greatness of the work of Christ on the cross for us will cause His name to be remembered throughout all generations. We will be able to voice our praise to Christ forever and ever.

10. Read Psalm 45:1-17 and write what this Psalm says that we will be like as the children of the King.
11. Explain what you learn about Christ from this Psalm.
12. Explain why you think that Christ has chosen to cause you to become precious and beautiful and to give you His perfect beauty

Psalm 46 is a real encouragement when we are suffering any form of trouble. The Lord is the One that is our protection and strength. He is the One that is always present when any form of trouble comes to us. As a result, we do not need to be fearful or afraid even if the earth shakes and the mountains fall into the middle of the sea. The Lord is able to protect us from the earthquake. He is the One that also controls the storm and even the mountain that erupts. Because the Lord is able to protect us from all of these things on the earth, we have no reason to be fearful or afraid. When we are fearful, it means that we are trusting in ourselves instead of trusting the Lord.

13. Read Psalm 46:1-11 and write what will make the city of God glad.
14. Explain why no Christian needs to be fearful during times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods.
15. Explain why you know that you do not even need to fear death even if a flood or an earthquake would take your life.

God is truly our protector. In addition, the Lord is also our deliverer. As we study Ezekiel 47 we read more about this river that will give life to the city of Jerusalem during the time that Christ rules over the earth. When Christ returns from heaven to rule the earth from the city of Jerusalem, that city will not be moved by its enemies. The Lord will provide that city with all of the help that is needed and He will do that very soon. Although the nations may fight and rage, the Lord controls all things with His voice. As a result, the Lord is able to provide deliverance from all of the enemies that would come against His people.

16. Read Psalm 46:1-11 and write what we are asked to behold.
17. Explain why the Lord is able to provide deliverance from any enemy to those who have their trust in Him.
18. Explain why you think that God promises that Jerusalem will no longer be moved by its enemies when Christ returns to rule the earth.

We are asked to behold the works of the Lord because His works are very great. We see that the Lord is going to bring peace through His works. One day the Lord will cause all wars to end in every part of the earth. He will destroy the weapons that men use in their fighting. As a result, we need to stand in silence before the Lord and recognize that He is God. The name of the Lord is the name that should be praised among the nations. His name should be praised throughout the earth. The Lord is the One that gives us peace because He is with us.

19. Read Psalm 46:1-11 and write what God says that we will recognize as we are still before Him.
20. Explain what you learn about the deliverance that God promises to provide from this Psalm.
21. Explain why you think that it is important for you to regularly praise the Lord since the day will come when He will be praised throughout the earth.

Psalm 47 gives us a beautiful picture of what will happen when Christ comes to be the ruler over all of the earth. All of the people of the earth will be filled with joy and will clap their hands because Christ had come to be the ruler of the earth. Their shouts will be shouts of joy because the Lord has won a great victory. As we think about the greatness of the Lord, it is so amazing that it is beyond our understanding. Christ is the One that will be the Great King that rules the entire earth. He will win the victory over all those who oppose Him when He comes back to rule. Revelation 20 tells us that Christ will then rule the earth for one thousand years.

22. Read Psalm 47:1-9 and write what God will choose for His people.
23. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ will physically rule the earth for one thousand years after He returns to earth at the end of the tribulation.
24. Explain why you think that the rule of Christ on the earth will be a rule this is a truly righteous rule.

Here we see that the Lord has not forgotten the nation of Israel. When the Lord comes back to rule the earth for a thousand years, Israel will be in the place of special blessing when Christ comes back to rule the entire earth. This will be true because of the special love that God has had for the nation of Israel. When all of these things happen, the name of the Lord will be lifted up with a shout. Praises will be sung to the Lord accompanied by the trumpets. All of the people of the Lord will sing praises to our God for what He has done. These praises will also be directed to Christ because He is the One that will be the King of the earth.

25. Read Psalm 47:1-9 and write where the Lord will be King.
26. Explain why this Psalm gave some important promises about the future of the nation of Israel.
27. Explain why you think that Christ is going to give the nation of Israel special blessings during the time that He rules on the earth.

At that time Christ will be the One that will be the ruler of the entire earth. No part of the earth will miss the opportunity to be under the rule of Christ. People will be able to sing praises with understanding because the Lord will give understanding to His people. As Christ rules over the nations, His rule will be a rule of holiness. The Lord is holy and everything that He does must be holy. The Lord will also gather all of the people of the nation of Israel together from all of the places where they have been scattered. This regathering will happen to the nation of Israel because the Lord will never forget the promises that He has made to that nation.

28. Read Psalm 47:1-9 and write what kind of a throne Christ will have when He rules over the earth.
29. Explain what you learn about what will happen during the rule of Christ over the entire earth from this Psalm.
30. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord will give understanding to His people when He rules on the earth.

As we come to Psalm 48, we come to a Psalm that tells us about the greatness of the city where Christ will rule when He returns to this earth. The Lord is the One that is very great. He is the One that deserves all praise. At the same time we see that the city where Christ will rule will also be praised. That will happen because that city is the place where Christ will rule the entire earth with holiness. That city is located in a very beautiful place. When Christ rules in the city of Jerusalem which is also called Mount Zion, the entire earth will express joy because of the beauty of its location. Truly the Lord is the One that is a refuge to His people.

31. Read Psalm 48:1-14 and write how the kings will respond when they see Mount Zion.
32. Explain why the city of Jerusalem is also called Mount Zion.
33. Explain why you think that the earth will be a place of joy during the time that Christ rules for a thousand years.

The Lord is the One that will protect His people. In the past many kings have gathered together to come and fight against the city of Jerusalem. However, these kings have been filled with fear and amazement as they have seen the way that the Lord has protected His people. The hearts of many of these kings became so fearful that they left the area of Jerusalem very quickly. The fear and pain that came on these kings was like the pain that comes on a woman when she is preparing to give birth to a child. God even destroyed the ships of the nations that came to fight against His people. The past is just a little picture of what will again happen in the future.

34. Read Psalm 48:1-14 and write how long the city of Mount Zion will be established when Christ begins to rule in the future.
35. Explain why the world will again be filled with fear and amazement at the way that the Lord will protect Jerusalem in the future.
36. Explain why you think that the Lord says so much about the future of the nation of Israel when He comes to rule for a thousand years.

The Lord will destroy the ships of the nations that come against His people. At the same time He will establish the city that He has chosen because it is the city of God. As we think about the loving-kindness of the Lord toward that nation that He has chosen, we are reminded that the Lord shows this same loving-kindness to each individual that places their trust in Him. The people of Israel began to express their praise at the temple in the past. However, that praise will continue to reach out to the end of the earth in the future. This praise belongs to the Lord because He is the One that is righteous.

37. Read Psalm 48:1-14 and write what the true followers of the Lord thought about when they went to the temple.
38. Explain what you learn from these verses about the protection that the Lord is going to give to the city of Jerusalem.
39. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that the Lord also shows His loving-kindness to you because you have placed your trust in Christ.

In that day when Christ returns to rule the earth, the city of Jerusalem and the people of Israel will be glad as they see what the Lord has done for His people. The people will rejoice because of the judgments of the Lord. As the people of Israel walked around the city of Jerusalem at the time that this Psalm was written, they could see the way that the Lord was protecting His people. The walls were strong and the palaces were beautiful. As a result, the people were encouraged to tell their children about the things that God had done for His people. This same thing will again be true in the future.

40. Read Psalm 48:1-14 and write how long the people said that God would guide them.
41. Explain why it is important in any period of time for people to tell their children about the things that the Lord has done for their family.
42. Explain why you think that it is very important for every child to have the opportunity to hear what the Lord has done to provide salvation to all who trust in Him.

Now reread Psalm 45:1-48:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 13
Psalm 49:1-52:9

We see in the Bible that David is called the friend of God. However, that did not mean that he was perfect and without sin. Instead it meant that when he committed sin, he confessed his sin to the Lord. As we study the life of David, we see that David committed adultery one night. Then he tried to cover his sin by ordering the death of the man that was the husband of the woman with whom David had committed adultery. Later God sent the prophet, Nathan, to speak to David. In our study today, we will be studying the confession of David when God convicted him of his sin.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why riches cannot redeem a man.
- Explain what we learn about the fact that God is a Judge.
- Explain what lessons you learn for your own life from the confession of David.
- Explain what God says about the judgment for those who try to deceive.

Psalm 49 gives a warning to all of those who might try to trust in riches rather than the Lord for their salvation. This Psalm is addressed to all of the people of the earth. It does not matter whether those people are important or unknown. It does not matter whether those people are rich or poor. This message is a message that is needed by everyone on the earth. This is the reason why the Lord encouraged the writer of this Psalm to write it. We see that there are certain people that are warned to fear the evil days that are coming. Those that are so warned are those who are trusting in their own riches instead of trusting in the Lord.

1. Read Psalm 49:1-20 and write what these people boast about as they talk to one another.
2. Explain why people throughout the earth need to be warned about the danger of trusting in riches rather than the Lord for their salvation.
3. Explain why you think that many people think that they can depend on their riches instead of turning to the Lord.

In this Psalm we see that the people mentioned here thought that they could boast because they had great riches. However, the Lord says that these riches will not be able to redeem anyone from the penalty of sin. The cost to redeem the soul of a man is very great. It costs more than any person could ever pay to redeem the soul of man so that he would not die but live forever instead. The wise, the rich and the fool all die and none of them are able to redeem their souls. Then their riches are left to others. During their lives these rich people live as though they never expect to die. They call their lands by their own name in their efforts to show their greatness.

4. Read Psalm 49:1-20 and write what happens to these men even though their names are honored.
5. Explain what this Psalm teaches about the cost to redeem any person from the penalty of their sin.
6. Explain why you think that the people that are depending on their riches give no thought about what will happen to their riches when they die.

Even the most honored people will not continue to live. God has set an appointed time for each person when that person will die. Their children do not learn when they see their parents die. The children continue to follow the ways of the parents even though the parents have died. Just like sheep, they will be led to death and judgment without even realizing where they are going. In contrast, the Lord will redeem the souls of those who trust in Him. They will be delivered from the power of death. This is why we do not need to be bothered when it seems like the evil

men are becoming rich. When they die, they will not be able to take any of their riches with them. Even though they have enjoyed great honor on the earth, they will not be able to take any of that honor with them when they die.

7. Read Psalm 49:1-20 and write how much the rich man will carry away when he dies.
8. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of trusting in riches instead of trusting in the Lord.
9. Explain why you think that it is important for you to know in your own life that you have been delivered from the power of death.

As we come to Psalm 50, we see that the Lord is the One that is the Mighty Judge. He has called the entire earth to come together to hear His judgment. We read that this judgment is at the city of Jerusalem. The reason why this judgment is held at Jerusalem is due to the fact that the Lord is judging His own people. At the time of this judgment, the Lord said that He would recognize those who were His saints. Those are the people that have true righteousness instead of a false form of righteousness. The Lord is the One that is the judge because He is the One that knows the hearts. He knows all those who truly trust in Him.

10. Read Psalm 50:1-23 and write what declares the righteousness of God.
11. Explain why it is important to understand that the Lord is able to be righteous in His judgment because of the fact that He knows the heart of every person.
12. Explain why you are thankful for the fact that the Lord promises to recognize all that are His saints.

The Lord had come to judge the nation of Israel for a reason. Many of the people were offering sacrifices to the Lord even though their hearts were unchanged. As a result, these sacrifices actually meant nothing. God told the people that He did not need their sacrifices if the hearts of the people were unchanged. God had plenty of animals because all of the wild animals belong to Him. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. All of the birds of the air as well as the wild animals belong to Him. Even if God were hungry, He would not need to ask anyone for food because the world and everything in it belong to God.

13. Read Psalm 50:1-23 and write what we are told to offer to God.
14. Explain why God told the people of Israel that He did not want their sacrifices if their hearts were unchanged.
15. Explain why you think that God said He would not need to ask for anyone for food if He was hungry.

God tells us what we should do if we truly worship Him in our hearts. We should come to Him with thanksgiving for what He has done for us. Then we can call on Him at any time. If we are in trouble, He will deliver us so that we can glorify Him. However, God also gives a warning to the wicked. They are actually mocking God when they claim to follow Him. At the same time that they claim that they are following the Lord, they are rejecting His Word. Here we see that evil men hate the instruction of the Lord and do not worship Him in their hearts.

16. Read Psalm 50:1-23 and write what the wicked were doing when they saw a thief.
17. Explain why thanksgiving that comes from the heart is the type of true worship that the Lord desires.
18. Explain why you think that God says that people are actually mocking God when they claim that they are following Him while at the same time are rejecting His Word.

Evil men hate the Word of God and join with other evil men in their evil actions. They join with thieves and adulterers. They speak evil and try to deceive with their mouths. They even turn against their own brothers to gain more for themselves. These men thought that God was approving their evil actions when He did not judge them immediately. However, God promises these evil men that judgment will one day come on them. No one will be able to deliver them when God judges them. Only those that have already put their trust in the Lord will receive

salvation in the Day of Judgment.

19. Read Psalm 50:1-23 and write what people are promised that they will see the salvation of the Lord.

20. Explain what these verses teach about the future judgment of God in the Day of Judgment.

21. Explain why you think that many people feel that God will not judge them since they are not judged immediately.

As we come to Psalm 51, we will be reading the Psalm that David wrote after he was convicted of his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. As a result, we see that David is asking the Lord to show mercy to him. David knew that it was only the mercy of God that could cover his sin. He realized that the Lord was the One that must cleanse him from his sin. There was no way that David could get rid of his sin by his own efforts. This was the reason why David confessed his sin to the Lord. Only by confessing his sin to God could that sin be forgiven and removed.

22. Read Psalm 51:1-19 and write against whom David said that he had sinned.

23. Explain why it was important for David to realize that He must depend on the Lord to cover his sin and not his own efforts.

24. Explain why you think that David said that he had sinned against the Lord when he had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

David said that he had sinned against the Lord. This is a reminder of the fact that every sin that we commit is a sin against God even though it may also involve other people. At the same time God is the only one that is just. We have been guilty of sin ever since the time that we were born. Because God is the One that knows all things, His desire for us is that we will speak the truth. We also need to realize that the Lord is the only One that can give wisdom to us. That is the reason why we need to come to the Lord and ask Him to cleanse us of our sins.

25. Read Psalm 51:1-19 and write what we will be like when we confess our sins and the Lord washes away our sins.

26. Explain why it is important to ask the Lord to cleanse us from our sins if we want Him to give us His wisdom.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord wants us to speak the truth to Him instead of trying to hide our sins.

When the Lord cleanses us from our sins, He completely cleanses us from them. In fact He makes us whiter than snow. He fills us with joy and gladness because we know that our sins are forgiven. He completely blots out our sins so that those sins will never be remembered again. At the same time the Lord makes our hearts clean in His sight. He also renews our spirit so that it is in a right relationship with His Spirit. Since Christ has come and has sent the Holy Spirit to live in our lives as the down payment and guarantee of our salvation, we no longer need to worry about the Holy Spirit being taken from us.

28. Read Psalm 51:1-19 and write what David said that he would do after the Lord removed his sin.

29. Explain what you learn about the way that the Lord cleanses you from sin from this Psalm.

30. Explain why you realize the extreme importance of Christ renewing your spirit so that your human spirit is in a right relationship with the Holy Spirit.

When we come to the Lord and confess our sins, the Lord immediately does several things for us. He cleanses us from our sins. He fills our lives with joy. He holds us up by the power of His Spirit. He even uses our own sins and failures to use us to teach others to put their trust in Christ. Then the Lord places a new song in our hearts. When we have confessed our sins, it is easy to open our mouths and speak praises to the Lord. The thing that God really wants in our lives is for us to have a broken and contrite spirit. God is always concerned about the inner attitudes that we have in our spirit because they determine our outward actions.

31. Read Psalm 51:1-19 and write what kind of sacrifices please the Lord.

32. Explain why it is easy to sing and give praise to the Lord when we have confessed our sins to the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that God desires a broken and contrite spirit when we have sinned against Him.

Psalm 52 gives us a real picture of the person that is filled with pride. The proud man is one that boasts about the things that he is able to do. He even boasts about the evil things that he does. He thinks that he can continue to boast and still expect the Lord to show His goodness to him. The tongue of the proud man plans evil. It is like a sharp razor that is working to cut and to destroy. The proud man loves evil more than he loves the things that are good and right. He would rather speak lies instead of the truth because of his proud heart.

34. Read Psalm 52:1-9 and write the type of words that the proud man likes to speak about others.

35. Explain why the proud person chooses to boast about the things that he can do instead of giving any glory to God.

36. Explain why you think that God says that the tongue of a proud person is like a sharp razor.

The proud man loves to speak words that will destroy others. This is due to the fact that he loves to deceive others. However, he will not continue to deceive others. Instead he will be judged by God and will receive eternal judgment. This judgment of evil men will never end. We also see another reason why the proud man will be judged. God will judge him because he is depending on his riches rather than the Lord. Those who place their trust in riches think that they are strong and powerful. However, their final end is judgment by the Lord.

37. Read Psalm 52:1-9 and write what the righteous learn when they see the judgment of the proud.

38. Explain what this Psalm teaches you about proud men and the reasons for their pride.

39. Explain why you think that a proud person loves to speak words that will destroy others.

This Psalm also shows us the complete difference between the proud man and the righteous man. The righteous man is depending on the Lord for His strength. The Lord is the One that gives real strength. When our trust is in the Lord, we are like a green tree. A green tree is very strong because it is receiving plenty of water. This is the reason why we will be able to praise the Lord forever. He makes us like a green tree. He has also given us everlasting life and strengthens us with His strength. The proud man can never stand in his own strength. The righteous man has chosen to stand in the strength that the Lord provides.

40. Read Psalm 52:1-9 and write why the writer said that he would wait on the name of the Lord.

41. Explain why a person that is righteous realizes that he must stand in the strength of the Lord and not his own strength.

42. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord has said that He has made you like a green tree.

Now reread Psalm 49:1-52:9 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 14
Psalm 53:1-56:13

In Psalm 14 we learned about the attitude that the fool has toward God. We saw that a fool is a person that says there is no God. We might say that this attitude is the reason why a person is a fool. In order to show the seriousness of this attitude, Psalm 14 is repeated in Psalm 53 with only a few minor changes. Today we see that there are still many people that are trying to deny the existence of God. Their denials do not change the fact that God exists. All that those denials do is show the fact that those people are in rebellion against God.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about a fool.
- Explain what you learn about asking God for help.
- Explain what you learn about unfaithful friends.
- Explain what you learn about the importance of dependence on God.

Today we have many people in the world that say that God does not exist. As a result, they come up with many different explanations about the way that the creation came into existence. This attitude is especially common among those people that think that they have great knowledge. What these people are actually doing is making themselves their own gods. God says that such people are fools. They are using their knowledge to do even greater evil. God says that their ways are corrupt because of their desire to do more evil. None of the people that make such claims have a desire to do what is right and good. God looks down from heaven to see the attitudes of people. As God looks, He sees that people do not seek Him. As a result, such people have no understanding of the plan and purpose of God.

1. Read Psalm 53:1-6 and write how many are gone back.
2. Explain why it is often the people that have great worldly knowledge that are the ones that try to say that God does not exist.
3. Explain why you think that the people that claim that God does not exist have no desire to do what is right and good.

Here we see the condition of every person in the world before a person repents of sin and places his or her trust in Christ. The desire of every person is to do evil. This is the reason why Christ said that He came seeking us as a shepherd that seeks a sheep that is lost. Our own desire was to do evil and it was only the love of Christ that brought us to a right relationship with Him. There is not a single person on the entire earth that does what is good in himself. In fact most people go after evil as a hungry person goes after a piece of bread. As a result, people do not call Christ until the Father draws them and gives them a desire to receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

4. Read Psalm 53:1-6 and write why evil men are filled with fear.
5. Explain why there is not a single person in the world that has a desire to do what is good as a pattern of life before that person places his or her trust in Christ.
6. Explain why you think that it is necessary for Christ to seek people as a shepherd instead of Him waiting for people to desire to come to Him on their own.

People like to boast that they do not believe that God exists. At the same time such people often live lives that are filled with fear. The reason that these people are filled with fear is due to the fact that they are afraid of coming judgment. Deep within their hearts they know that God has judged others that have rebelled against Him even at the time that they are trying to say that God does not exist. The end of such individuals is shame. However, the Lord provides salvation to all those who place their trust in Him. In addition, we see that God has not

forgotten the fact that He chose the nation of Israel as His chosen nation. One day the people of that nation will put their trust in the Lord and He will deliver them.

7. Read Psalm 53:1-6 and write when the people of Israel will place their trust in the Lord.

8. Explain what these verses teach causes a person to be a fool.

9. Explain why you think that people often live lives that are filled with fear even though they try to claim that God does not exist.

Psalm 54 is a cry to God for help. Many times we are in a situation where we need the help of the Lord. We are given two reasons in this Psalm that tell us why we can cry to the Lord for help when we have our trust in Him. We can cry to the Lord because of His name and because of His strength. We can trust in the name of the Lord because He is our God and He will deliver us for the sake of His name. We can trust in the strength of the Lord because He is the One that has all power. If we have our trust in Him, we know that God will hear our prayer when we cry to Him. His ears are open to the words that we speak.

10. Read Psalm 54:1-7 and write why the writer of this Psalm was crying to the Lord for help.

11. Explain why those who trust in Christ have two reasons given in this Psalm why they know that the Lord will hear their cry when they pray to Him.

12. Explain why you think that God is eager to listen to the prayers of those who have their trust in Him.

When we are following the Lord, there will be those that will rise up against us. Such individuals will seek to destroy us because they are guided by the devil and his goal is always to steal, to kill and to destroy. The devil is never happy to see people that are trusting in the Lord and he does his best to try and destroy their faith. Evil men follow the way of the devil because they do not have their trust in the Lord. The reason that we do not need to fear evil men is due to the fact that the Lord is our helper. The Lord encourages us. In addition, He also encourages others that have their trust in the Lord so that they can also encourage us.

13. Read Psalm 54:1-17 and write how the Lord promises to reward those who hate us.

14. Explain why the devil will often use other people to try to destroy the faith of those who follow the Lord.

15. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord encourages you even when others may try to destroy your faith.

Here we also see the reason why we do not need to try and get even with those who do evil to us. God is the One that will judge them. Since we do not need to spend our time trying to get even with our enemies, we can spend our time praising the Lord. He is the One that deserves all of our praises because He is the One that has done good to us. He is the One that has delivered us out of all of our troubles. He is the One that can take care of our enemies in any way that He chooses. As a result, we should leave all judgment to Him.

16. Read Psalm 54:1-7 and write from what the writer of this Psalm said that the Lord had delivered him.

17. Explain why we can leave all judgment to the Lord instead of trying to judge others ourselves.

18. Explain why you think that you will experience much greater joy in your life if you leave all judgment to the Lord instead of trying to get even yourself.

As we begin Psalm 55 we see that it is a prayer to the Lord. The writer was in need of help and realized that the Lord was the only One that could help him. This was the reason why he was bringing his request to the Lord. The enemies of the writer were speaking evil of him and causing him to suffer in every way possible. Because of the actions of the enemy, the writer was filled with fear and trembling. It was almost more than he could bear. When we try to face our problems in our own strength, we often find that those problems are more than we can bear.

19. Read Psalm 55:1-23 and write what the writer said that he would do if he had wings like a

dove.

20. Explain what causes us to realize in our own lives that we need to come to the Lord for help instead of trying to solve problems in our own strength.

21. Explain why you think the writer was filled with fear and trembling because of the things that his enemies were doing and saying.

Many times we have the same attitude as the writer of this Psalm. We wish that we could fly away and leave our problems behind. We wish that we could get so far away that those problems would never bother us again. However, we cannot escape our problems. Instead we need to come to the Lord and ask the Lord to solve the problems. In this way we allow the Lord to handle them instead of trying and failing in our own strength. The Lord is the One that is able to destroy those who are doing evil. The Lord sees their evil actions and watches them wherever they go.

22. Read Psalm 55:1-23 and write how the writer would have reacted if it was an enemy that was reproaching him.

23. Explain why we cannot escape our problems and why we should turn them over to the Lord instead of trying to solve them ourselves.

24. Explain why you know that you can trust the Lord to deal with the problems that you face when you turn them over to Him.

Here we see that it was a former friend and not an enemy that was doing evil to the writer. In fact this was a friend that had been a very close friend. The two men had previously made plans together. They even went to worship the Lord together. This is an example of the fact that some people can pretend to be Christians even though they do not have their trust in the Lord. Here we see that the desire of the writer was that the Lord would judge this person that had suddenly showed the real attitude of his heart. Meanwhile the writer said that he would continue to call on the Lord.

25. Read Psalm 55:1-23 and write when he said that he would pray to the Lord.

26. Explain why there are some people that have been good friends in the past that will suddenly turn against us.

27. Explain why you think that the writer of this Psalm was especially hurt by the fact that it was a close friend that turned against him.

The writer realized that he should pray to the Lord throughout the day and bring his requests to the Lord. We also need to realize the same thing. The Lord will hear our prayers and will give us His peace right in the middle of our problems. At the same time the Lord will judge those who are saying one thing and doing another. The Lord knows when people are trying to cover their sins by speaking words that sound good. This is why we can bring our burdens to the Lord and trust in Him to strengthen us. The Lord strengthens those who trust in Him and He will destroy those who continue to follow their evil ways.

28. Read Psalm 55:1-23 and write what the Lord promises to do when we cast our burden on Him.

29. Explain what you learn about people that are false friends from this Psalm.

30. Explain why you know that you will experience peace even in the middle of problems when you turn those problems over to the Lord.

As we have been studying the Psalms, we see that many of the Psalms begin with a request to the Lord for help. This is a reminder of the fact that the Lord is the only One that can truly help us. That is the reason why we need to bring our requests to Him. Psalm 56 is another Psalm in which the writer wrote and asked the Lord to show mercy to him. When people trust in the Lord, they can expect the devil to cause other people to try and do evil to them. Such enemies would destroy us if they could. However, we do not need to be afraid.

31. Read Psalm 56:1-13 and write what we should do when we are afraid.

32. Explain why we all need to be reminded of the fact that the Lord is able to help us when we have our trust in Him.
33. Explain why you think that so many Psalms begin with a request to the Lord for help.

Here we see what do not need to be afraid. Instead we are told what to do when we feel afraid. We need to place our trust in the Lord. This will make it possible for us to praise the words of the Lord. When we have our trust in the Lord, we do not need to be afraid of what men might try to do to us. We do not need to be bothered when other people try to twist our words. Even if all of their thoughts about us are evil, we do not need to be afraid. The reason that we do not need to be afraid at such a time is due to the fact that the Lord can give us perfect peace in the middle of such problems.

34. Read Psalm 56:1-13 and write what evil men do together.
35. Explain what Christians need to do when they experience times when they feel fearful and afraid.
36. Explain why you think that it is possible for you to have perfect peace even when you are right in the middle of problems.

Here we are given an example of what evil men often do. They join together to plan evil. Then they set their traps to catch those that they want to destroy. However, they will not escape the judgment of the Lord when they do evil. God will judge them. At the same time the Lord watches over those who have their trust in Him. The Lord knows every sorrow that comes into the lives of those who trust in Him. This is why we can have perfect peace when we have our trust in the Lord. We know that God is with us regardless of what people try to do to us.

37. Read Psalm 56:1-13 and write what the writer asked the Lord to do with his tears.
38. Explain why Christians can have perfect peace even when we are experiencing problems in our lives.
39. Explain why you are thankful that you know that the Lord is with you when others do evil to you in your life.

As followers of Christ, we know that we have much for which to praise the Lord because we know that the Lord is for us. When the Lord is for us, we know that no one will be able to stand against us. This is why we should praise His Word. When we have our trust in the Lord, we know that we do not need to be afraid or fearful of what people might try to do to us. God is the One that has all power. He is greater than any person on the earth. That is why we can have complete confidence in His promises. The Lord is able to deliver us from everything including death.

40. Read Psalm 56:1-13 and write what we should give to the Lord because of what He has done for us.
41. Explain why as followers of Christ we know that because of the fact that Christ is for us that no one will be able to stand against us.
42. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to give praise to the Lord for His Word.

Now reread Psalm 53:1-56:13 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 15
Psalm 57:1-60:12

The Lord is the One that helps us in all of our troubles. That is the reason why we can trust in the Lord when we have any trouble. As we see the way that the Lord does help us any time that we are faced with problems, we should respond to the Lord by expressing our thanks and praise to the Lord. In our study today, we will be given examples of ways to express our praise to the Lord. We are also given many examples of the way that we should pray to the Lord when we face any kind of problem in our daily lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how we should praise the Lord for helping us in our troubles.
- Explain what you learn about the wicked.
- Explain why we can depend on the Lord for our defense.
- Explain how we should pray to the Lord when we need help.

Like many other Psalms, Psalm 57 begins with a request for the Lord to show mercy. The Lord is eager to hear and answer our prayer when we come to Him with a humble heart and ask Him to show mercy to us. The Lord will show His mercy to us when we have our trust in Him. We see that the Lord is the One that will provide a refuge for us when we need refuge. The Lord will provide all of the protection that we need until all trouble is past. This is the reason why we do not need to be afraid when we cry to the Lord for mercy. We know that the Lord will hear our prayers and answer our request for mercy.

1. Read Psalm 57:1-11 and write from where the Lord will send His help to help us in our time of need.
2. Explain why the Lord is eager to show mercy to those who come to Him with a humble heart.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord says that He will be a refuge to you when you need a refuge.

The Lord hears our prayers and is ready to send all of the help that we need. He will save us from the evil words of those that might try to destroy us. There are two reasons why we know that God will supply the help that we need. First, we see that the Lord deals with us according to His mercy. Second, we see that God deals with us according to His truth. When our trust is in the Lord, we will be protected even though the people around us are like a group of lions. We do not need to be afraid even when the tongues of such people are like sharp swords. We can turn those words over to the Lord and let Him judge them instead of trying to judge ourselves. Then the Lord will give us peace and He will judge them according to His time and plan.

4. Read Psalm 57:1-11 and write how the Lord should be exalted.
5. Explain why it is important to know that God deals with us according to His truth.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord is very concerned to encourage you when others try to destroy you with evil words.

God is so great that we should exalt and praise His name. His glory is greater than the glory of anything that is upon the earth. The enemy may try to destroy us by preparing a trap or placing a snare to catch us. However, such people will be captured by their own traps because the Lord is with us. That is one of the reasons why we should fix our hearts on the Lord and seek to do His will. Then we will be singing and giving praise to the Lord for the way that He works to answer our prayers. The Lord will use our songs of praise to accomplish His purpose in the

lives of others.

7. Read Psalm 57:1-11 and write where we should be singing to the Lord.

8. Explain why even though people may try various things to destroy us that we can fix our hearts on the Lord and seek to do His will.

9. Explain why you think that it is important to exalt and praise the name of the Lord and give glory to Him.

Many times we are thankful to the Lord for what He has done in our lives. However, we keep our thanks to ourselves. Here we see that we should express our praise and sing to the Lord among the peoples and the nations of the world. In this way other people can realize that the Lord is great and His works are powerful. The fact that Christ is the One that shows mercy and speaks truth should be known by all of the peoples of the world. It should be our desire to exalt the Lord and give all glory to Him so that the people around us will realize that they need to place their trust in the Lord.

10. Read Psalm 57:1-11 and write where David said that He would praise the Lord and sing to Him.

11. Explain what this Psalm teaches about the fact that we should praise and exalt the Lord for what He had done.

12. Explain why you think that it is important to help other people understand that the Lord is great and His works are powerful.

Today we live in a world in which many leaders and judges use their positions to do evil. This is not something that has just begun to happen recently. Instead it is something that has happened ever since the fall of man because of the sinful condition of mankind. This was a real problem at the time when Psalm 58 was written. Men in that day were not speaking righteousness or judging in the right way. Instead they were planning evil in their hearts. They were using their hands to destroy and do violence. Then began thinking of evil and doing it almost as soon as they were born. As soon as they could talk, they began to speak lies.

13. Read Psalm 58:1-11 and write what the poison of these people was like as they spoke evil words and carried out evil actions.

14. Explain why it is important to realize that there have always been many leaders and judges that use their positions in a wrong way.

15. Explain why you think that God allows evil leaders to continue to lead others for a period of time.

The snake was used by Satan to deceive Eve in the Garden of Eden. The tongue of an evil person is like the snake because the evil person uses his or her tongue to destroy. Such people do not listen to what is right. Instead they make their evil plans and then carry them out. As a result, the writer of this Psalm asked God to judge these sinful people. He used a young lion with which to compare the judgment of evil men. When a young lion has had his teeth broken, his total strength is weakened. He is not able to destroy with as much power as he once did. This was the reason why the writer made the comparison with the young lion.

16. Read Psalm 58:1-11 and write how the writer asked God to make these people melt away.

17. Explain why David asked the Lord to break the teeth of evil men so that their strength would be weakened.

18. Explain why you think that it was important for David to pray and ask the Lord to judge evil leaders instead of trying to judge them himself.

Here we see that God was asked to judge these evil men. The writer asked the Lord to take such people away. The writer asked that they would be destroyed like an unborn child when a woman has a miscarriage. Those who are right with the Lord will rejoice as they see the way that sin is judged. This is another reminder of the fact that we are not to take judgment into our own hands. The Lord is the One that is the Righteous Judge. He will judge those who are evil

in His time. At the same time the Lord will reward all of those who are righteous.

19. Read Psalm 58:1-11 and write what David said the righteous would be able to do when the Lord brought judgment on those who were evil.

20. Explain why it is right for the Lord to judge sinners for their sin and not to let them go unpunished.

21. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord promises that He will reward all of those that practice righteousness.

Psalm 59 is another Psalm that was written by David at the time when he was fleeing from his enemies. As a result, it is a picture of the dependence that we must have on the Lord. David asked the Lord to deliver him from his enemies that were rising up against him. These were evil men that had come to kill David. Since this Psalm was probably written at the time that Saul sent men to the house of David to kill him, David knew that there were men outside his house at that very moment that were waiting to kill him. We know from the study of I Samuel that Saul sent them to kill David because of the envy of Saul and not because of any sin in the life of David.

22. Read Psalm 59:1-17 and write who David asked to awake and protect him.

23. Explain why David was confident that the Lord would deliver him from his enemies because He knew that he was right with the Lord.

24. Explain why you think that it is even more important to make sure that we are right with the Lord than it is to see Him judge the wicked.

David wanted the Lord to take action quickly and judge these men that were rising up against him. David asked the Lord to awake to judgment. By this he meant that he wanted God to take action quickly and it is not an indication that he thought that God was sleeping. Many times we are also in a hurry to see God judge instead of waiting patiently for Him to judge in His time. David said that these men that were rising up against him were like the dogs that go around the city barking. They were boasting about what they would do. They were carrying their swords with them so that they could do their destructive work.

25. Read Psalm 59:1-17 and write what the Lord does when He sees people like these men boasting about the things that they are going to do.

26. Explain why it is important to let the Lord judge people in His time and according to His plan instead of wanting God to take action quickly.

27. Explain why you think that many evil people are quick to boast about the things that they are going to do to others.

People boast about all of the things that they are going to do. However, they do not realize that God is the One that controls their lives. The Lord laughs as He sees men boasting about the things that they say that they can do. This was the reason why David was looking to the Lord for defense and protection. David knew that God would meet his need. He also knew that God was able to judge his enemies so that there was no need for him to try to judge them. He asked the Lord to scatter his enemies rather than destroy them so that the people of the nations would be reminded of the power of the Lord by the way that he scattered these enemies.

28. Read Psalm 59:1-17 and write why David said that He would sing to the Lord.

29. Explain why people that follow their own evil ways fail to realize that the Lord has control over all things.

30. Explain why you think that people show that they have forgotten that the Lord is in control when they boast about the things that they are going to do.

We see that the sin of the enemies of David was pride. They were boasting about all of the things that they were going to do to David. They were cursing and lying as they spoke. As a result, they will one day be judged by the Lord because He is the One that rules all of the nations throughout the earth. These enemies would continue to wander from place to place but they would never be satisfied. However, David said that he would sing of the power and the

mercy of the Lord because the Lord had been his protection in the time of trouble. This is one of the many reasons why we should also sing to the Lord.

31. Read Psalm 59:1-17 and write what God is in addition to being our defense and source of mercy.

32. Explain why other passages tell us that pride is one of the sins that the Lord hates.

33. Explain why you think that people that are doing evil can never be satisfied regardless of how much evil they do.

The Lord is the One that is in control of the nations when they fight against one another. He is the One that gives victory to one nation while defeating another. Psalm 60 is a prayer for victory over the enemy. The Lord had allowed His people to be defeated because of sin in their lives. Now the writer of this Psalm asked God to turn and show kindness to the nation again. God is the One that has the power to cause an earthquake. He is also the One that is able to bring healing. God will give a banner of blessing to those who trust and fear Him.

34. Read Psalm 60:1-12 and write what God had shown His people.

35. Explain why the Lord realized that it was necessary to allow His own people to be defeated in order to get them to deal with the sin in their lives.

36. Explain why you think that God is eager to show kindness again to His people when they repent of their sins.

God is able to show His people great things that are far beyond the imagination of any person. He will deliver the nation that He has chosen. He will hear the prayer of His people and save them with His right hand. God is the One that is holy and without sin. When He speaks, He speaks with holiness. Because God speaks with holiness, we can rejoice and be glad. We know that the words that the Lord speaks with always be true. God is also the One that is in control of all of the cities and nations of the earth. He uses these cities and nations to complete His purposes on this earth.

37. Read Psalm 60:1-12 and write what the Lord is to those that fear Him.

38. Explain why we know that God is in control of all of the cities, peoples and nations of the earth.

39. Explain why you think that it is possible for God to show His people such great things that they are even beyond the imagination of any person.

Since the Lord is the One that is in control of all of the nations, the people of Israel could trust in the Lord to lead them into the land of Edom and expect the Lord to give them victory over the army of Edom. Just as the Lord had brought defeat to the nation of Israel when the people had failed to trust in Him, the Lord could now give victory because of the fact that the people now had their trust in the Lord. The writer realized that the people must trust the Lord to help them because they could not depend on men to help them. However, by trusting in God they would win a great victory.

40. Read Psalm 60:1-12 and write what the writer said that God would do the enemies.

41. Explain why the people of Israel could trust the Lord to give them victory as they went into battle.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to help people realize that they need to trust the Lord for every difficult situation that they face.

Now reread Psalm 57:1-60:12 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 16
Psalm 61:1-64:10

Today we will be studying several more Psalms that were written by David. These Psalms talk about the protection that the Lord provides to those who place their trust in Him. Wherever we are, we can cry to the Lord when we need shelter and protection. We know that the Lord will hear us as we wait on Him for protection and defense. However, we should not just seek the Lord when we are in trouble. Instead we should thirst for the Lord throughout the day. Then we know that He will protect us from whatever dangers may come into our lives.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the Lord is like a shelter to us.
- Explain why we should wait on the Lord.
- Explain why we should thirst for the Lord.
- Explain what you learn about the protection of the Lord.

David began Psalm 61 with a cry to the Lord to hear his prayer. We see that we can also pray to the Lord from wherever we are and the Lord will also hear us. God is able to hear our prayer from any place because of the fact that He is present everywhere. This is the reason why we can have complete confidence that the Lord will hear our prayers and will answer them according to His will. Many times we do not know what to do in various situations that we face. However, we can always pray to the Lord and ask Him to show us what to do. He will lead us to the Rock that is much higher than we are. From the New Testament we know that this great rock is Christ.

1. Read Psalm 61:1-8 and write what the Lord had been for David.
2. Explain why Christ is the One that is called the great Rock both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament
3. Explain why you think that you can have complete confidence that the Lord will hear your prayer and answer it according to His will.

The Lord is the One that is a shelter for us just as He was a shelter for David. He is like a strong tower that provides us with protection from the enemy. Because the Lord is our shelter and our protection as well as our foundation, we do not need to be afraid. Instead we can look forward to the fact that we will live in the presence of the Lord forever. As long as we are in the presence of the Lord, we are always sheltered by Him. The Lord is the One that has heard the promises that we have made to Him. He is the One that has given us a place among those who trust in the Lord.

4. Read Psalm 61:1-8 and write what David said that the Lord would do for the life of the king.
5. Explain why every Christian can be thankful that the Lord is both our shelter and also our protection.
6. Explain why you think that is important for you to be in fellowship with the Lord so that you know that you are sheltered by Him.

David knew that the Lord would bless him in his life because he had his trust in the Lord. As the king of Israel, David knew that the Lord would give him a long life. However, his thoughts were not limited just to life on this earth. David looked forward to the fact that he would live in the presence of the Lord for all eternity. He knew that he would experience the mercy and truth that the Lord showers on all those who have their trust in Him. This is just another reason why we should sing praises to the Lord. We can look forward to the fact that we will have the opportunity to praise the Lord forever. At the same time we should serve the Lord here on earth

day by day.

7. Read Psalm 61:1-8 and write how often David said that he would perform his vows to the Lord.

8. Explain why David could look forward to the fact that he would live in the presence of the Lord for all eternity.

9. Explain why you know that the Lord will cause you to experience His mercy and grow in His truth as you trust in Him.

Psalm 62 gives us a picture of the trust that we should have in the Lord. We need to depend on the Lord and wait on Him with confidence because of the fact that He is the One that provided our salvation. He is the Rock that is the foundation upon which our salvation is based. Because Christ cannot be moved, we cannot be moved either when Christ is our foundation. As we trust in the Lord, we know that He will give us His strength to stand firm. When others think of doing evil to us, they are the ones that will be destroyed because they do not have Christ as their foundation.

10. Read Psalm 62:1-12 and write to what kind of a fence the Lord compares such people.

11. Explain why we do not need to worry about the foundation of our salvation being moved since the Lord is that foundation.

12. Explain why you think that it is important to help each Christian grow in his or her understanding of the fact that Christ is their foundation.

Those who do not trust in the Lord are like a fence that is ready to fall. Such a fence will quickly be destroyed when the first strong wind blows against it. The people that do not have their trust in the Lord try to destroy the Lord without realizing that they are the ones that will fall. Such people speak lies. They say one thing while they actually believe the opposite. However, regardless of the people that are around us, we need to have our trust in the Lord. We need to wait on the Lord because He is the Rock of our salvation. He is the One that provides our defense so that nothing can move us.

13. Read Psalm 62:1-12 and write how long we should trust in the Lord since He is our salvation.

14. Explain why those who do evil and speak lies think that they will not be destroyed by the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that there are many people that speak one thing and do just the opposite.

Because the Lord is our salvation, we know that we can trust in Him at all times. We also realize that He is the One that deserves to receive all glory. Our praise should be to the Lord because He is our strength and our refuge. As a result, we know that we can have our trust in the Lord at all times and He will not fail us. We can bring our prayer requests to the Lord and express our real feelings to Him because He already knows how we feel. In fact if we do not express our real feelings to the Lord we are not being truthful because He knows that we are not expressing our true feelings as we pray to Him. God knows our inner man whether or not those around us know. He knows what we really are whether we try to appear high or low.

16. Read Psalm 62:1-12 and write what God warns men not to trust.

17. Explain why it is important for all Christians to realize that they can express their true feelings to the Lord because He already knows what they are feeling.

18. Explain why you think that it is important to know that the Lord knows what is going on in your inner man regardless of whether anyone else knows or not.

When any person is measured by the Lord, that person will always come short because of sin. For this reason people are warned not to trust in anything that will cause them to come short of the glory of the Lord. People that are not trusting in the Lord think that they can gain the things that they want by oppression and robbery. They are depending on riches for their success.

However, the Lord warns us that we are not to put our trust in any of these things. God has spoken and we need to realize that all power belongs to the Lord. Whatever the Lord has spoken will certainly happen. He is also the One that shows mercy to all those who place their trust in Him.

19. Read Psalm 62:1-12 and write how the Lord will judge every person at the final judgment.
20. Explain why we can be certain that we will not be moved when we are depending on the Lord for our strength.
21. Explain why you think that the Lord warns you not to place your trust in the riches of this world.

As we come to Psalm 63, we see the longing of the writer to enjoy the fellowship of the Lord. Because of his longing to enjoy this fellowship with the Lord, he said that he would seek the Lord early. Here we have an example for our own lives. If we truly love the Lord, we will also long to enjoy fellowship with the Lord. This will affect our thoughts throughout the day. When we sin, we will want to quickly confess that sin to the Lord so that we are back in fellowship with the Lord again. When we know what fellowship with the Lord is like, it is like being in a dry desert where there is not water to satisfy our thirst when we are out of fellowship with Him.

22. Read Psalm 63:1-11 and write what the writer longed to see in the spiritual desert where he was at that time.
23. Explain why the Lord says that those who are not enjoying fellowship with the Lord are like people in a dry desert where there is no water.
24. Explain why you think that is important in your own life to long to enjoy the fellowship of the Lord.

The writer of this Psalm had seen the power and the glory of the Lord when he had been near the tabernacle where God met man during the times of the Old Testament. Now he was far from the tabernacle and out in the desert. He was not seeing this same power in the desert. This was the reason why he wanted the Lord to show His loving-kindness in the desert as well as at the tabernacle. He realized that the loving-kindness of the Lord is better than life itself. He knew that close fellowship with the Lord would fill his mouth with praise to the Lord. He would bless and praise the Lord as long as he lived. The writer realized that he could enjoy true fellowship with the Lord even when he was out in the middle of a desert if he was walking with the Lord.

25. Read Psalm 63:1-11 and write what the writer said that he would do in the night watches.
26. Explain why it is important to realize that we can enjoy true fellowship with the Lord at all times regardless of where we are in the world.
27. Explain why you think that it is important for you to personally grow in your understanding of the loving-kindness of the Lord.

Here we have the key to true fellowship with the Lord. We need to meditate on the Lord and His Word day and night. To meditate means to think about the Word of the Lord and how the Word applies to us personally. As we meditate on the Word of God, that Word brings peace and joy to our lives. It causes us to be filled with joy and praise to the Lord. As we think about the Word of God, we are reminded of all of the ways that the Lord has helped us. We can rejoice because of the protection that the Lord has provided to us in our lives.

28. Read Psalm 63:1-11 and write where the writer said that those who wanted to destroy him would go.
29. Explain why it is important for each Christian to learn to meditate on the Word of God and learn to apply the Word of God to his or her own life.
30. Explain why you think that it is important to take time to meditate on the Word of God if you want to experience peace and joy in your life.

When we are walking in fellowship with the Lord, we see another thing that happens to us in our lives. We want to follow close behind the Lord so that we can continue to be in close fellowship with the Lord. Then when we come to the rough places where we are tempted to sin, the Lord is right there to hold us up with His hand and give us victory over temptation. Those people that are seeking to destroy us will be judged instead. Such people will be destroyed. Since we do not need to worry about such people, we can rejoice in the Lord.

31. Read Psalm 63:1-11 and write what will happen to the mouth of the person that speaks lies.

32. Explain why it is important for all Christians to ask the Lord to hold us up when we are tempted to sin.

33. Explain why you think it is important to know that the Lord will give you a way to escape when you are tempted by Satan to sin.

Psalm 64 is another request for help from the Lord. Many times we are afraid to bring all of our requests to the Lord. We have the attitude that we hate to bother the Lord with requests that might seem small or unimportant. However, the Lord wants us to bring all of our requests to Him. In this Psalm, the writer asked the Lord to protect him from the fear of the enemy. When our trust is in Christ, we realize that we do not need to be fearful or afraid. We know that Christ will protect us from the secret plans of the enemy. People may make their plans to destroy us with their words. They even speak bitter words in their efforts to destroy us.

34. Read Psalm 64:1-10 and write what such people try to shoot at in secret.

35. Explain why it is important to bring all of our requests to the Lord even when they seem small or unimportant.

36. Explain why it is important in your own life to ask the Lord to protect you from fear of any enemy.

We see that evil men want to destroy those who are right with the Lord. The devil already knows that he controls those who hate the Lord. However, he is afraid of the message of those that are right with the Lord because he is afraid that they will cause others to begin to follow Christ. For this reason the devil encourages those who follow evil to destroy those who are right with God. Here we are reminded that the Lord protects His own children. Evil men may talk together to encourage themselves to carry out their evil plans. They think that no one will see them as they make their plans to do evil. They forget that the Lord knows all things.

37. Read Psalm 64:1-10 and write what the Lord will do when He responds to such people with suddenness.

38. Explain why Satan encourages those who follow him to try and destroy those people that are right with God.

39. Explain why you think that evil men will not succeed as they try to carry out their evil plans against those who trust in the Lord.

We also see the reason why evil men are unable to carry out their plans to destroy those who are right with the Lord. God is the One that is in control of all things and He judges such individuals. Such people fall by the words of their own tongues. As a result those who are following them are forced to flee to try to escape. Then the people that are controlled by evil are filled with fear as they see the works of the Lord. This encourages those who trust in the Lord to continue to speak about the works of the Lord. In this way the Lord leads other people to consider the way that the Lord is working regardless of what evil people try to do.

40. Read Psalm 64:1-10 and write what the righteous do when they see the way that the Lord wants them to go.

41. Explain why evil people are often destroyed by their own words.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord will speak through your words as you continue to speak about the works of the Lord.

Now reread Psalm 61:1-64:10 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned

from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 17
Psalm 65:1-68:35

Today in our study we will be studying one of the chapters that emphasizes the fact that everyone on the earth needs to hear about the salvation that the Lord provides. We will see that this chapter has more to say about the need of the nations for salvation than almost any other chapter in the Bible. In this Psalm we will see the concern of the Lord for the nations to hear about the Lord. We will see that it is the desire of the Lord that people of all nations would praise Him because they have placed their trust in Him. We see that if the nations will place their trust in the Lord that they will be filled with gladness and joy by the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the Lord has provided for the needs of mankind.
- Explain why we should praise the Lord for His many blessings.
- Explain what you learn about the desire of the Lord for the nations.
- Tell about the song of joy that we will study.

In our last lesson we saw that it is important to bring our requests for help to the Lord. This focuses on our need for prayer. In Psalm 65 we see that it is important to praise and thank the Lord when He answers our requests. We see several reasons why we should give praise to the Lord for the favor that He has shown to us. We should praise the Lord for the fact that He forgives our sins and makes us clean in His sight. We also see that He hears and answers our prayers. In addition, we are encouraged to praise the Lord because of the fact that He showers His blessings on us. The Lord satisfies us and meets our needs because of His goodness.

1. Read Psalm 65:1-13 and write how the Lord answers us when we pray.
2. Explain why it is important for every Christian to learn to give praise and thanks to the Lord for the way that He answers our prayers.
3. Explain why you think that many people forget to thank the Lord when He has answered their prayers.

In addition to praising the Lord for the way that He blesses us in our lives, we should also praise Him for His power. He is the One that has all power over both the earth and the sea. By His strength, He placed the mountains where they are and now holds them fast. The Lord is the One that can make the ocean either quiet or noisy because of His power and control over the sea. People in every part of the world are filled with fear as they see the Lord demonstrate His power over the earth. For those of us who have our trust in the Lord, we should rejoice as we see the power of the Lord demonstrated both in the morning and the evening.

4. Read Psalm 65:1-13 and write what the Lord visits.
5. Explain why Christians should praise the Lord for the fact that He shows His power through His creation.
6. Explain why you are able to be filled with joy as you see the Lord show His power in His creation.

Here we see that we are encouraged to praise the Lord for the way that He blesses the earth. God is the One that sends the rain to water the earth. Then the Lord provides the grain and causes the grain to grow. He supplies everything that is needed at the right time so that the crops spring up from the ground. God showers His blessings and goodness upon the fields of the earth. He even waters the pastures in the wilderness so that they can produce the needed grass for the animals. The pastures on the hills are covered with flocks that eat the grass while the valleys are filled with grain. God cares for every part of His creation.

7. Read Psalm 65:1-13 and write how the creation of the Lord responds to the Lord for what He has done.
8. Explain why it is important for Christians to thank and praise the Lord for His great works on the earth.
9. Explain why you think that God shows His great concern for the animals by the way that He causes food to grow for them.

Psalm 66 is another Psalm of praise to the Lord. In this Psalm we see that all nations are encouraged to give praise to the Lord. We need to sing and give honor to the name of the Lord. Our praise to Him should be glorious. We are amazed as we see the works of the Lord. The greatness of the power of the Lord causes even the enemies of the Lord to submit to Him. This is the reason why the entire earth should worship the Lord and sing praises to Him. We are invited to come and review all of the works of the Lord. We will see that His works are very great. One example of this greatness can be seen as we see what the Lord did with the Red Sea.

10. Read Psalm 66:1-20 and write what God caused the sea to become.
11. Explain why it is the desire of the Lord for all nations to be encouraged to give praise to the Lord.
12. Explain why you think that God wants us to enjoy seeing His greatness even in His creation.

In this Psalm we are reminded of one of the great events in the history of the nation of Israel. God caused the waters of the Red Sea to become dry so that the people of Israel were able to cross the Red Sea on dry ground. God rules His creation by His power. His rule will last forever and it will be extended over all of the nations. Because of the great power of the Lord, we should offer our praises and blessing to the Lord. God is the One that has the power over life and death. He uses this power to hold us firmly so that we are not moved by the things that happen around us. The Lord is the One that has tested and tried us.

13. Read Psalm 66:1-20 and write to what our testing is compared.
14. Explain why a careful study of the creation of the Lord should cause every Christian to have a desire to praise God for what He created.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to show His great power by making a path for Israel to pass through the Red Sea.

Silver is tried by the fire to burn out all of the impurities that are in the silver. In the same way the Lord allows testing in our lives to help us grow stronger as He works through that testing to remove sin from our lives. Such suffering is good for us because it causes us to depend on the Lord rather than trusting in ourselves. At the end of this suffering, the Lord brings us out into a place of blessing. Since the Lord does bless us in our lives, our desire should be to serve the Lord with our lives. During his time of suffering, the writer of this Psalm had made certain promises to the Lord. Now he said that he would carry out those promises.

16. Read Psalm 66:1-20 and write what all those who fear the Lord are invited to do.
17. Explain why suffering is often used by the Lord to help us grow stronger in our spiritual lives.
18. Explain why you think that the Lord allows testing in your life both to help you grow stronger and also to remove sin from your life.

As Christians we should also want to hear what the Lord has done and then tell others about His works. The Lord has done many great things in our lives that fill our hearts with rejoicing. We have cried to the Lord and He has answered our prayers. At the same time we need to realize that the Lord will not answer our prayers if we allow sin to remain in our lives. However, we know that He has heard our prayers and will answer them if we have confessed our sins to Him. The Lord will not turn away when we bring our prayers to Him.

19. Read Psalm 66:1-20 and write the one thing that this Psalm says will cause the Lord not to hear us.

20. Explain why it is important in our lives to fulfill any promises that we have made to the Lord just as David fulfilled the promises that he had made to the Lord.

21. Explain why you think that it is important in your life to confess any sin as soon as you realize that you have sinned.

Psalm 67 has been called the missionary Psalm because of its emphasis of the concern of the Lord for the nations. As we begin this Psalm, we see that it begins with a request to the Lord to show mercy. Because we are all sinners, God is the only One that can show the kind of mercy that we need for salvation. He is the One that blesses us. At the same times the Lord is able to act in love toward us when He looks at us because of the fact that Christ has paid the penalty for our sins with His blood. Now the desire of the Lord is for the message of salvation that has changed our lives to be made known throughout the earth so that all have the opportunity to believe.

22. Read Psalm 67:1-7 and write what should be known among all of the nations of the earth.

23. Explain what this Psalm teaches about the concern of the Lord for the nations.

24. Explain why you think that the God is able to act in love toward you because of the fact that Christ paid the penalty for your sins.

When the message of the death and resurrection of Christ is made known to the nations, it is a message of life and health. It is the desire of the Lord that all of the people of all of the nations would have the opportunity to hear this message. Then the various groups of people throughout the earth will have a reason to give praise to the Lord because their lives have been changed. This is a message that brings gladness and causes those who trust in Christ to sing for joy. The Lord is the One that is the Righteous Judge. He is the One that rules over all of the nations of the earth.

25. Read Psalm 67:1-7 and write how many people the Lord desires to praise Him.

26. Explain why the message of the death and resurrection of Christ is a message of life and health.

27. Explain why you think that the Lord gives you the opportunity to be part of those that He has chosen to share the message of Christ with the nations.

The only way that all of the people of the earth could praise the Lord would be if everyone on the earth placed their trust in Christ. This could only happen if every single person had heard and clearly understood the message of salvation. Here we see the reason why the Lord has given us the opportunity to take the Gospel to every person on the earth. God promises to bless all those who place their trust in Him. In fact the Lord will one day bring blessing to the entire earth during the time when Christ rules over the earth. In that day all of the people of the earth will fear the Lord.

28. Read Psalm 67:1-7 and write what the Lord says will happen on the earth when all of the nations praise the Lord.

29. Explain what these verses teach us about our responsibility to take the Gospel to the entire earth.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord promises to bring blessing to the entire earth during the time when Christ rules on the earth.

Psalm 68 is a Psalm of praise to the Lord because of the fact that He is the One that is the ruler of His people. When God takes the leadership, we see that the enemies are immediately scattered. Those who hate the Lord are forced to flee. They are driven away like smoke and melt like wax in a fire. However, the righteous are able to rejoice in the Lord and sing praises to His name. The Lord is a father to the fatherless and a protector of the widows. The Lord is the One that includes the lonely in His family and frees those who are bound in the chains of sin. God is the One that marched ahead of His people as they went through the wilderness.

31. Read Psalm 68:1-35 and write what happened to the earth when God showed His presence

in the wilderness.

32. Explain what this Psalm means when it says that the Lord is a father to the fatherless and a protector of the widows.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord frees those who are bound in the chains of sin and gives them liberty.

When the Lord appeared to the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai, there was a great earthquake. God later sent the rain to water the land that He had given to His people. He showed His kindness to the poor. When the Lord gave His Word to the nation of Israel, there were many people that shared His Word with others. The nations that fought against the people of God were forced to flee because of the presence of the Lord with His people. God was the One that gave the land of Israel to His people because He had chosen that land for them. Verse 18 is quoted in Ephesians 4 to tell of the ministry of Christ for His people right now as He is in heaven.

34. Read Psalm 68:1-35 and write what Christ did when He ascended on high.

35. Explain why the Lord also wants all Christians to show kindness to the poor just as He shows kindness to the poor.

36. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to look for opportunities to show kindness to the poor.

When Christ rose from the dead, He led the souls and spirits of all those who were in paradise into His presence in heaven. Now He continues to shower us with His blessings each day. He is the One that provides salvation to all those who place their trust in Him. We also see the ministry of Christ to the nation of Israel in the future. The Lord will destroy all of the enemies of the nation of Israel. Then He will regather His people from all of the nations where they have been scattered. At that time Christ will be the One that rules Israel as well as the entire earth.

37. Read Psalm 68:1-35 and write what we are told to ascribe to God.

38. Explain why the Lord promises to regather the nation of Israel in the future from all of the nations where they have been scattered.

39. Explain why you think that the Lord has not forgotten His promises to the nation of Israel even though most of the people of Israel have not served Him.

When Christ rules over His people, they will all be joined into one nation again. Then they will all join in singing their praises together. God will also strengthen His people at that time. The people of the other nations will bring their presents to the Lord at the temple in Jerusalem. The people of the nations will look to Christ for leadership. They will sing praises to the Lord. The people will do this because they will realize that the Lord is the One that has all strength. The Lord will demonstrate His strength in many ways.

40. Read Psalm 68:1-35 and write what God will give to His people in the nation of Israel.

41. Explain why there will come a time in the future when the people of the nations will want to bring presents to the Lord at Jerusalem.

42. Explain why you think that there will come a time when the people of all of the nations will look to the Lord for leadership.

Now reread Psalm 65:1-68:35 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Psalms
Lesson 18
Psalm 69:1-72:20

Today we will be studying the final four Psalms is the second section or book of Psalms. In this lesson we will be studying about the kingdom of Christ. This kingdom is mentioned many times throughout the Bible. In our study today we will see how the kingdom of Solomon gives us a picture of that greater kingdom when Christ will rule over the entire earth. Although the kingdom of Solomon was great, the kingdom when Christ rules will be much greater. Many times in the Scriptures we see that the Lord gives us a picture of a future event by using the events of that time to give us a little picture of a much greater future.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how Psalm 69 gives us many pictures of Christ.
- Explain what Psalm 70 teaches about the poor and the needy.
- Explain what we learn about old age.
- Explain what you learn about the future kingdom of Christ.

Psalm 69 is a Psalm that tells us about the sufferings of the writer of this Psalm. However, this Psalm gives us a greater picture of the sufferings of Christ. God is the One that must provide salvation in the time of suffering. He is the One that is able to rescue us when we have no foundation upon which to stand. The Lord shows His love to us when it seems like we are going to be washed away by the flood of problems that surround us. In our sorrow we must cry to the Lord if we want help. We see that when Christ was put to death that men hated Him even though they had no cause to hate Him. At the same time we also see that God knows all about our sins and we cannot hide those sins from the Lord.

1. Read Psalm 69:1-36 and write why Christ suffered shame and reproach.
2. Explain why it is important for every person to understand that God knows all about their sins and no one can hide them from God.
3. Explain why you think that it is important to you in your own life to know that Christ also knows all of your suffering and is ready to help when you cry to Him.

Christ was willing to suffer shame and reproach because of His love for the Father as well as His love for each one of us. He was rejected by His own people and even His own disciples fled when Christ was arrested. The love of Christ for the Father caused Christ to cleanse the temple at Jerusalem as He saw the way that the people had polluted the temple. Christ was filled with sorrow as death approached and the Father turned His back on Christ as Christ bore our sins on the cross. Meanwhile those who gathered around the cross of Christ mocked Him and made fun of Him.

4. Read Psalm 69:1-36 and write to whom we should pray when we are faced with similar opposition from the people around us.
5. Explain why the fact that Christ was willing to suffer shame and reproach because of His love for the Father and for us is important for each person to understand.
6. Explain why you think that the greatest suffering of all that Christ suffered was when the Father had to turn His back on Christ as Christ bore our sins on the cross.

When we pray to the Lord, He will deliver us from the flood of opposition that comes from those who hate us. God will keep this opposition from destroying us. The Lord will hear our prayer because of His loving-kindness and tender mercy. He will not hide His face from us when we bring our prayer to Him. The Lord will draw near to us and deliver us from all of our enemies. He will do this because He knows all that evil men plan to do to us. We will not need to suffer in the same way that Christ suffered because Christ suffered for us in our place and for

our sin.

7. Read Psalm 69:1-36 and write what happened to Christ when He looked for pity and comfort.

8. Explain why the Lord will draw near to us and walk with us through the times when we are suffering from those who oppose Christ.

9. Explain why you are thankful that because of His loving-kindness and tender mercy that Christ will hear your prayer any time that you cry to Him.

When Christ was arrested, all of His disciples forsook Him and fled. He was left to suffer on the cross alone. As Christ hung on the cross, they gave Him vinegar mixed with wine when He said that He was thirsty. We can see that the Lord led the writer of this Psalm to describe the sufferings of Christ even though David was also describing his own sufferings. His suffering pictured the much greater suffering that Christ would later experience. The day will come when God will judge all of those who are evil and have rejected Christ. When the Lord brings that judgment, people will be trapped by their own evil. Their eyes will be darkened. They will be filled with fear. In that day people will experience the wrath of God against sin. They will be judged because of their sin and refusal to repent and place their faith in Christ.

10. Read Psalm 69:1-36 and write what this Psalm says was given to Christ when He said “I thirst” on the cross.

11. Explain what you learn about the death of Christ from this Psalm.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord allowed David to go through great suffering so that He could write what the suffering of Christ would be like.

Those who reject the life that Christ offers through His death and resurrection will be destroyed and will not have their names written in the book of life. Because we know the power of the Lord, we can sing praises to the Lord in the middle of any trouble. Those who seek the Lord will live and their hearts will be filled with gladness. The Lord hears the poor and does not forget them. As a result, even the heavens and the earth praise the Lord. The Lord will save the nation that He has chosen and will cause the cities of that nation to be rebuilt.

13. Read Psalm 69:1-36 and write who will inherit the land and dwell in it.

14. Explain why Christ gives people the freedom to accept or reject the eternal life that He paid for by His death and resurrection.

15. Explain why you think that the Lord makes it possible for us to sing praises to Him even in the middle of any trouble.

Psalm 70 could be called the Psalm of request for help in a hurry. Many times we are faced with problems where we need immediate help. This was the problem that the writer of this Psalm faced. This was the reason why he asked God to help him in a hurry. He needed the deliverance that only God could provide. He asked the Lord to cause those who were trying to destroy him to be ashamed and confused. He asked God to turn these men around and cause them to become confused in their efforts to destroy him. Here we see that the writer knew that God was present and ready to provide immediate help. When we are faced with great problems we can do as David did and ask the Lord for immediate help.

16. Read Psalm 70:1-5 and write how the writer described himself.

17. Explain why the writer of this Psalm asked God to bring confusion to the people that were trying to destroy him.

18. Explain why you are thankful to know that the Lord is always listening to your prayers and is ready to help in a hurry when help is needed immediately.

The Lord is the One who is able to turn people around when they try to do evil to others. Their reward will be a reward of shame. At the same time, the Lord can fill those who seek Him with rejoicing and gladness. When we are filled with joy and gladness, our desire will be to magnify the name of the Lord. Even as we magnify the Lord, we will realize that we are poor and needy

and must depend on the Lord for help at all times and not just when we are in trouble. We will realize that the Lord is the One who is our help and our deliverer in a time of trouble.

19. Read Psalm 70:1-5 and write how the writer asked the Lord to reward those who were speaking against him.

20. Explain why we should pray to the Lord when we need help in a hurry.

21. Explain why you think that even in a time when you need help in a hurry that you can also magnify the name of the Lord at the same time.

Psalm 71 begins by stating that the writer has placed his trust in the Lord. In this Psalm we see that he was looking to the Lord for deliverance because he knew that the Lord is righteous. He recognized that the Lord was his safety and protection and that was why he came to the Lord continually for help. The Lord is also the One that is our foundation. He is able to deliver us out of the hands of evil men. The Lord is the One in whom we can put out trust from the time when we are very young. The Lord is the One who protects us from the moment that we are born. People are amazed when they see the way that the Lord cares for us.

22. Read Psalm 71:1-24 and write with what our mouths should be filled.

23. Explain why people are amazed when they see the way that the Lord cares for those who have placed their trust in Him.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord wants you to come to Him and ask for His help when you need safety and protection.

We should be giving praise and honor to the Lord continually for the things that he has done for us. The writer of this Psalm provided a wonderful example of such an attitude. We know that the Lord will not cast us off or forsake us in our old age. Those who hate the message that we speak may plan and plot against us. They will think that God has forsaken us so that we have no one to help us. However, we can still call to the Lord for help. He will defeat those who are against us. Then we can sing praises to the Lord continually. We can also speak of the righteousness of the Lord.

25. Read Psalm 71:1-24 and write in whose strength we should go.

26. Explain why evil people may think that God has forgotten us when we grow old but will be surprised when the Lord defeats them instead.

27. Explain why you are thankful to know that the Lord will not forget or forsake you when you grow old.

Just like the writer of this Psalm, we can go in the strength of the Lord because He is the One that teaches us. Just as we served the Lord when we were young, we can be certain that the Lord will not forsake us when we grow old. The Lord has shown great love to us because He is the One that is righteous. The Lord will give us victory over all of our troubles. He will strengthen and comfort us. As a result, our desire should be to praise the Lord and teach others about Him. We should want to teach about the Lord as long as He gives us life.

28. Read Psalm 71:1-24 and write in whose strength the writer of this Psalm said that he would go.

29. Explain why we should continue to teach others about the Lord even when we become old.

30. Explain why you know that it will be a privilege to tell others about the Lord as long as you have life.

Psalm 72 was written about King Solomon when he became the king of Israel. However, God so guided in the writing of this Psalm that the Psalm gives us a beautiful picture of the time when Christ will rule on the earth. When Christ rules on the earth, He will rule with righteousness and justice. This will be possible because Christ knows all things. He knows the inner thoughts and attitudes of men as well as their outward actions. When Christ comes to rule, there will be peace throughout the earth. Christ will judge the poor with fairness.

31. Read Psalm 83:1-20 and write what He will do for the children of the needy.

32. Explain why the time when Christ rules on the earth will be a time when the entire world is

ruled with righteousness and justice.

33. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord knows your inner thoughts and attitudes as well as sees your outward actions.

Christ will help the children that have no one to help them. He will judge and destroy those who do evil. The people that will be living during the time that Christ rules on the earth will experience the blessing of the Lord. They will see the way that the Lord blesses the earth. The crops of the fields will grow because the Lord will supply the water that is needed. During that time the righteous will also be blessed by the Lord. The entire earth will be filled with peace. Christ will rule the earth from one end of the earth to the other. The people of all nations will serve Him.

34. Read Psalm 72:1-20 and write what His enemies will do.

35. Explain why the entire earth will experience blessing when Christ is the ruler of the whole earth.

36. Explain why you think that life will be very different during the time when Christ will be ruling on the earth.

The kings of all of the nations will bring their gifts to Christ. All of these kings will fall down before Christ and worship Him. All of the nations of the earth will serve Christ. Christ will show His love and concern for the poor and needy by helping them when they cry to Him for help. As Christ shows His concern, He will protect the poor and the needy from those who might want to speak deceit or practice violence. Here we see that Christ is concerned about the needs of every individual. He does not forget ever the poorest or the neediest people.

37. Read Psalm 72:1-20 and write how long the name of the Lord will endure.

38. Explain what you learn about the time that Christ will rule on this earth from this Psalm.

39. Explain why you think that Christ often emphasizes His concern for the poor and the needy.

When Christ rules the earth, people will sing their praises to the Lord continually. There will also be blessings upon the mountains and the hills in the time when Christ rules. The name of Christ will last forever and no one will be able to destroy Him. All nations will call Christ blessed because they will be blessed through Him. This will happen because God is the One that does wondrous things. The name of the Lord will be glorious for all eternity and the whole earth will be filled with His glory.

40. Read Psalm 72:1-20 and write who wrote this Psalm of praise about the rule of Christ.

41. Explain why the people of the earth will want to sing praises continually during the time that Christ rules on the earth.

42. Explain what you think the earth will be like when the whole earth is filled with the glory of the Lord.

Now reread Psalm 69:1-72:20 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.