

The Psalms (BT80304)

DESCRIPTION

The Psalms, collectively, have been described as the national hymn-book of the Old Testament people of God, expressing every emotion of the human heart and experience. The book of Psalms also serves as a contemporary lexicon, giving us words we need to communicate with God in our worship and our day to day lives.

OBJECTIVES

This module is designed to familiarise the student with the origins, structure and literary style of the Psalms and to make the Psalms, collectively and individually, more accessible. The hope of the lecturer is that students will make much greater use of the Psalms in their personal walk with the Lord, thereby enriching and maturing their spiritual lives and worship.

As a result of the student's successful participation in this Module, s/he will:

Cognitive (<i>Head</i>)	be familiar with the background to and structure of the Psalms
Behavioural (<i>Hand</i>)	develop a deep love of and appreciation for the Psalms and for the God revealed in them
Affective (<i>Heart</i>)	be able find their way around the Psalms, recognising different genres within the Psalms; be able to apply the correct hermeneutical principles in interpreting individual Psalms; incorporate the Psalms into their personal spiritual life

TEXT BOOKS

Required	Longman, T <i>How to Read the Psalms</i> Nottingham: IVP, 1988
Recommended	Boice, J M <i>Psalms</i> (3 vol commentary) Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996 Ellsworth, R <i>Opening up Psalms</i> Leominster: Day One, 2006 Grogan, G. <i>Prayer, Praise and Prophecy</i> Tain: Christian Focus, 2001 Leupold, H C <i>Exposition of Psalms</i> Welwyn: Evangelical Press, 1974

See over for Module Schedule



SCHEDULE

Date	
4 October	Introduction and Importance
11 October	Structure and Form
18 October	Profiting from the Psalms
25 October	The God of the Psalms
<i>1 November</i>	<i>No Class</i>
8 November	The Sovereign God
15 November	The God of the Nations / The God who is to be Worshipped
22 November	Christ in the Psalms (1)
29 November	Christ in the Psalms (2)
6 December	The God who speaks

ASSIGNMENTS

There are two assignments for this module:

1. A weekly worship journal (50%)
Each week during the module, select a different Psalm, from as wide a variety as possible of the genres, and reflect and meditate on it in your personal devotions, writing down your thoughts.
2. A written exercise (50%)
Using Psalm 110 as your text, write an introduction to the Psalm, identifying the genre, form, function, language and purpose of the Psalm, using the principles taught in the early part of this module. Your written exercise should be about the length of 2 sides of A4