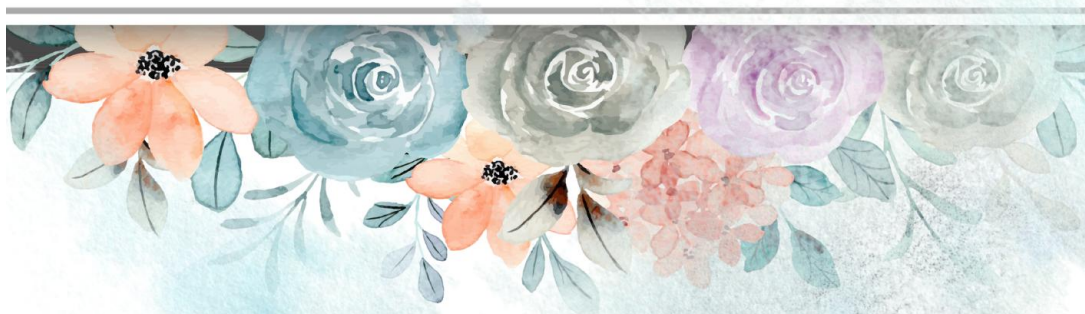


*Digging into God's Word*



# *Psalms*



*written by: Shelli Locke*

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## Digging Into the Word

I am so glad you are taking time to dig into the Word of God. What an amazing opportunity we have to grow in our understanding of God Himself and learn about the life and sacrifice of Christ. I hope you enjoy taking time to go verse by verse and chapter by chapter. I pray that you will grow in your faith and experience the love of the Savior whose biggest desire is to have a relationship with you.

## Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Bradie Peebles for designing the cover of this study. Her gifts and talents are greatly appreciated!

## Sources

For all 'Bible Notes', I used my study Bible which is the ***Holman Christian Standard Bible***. All websites used are noted within the text for additional study resources.

*God Bless!*

# Book I of Psalms: Chapters 1-41

## Book of Psalms Summary | Watch an Overview Video

Psalms is written by Israel's King David and various other authors-including Asaph, Solomon, Ethan, Moses, and the sons of Korah - who are often identified by superscriptions, titles, or headings. The psalms were written at various times throughout Israel's history. For example, Moses wrote Psalm 90 sometime near the end of Israel's wilderness wanderings, ca 1410 B.C. Psalm 126 was probably composed ca 500 B.C. during the exiles' return to Israel or, if written later by Ezra, ca 430 B.C. Most psalms, however, were written during the reigns of David (ca 1010-970 B.C.) and Solomon (ca 970-930 B.C.) Some have titles connecting the psalm with a particular historical setting (e.g., Ps 51 is identified as David's prayer for forgiveness after committing adultery with Bathsheba during his tenth-century B.C. reign). The psalms were written primarily for the people who worship the one true God. However, the wisdom and truths the psalms teach and the perspectives they model are intended to draw all peoples to acknowledge the Lord as King of the universe and to worship Him. – Bible Notes

[What is a psalm? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Why is the book of Psalms divided into five books? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Which psalms predict the coming of Jesus Christ? | GotQuestions.org](#)

### **Psalm 1: The Two Ways**

(Bible Notes- Psalms 1 and 2, the only psalms in Books I-III without an explanatory heading or title, may *together* function as an introduction to the psalter. The thematic statement that begins Ps 1 (**How happy is the man**) is recast at the end of Ps 2 (**All those who take refuge in Him are happy**), thus positioning the two statements like bookends at the beginning and end of a literary unit that “includes” everything in between. If these two psalms are supposed to be read together, then the description of the righteous man in Ps 1 applies to Yahweh's **Anointed One** and **Son** of Ps 2.)

Vs. 1-2- What a powerful message right from the start! The infamous question of mankind answered in the first two verses. What leads to happiness?

Vs. 3- When we seek the Lord's instruction and read His word intentionally to learn and grow in our knowledge and relationship with Him, how will this affect our lives?

Vs. 4-6- A life without God is quite different. What is described of those who refuse God's instruction?

Vs. 6- This is short and to the point. Jot this down:

Refusing a life lived with God's love and instruction is futile. Embrace His love and allow Him to direct your life.

### **Psalm 2: Coronation of the Son**

(Bible Notes- Psalm 2, often categorized as a royal psalm, deals with the king of Israel. Initially, the poem may have been connected with the ceremony of enthroning a new king of Israel. However, as a messianic psalm, it points prophetically to Jesus' identity as the divine King and Messiah. The New Testament explicitly attributes this psalm to the authorship of God speaking "through the Holy Spirit, by the mouth of .... David". It is quoted in reference to Christ at least four times (Ac 4:25-28; 13:33, Heb 1:5, 5:5).

Vs. 1-2- This is a common theme throughout human history. What is the issue?

Vs. 3- How do those who rebel see God's instruction and guidance?

Vs. 4-6- God is not mocked. He sees through the ridiculous complaints and insults. What does He say in verse 6?

[What is Zion? What is Mount Zion? What is the biblical meaning of Zion? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 7-9- Prophetic Scripture: [To whom does Psalm 2:7 refer with the words, "You are my son, today I have begotten you"? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 10-12- Again, the psalmist writes directions on how to live and find ultimate happiness. What is said?

Vs. 12- [What does it mean to kiss the son \(Psalm 2:12\)? | GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org)

For ultimate happiness and blessing, what is God inviting us to do?

### **Psalm 3: Confidence in Troubled Times**

(Bible Notes- Psalm 3, the first psalm with a heading or title, invites the readers to recall or consult the historical narrative recounting David's flight from his son Absalom (2Sm 15:1-19:43). As a consequence of his adultery with Bathsheba and the subsequent murder of her husband, David's life was torn apart by family problems (2Sm 12:9-12). When his son Absalom boldly attempted to usurp the throne, David fled from Jerusalem. David expresses in the psalm what the writer of 2 Samuel reported. The opposition was so severe that if God had not intervened, David would have been defeated and killed (see 2Sm 15:31-37; 16:15-17:24).

Vs. 1-2- David brings his troubles to God. What is happening?

Vs. 3- David's dependence on God is evident. Jot this down to remember:

How can we take that to heart in our daily lives as well?

Vs. 5-6- Despite having thousands of people hunting him down, how does he revere God?

Vs. 7- Wow! David has a big ask of God What does he pray?

(Bible Notes- How do readers interpret imprecatory psalms that invoke a curse or call on God to bring misfortune and disaster on one's enemies? One must keep several truths in mind in studying statements like those found in this psalm. Imprecatory psalms:

- Express human emotions, revealing that to express your feelings-even feelings that are not noble or godly-honestly to God in prayer is acceptable.
- Teach that vengeance belongs to the Lord-the psalmist did not take matters into his own hands but rather called on the Lord to act;
- Remind you that because God is righteous, the wicked-those in opposition to God-ultimately will be judged;
- Emphasize that because the Lord loves His people, He is concerned for their welfare and ultimately will act in their best interests.)

#### **Psalm 4: The Night Prayer**

Vs. 1- David's passion and earnestness are evident. What does he say of God?

He also speaks of God's help. What does he acknowledge God has done for him?

We can approach God this earnestly as well.

Vs. 2-3- David sees that men are believing lies and insulting his honor. Who does he trust to reveal truth and what does he say?

It is evident that God listens when people call to Him. Are you seeking God's help and direction? Why or why not?

Vs. 4- What does he say about dealing with anger? [What does it mean to "be angry and do not sin" \(Psalm 4:4\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 5- [Why did God require animal sacrifices in the Old Testament? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 7- What does David proclaim here?

Are you putting more faith in God or possessions to bring joy to your life?

Vs. 8- This is a wonderful verse to remember, as Scripture applies to all of us. Jot this down:

### **Psalm 5: The Refuge of the Righteous**

Vs. 1-3- David speaks so personally to God. What does he say that shows his faith and earnest belief in God?

Vs. 4-6- What cannot dwell with God?

What sins does David say the Lord hates?

Vs. 7- David knows how and why he has access to God. What does he say?

God's love for us is unfailing and provides the way for us to come to Him. It has been about Him extending love and grace to His people since the beginning. Jesus is the ultimate and final bridge to God, as His act of love and sacrifice provides the forgiveness of sins and salvation for everyone who will believe and trust Him.

Vs. 8- We can pray this prayer as David did:

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ in Your righteousness and make \_\_\_\_\_ straight before me.

Vs. 9-10- David elaborates on the actions of his enemies. Why does he want God to punish them?

(Bible Notes: Knowing he was incapable of fighting his adversaries alone, David besought the Lord for leadership. Those who opposed him were also enemies of the Lord. Therefore, he called on the Lord to punish or judge them as they deserved. He did not need to be the instrument of judgment. His desire was for God's ways to triumph, which meant the ways of the wicked led to their own ruin. The recognition of God's justice on evildoers would lead the Lord's people to "rejoice").



Vs.11-12- What does David pray for those who love God and follow Him?

### **Psalm 6: A Prayer for Mercy**

(Bible Notes- Psalm 6 is the first of seven psalms recognized by the ancient church as *penitential*, dealing particularly with the nature of sin and forgiveness. Although the psalm contains no explicit confession of sin or petition for forgiveness, the vocabulary of the opening parallel lines constituting verse 1 imply an admission of guilt. The psalmist does not beg the Lord to withhold correction and punishment but pleads with God **not to rebuke in Your anger or discipline...in Your wrath.**)

Vs. 1-3- What does David ask of God and why?

Vs. 4- We, like David, can come to the Lord in our times of need. He knew God could help. What does he say?

(Side Note: As a relationship of a child to parent, David knows he's done something that deserves punishment or discipline but asks God not to do it while angry. Yet, he is confident in God's faithful love simultaneously. God loves all of us as a Father, and yes, we need discipline just as parents discipline and love their own children.)

Vs. 5- [What is the difference between Sheol, Hades, Hell, the lake of fire, Paradise, and Abraham's bosom? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 6-7- What is depicted here?

Are you bringing your guilt to God and allowing Him to be a part of Your life, the good and the bad? Why or why not?

Vs. 8-10- His tone shifts after he brings his prayers to God. Why this renewed confidence?

What confidence! God is trustworthy!

[Does God hear my prayers? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

### **Psalm 7: Prayer for Justice**

Vs. 1-2- Wow! David has legitimate fear of his pursuers. What does he fear they will do to him?

He seeks God as his \_\_\_\_\_.

Vs. 3-5- David is very frank with God. What does he clarify as he brings this difficult situation to God?

Vs. 6-8- What is David praying God will do?

(Bible Notes- David not only called on God to judge his enemies but also appealed to the Lord to judge him, for he was confident of his own righteousness and integrity.)

Vs. 9- God knows and examines the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Vs. 10- God saves the \_\_\_\_\_.

[Does God know our thoughts? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 12-14- David describes the judgment for the wicked. How is evil described in verse 14?

Vs. 15-16- What consequences befall those who bring trouble?

(Bible Notes- David prayed that the end result of the two diverse ways of living-also depicted in Ps 1-would become evident to all observers. The righteous would be established in stability while the evil of the wicked would come to an end. Such is true because the Lord is a righteous judge, and people ultimately reap what they have sown,)

Vs. 17- Jot the down!

Praise God for seeing and knowing all that we face, whether good or bad. Be thankful that he takes care of justice, and we do not have to. We just need to remain faithful to Him. His timing may not always seem quick, but it is perfect. Cling to Him because He will abide with you.

### **Psalm 8: God's Glory Man's Dignity**

Vs. 1- Jot this first sentence down to remember:

Vs. 1-3- What does David say about God as creator?

Isn't it amazing that the Creator of the universe cares about our daily lives and loves us personally? Bask in that thought for a minute.... Wow!

Take time to pause and relish the many magnificent wonders of creation. Busy lives tend to make these go unnoticed some days. Soak it in and enjoy the beauty and wonder of the world around us.

Vs. 4- What does David ask God?

Vs. 5-8- What is David so perplexed about?

(Bible Notes- While the psalm's primary emphasis is on the excellence of God, secondary emphasis falls on the worth and dignity of men and women created in God's image. Considering God's heavens (cp. 19:1) and recognizing the Creator for setting the moon and the stars...in place (Gn 1:16-17), David marvels at the contrast between the vast wonders of creation beyond man's control and the fact that God attends to man (cp. 144: Jb 7:17; Heb 2:6).

[Why does the psalmist ask, "What is man that you are mindful of him" \(Psalm 8:4\)? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Wow! The God of all creation cherishes you, sees you, and loves you! How magnificent He is!

## **Psalm 9: Celebration of God's Justice**

Vs. 1-2- Jot these down and hang them up somewhere to remember:

Sometimes we forget to just sit in awe of God and thank Him and praise Him for who He is and all He's done. Take time to marvel today!

Vs. 3-6- David sees the Lord as the righteous \_\_\_\_\_.

Who is being judged here?

Vs. 8- How does He judge the world?

Vs. 9- What is the Lord for the oppressed?

Vs. 10- Why is God trustworthy?

God sees us, cares for us, and hears our prayers. He is a very personal, loving God!

Vs. 11-12- Like David, we should proclaim God's deeds among the nations! God sees those who persecute His people. He does not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the afflicted.

Vs. 13-14- David wants to be vindicated from his enemies, not so he can brag about his power and might, but what does he say?

He knew that only God's power would save him! Be sure and give God all the glory due Him as you move through life's ups and downs.

(Bible Notes-David prays to be rescued from the gates of death in order to celebrate the Lord's victory ***within the gates of Daughter Zion***, affectionately referring to Jerusalem, the city David had captured and made the capital of Israel (2 Sm 5:6-9).

Vs. 15-17- (Bible Notes- Declaring that the **Lord....has executed justice** on his enemies, David perceives the Lord's victory as an accomplished fact. The foolishness of inflicting harm on God's people is evident in the ways God turns the strategies of the wicked against them (cp 10:2).

The last sentence of verse 17 summarizes the problem. What had happened?

Sometimes it seems like God is slow to answer injustice or vindicate wrongs, but what does this say?

Vs. 20- Why do you think David prays for the Lord to let the nations know they are only men?

Sometimes we all need to be humbled and remember that we are the creation- not the ones in charge. We can rest in our Creator who loves us and sees us as dearly loved children.

**Psalm 10:**

Vs. 1- This is a question everyone asks at some point in their lives. What did he ask?

Is there a time you have asked this? If so, why?

Vs. 2- In this verse he expresses another common concern for all mankind. What does he say?

Vs. 3-4- The author goes into detail about the arrogance of these wicked, greedy people. What does he say is their mindset behind their actions?

Have you run across this mindset in our society today?

Vs. 5-6- The arrogance of these unbelievers is expressed here. What is their thought process?

Vs. 7- How does the author describe the way they talk?

Vs. 8-10- What kinds of evil was being perpetrated on others?

Vs. 11- The helpless people are attacked and beaten down. In their discouragement, what do they begin to think?

Have you ever felt like this, wondering if God is seeing the hardships or injustice being done to you or others? If so, what happened?

Vs. 12- The author pleads with God to \_\_\_\_\_! What does he plead with God?

Vs. 13- What is in the mind of the wicked?

The wicked may think they will get away with their evil treatment of others but rest assured! God will rescue His children!

Vs 14- What assurance do believers have?

Vs. 16-18- Great truths are written here for us to remember. First, the Lord is King \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Second, the Lord does hear the desires of the \_\_\_\_\_. He will strengthen their \_\_\_\_\_. Lastly, God will \_\_\_\_\_ carefully, bringing \_\_\_\_\_ to the fatherless and oppressed.

It may seem like God is silent or not hearing our prayers sometimes but trust His word. He does hear and see. He will take matters into His own hands. Keep trusting and resting in Him.

### **Psalm 11: Refuge in the Lord**

Vs. 1- In whom does David take refuge?

Apparently, some have given him advice. What was he told and why?

Vs. 4-5- David is confident in the Lord! What does he say?

Vs. 6- What will happen to the wicked?

Vs. 7- What is said of the righteous?

When you face adversity, what truths of God can you rest in?

### **Psalm 12: Oppression by the Wicked**

Vs. 1- The psalmist cries out to God for help. What does he say?

Vs. 2- What are the people doing?

Vs. 4- What is their mindset?

Vs. 5- God sees! What will He do?

Vs. 7- This applies as much today as it did when written. Jot this down to remember:

We are not on our own! God loves and cares for all, and we can trust Him always.

Vs. 8- Does this verse describe the current culture? If so, how?

### **Psalm 13: A Plea for Deliverance**

Vs. 1-2- Another plea to God! What is he asking and feeling?

Have you ever felt like God has forgotten you, or just had a feeling of anxiousness because He seemed so distant? If so, explain what happened.

Vs. 5-6- Despite his confusion and anxiousness, he rests on what he knows is true. God will be with him! What does he say?

Let us praise God in our confusion and anticipate His help and guidance with this kind of faith. Thank Him in advance for how He will provide. His timing is not always what we would prefer, but He is always faithful to His word.

### **Psalm 14: A Portrait of Sinners**

(Bible Notes- Psalms 14 and 53 appear substantially the same.)

Vs. 1- What does a fool say in his heart?

How common is this thought in our culture today?

Vs. 2- When the Lord looks down from heaven what is He looking for?

Vs. 3- What does He find?



[What does it mean that “there is none who does good, no not one” \(Psalm 14:3; Romans 3:12\)? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 4-7- God will rescue those who are mistreated, and punishment will come to those who refuse to acknowledge Him and persecute others.

Vs. 6- What assurance do the afflicted have?

This still applies to us. It may seem like God does not see the wrongs committed against the innocent, but He is the refuge for all who seek Him.

### **Psalm 15: A Description of the Godly**

Vs. 1- What does the psalmist ask?

(Bible Notes- The psalm deals with requirements or preparation for true worship, for experiencing fellowship with God. The Lord’s **tent** (Hb ‘ohel, “tabernacle, dwelling place, house”) and **holy mountain** refer to the designated place of worship in Jerusalem or Mount Zion (cp 2:6, 99:9; Is 56:7). Those given permission to dwell or live in His presence must avoid evil and seek good (cp 5:4). Therefore, David answers his question with both positive and negative statements.

Here the psalmist lists actions and deeds that are pleasing to God. Next to each verse below, write the example given:

Vs 2-

Vs. 3

Vs. 4

Vs. 5

How many of these examples have to do the treatment of other people?

[What is the greatest commandment? | GotQuestions.org](#)

A life spent seeking and serving God is reflected in actions towards others. How are you applying this in your life and relationships?

### **Psalm 16: Confidence in the Lord**

Vs. 1-2- Another Davidic Psalm where we see David's honest outpouring to God. What does he say here that shows his love and trust in God?

Vs. 4- What ultimately happens to those who turn from Yahweh, the only true God, and worship idols or other images or gods?

Vs. 5-6- This is a beautiful prayer for all believers. Jot this down to remember:

Vs. 7-9- Within these verses we see references to God influencing every aspect of a person's being, acting as a Counselor and Guide. How does God effect the believer's conscience?

David says, "I keep the in \_\_\_\_\_ always, because He is my right hand, I will not be shaken". He says, "My \_\_\_\_\_ is glad and my \_\_\_\_\_ rejoices, my \_\_\_\_\_ rests securely."

God wants our lives so He can have a personal relationship- mind, body, and spirit. This is the deepest kind of loving relationship. We can rest in Him.

Vs. 10- [What is the difference between Sheol, Hades, Hell, the lake of fire, Paradise, and Abraham's bosom? | GotQuestions.org](#)

“You will not allow Your Faithful One to see decay.” (Bible Notes- Because David continually focused on the Lord, David knew he could not be shaken and would not be left in Sheol, the dwelling place of the dead. The New Testament apostles realized even more was being said: Jesus, God’s Faithful One *par excellence*, would be raised miraculously from the grave (v. 10; cp. Ac 2:27; 13:35; cp. Jb 33:18-30)

Vs. 11- Life with God by our side is beautiful! It is not always easy, as David continues to express, but God is faithful. What does he express here, which we, too, can do?

### **Psalm 17: A Prayer for Protection**

(Bible Notes- This psalm is the first in the book to be identified as a prayer. David petitioned God in language echoing that of the songs of Moses celebrating Israel’s deliverance from Egypt and preparing for their entrance into the promised land (Ex 15:11-13; Dt 32: 1-43)

Vs. 1-5- David pleads with the Lord to listen to his prayer. He then proceeds to tell how he is checking himself before the Lord. List at least five things he mentions to the Lord:

Why does David approach God with this list of things he’s done or tried to avoid?

Vs. 6-8- What a powerful prayer! David shows an unwavering faith. We can have this same prayer to God as well.

Vs. 6- Jot this verse down to remember:

Now that is belief in a personal God who cares for us!

Vs. 7- What does David ask God to display, and what does he call the Lord?

Vs. 8- What does he ask of God?

Vs. 9-12- From whom does he need protection?

Vs. 13-14- What does he pray?

Vs. 14- David describes his enemies' lifestyles. What does he say?

Vs. 15- A big BUT! What does David say?

Can we look around in our culture and see unbelievers flourishing with things of this world?

We need to remember that many seeking pleasures of this world are unfamiliar with God or lost. Can we change our perspective and try to reach the lost for God? [How do I share the gospel with a \\_\\_\\_\\_\\_? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Can we have faith like David and be completely satisfied in God's presence no matter our circumstances? Thoughts?

### **Psalm 18: Praise for Deliverance**

Vs. 1-3- David's appreciation and adoration for God are so obvious! What are the first words he expresses?

Let's be sure to take time often to express our love to God!

He describes God's power in his life in many ways. What does he say?

God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), so He wants to be this impactful in all our lives. How can reading these descriptions of God's influence show us the impact He can truly make?

Vs. 4-6- We see the desperate situation David was in, and the sincerity of his cry to God. Jot down the second half of verse 6 to remember:

Vs. 7-15 (Bible Notes- David then portrays his experience of the Lord's deliverance with vivid storm imagery. David also uses anthropomorphism that depicts God's advancing like a warrior more terrible than any human military commander.)

What are some images listed here of the presence of God in defense of David and his men?

Vs. 16-19- God's rescue! How does David describe how God rescued him?

Vs. 20-24- (Bible Notes- David's affirmation that the Lord rewarded him because of his righteousness reflects an understanding that his confrontation with death (vs. 4-5) was not evidence of divine judgment but was an occasion on which God proved His commitment to deliver those who obey Him.)

David explains the things he has tried to do to be obedient to God, and he talks about things he avoids doing. What are some of these actions?

[What does the Bible say about protection? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 25-26- God proved Himself to be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to those who love Him.

Vs. 26-27- How does God prove Himself to the haughty or crooked people?

Vs. 28-29- These verses still hold true today! Jot these down to remember God's faithfulness to you:

What 'walls or barriers' are you facing?

Reach out to God for His help in Your life. Remember, our prayers reach His ears and He hears us.

Vs. 30-36- These verses show God's provision for things we need, especially when we face adversity. Beside the references below, write what or how God provides.

Vs. 30-

Vs. 31-

Vs. 32-

Vs. 33-

Vs. 34-

Vs. 35-

Vs. 36-

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and compare these references as the Holy Spirit is present as well.

Vs. 37-42- God fully equipped and helped David defeat those who had intended to kill him.

Vs. 43-45- David knows God has given him this position of leadership. What does he attribute to God?

Vs. 46-48- David gives God all of the credit for the accomplishments he witnessed. He takes no credit for himself. What does he say God did for him?

Vs. 49-50- God is greatly praised! We should pause each day and be sure we are thanking and honoring God for all He does for us each day, whether great or small things. He is worthy to be praised! Jot down a few things that come to mind that God has done for you.

### **Psalm 19: The Witness of Creation and Scripture**

(Bible Notes- Psalm 19 celebrates the Lord's revelation of Himself through His works and His Word. The heavens declare God's glory-His majesty, revealed in the beauty of His creation for all to see. The wonders of creation should lead one to worship the Creator, not the creation itself (Rm 1:19-20). Because this evidence of God's existence and sovereignty is universally available (Rm 1: 18-21) while Scripture is not, theologians typically distinguish between the created order as "general revelation" and the written Word of God as "special revelation", which this psalm also praises in verses 7-11).

Vs. 1-4- These beautiful verses reveal God and His pursuit of people in a unique way. Verse by verse explain:

Vs.1-

Vs. 2-

Vs. 3-4-

[What does it mean that the heavens declare the glory of God? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 5-6- These verses continue admiring the perfection of creation and the precision by which even the sun rises and sets with nothing hidden from its heat.

Vs. 7-9- These verses explain the direct impact the Lord can have in people's lives. Explain verse by verse:

Vs. 7- The instruction of the Lord is:

The testimony of the Lord is:

Vs. 8- The precepts of the Lord are:

The command of the Lord is:

Vs. 9- The fear of the Lord is:

The ordinances of the Lord are:

Vs. 10-11- Why should people follow God's ordinances, instructions, and commands?

(Bible Notes- As the beauty and majesty of creation proclaim God's glory, so do God's people when they are doing and being that for which they were created. The psalm not only lauds the Lord's instruction, testimony, precepts, command, and ordinances but also presents the benefits of living God's way--renewed life, growth in wisdom, gladness of heart, understanding, warning, and great reward. Having noted that nothing is hidden from the sun's heat, the psalmist recognizes the need for cleansing from hidden faults as well as sins both unintentional and willful.)

Vs. 12-13- These verses reflect a heart-felt prayer. What is he saying?

We, too, can pour our hearts out to God and He hears.

Vs. 14- Jot this verse down to remember as a daily prayer:



### **Psalm 20: Deliverance in Battle**

Vs. 1-4- The psalmist lists the hope for God's action in their lives. What is his prayer in each verse?

Vs. 1-

Vs. 2-

Vs. 3-

Vs. 4-

What a specific, powerful prayer! God still hears our prayers, so reach out to Him with your specific prayers.

Vs. 6-9- (Bible Notes- The Lord's *anointed* refers to the king (v. 6). Israel's kings were to rely on the Lord rather than on military might. The Lord is faithful to help the one He designates (anoints) for a task).

Vs. 7- In these verses about battle, what does he say here and what does this mean?

We may not be physically preparing for an actual battle, but we can hold on to God and His faithfulness through all of life's joys and trials.

### **Psalm 21: The King's Victory**

Vs. 1-2- Why is the king rejoicing and shoes victory is he celebrating?

Vs. 3-7 Within these verses, we see the blessings poured out on the king by God. In what ways was he blessed?

Vs. 7- This verse tells a great deal about David's character as king What does it say?

We have the same God in pursuit of us. We do not have to be the leader of God's chosen people to get His attention. How can we personalize this verse as our own prayer?

Vs. 8- This verse explains who God's wrath will come upon. Who will He capture and why?

Vs. 9-12- Wrath: a heavy price for going against God, devising wicked plans, and intending to harm others. Fortunately, Jesus made a way for anyone to be reconciled to God.

[Does God forgive big sins? Will God forgive a murderer? | GotQuestions.org](#)

### **Psalm 22: From Suffering to Praise**

Vs. 1-2- What is expressed to God in these verses?

(Bible Notes- Although it may poetically reflect a composite of David's experiences of difficulty, including Saul's pursuit of his life, Jesus' use of the psalm during His suffering on the cross (Mt. 27:46; Mk 15:34) magnifies its messianic significance and compels the reader to consider what it reveals about Christ. By crying out to the Father, Jesus, in the psalm's first words, invoked the entire psalm, one of the most quoted in the New Testament, as a prophetic testimony to His suffering.)

[Why did Jesus say, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" | GotQuestions.org](#)

Have there been times you felt God was not hearing your prayers? Explain:

Vs. 3-5- David is remembering God's faithfulness in his time of distress. What example does he recall?

Vs. 6-18- [Where do the Hebrew Scriptures prophesy the death and resurrection of the Messiah? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

These verses foretell the suffering of Jesus and are referred to in the New Testament Scriptures. Here we will look at these prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ.

Vs. 7- What is happening?

Read: Matthew 27:38-44. What does it say of Jesus?

Vs. 8- What do these mockers say?

Read: Luke 23:35, 39. What does it say of Jesus?

Vs. 12-13- What is described here?

Read: Matthew 26:64-68. What happened when Jesus went before the Sanhedrin?

Vs. 14-15- What is described here?

Read John 19:28. What does it say of Jesus?

Vs. 16- Describe what happens here.

Read John 19:16, 20:20; Acts 2:23. What do these verses say of Jesus?

Vs. 18- What is described here?

Read John 19:23-24. What does this say of Jesus?

[How many prophecies did Jesus fulfill? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 19-21- David continues to cry out to God. What does he ask in these verses?

We, too, can call out to God for help and He will hear our prayers.

Vs. 22- In the midst of this dire need, what does David say?

He does not wait for God to act before he will praise Him. He praises God in his trial, believing in God's power and faithfulness. Is this something we should include in our prayer life? Why?

Vs. 23- What are three specific statements he makes referring to Yahweh, God of Israel?

Vs. 24- What reassurance is given here?

God hears our cries! Lean on Him in times of need.

Vs. 27-31- What legacy is passed on, how, and to whom?

### **Psalm 23: The Good Shepherd**

(Bible Notes-David understood both the characteristics of sheep and the responsibilities of a shepherd. The declaration, **The Lord is my shepherd**, expresses the psalmist's complete dependence on Him and trust in God to meet every need (Php 4:19). Elsewhere in Scripture, God refers to Himself as the people's shepherd and describes the coming Messiah as such (see Is 13:14; 40:11; Jr 31:10; Ezk 34:7-31; 37:24; Mt 2:6). Jesus pointed to His identity as Messiah and Lord when He identified Himself as "the good shepherd" (John 10:7-8).

[What does it mean that the Lord is my Shepherd \(Psalm 23\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Within this psalm, we see the provision and care of God. Look verse by verse and write down each thing God does for His "sheep" as their "shepherd".

Vs 1-

[What is the meaning of, "I shall not want" in Psalm 23:1? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 2-

[What does "he makes me lie down in green pastures" mean \(Psalm 23:2\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 3-

Vs. 4-

[What are the rod and staff in Psalm 23? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[How can we confidently say, "I will fear no evil," as in Psalm 23:4? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 5-

Vs 6-

[How could David say, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life” \(Psalm 23:6\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Pause and re-read these verses, putting yourself in each one, personally reflecting on God’s love, care, provision, protection, and guidance He offers each of us. Write any reflection here:

### **Psalm 24: The King of Glory**

Vs. 1-2- What is the psalmist’s claim here?

[What does it mean that God is the Creator? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 3-4- The psalmist asks, ‘who can stand before God’? What does it say?

[Who will go to heaven? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 5-6- What does this say of those who seek the face of God?

Vs. 7-10- These verses make bold statements about the King of Glory! Who is He?

### **Psalm 25: Dependence on the Lord**

Vs. 1- What a way to start a prayer! Jot this down:

Vs. 3- What are believers encouraged to do?

Vs. 4-5- An earnest prayer to God. These words are just as relevant today as the day they were written. Jot these down to remember as we approach God even now.

Vs. 6- What characteristics of God are elevated here as being from antiquity? (*Definition: antiquity: the ancient past*).

Since the beginning, these have been the motives of God.

Vs. 7- What does the psalmist ask God to forget?

He says, “in keeping with Your \_\_\_\_\_, remember me because of \_\_\_\_\_ goodness, Lord.

Vs. 8-9- Because the Lord is good and upright, what does He do to help sinners?

Vs. 10- What does the Lord show in all His ways and to whom?

Vs. 11- The psalmist asks God to forgive his great sin. How does he approach God to ask and why?

Vs. 12-14- What is given to those who fear the Lord?

[What does it mean to have the fear of God? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-does-it-mean-to-have-the-fear-of-God?)

Vs. 15- Another great verse to remember. Jot this down:

Vs. 16-21- God is our Helper and is there for us. The psalmist makes very specific requests to God in his time of need. Going verse by verse, list what is asked of God and why.

Vs. 16-

Vs. 17-

Vs. 18-

Vs. 19-

Vs. 20-

Vs. 21-

God is available for us as well. These are not just ancient prayers. These are examples of how we can approach God and rely on Him with our very lives.

### **Psalm 26: Prayer of Vindication**

Vs. 1-3- What is the psalmist (David) asking for and why?

Vs. 4-5- What does he claim to avoid?



Vs. 6-7- What does he do instead?

Vs. 8-10- Why is he going to such lengths to make these claims and comparisons?

Vs. 11- What is his prayer?

Vs. 12- What does he say he will continue to do?

Have you had talks like this with God before, almost explaining your case before Him?

Although the setting of the psalms describes many harsh situations David would find himself in, now that we have the completed word of God, seeing Christ's redemptive work, how should we perceive "sinners"?

[Why did Jesus say, "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" \(Matthew 9:13\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

How can we be available to share and show the love of Christ with others?

### **Psalm 27: My Stronghold**

Vs. 1- Wow! Another bold and faith-filled prayer from David! This absolutely applies to every believer. Jot this down to remember:

(Bible Notes- God's presence provides the inner resources to overcome fear (Heb. 13:5-6).

Vs. 4- What is the desire professed here?

Are you making this one of your utmost desires as well? Are you living with eternity in mind?

Vs. 5-6- What does the Lord do for him, and what does he do for the Lord?

Vs. 7- Like David, many people, if not all at one time or another, have cried out to God like this. What is his prayer?

Is there a time you cried out to God like this? Feel free to share:

Vs. 8-9- This says, "You are to seek My \_\_\_\_\_". That is a personal God who wants us to seek Him so intently.

David pleads with the Lord. What does he ask?

He says, "You have been my \_\_\_\_\_" and call Him "God of my \_\_\_\_\_".

He knows that God is his only hope.

Vs. 10- This verse speaks volumes about the love of God. What does he say?

(Bible Notes- The refuge of the Lord is more secure than even the love of father or mother.)

Vs. 11- This, too, is a verse we can apply to our own prayer life. What does he ask God to show him?

Vs. 13- He is confident he will see the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ in the land of the living. Things may seem dark at times but pause and look around. You will see the beauty of the Lord!

Vs. 14- Jot down these words to live by:

### **Psalm 28: My Strength**

Vs. 1-2- What is the psalmist pleading with God?

[Why doesn't God respond when I cry out, "God, please help me!"? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 3- He does not want to be taken away with the wicked or included with evil-doers. What example does he give of these people?

Vs. 4-5- What does he want to happen to these evil people and why?

(Bible Notes- David's prayer for God's judgment on the wicked (v 3)-those who evidently have been oppressing him-does not arise out of some twisted sense of joy in the punishment of others. Rather, he identified his enemies with the Lord's enemies and left their judgment in the Lord's hands.)

Vs. 6-7- The Lord hears his prayer! Write down verse 7 as a prayer to remember for yourself:

Vs. 8-9- These verses describe what God provides for His people. Write down all of these descriptors.

What comfort and confidence do these verses bring to you?

### **Psalm 29: The Voice of the Lord**

Vs. 1-2- What does the psalmist say Yahweh is due?

[What is the meaning of Yahweh? What is the meaning of Jehovah? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 3-9- Here the power of the Lord is depicted in several ways. Look at each verse and give an explanation of how He is using this power:

Vs. 3-

Vs. 4-

Vs. 5-

Vs. 6-

Vs. 7-

Vs. 8-

Vs. 9-

Vs. 10- The psalmist acknowledges that the Lord sat enthroned at the \_\_\_\_\_ and is King \_\_\_\_\_. (Bible Notes- These verses emphasize two central truths about the Lord. First, the same covenant God of Israel who presided over the flood still reigns as King and will reign forever. In both the Old and New Testaments, this word for “flood” is used only for the universal flood in which Noah and his family were preserved (see Gn 10:32; Mt 24:38-39; Lk 17:27; 2Pt 2:5). He is the rightful Judge of all who reject His rule. Second, this same God and King shows favor toward those who are His, giving them strength (Ps 28:7; 1 Sm 2:10; 1 Pt 4:11) and blessing them with peace (Is 57:19, 21; Lk 2:14; Jn 14:27).

Vs. 11- What is given to those who love the Lord?

### **Psalm 30: Joy in the Morning**

Vs. 1-3- Why is the psalmist praising the Lord?

Definitely praiseworthy! Have you been in circumstances and witnessed God’s provision powerfully like this? What happened?

Vs. 4-5- Our lives are not guaranteed to be perfect or easy. Things happen to us and we make mistakes. What promises do these verses hold?

Vs. 6-8- These verses contrast outcomes, when he was dependent on the Lord and when not. What is the difference expressed here?

This applies to each of us. When we trust in the Lord and follow His path, He provides all we need, strength, peace, etc. When we are not on His path and do things our own way, we will feel the fears and insecurities creeping in. We need His presence in our lives.

Vs. 10- We can always turn back to God. What does the psalmist pray?

God never promises a pain-free, stress-free life. But, He does promise to be there when we call on Him.

### **Psalm 31: A Plea for Protection**

Vs. 1-2- Within these verses David asks several things of God. What were his prayers?

Vs. 3- This is a beautiful acknowledgement to God. Jot this down to remember because this is important for us today as well:

Vs. 5- “Into Your \_\_\_\_\_ I entrust my \_\_\_\_\_”.

(Bible Notes- A keynote of the psalm is David’s faith and commitment to the Lord. Entrust (Hb *paqad*, “commit, charge” to another’s care, v 5) carries the idea of making someone an overseer. This poet’s faith has led him to make the Lord the overseer of his spirit or his life. Jesus’ last words from the cross included this prayer of faith (Lk 23:46).

Vs. 7-8- Despite his struggle, why does he rejoice?

Vs. 9-10- The psalmist paints a picture of the physical toll this grief is having on David. What is happening?

Grief can overtake us and cause physical ailments. Even in these lowest points, God remains with us and will help those who call on Him. He understands and can help.

Vs. 11-13- Socially his life is a nightmare as well. What is happening?

Vs. 14-15- In spite of it all, David gives a big BUT here. What does he say?

Vs. 15-18- How does he pray regarding his enemies and those mistreating him?

David models for us how to bring all our sorrow, challenges, and pain to God. He also shows how to give thanks and trust in God in all circumstances.

Vs. 19-22- How does God provide?

Vs. 24- Jot this down to remember:

### **Psalm 32: The Joy of Forgiveness**

Vs. 1-2- What spurs such joy here?

Vs. 3-4- What is it like to be living with sins we are not admitting or repenting of?

Vs. 5- Once the sin is confessed, what is God's response?

[What is forgiveness? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-is-forgiveness/)

Vs. 6-7- What assurance is there in earnestly praying to God?

Vs. 8- What does God do for those who seek Him?

It is amazing that the God of all creation values us and loves us so much that He desires to personally abide with us in our daily lives, guiding and directing our paths.

Vs. 10- When pains come, what is the outcome for those who trust in the Lord?

### **Psalm 33: Praise the Creator**

Vs. 1-3- What is the common theme in these verses?

Vs. 4-5- Why is God due such praise?

Vs. 6-9- These verses show the power and beauty of God as Creator. (Bible Notes- Verses 6-7 and 9 call to mind the account of creation in Gn 1. Because all that is belongs ultimately to the Lord, all the earth's inhabitants should tremble before (Hb *yare*, "fear, stand in awe of, respect) Him).

Vs. 6- How were the heavens made?

How were the stars made?

Vs. 9- Creation is intricate and awe-inspiring. How did God create and what does this tell us about Him?

Vs. 10-14- God is always watching and aware of the motives of people. If people devise plans He is not going to allow, what does He do?

Vs. 11- What does the psalm say will stand forever?



Vs. 15- As God looks down on all the earth's inhabitants, what does He notice?

Vs. 16-19- In whom should we trust in times of distress, and in what should we avoid putting our trust?

Vs. 20-22- Jot these down as a reminder because these truths are just as relevant today as they were in David's day.

### **Psalm 34: The Lord Delivers the Righteous**

*(Concerning David, when he pretended to be insane in the presence of Abimelech, who drove him out, and he departed)*

(Bible Notes- This poem is an acrostic poem in the Hebrew text. Each of its 22 lines begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Its title identifies the historical setting as the time when David feigned insanity before Abimelech. Although the king mentioned in 1 Sm 21: 10-15 is identified as Achish, "Abimelech" may have been a general title for Philistine kings, just as "Pharoah" was applied to Egyptian kings).

Vs. 1-4- What is David expressing and why?

(Read 1 Samuel 21:10-15 for context).

Vs. 5- What does he say of those who look to God?

Vs. 6- He recalls his cry to the Lord and what was the result?

This does not mean David's life was perfect and he never again had difficulties, but he knew who to go to and depend on when he needed help. We, too, can cry to the Lord, and He will hear.

Vs. 7- (Bible Notes- David also describes the continuous security provided by *the Angel of the Lord*-sometimes identified as a "theophany", a visible manifestation of God (Gn 22:11, 15-16; 48:16; Ex 23: 20-21; Jdg 6:11-23)- with the military imagery of an army that has formed a defensive circle of protection around those who fear the Lord.)

That is a powerful image of God's "encampment around" those who revere and depend on Him.

Is there a time you felt God's protection around you?

Vs. 8- Jot this down to remember:

As seen in many psalms, this happiness does not mean carefree life or avoiding hardships. This refers to a joy that surpasses circumstances.

Vs. 9- [How is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Explain this fear of God:

Vs. 10- What does the second part of this verse explain?

God is trustworthy!

Vs. 11-14- David knows the importance of fearing the Lord, and the desire for long life seeking what is good. What does he say to do?

Vs. 15- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord are on the righteous, and His \_\_\_\_\_ are open to their cries for help.

Vs. 16- Those who are against God will have a bad fate. What does this say?

Vs. 17- It may not always seem like it, but what does this say about the Lord?

Vs. 18- Jot this down to remember:

Vs. 19- Another truth worth writing down:

Vs. 20-22- What will ultimately happen to the righteous and the evil?

### **Psalm 35: Prayer for Victory**

Vs. 1-3- David is pleading with God in a great time of need. What does he ask?

Vs. 4-8- Many are against him. What does he pray God will do to his enemies?

Vs. 9-10- David says, “Then I will \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord; I will  
\_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_.”

Vs. 11-12- What other kinds of problems does David deal with here?

Vs. 13-14- He feels totally betrayed by people he had cared deeply about. What example does he give?

Vs. 15-16- How was he treated in return?

We all can sympathize with David a bit here. Mistreatment by others is painful. As David did, we can bring our pain to God and He hears us. Jesus, however, changed the perspective on “our enemies”.

[What did Jesus mean when He instructed us to love our enemies? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What does it mean to pray for your enemies? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 17- A question that God is likely asked often. What does he ask?

We will not know God’s plan or timing, but we know He sees and hears us, protecting us as His own. We can trust Him.

Vs. 19-26- David makes his case to God. What does he tell Him?

Vs. 27-28- David knows who can bring victory to him. He is always ready to praise and worship. How can we handle hardship with God on our side?

### **Psalm 36: Human Wickedness and God’s Love**

Vs. 1-4- What are these verses about and what characteristics are given?

Vs. 5-9- Within these verses the psalmist writes of the amazing love of God. What characteristics are shared in each?

Vs. 6-

Vs. 7-

Vs. 8-

Vs. 9-

Vs. 10-12- What does the psalmist pray?

God loves all people and it breaks His heart when people reject Him and turn away from the life He offers. The great news is that He is so loving and forgiving that He desires for them to turn back to Him and He will receive them with open arms. That's love!

[What does the Bible say about forgiveness? What does it mean to forgive? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

### **Psalm 37: Instruction in Wisdom**

Vs. 1-2- What are the first words of wisdom given here?

Vs. 3-9- These verses instruct, and they offer advice, wisdom, and outcomes. Jot down the main points from each verse:

Vs. 3- "Trust in the \_\_\_\_\_ and do what is \_\_\_\_\_."

[How can I be a good Christian? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 4-

Vs. 5-6-

Vs. 7-

Vs. 8-9-

Following God leads to wisdom. We never have to achieve things on our own. He is always offering His help and asking for our trust, love, faith, and obedience.

Vs. 10-11- What will become of the wicked and of those who are humble toward God?

Vs. 12-22- These verses depict the actions of the wicked and consequences, as well as the protection of the righteous and their gain. Explain:

Vs. 12-13-

Vs. 14-15-

Vs. 16-17

Vs. 19-20-

Vs. 21-22-

Vs. 23-24- These verses bring encouragement to those who follow God. Jot this down to remember:

Vs. 25-26- The psalmist speaks from his years of life experience, and what has he observed?

[What does the Bible say about generosity? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 27-31- The psalmist implores people to turn from evil and do what is good. What explanation does he give?

Vs. 32-33- Though the wicked pursue the righteous, what will happen to them?

Vs. 34-38- Here the psalmist further explains the fate of the righteous and the wicked. Explain:

Vs. 34-

Vs. 35-36-

Vs. 37-38-

Vs. 39-40- These verses are awesome promises to those whose love and trust are in God. What is said?

### **Psalm 38: Prayer of a Suffering Sinner**

(Bible Notes- This is one of the seven *penitential* psalms of the ancient church, also identified as an individual lament. The word **remembrance** may imply that the psalm was to be used by a sufferer in order to bring his situation to God's remembrance. The title does not suggest that God forgets or is insensitive to the plight of His suffering children. Rather the cry for God to remember in the Old Testament is a cry for Him to act.)

[What are the penitential psalms? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-are-the-penitential-psalms?)

Vs. 1-4- Here David pleads with God. What does he ask and why?

[Does God cause suffering? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Does-God-cause-suffering?)

Vs. 5-8- He is experiencing physical illness and elaborates on his pain. What has happened to him?

Vs. 9- What does he acknowledge about God?

Vs. 10-12- How has this illness affected him socially?

Vs. 13-14- How does he describe himself as he deals with this rejection?

Vs. 15- David puts all his hope in God. Jot this down to remember, as this still applies to believers today!

Vs. 17-18- To what does he attribute these hardships?

What does he say in vs. 18?

Vs. 19-22- He continues to pray for deliverance from his enemies. Jot down his prayer in vs. 21-22 and remember this applies to all who call to God.

### **Psalm 39: The Fleeting Nature of Life**

Vs. 1-2- How was David trying to avoid sin here?



Vs. 3-5- David expresses this inner turmoil, and then makes a request of God. What does he want to know?

To what does he compare man?

Vs. 6- Does this verse sound like it could have been written in modern culture? Why or why not?

Vs. 7- A great realization. In whom does he put his hope, even in the darkest of times?

Vs. 8-11- From what does he ask for deliverance?

Within these verses, what is he saying of God?

[Does God punish us when we sin? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 12-13- He prays for God to listen to his cry for help. What does he mean when he calls himself a “temporary resident” and “foreigner”?

We, too, are just temporary residents here. How can we make the best use of our time?

### **Psalm 40: Thanksgiving and a Cry for Help**

Vs. 1-3- In what ways did God help David?

Vs. 4- What leads to happiness?

Vs. 5- We all need to pause and truly pray this verse to God because He has done so much for us. As with David, if we try to thank God for all He has done we could never name everything, but write down some of the things for which you are most grateful:

Vs. 6- (Bible Notes- Verse 6 does not represent a rejection of the sacrificial system. Rather, sacrifice and offering were worthless if not presented to God with the right attitude. Ritual acts of worship are meaningless if not accompanied by obedience to the will of God (1 Sm 15:22). The primary sacrifice that God desires is the sacrifice of your self-will and self-importance (Ps 51:16-17).

Vs. 8- “I delight to do Your \_\_\_\_\_, my God; Your \_\_\_\_\_ lives within me.”

How can we get God’s instruction “within”?

[How can I know when God is telling me to do something? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 11-What confidence did David have in God, that we, too, can have?

Vs. 12- What is David experiencing?

Vs. 13- Like David, we can feel consumed. Jot down this prayer to remember:

Vs. 14-17- David continued to have his life threatened by many enemies and prays to God for their actions to be thwarted by God. What does he pray, though, for those who seek God?

When we feel helpless or needy, like David, we can turn to God. He is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We can rest in Him.

## **Psalm 41: Victory in Spite of Betrayal**

Vs. 1-3- What does the psalmist say brings happiness?

What results from this action?

(Bible Notes: This psalm begins with a beatitude for the *one who cares for the poor*. The one who demonstrates the character of God by meeting people's needs is not immune to experience adversity (41:1); being threatened or attacked, and slandered by enemies (vs 2,5-9,11); or getting sick (vs3,8). This psalm is often interpreted as the prayer of a person afflicted with sickness; but like many of the psalms, its structure and poetic language resist attempts to confine the song's message to one simple theme).

Why is caring for the poor and needy so pleasing to God?

Vs. 4-9- What is David experiencing?

(Bible Notes- Verse 9 notes the betrayal of a trusted friend. David possibly thought of his advisor Ahithophel, who joined Absalom in a conspiracy to steal the throne (2Sm 15:12-17---17:23). However, Jesus directly referred to Ps 41:9 as "Scripture (that) must be fulfilled" (Jn 13:18) foreseeing the betrayal of Judas Iscariot (see Jn 13: 1-30).

[Why did Judas betray Jesus? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 10-13- As in previous psalms, David relies on God to help him in all situations no matter how dire. How can we give our cares to the Lord more willingly and with true faith?