
Psalms

Part 02 of 02 // Chapters 23-41

Know God deeply. Live differently.

Greetings from Precept,

We are so glad you've chosen to study God's Word. You're in for a rich time learning about God, His character, His ways, and the relationship we have with Him. We're confident God's Word will give you the knowledge and the motivation to help you walk in a manner worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus and that you'll be personally challenged, encouraged, and changed by the power of His supernatural Word.

We'd like to stay in touch with you so that we can tell you about the wonderful things God is doing through Precept. Will you connect with us? We want to hear your story of how God's Word has impacted you by studying Inductively.

Visit the Precept Africa website at www.precept.org.za or join us on *Facebook* at *Precept Africa*.

Finally, we want to thank you for your commitment to faithfully study God's Word in order to *“present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB). We share a special bond with you because of our love of God's Word.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

The Precept Team



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

English Standard Version

*Psalm*s

PART 2

THE BLESSED
SHEPHERD, KING,
AND SAVIOR

(PSALMS 23–41)

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

PSALMS

PART 2

THE BLESSED SHEPHERD, KING, AND SAVIOR
(PSALMS 23–41)

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

LONGMAN III, TREMPER

Psalms: An Introduction and Commentary

Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2014.

VANGEMEREN, WILLEM A.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Psalms

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2008

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures—
Old Testament**

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW . . .

We are excited that you have chosen to study *Psalms* with us. It will be such a blessing to your life because it is part of God's Word, His self-revelation, each part of which is essential to understanding the whole purpose of God.

As a book of the Bible, *Psalms* holds a unique place. It's a collection of poetry—prayer, praises, or songs—each psalm with its own message. They're not chapters, each building on the previous, intended to be read sequentially. And unlike prose, with chapters divided into paragraphs, verses in poetry are collected into “stanzas,” each stanza within a poem separated from the previous one by a blank line.

To understand the psalms, it's important to see the flow of thought between stanzas, namely how does one connect with the previous ones? For example:

- Does the stanza contrast with the previous one?
- Does it give the reason or result for what was said previously?
- Is it a request or a call to action due to the psalmist's circumstances spoken previously?
- Is it praise in light of who God is or what He has done mentioned previously?

Unlike English poetry that often emphasizes rhyme and meter (or rhythm), Hebrew poetry's most important element is parallelism, by which authors emphasize ideas. Sometimes that parallelism repeats a thought in other words. Other times, the parallelism adds new information to an original concept. A third type contrasts ideas, showing how they are different. A fourth uses analogies, likening one thing to another, the characteristics of which are similar.

David, who wrote many of the psalms, appointed Levites to serve in the house of the Lord. “They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting until Solomon built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem” (1 Chronicles 6:31-32).

We are invited to pour out our hearts to God, to come before Him and present our concerns. We were made to sing, to lift our voices in worship, to speak to God and to others “in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with [our] heart[s]” (Ephesians 5:19).

So as you study the psalms with us, use them for prayer and praise of God . . . or as a springboard for your own songs or poetry of prayer and worship to God. Pour out your heart before Him and listen for His response. Grow your intimacy with God in your prayer and worship.



LESSON ONE

Psalms Twenty-three through Twenty-seven

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Psalms 23–27
“General Pattern for Studying the Psalms”
“The Lord”
“Psalms 23–41 at a Glance”
Word studies
Cross-references

We are so glad you are joining us for this study! Our prayer for you is that God will use it to encourage you with the rich truths about Him and His character.

Psalms is divided into five books. In this course, we will study the second half of Book One—Psalms 23–41.

This course is designed for you to learn how to study the Psalms, so that you’ll be able to study any of the psalms you’d like.

If you have not yet read the section titled “Before You Begin . . .,” do so now.

DAY ONE

Psalm 23 is a familiar psalm, and for many it stirs up memories of comfort and encouragement during difficult times.

1. As we begin our study today, ask God to help you observe the rich truths of Psalm 23 and look at it in a fresh way. Use the Psalm 23 Observation Worksheet in the Appendix for your study.
2. Just before verse 1 is a superscription. Superscriptions contain information such as the writer, the occasion, who it is for, and how it is to be sung. In the Hebrew Bible, the superscription is verse 1.

Read the superscription. Who wrote this psalm?



3. Begin by simply reading the psalm. As you do, look for the main characters and list them below.

4. Read Psalm 23 again and mark *Lord* including pronouns such as *he* and *you*. For a suggested marking, see the bookmark on the back cover of your workbook.
5. Now read this short psalm a third time and mark the pronouns for David, such as *my*, *me*, *I*. You might color them blue.
6. It will be beneficial to make a **Key Word Bookmark** for Psalms 23–41. Cut out the one on the back cover of your workbook. On the blank side, you'll list key words from Psalms and mark them as you will throughout our study.

One key word found in Psalm 23 is *righteousness*. You'll find it repeated throughout Psalms.

On the reverse side of the bookmark, you'll see marking suggestions for some words often used in the Bible. An asterisk [*] in this workbook shows words with suggested markings.

- a. Put *righteousness* (see *righteous**) on your Key Word Bookmark:
 - b. Read the psalm again and mark it.
7. In the Appendix, you'll find pages titled "The Lord." Begin a list of what you learn about Him from this psalm. Include scripture references. We'll add to this as we study each psalm.

For example:

Psalm 23

- 1 my shepherd
- 2 makes me lie down in green pastures
leads me beside still waters

As shown above, note the verse numbers.



- b. Now let's think about the second stanza, verse 4.
- 1) What were David's circumstances?
 - 2) What was the Lord's provision and how did it affect David?
 - 3) Have you walked through what felt like the valley of the shadow of death or walked it with someone else? If so, express below how the Lord did these things for you.
- c. Now verses 5-6.
- 1) How did the scene change in verse 5?
 - 2) The psalmist made some statements about himself in the last verse. What confidence did he express? If the Lord is your shepherd, what do these truths mean to you?



3) Read the following to understand more about dwelling in God’s house forever.

a) John 14:1-3

b) Revelation 21:1-7

11. In John 10, Jesus is called the good shepherd.

Read John 10:11-15, 27-30. List what you learn about Jesus and His sheep below and on the next page. As you do, put a star by anything you need to remember or to share with someone.

12. Now you can read what commentaries say about Psalm 23.

We pray as you are following the Shepherd that you are being refreshed and restored in Him.



DAY
TWO

We will be using a pattern for studying the psalms. If you studied Psalms Part 1, you're already familiar with it. As you study each psalm, use its Observation Worksheet from the Appendix.

In the Appendix you'll also find the page "General Pattern for Studying the Psalms." Keep this out so you can refer to it as we go through the lesson.

1. To begin our study of Psalm 24 we'll do as #1 of our general pattern says—read the superscription. With the exception of Psalm 33, which has no superscription, this same superscription is used for all the psalms we will study in this course, sometimes with additional information.
2. Now do what #2 says. Read the psalm to see who the main characters are and write them below.
3. Read #3 of our pattern. You probably noted that there are references to the *Lord* and to the one who may ascend His hill (the pronouns *he*, *his*). Read again and mark these. You might use blue to mark *he*, *his*.
4. Next we'll mark key words as #4 of our pattern says.
 - a. Add the following to your Key Word Bookmark and then read the psalm, using your bookmark to mark key words. The words we're putting on our bookmark begin to show us themes repeated throughout Psalms.
 - 1) *salvation* (see *redeem**)
 - 2) *seek*
 - 3) *heart*
 - b. Did you notice other key repeated words? Read again and do the following.
 - 1) Underline the two questions in verse 3.
 - 2) Mark *glory*. (Add this one to your bookmark.)
5. Now add to your list on the Lord from the Appendix that you began in Day 1. This is #5 in our pattern.



b. Verses 3-6

- 1) Review the questions you underlined in verse 3. The hill of the Lord was Zion, Jerusalem.

List below what you learn from this stanza about the one who can ascend the Lord's hill and stand in His holy place. As you do, carefully think about what you list and how it applies to you.

- 2) Jacob is mentioned in verse 6. God gave Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, the name Israel (Genesis 32:27-30). David, who was descended from Jacob, was king over Israel.
- 3) How do the first two stanzas help you in seeking the face of God?

c. Now the third stanza.

- 1) First, note below the repeated commands.



2) Based on the second stanza mention of ascending the hill of the Lord and standing in His holy place, what might the gates and doors be referring to? Jot down your thoughts.

3) Compare this with Psalm 23:6b.

9. Read the questions from #9 of our general pattern.

How does what you learned about the King of glory impact your life and relationship with Him?

10. Finally, you can check what commentaries say about Psalm 24.

You may have questions about the general pattern we're using. Hangest thou in there! As we continue the process, we'll expand on it. We have plenty of psalms ahead in the course to practice on!

DAY THREE

Today we move to Psalm 25. Begin your time with prayer, asking “that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9-10).

Be sure to keep “General Pattern for Studying the Psalms” close by as you study.



1. Read the psalm, including the superscription, looking for the main characters. Then list them below.

2. Reread the psalm twice.
 - a. The first time, mark *Lord*, including synonyms and pronouns. Also mark the pronouns for David, the psalmist.
 - b. The second time, mark the following along with pronouns and synonyms:
 - 1) *enemies*
 - 2) *the humble, those who fear the Lord*

3. Next, add the following to your Key Word Bookmark. Then read the psalm at least twice, marking the words on your bookmark.
 - a. *wait*
 - b. *deliver, redeem** the way you mark *salvation*
 - c. *sins, * transgressions*
 - d. *covenant**
 - e. *steadfast love*

4. Add to your list on the Lord in the Appendix.

5. Now use words from the text to write themes for the stanzas below or on your Observation Worksheet. Who and what is each stanza about? Remember to think through the flow of thought from stanza to stanza—how each stanza continues from the others.
 - a. 1-3

 - b. 4-5

 - c. 6-7



- d. 8-10

 - e. 11-15

 - f. 16-18

 - g. 19-21

 - h. 22
6. Record a theme for this psalm at the top of your Observation Worksheet.
7. You may want to review #8 in our pattern. Then let's look at the first stanza, verses 1-3. Remember to keep your list on the Lord handy as you move through the text.
- a. Did you notice *put to shame (ashamed)* repeated in these verses? Mark it, but you don't need to add it to your bookmark.

When following #5 of our pattern—marking key words—mark words that are repeated several times in a psalm, because it helps us see themes.
 - b. What did David request of the Lord in this part of his prayer? What did he say about “put to shame”?



- c. Use word study tools to look up the definition of the Hebrew word translated “wait.” How does this help you understand what David said in verse 3?

If you’ve never done a word study, you may want to read the section “It’s All Greek to Me!” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

- d. How do lifting up your soul to the Lord in prayer and worship and waiting for Him fit together? How do they fit in your life? Is there something you’re waiting for?

8. Now verses 4-7. We’ll look at these two short stanzas together.
 - a. What word is repeated three times in 6-7? Mark it, but you don’t need to add it to your bookmark.
 - b. What did David request in verses 4-7?



- c. How do these requests connect with what he asked for in verses 1-3?

9. Review verses 8-10.
 - a. Who is this third stanza mainly about?
 - b. Consider verse 9. How does an attitude of humility fit with what the Lord does?

 - c. Think about verse 9 as it pertains to your life. If any specifics come to mind, record them below.

 - d. What did God say about those who keep His covenant?

10. Read the question in verses 11-15.
 - a. What do these verses say about the man who fears the Lord? Record here and on the next page.



b. What did David say about himself?

c. How does this stanza connect with the previous ones?

11. Now let's focus on verses 16-22.

What do you learn about David? List what you observe about:

David's requests

David's circumstances



12. As a review, look at the places you marked *wait* and summarize what you learn from this psalm about waiting on the Lord.

13. How were you encouraged, convicted, instructed, or strengthened as you studied this psalm?

14. Now that you've studied Psalm 25 for yourself, you can see what commentaries say about it.

Beloved, are you confidently waiting on the Lord with eagerness? May we lift up our souls and put our trust in Him.

DAY
FOUR

1. Let's study Psalm 26, but before we do, pray Psalm 25:4-5.
2. Now read the psalm, looking for the main characters.
3. You've probably noticed characters are sometimes individuals and sometimes groups. Read Psalm 26 again and mark David the psalmist, including pronouns.
4. Read another time and mark *Lord*, including pronouns. Also mark the *wicked*, including pronouns and synonyms, such as *men of falsehood* and *hypocrites*.
5. Next mark the key words on your bookmark, as well as *prove* (*try, test*).
6. Add to your list on the Lord. You'll continue this throughout our study of Psalms.



7. Think through how the stanzas connect to one another as you summarize the stanzas below or in the margin of your Observation Worksheet.
 - a. 1-3
 - b. 4-5
 - c. 6-7
 - d. 8-10
 - e. 11-12
8. Is there a phrase from the text that summarizes what this psalm is mainly about? Write that theme on the line at the top of your Observation Worksheet.
9. As we've seen previously, it's helpful to think through the psalm, stanza by stanza. This is #8 of our general pattern.

Again, let's walk through that process together with Psalm 26 beginning with verses 1-7, the first three stanzas.

- a. What were David's requests?
- b. On what basis did he make these requests? List or summarize what he said about himself here and on the next page.



c. Compare Psalm 1:1-3 with these verses.

d. What does God see when He tests you? What do you want Him to see in the future? Think about it. Pray about it.

10. Now verses 8-12.

a. What do you learn about David?

b. In contrast, how is the sinner described?



- c. 7-10
 - d. 11-12
 - e. 13-14
6. Record the theme for Psalm 27 at the top of your Observation Worksheet.
7. With our list on the Lord in hand, let's begin by examining verses 1-3 more closely.
- a. What do you learn about David and the Lord?
 - b. Think about verse 3.
 - 1) Where did David's confidence come from? What about you?
 - 2) Pray about who you can share this with—a friend, a child or grandchild, or someone else God has put in your life.
8. Read verses 4-6.
- a. This time mark *house, temple, shelter, tent* (see *tabernacle**) all the same way if you haven't already marked them.



Brothers and sisters, how are you seeking God’s face—seeking to know Him more intimately? How are you waiting for Him? Confidently, with eagerness? Are you looking forward to dwelling in His house forever?

*Wait for the LORD;
be strong and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!*

—Psalm 27:14

APPENDIX

EXPLANATIONS OF THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION BIBLE TEXT FORMAT

Each stanza within a psalm is separated from the previous one by a blank line. These were determined by the translators.



PSALM 23
Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme _____

A PSALM OF DAVID.

THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



PSALM 24
Observation Worksheet

Psalm Theme _____

A PSALM OF DAVID.

- THE earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
2 for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.
5 He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
8 Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!
9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.



10 Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

Selah.



PSALMS 23–41 AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Author:

Key Words:

	Psalm Themes
	23
	24
	25
	26
	27
	28
	29
	30
	31
	32
	33



34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41



GENERAL PATTERN FOR STUDYING THE PSALMS

1. Read the superscription for any background information about the psalm.
2. Read the psalm to observe who the main characters are.
3. Read again and mark the main characters. Always mark the Lord, even if His name is not mentioned often in the psalm.
4. Read again and mark key words.
5. List truths about the Lord.
6. Summarize a theme for each stanza from what you've observed, thinking about the flow of thought from stanza to stanza.
7. Review your stanza themes, then use a few words from the psalm to summarize the main theme.
8. Reason through the psalm stanza by stanza.
9. Now consider the following: What do you learn about the Lord in this psalm and how does this impact your life and relationship with Him? What can you learn for your life from the people in this psalm?



THE LORD