

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

Aug/Sept – Week 35

Completed

27 - Psalms	60-66	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 - Psalms	67-71	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 - Psalms	72-77	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 - Psalms	78-80	<input type="checkbox"/>
31 - Psalms	81-87	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 - Psalms	88-91	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 - Psalms	92-100	<input type="checkbox"/>

We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

This week's reading: the Psalms are divided into five "books": Book-1 (1-41); Book-2 (42-72); Book-3 (73-89); Book-4 (90-106); and Book-5 (107-150), each ending with a doxology (expression of praise). Why five "books"? Many think it relates the reading of Psalms with the five books of Moses. **The** psalms of David "end" at Psalm 72 (however, there are Psalms of David after that). **It** is good to pray through the Scriptures; many Psalms are easy to pray as you read through them - especially intimate passages, like Psalm 63, "O God, You are my God; I will seek You early; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You in a dry and weary land where there is no water." and, the end of Psalm 73, starting with, "Whom have I in heaven but You?" **Also**, regarding prayer, many people pray, but it is important to note Psalm 66:18, "If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear." Proverbs 28:9 says, "He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, even his prayer is an abomination." Isaiah 59:2 says, "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear." Peter warns (1 Pet. 3:7) that our prayers can be hindered if we do not treat our wives properly. The point? If we have sin that we haven't confessed and repented from, the prayer God desires from us is to confess our sins and turn from them. As we do this, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). **May** we live in the way expressed in 69:6, that we would not bring shame and dishonor to those who seek Yahweh. **Psalm** 83:16 is a key to "revenge" Psalms, "Fill their faces with dishonor that they may seek Your name, Yahweh."

Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

The Hebrew title of Psalms is תְּהִלִּים (Tehillim) meaning "praises". Our word "Psalm" comes from the name of this book in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures (a.k.a. "Septuagint" or "LXX"), ψαλμός ("psal-mos" - "p" is not silent) meaning "songs with stringed instrumental music". This same Greek word appears seven times in the New Testament: Lk. 20:42; 24:44; Acts 1:20; 13:33; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16. **Tehillim** is the first book of the כְּתוּבִים (Ketuvim, "Writings"), which is the third major section of the תַּנַּךְ (TaNaKh - the Hebrew Scriptures, our Old Testament: "T" is for "Torah" - Law, "N" for "Nevi'im" - Prophets, and "Kh" for "Ketuvim" - Writings). **Some** of the Psalms begin with "titles". In the Hebrew text, the titles are the first verse (so the verse numbers in the Psalm are different than in our English Bibles). The titles are also found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Septuagint, meaning they date before 200 BC. **Some** Hebrew words, thought to be musical notations, appear in our English translations: Selah (possibly a "pause" or a musical Interlude) is first seen in 3:2, and is used 71 times in Psalms, plus three times in Habakkuk - it is best to read it as, "think about it"; Maskil (possibly "contemplative", appears 13 times, the first time in 32:1), and Mikhtam (a type of poem, appears six times: 16:1, 56:1, 57:1, 58:1, 59:1, 60:1). **In** 60:7 "Ephraim is my helmet" (or strength), "helmet" is two words in Hebrew: "refuge (or "stronghold") of my head". **In** 78:25 many translations say, "bread of angels". The Hebrew word is אֲבִירִים (ah-bee-reem "mighty ones". That said, angels qualify as "mighty ones".

How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

God: "the rock that is higher than I" (61:2); The source of our salvation, my rock, salvation, fortress, hope, glory, and refuge (62:1-2,5-7). God's lovingkindness is better than life (63:3). He bears our burden daily (68:19). My confidence from my youth who sustained me from birth (71:6). Father of the fatherless, a judge for the widows, and makes the solitary to dwell in a house (68:5-6). He works wonders (77:14). God's will and desire: that His people would listen and walk in His ways (81:13). Yahweh is the Most High over all the earth (83:18). From everlasting to everlasting, He is God (90:2; 93:2). Compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abundant in lovingkindness and truth (86:15). His footsteps are our pathway (85:13). Yahweh stills the sea (89:8-9). Let God be Magnified! (70:4) Amen!