



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 42 – The Last Psalms of Israel
and the Period between the Old and New Testaments
(Various Psalms)

Read as many of the psalms in this lesson as you can. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

Psalm 94 – *An Echo of Ecclesiastes: O God, Make Things Right*

“LORD, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph?” (v. ___)

Psalms 91 and 121 – *Two Psalms of Comfort in God’s Protecting Care*

“He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (91:___)

“The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in...forevermore” (121:___)

Psalm 100 – *The Call to Worship the LORD*

“We are His people and the sheep of His pasture” (v. ___)

Psalm 115 – *The LORD Is the Only True God* (Idols are worthless)

“Our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” (v. ___)

Psalms 92, 93, 96, 97, 98, 99 – *Psalms Exalting God’s Rule of the World*

“Give to the LORD the glory due His name... Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness”
(96:___)

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!” (96:___98:___)

“The LORD reigns” (93:___96:___97:___99:___)

Psalm 104 – *A Psalm Exalting God the Creator of the World* (in six days)

“O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all” (v. ___)

Psalm 118 – *A Psalm for the Dedication of the Rebuilt Temple*

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” (v. ___)

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!” (v. ___)

Just as the building of Zerubbabel was despised by men as insignificant, so also the son of Zerubbabel, **JESUS** Christ, was rejected by His people.

Psalm 119 – *The Alphabetic Psalm in Praise of God’s Precious Word*

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (v. ___)

This is the longest psalm. In many Bibles, each section is headed by a Hebrew letter. This is because verse in a section begins with that letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

At the time of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi the children of Israel had the complete Old Testament.

This psalm teaches us the value of God's holy Word. Almost every verse in this entire psalm contains a term that refers to the Word of God, such as precept, statute, testimony, etc.

Psalms 111 and 112 – Two Alphabetic Psalms in Praise of God and Those that Fear Him

“The LORD is gracious and full of compassion” (111:___)

“Blessed is the man who fears the LORD... He is gracious, and full of compassion” (112:_____)

Psalm 113 – God Exalts the Lowly

This psalm, along with Psalms 114, 115, 116, 117, and 118, forms the Jewish *Hallel* (songs of praise), which was traditionally sung during Passover. This was probably the hymn sung by Jesus and His disciples on Maundy Thursday (see Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26).

Psalms 116 and 117 – Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving

“What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?” (116:_____)

Psalms 120, 123, 125, 128, 129, 134 – These are later Psalms, possibly from the time of Nehemiah

“I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war” (120:___)

“As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people” (125:___)

“Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house” (128:___)

“Let those who hate Zion be put to shame and turned back” (129:___)

“The LORD who made heaven and earth bless you from Zion” (134:___)

Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149, 150 – The Closing Psalms of Praise to God

“Do not put your trust in princes... Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help” (146:_____)

“He has blessed your children within you. He makes peace in your borders” (147:_____)

“Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created” (148:___)

“Sing to the LORD a new song... Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King” (149:_____)

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!” (150:___)

The Period between the Old Testament and the New Testament

There was a long period of time between the events of Genesis and the events of Exodus. Similarly there was a long period – over 400 years – between the last events of the Old Testament and the first events of the New Testament. Much of this history, however, was revealed by God to the prophet Daniel many years before it took place.

At first the Jews in Judea were under the control of the Persian kings (see the lists in Lessons 38 and 39). In 336 BC Alexander the Great, at the age of twenty, assumed command of the Greek army. By 331 BC he had conquered almost the whole known world. He was king for only a short time, however, for he died in 323 BC.

After the death of Alexander the Great, his empire was divided into four parts: Egypt, Syria, Thrace, and Parthia. Judea was under the control of Syria from 323 to 301 BC. From 301 BC until 198 BC Judea was ruled by the kings of Egypt known as the Ptolemies. During this time, Alexandria in Egypt became a center of Judaism.

In 198 BC Antiochus the Great of Syria conquered Judea. A few years later Antiochus Epiphanes IV (175-164 BC), the Old Testament Antichrist, tried to exterminate the Jews and their religion. In 168 BC he devastated Jerusalem, sacrificed an unclean sow in the Temple, erected an altar to Jupiter in the

Temple, forbade Temple worship and circumcision, sold Jewish families into slavery, destroyed all the copies of the Old Testament he could find, and put to death anyone who possessed any part of the Old Testament.

The Jews revolted against Antiochus IV under the leadership a priest named Mattathias Maccabeus and his five sons: Judas, Jonathan, Simon, John, and Eleazar. Judas Maccabeus reconquered Jerusalem in 165 BC and rededicated the Temple. This is the origin of the Feast of Dedication (*Hanukkah*) that was celebrated by the Jews in Jesus' time (see John 10:22). The Jews still celebrate *Hanukkah* today around the time of Christmas. Judea remained independent under the Maccabeans for over 100 years – from 167 BC to 63 BC

In 63 BC Judea was conquered by the Romans under Pompey. Antipater, a descendant of Esau, was appointed ruler of Judea. He was succeeded by his son, Herod the Great, who ruled from 37 to 3 BC under the control of the Romans. Herod the Great was a cruel man, but he rebuilt the Jerusalem Temple with great splendor. **JESUS** was born in the last years of Herod's reign.

Questions

1. What is a psalm from this section that demonstrates the foolishness of idolatry?
2. What is a psalm that was written in deep depression and near despair?
3. What is a psalm that foretells the suffering of the Messiah?
4. What is a psalm that expresses praise for God's creation?
5. What is a psalm that expresses praise for the blessings of God's Word?
6. What is a psalm that exults in the grace and compassion of God?
7. What is a psalm that expresses the joy of a godly family life?
8. Which five psalms from this section are the most meaningful to you?
9. What four kingdoms did God announced to Daniel in advance (see Lesson 38)?
10. What is the origin of the Jewish festival of *Hanukkah*?
11. Which two kingdoms fought each other for control of Israel after the death of Alexander the Great?
12. Which group or family brought about limited independence for the Jews that lasted for about a hundred years?
13. Which empire brought this independence to an end?