

# "God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

## Section 15: Psalms -The Emotional Side of God's Love Story

### Introduction to the Book of Psalms

The Book of Psalms is the largest book in the Bible, numbering 150 chapters, 2,461 verses and 43,743 words. Interestingly the shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. The middle chapter in the Bible is Psalm 118. The middle verse in the Bible is Psalm 118:8 *It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.*

### Authorship

Since Psalms is a collection spanning many centuries, naturally it has many authors. The following is the breakdown of authorship. King David -73, Asaph -12, the Sons of Korah -9, Solomon -2, Heman -1, Ethan -1, Moses -1 and Anonymous Authors -51. Since David is the most widely known author of the Psalms, naturally it would follow the account of David's life in the God's Love Story series.

### Date of Writing

The Psalms were written over the course of about 850 years. Psalm 90 by Moses is the earliest psalm, dating about 1407 BC. The psalms of David and Asaph would have been composed between 1020 and 975 BC. Two psalms (Ps 72, 127) come from the period of Solomon's reign, about 950 BC. The Psalms of the sons of Korah and the two Ezrahites were pre-exilic. A few are as late as the exile. Psalm 126 comes from the period of restoration from captivity about 525 BC.

### The Lesson

There is not another book in the Bible that summarizes the emotional side of man better than the Psalms. We often neglect the emotional aspect of our relationship with God through a "pure logic" approach, mental manliness or even simple ignorance. God wants all of our being, our heart, mind and soul, which is inclusive to our emotions. This is what Psalms ministers to concerning humankind. The title of the lesson is "Psalms –The Emotional Side of God's Love Story".

### Song #74 "Praise the Lord"

#### 1) The Emotional Need to Praise

Man was designed to worship something or someone, for it is part of their being (Rom 1:18-23). When not properly directed it leads to some form of idolatry. When worship is focused correctly, then it leads to praising the Creator of the cosmos. For the Christian, there is an emotional need to praise God. This is a primary theme in the Psalms, for praise is mentioned 175 times in 150 chapters.

- *Psalm 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!* This is quoted verbatim from our songbook. It refers to our ability to look at the stars, the sun and moon while seeing the evidence of a mighty God. His signature is not with ink, but with all in the universe which He brought into being.
- *Psalm 57:5 Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Your glory be above all the earth.* The Jewish perspective of the heavens was divided into three realms called the

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“Three Heavens”. The first heaven is our atmospheric realm. The second was the outer sky, which contained the heavenly bodies of the sun, moon and stars. The third heaven was the unseen realm beyond that in which resided God and His angels. It was to this realm to which Paul referred to in *2 Corinthians 12:2* “...such a man was caught up to the third heaven.” This is the realm to which we cannot attain until the afterlife; hence the closest seen evidence would be the second heaven. With praise to God, we permeate the first two heavens and emotionally touch the eternal. The Psalms captures man’s emotional need to praise!

- Psalm 57:11 Be exalted above the heavens, O God; *Let Your glory be above all the earth.*
- Psalm 113:3-4 From the rising of the sun to its setting The name of the LORD is to be praised. <sup>4</sup> The LORD is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens.
- Psalm 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.
- Psalm 148:1-5 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! <sup>2</sup> Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! <sup>3</sup> Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! <sup>4</sup> Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

## Song #10 “A Mighty Fortress”

### 2) The Emotional Need for Protection

There is much in this life which threatens us. The devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). We are threatened with tragedy, disease, human suffering and enemies of darkness. There is a natural need to know you have protection. This need is addressed in the Psalms as God the Protector, for “*I love You, O LORD, my strength*” (*Ps 18:1*). The writers of the Psalms consistently call upon the LORD for strength.

- Ps 28:8 The Lord is their strength, And He is a saving defense to His anointed.
- Ps 18:39 For You have girded me with strength for battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.
- Ps 59:16 “But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength...”

There are many times that Christians are weak in our personal struggles of life. We must remember that we our emotional need of protection covered through His love story.

- Ephesians 3:16 says that we can be “...*strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man...*”
- Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13 that we “...*can do all things through Him who strengthens...*” us.
- It is through Christ that we are “...*strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience...*” (Col 1:11).

When we view God as our protector, we are appealing to our emotional side. David called the LORD his “rock”, meaning the solidity of the protection of God. Like a rock foundation, we can be confident that the LORD will keep us standing firm in the midst of the crisis. *Ps 40:2 He*

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brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. Twenty-five times the LORD is referred to as the "ROCK" in Book of Psalms.

- *Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*"
- *Ps 18:46 "The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation."*
- *Ps 71:3 Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come; You have given commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress.*

Learn from the Psalm how the emotional need to be protected is addressed. We can call on Him at any time, from any place and for any reason. He is our Protector!

## Song #449 "Thy Word"

### 3) The Emotional Need of Direction

As Christians, we are in need of direction in our lives just as much as the day we entered covenant with Christ. We do not know all the paths to take in our decision making. He does not make us fend for ourselves in the crooked and perverse world, but is there for constantly, wanting to guide us in His ways. No one book in the Bible ministers to us concerning this emotional need. Take for example the twenty-third Psalm.

- *Psalm 23:1-6 (KJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*
- In that passage King David reflects on God from a perspective of his childhood job of being a shepherd while taking care of his father's sheep in the pasture. For many years David guided his flock in the direction which they needed to go (1 Sam 16:11). It was through this that he understood that God was his Shepherd, guiding him to the green pastures and still waters, through restoration of his soul and a righteous path. God directed him through life and the end result was being able to dwell in heaven forever with the Father. In the Psalms, God is clearly our guide! He is the One whom directs our paths and fills this emotional need.
  - Psalm 31:3 "...For Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me."
  - Psalm 37:23-24 The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. <sup>24</sup> When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.
  - Psalm 48:14 For such is God, Our God forever and ever; He will guide us until death.

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- Psalm 73:23-24 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. <sup>24</sup> With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.

We could spend all day in the Psalms on the theme that “God gives us direction”, but how do we know what the source of that guidance is? There are two forms of guidance that God provides for the Christian today. The lesser of the two is in the circumstances which are presented to us in our everyday lives. God opens and closes doors of opportunity

- 1 Corinthians 16:8–9 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; <sup>9</sup> for a wide door for effective *service* has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
- 2 Corinthians 2:12 Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord...
- Acts 14:27 “...they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.”
- Jesus opens and closes many doors in our lives. Many of the decisions that we think are in our control are likely not in our grasp.
  - That marriage candidate might not want to be married, then what?
  - That job opportunity is not offered, then what?
  - That prayer for healing might not carry with it the results that we were looking for, then what?
  - That new car that you wanted might not be in your budget, then what?
  - These are all examples on how the circumstances of life which God shuts down through circumstances.
- The second and even more important source of guidance is through God’s holy word. Psalm 119:105 states “*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*” We must first run our direction through God’s word and then his circumstances. We must emotionally connect to God for direction. If the Bible gives us the direct answer, then we have direction in our lives! That is a message of the Psalms.

## Song: Count Your Blessings

### 4) The Emotional Need of Gratitude

The last emotional need to be addressed in the lesson is Gratitude. Being thankful to God is one of the healthiest spiritual exercises we could go through, for it brings forth a spirit of contentment needed to make it through this life. If we cannot be thankful to God for what we have in this life, then how can we properly assess the future blessings of eternal life? It truly is an emotional need. The Book of Psalms expresses this like no other.

- *Psalm 7:17 I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.*
- *Psalm 18:49 Therefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, O LORD, And I will sing praises to Your name.*
- *Psalm 30:4 Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name.*
- *Psalm 92:1 “It is good to give thanks to the LORD And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High...”*

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It is the attitude of gratitude which will get us through the toughest times of our lives. We have an emotional need to be thankful to God for that is where true happiness occurs.

- Psalm 136:1-3 *Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.* <sup>2</sup> *Give thanks to the God of gods, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.* <sup>3</sup> *Give thanks to the Lord of lords, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.* This sends the message of great contentment on his behalf. This is right in the eyes of God.
- When we as Christians are in a constant “Thanking Mode” unto God, it sends the message “*I am content in whatever circumstances I am in.*”
  - Colossians 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving...*”
  - Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
  - 2 Corinthians 9:12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

If we simply count our many blessings and name them one by one, then we will begin to see what God hath done. When thanking God for any and everything, we will end up in the “Land of Contentment”, which is a basic Christian need (1 Tim 6:8).

### Thank You Lord

For all that You've done, I will thank you, For all the You're going to do  
For all that You've promised And all that You are  
Is all that has carried me through  
Jesus I thank You

Thank You for loving and setting me free  
Thank You for giving Your life just for me  
Jesus, I thank You  
Gracefully thank You  
Jesus I thank You  
Thank You

In Closing: The Book of Psalms addresses the emotional side of man more than any other writing in the Bible. It truly deals with the Emotional Side of God's Love Story. Read it. Enjoy it. Live it.