

LESSON 3

PSALMS 7—10

PSALM 7: THE PAIN OF SLANDER

In this psalm we see a man who is falsely charged. The accusations are cutting and hurtful; they go deeply into his heart and soul. Out of the agony of this mistreatment and out of injustice upon injustice, David writes this psalm.

1. What is the nature of his problem?
2. What does the writer choose to do about his problem?
3. Has the writer been guilty of any wrongdoing?
4. How can we apply this psalm to our lives?

PSALM 8: THE MAJESTIC NAME OF GOD

Although several different types of hymns appear in the Psalms, almost all of them have a similar structure. They begin with a call to worship God, continue with an expansion on the reasons why God should be praised, and often conclude with a further invitation to worship God. This hymn follows that basic pattern by beginning and ending with an invitation to worship God (vv. 1a, 9) and by having a body of elaboration upon the reasons why such worship should be given (vv. 1b–8).

5. What two names are found in the first and last lines?
6. What is the first reason given for praising God?
7. What point is being made about children?
8. What does God accomplish with children?

9. What position has God given man?

10. Apply this psalm to us.

PSALM 9: GOD AND THE NATIONS

This psalm and the next psalm apparently go together. Perhaps at one time, in the history of the Scriptures, they were combined and appeared in the Scriptures as a single psalm.

This psalm reminds us that, in contrast to the pagan world around us, God, in harmony with His wonderful attributes, can always be counted on to be faithful to His people. The psalm weaves back and forth from praising God to asking God to deal with the writer's enemies.

11. How does the writer say he will give thanks to the Lord?

12. How has God dealt with the enemies of the writer?

13. What will the Lord do for those who trust in Him?

14. How are the wicked punished by their sins?

15. How can this psalm be applied to us?

PSALM 10: WHY DO THE WICKED GO UNPUNISHED?

This psalm, as a unit of Scripture, has one major theme running through it: the punishment of evil. It raises an age-old question about sin in the world: "Why doesn't God eliminate evil men now?" The writer knows that sin and God are incompatible. He believes that God judges sin, but he cannot understand why God does not act immediately to judge wickedness and the wicked.

16. What does the phrase "stand afar off" mean?

17. How does the wicked man view himself?

18. What has the wicked man said about God?

19. Why does God allow the wicked to go unpunished?

20. Why does God delay His answering of our prayers?