

# HARVEST ROCK CHURCH

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## SUMMER OF PSALMS SERIES PSALM 1: THE BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS LIFE

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Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Thank God for the freedom we enjoy in this great nation, especially religious freedom. Thank God that the Supreme Court voted 6-3 that the lockdown of the church was unconstitutional and that we won our lawsuit, by God's grace, this year! We have much to celebrate this 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

We are starting a new series over the next two months called Summer of Psalms.

**TEXT: Psalm 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!**

**2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.**

**3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.**

**4 The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away.**

**5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**

**6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

### INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT:

#### THE PURPOSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Before we dive into the book of Psalms, we must really love and appreciate the Old Testament. I want to give a brief intro to the Old Testament by sharing **THREE MAJOR PURPOSES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**. By giving you this overview, it is my hope that you would not skip over the Old Testament and just read the New Testament but value the whole Bible as the Word of God!

- 1. THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEALS GOD'S NATURE AND CHARACTER:** Paul prayed that we would know Him.
- 2. THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEALS REDEMPTIVE HISTORY:** The Old Testament begins with man and woman made in the image of God living in the Garden of Eden, the place of heaven on earth. Perfect. Man sins, and the devil becomes the ruler of this world. God begins the redemptive history with Abraham 2,000 years before Jesus is born. Abraham becomes the father of the faith or the father of all those who are born again. By knowing the story of Abraham, we discover a major truth of our identity, that we are the children of Abraham, and the covenant of blessing becomes the blessing that we enjoy. **Galatians 3:14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles...**
- 3. THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEALS JESUS CHRIST: Luke 24:44** Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the *Psalms* must be fulfilled."



**INTRODUCTION TO PSALMS:**

Psalms may be the most beloved book of our Bibles. When Brian Simmons finished The Passion Translation of the New Testament, he added Psalms as an appendix to the New Testament! Who has not walked into a Hallmark gift store and not found plaques of one Psalm verse or another? We have one with Psalm 150:6. You can look up that verse yourself (I want to engage you to read the Psalms!).

Many of us can recall lines from Psalm 23 like “The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.” In fact, Psalms is quoted more in the New Testament than any Old Testament book. **Of the 283 quotes of the Old Testament in the New Testament, 116 are from the Psalms!**

**Psalms come from the Hebrew word *tehilim* = “songs” or “praises.”** It is a hymnbook.

One of the early church fathers, Athanasius said, “**The Psalms have a unique place in the Bible because [whereas] most of Scripture speaks to us, the Psalms speak for us.**” And I would add, “The Psalms pray for us.”

When the pandemic hit us last year, it was Psalm 91:10 that I memorized, and this Psalm was speaking for me as I quoted, “No evil will befall me, nor will any plague come near my dwelling!” And I prayed this over you as well.

We must state that the genre of Psalms is not prose but poetry. So, in poetry, you will have:

1. Simile: comparison of two things, usually employing words *as* or *like* (e.g., Psalm 1:3 He will be *like* a tree planted by the streams of water).
2. Metaphor: comparison of two things without using the words *like* or *as* (e.g., Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield).
3. Hyperbole: exaggeration for dramatic effect (e.g., Psalm 6:6 Every night I make my bed swim. I dissolve my couch with my tears).
4. Personification: applying personality traits to inanimate objects (e.g., Psalm 35:10 All my bones will say, “Lord, who is like You?”). There are other literary devices used in poetry.
5. All of Psalms was set to music. God has chosen music to help impact us emotionally and help us to remember the Psalms. How many of you have said, “I can’t get that tune out of my head”? E.g., Share how the song “Day by Day” from the musical *Godspell* changed my life on Palm Sunday 1974.

The main thing to know is that the Psalms are a book of: (1) Prayer, (2) Praise, (3) Lamentation, (4) Wisdom.

The biblical book of Psalms “**expresses the most profound of human feelings and insights—prayer, praise, liturgy, wisdom and lament.**” Dr. Peter Craig

**OUTLINE OF PSALMS****BOOK I: PSALMS 1-41****BOOK II: PSALMS 42-72****BOOK III: PSALMS 73-89****BOOK IV: PSALMS 90-106****BOOK V: PSALMS 107-150**

In this series, I have asked the pastors of Harvest Rock Church to pick a Psalm, hopefully their favorite Psalm, and share over the next few months of summer the Psalm that they have



selected. I believe that this series will equip you to know God better and know how much He loves and cares about you!

## PSALM 1: HOW TO BE BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS IN LIFE

### I. THE RIGHTEOUS IS BLESSED (HAPPY)

#### A. THREE THINGS TO AVOID

1. **Do not walk in the counsel of the wicked: Psalm 1:1a How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.** Don't seek the counsel of the wicked. Get godly counsel.
2. **Do not stand with sinners: Psalm 1:1b Nor stand in the path of sinners. "Bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33).**
3. **Psalm 1:1c Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!** The last stage is that you become like scoffers who criticized you. A person can be happy by avoiding the advice, the lifestyle, and the assembly of the wicked person.

#### B. WHAT TO DO

1. **DELIGHT IN THE TORAH: Psalm 1:2a But his delight is in the law of the LORD.**
2. **MEDITATE ON THE WORD DAY AND NIGHT: Psalm 1:2b And in His law he meditates day and night.**
3. **Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."**

#### C. THE RESULTS

1. **Psalm 1:3a He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water.** Simile of the tree. The blessed life is not so much a reward; rather it is the result of a particular type of life.
2. **Psalm 1:3b Which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither.**
3. **Psalm 1:3c And in whatever he does, he prospers.**

### II. THE WICKED

- A. **Psalm 1:4 The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away.** Picture of a farmer with a pitchfork throwing the grain in the air, and the lighter chaff and husk the wind drives away, while the heavier grain falls to the ground. The chaff is light and useless. The wicked is lightweight and doesn't have real substance. No character.
- B. **Psalm 1:5a Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment.** The lightweight person is not looked to for justice and wisdom. They are not recognized because they have no influence.
- C. **Psalm 1:5b Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.** Sinners in the assembly live for themselves and won't be asked to be part of the governing body of a town or city.

### III. THE CONCLUSION

- A. **Psalm 1:6a For the LORD knows the way of the righteous.** Knowing the righteous means that God gives favor and protection to them.



**B. Psalm 1:6b But the way of the wicked will perish.** For the wicked, their final destiny is doom, and we believe that means being eternally separated from God in a place called hell. The sad thing is that you can choose to be righteous or choose to be wicked. Will you choose Jesus and make Him the Lord of your life? Let's pray.

