

# Psalms 2023 Pt. 6

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, August 27 & September 3, 2023

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## COMMUNION

- 1) The Wafer Symbolizes the BODY of Christ – Broken for Us
- 2) The Juice Symbolizes the BLOOD of Christ – Shed for Us All

**KEY** – Let Communion be a time for us to look: **a)** upward; **b)** inward; **c)** outward; **d)** backward; and **d)** forward.

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)**

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

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## SETTING THE TABLE PT. 1

Thank you for joining us. Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome!

**KEY 1** – Today we conclude our extended summer series on the Book of Psalms. In recent days we have noted:

### 1) The Passion Believers Possess for the Book of Psalms

**NOTE 1** – Many gravitate to the psalms for their sense of artistry and beauty. Not only do the psalms offer inspired and impacting content, but they do so in a beautiful manner. These ancient works of Hebrew poetry exemplify artistry in that they are characterized by beauty, craftsmanship and technique.

**NOTE 2** – Many gravitate to the psalms as they help to inform and impact the practices of prayer and worship. The Book of Psalms has always given believers of the Old and New Covenant eras rich verbiage and vocabulary which helps us to connect with God in the midst of life and living (e.g., both public and private elements).

**NOTE 3** – Many find connection with the psalms because they connect with human emotion and experience! The psalms touch upon nigh every human emotion (e.g., elation and celebration to despair and despondency) and experience (e.g., lack, betrayal and opposition vs. provision, fidelity and breakthrough) with striking detail!

### 2) The Varying Types of Psalms

The psalmists contended with the complexities of human experience/emotion via an array of types of psalms: **a)** hymns; **b)** laments; **c)** psalms of thanksgiving; **d)** psalms of remembrance; **e)** psalms of confidence; **f)** psalms of wisdom; and **g)** royal (i.e., kinship) psalms.

### 3) Poetic Texture of the Psalms

The Book of Psalms is a compendium of one-hundred-and-fifty exemplars of ancient Hebraic lyric poetry. Therefore, we must come to understand the characteristics and/or hallmarks of this genre of biblical literature:

**NOTE 4** – Hence, we noted the musicality of the psalms. Lyric poetry was often connected to tune and melody.

**NOTE 5** – We also addressed the operation of parallelism within the psalms (along with select literary devices).

### 4) Matters of Structure & Authorship

**NOTE 6** – In a recent teaching we examined matters of underlying structure and the authorship of the Psalms.

**KEY 2** – Please rev. previous sessions of this series along with accompanying notes online at [NewLifeBarre.org](http://NewLifeBarre.org).

### 5) Overarching Themes

**NOTE 7** – We are in the midst of considering the recurring themes or motifs present within the Book of Psalms.

## SETTING THE TABLE PT. 2

**NOTE 1** – Those who study Psalms will come upon oft-repeated topics that arrest the attention of the psalmists. A complete listing of said themes would be rather extensive and well beyond the scope of our time to address, but this morning it is my intent to address the following: the themes of **a)** covenant; **b)** the presence of God in history; **c)** the presence of God (personal); **d)** God as King; **e)** the Law; **f)** blessing and curse; **g)** and forgiveness.

**NOTE 2** – Let us take the time to consider these seven themes this morning. Please take note of the following:

### 1. COVENANT

**NOTE 1** – Many of the psalms touch upon the concept of COVENANT. Covenant is a term students of Scripture must understand, as much of Scripture is established upon it. Simply put, a covenant is an agreement between two or more parties. It is not, however, to be confused with a contract (i.e., in that covenants are to be broken only by or at the penalty of death).

**ILL** – My agreement with Verizon re: my phone is a contract. My agreement with my wife, Misty, is a covenant!

**NOTE 2** – Throughout Scripture God is presented as a God of covenant (i.e., in that He establishes binding agreements with humanity at varying intervals). A full series of the covenants of God would be quite lengthy, but would include the following at a minimum! Take note:

**1) Adamic** – Man was created to serve as the emissary and steward of God in keeping the Garden of Eden. Man was allowed to enjoy the provision(s) of the Lord with one stipulation: they were not to eat of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil at the penalty of death.

**2) Noahic** – This covenant was an unconditional covenant between God and Noah (sp) and humanity (gen). After the Flood, God promised to never destroy all life on earth again by water. The rainbow served a sign acc.!

**3) Abrahamic**– The Lord God promised much to Abraham. He promised to make Abraham’s name great, that He would have numerous physical descendants, and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations. God promised land to Abraham and to his seed, and that the world would come to know blessing through him and his family in kind. All of this finds AND shall find ultimate fulfillment in the Messiah of Israel in His g. time!

**4) Mosaic** – The covenant between God and the people of Israel, given through Moses as Sinai post-Exodus. This covenant promised blessing in the Promised Land to the Hebrews (i.e., should they obey His commands). National disobedience would inevitably result in curse and the penalty of exile and expulsion (i.e., temporary)!

**5) Davidic** – This David Covenant amplifies the *seed* aspect of the aforementioned Abrahamic Covenant. Herein, God promised an eternal dynasty to David through his offspring. Ultimately, Christ is the awaited King!

**NOTE 3** – Since this is a study on the Book of Psalms, which is an OT work, I cannot address NT covenants now! I will note, however, that the covenants mentioned today are touched upon recurringly in the Book of Psalms (i.e., particularly the Abrahamic, Mosaic and Davidic). Consider the following:

## 1) Abrahamic

### Psalm 105:1–11 (ESV, Emphasis Mine)

- 1 Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!
- 3 Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
- 4 Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!
- 5 Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
- 6 O offspring of **Abraham**, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!
  
- 7 He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.
- 8 He remembers his **covenant** forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
- 9 the **covenant** that he made with **Abraham**,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- 10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting **covenant**,
- 11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."

## 2) Mosaic

**FYI** – The whole of Psalm 119 (i.e., "lengthiest" psalm in the Psalter) is an ode to the Law given through Moses!

### Psalm 119:1–8 (Emphasis Mine)

- 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the **law** of the Lord!
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his **testimonies**,  
who seek him with their whole heart,
- 3 who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his **ways**!
- 4 You have **commanded** your **precepts**  
to be kept diligently.
- 5 Oh that my **ways** may be steadfast  
in keeping your **statutes**!
- 6 Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your **commandments**.
- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous **rules**.
- 8 I will keep your **statutes**;  
do not utterly forsake me!

### 3) Davidic

#### Psalm 89:1–4 (Emphasis Mine)

- 1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- 2 For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”
- 3 You have said, “I have made a **covenant** with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to **David** my servant:
- 4 ‘I will establish your offspring **forever**,  
and **build your throne** for **all generations.**’” Selah

28 “My steadfast love I will keep for him [David] **forever**,  
and my **covenant** will **stand firm for him**.

29 I will establish **his offspring forever**  
and his **throne** as the days of the heavens.”

35 “Once for all I have sworn by my holiness;  
I will not lie to **David**.

36 His **offspring** shall **endure forever**,  
his **throne** as long as the sun before me.

37 Like the moon it shall be established forever,  
a faithful witness in the skies.” Selah

**KEY** – To study the Psalms is to study the covenants of the Lord!

## 2. PRESENCE OF GOD (IN HISTORY)

**NOTE 1** – Secondly and similarly, many of the psalms focus upon the work of the Lord in the midst of history. Based on the previous point, the psalmists who penned their songs were acutely aware of God’s work in and through figures like Abraham, Moses, David and beyond. Beyond this, the psalmists will also touch upon the works of the Lord in the midst of events like the Creation, the Exodus, the Wilderness Wanderings, the Exile, etc.

**NOTE 2** – Let us consider the following selection in kind:

**Psalm 105:26–45 (re: the Exodus; Wilderness Wandering; & Conquest)**

- 26 He sent Moses, his servant,  
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
- 27 They performed his signs among them  
and miracles in the land of Ham.
- 28 He sent darkness, and made the land dark;  
they did not rebel against his words.
- 29 He turned their waters into blood  
and caused their fish to die.
- 30 Their land swarmed with frogs,  
even in the chambers of their kings.
- 31 He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,  
and gnats throughout their country.
- 32 He gave them hail for rain,  
and fiery lightning bolts through their land.
- 33 He struck down their vines and fig trees,  
and shattered the trees of their country.
- 34 He spoke, and the locusts came,  
young locusts without number,
- 35 which devoured all the vegetation in their land  
and ate up the fruit of their ground.
- 36 He struck down all the firstborn in their land,  
the firstfruits of all their strength.
- 37 Then he brought out Israel with silver and gold,  
and there was none among his tribes who stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad when they departed,  
for dread of them had fallen upon it.
- 39 He spread a cloud for a covering,  
and fire to give light by night.
- 40 They asked, and he brought quail,  
and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.
- 42 For he remembered his holy promise,  
and Abraham, his servant.
- 43 So he brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with singing.
- 44 And he gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,
- 45 that they might keep his statutes  
and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

## Q. Why are the psalmists so consumed with God’s activity in history past?

**QUOTE** – “The Psalms often meditate upon the past works of God. They particularly call His acts of deliverance to remembrance, noting the demonstration of His covenantal love. However, the psalmist is not an historian. He is not interested in the past for its own sake. Rather, the psalmist reflects upon God’s wonderful deeds in times past as the basis for their confidence in the midst of current trouble.”

**NOTE 3** – Thus, the psalmists look back in sacred history in order to inform and impact their faith in the present.

**NOTE 4** – Consider these sentiments as we examine Psalm 136. Note:

### Psalm 136 (Emphasis Mine)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>.</p> <p>2 Give thanks to the God of gods,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>.</p> <p>3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>4 to him who alone does great wonders,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>5 to him who by understanding made the heavens,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>7 to him who made the great lights,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>8 the sun to rule over the day,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>9 the moon and stars to rule over the night,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> | <p>10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>11 and brought Israel out from among them,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>13 to him who divided the Red Sea in two,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>16 to him who led his people through the wilderness,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>17 to him who struck down great kings,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>18 and killed mighty kings,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>19 Sihon, king of the Amorites,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>20 and Og, king of Bashan,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>21 and gave their land as a heritage,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>22 a heritage to Israel his servant,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>.</p> <p>23 It is he who remembered us in our low estate,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>24 and rescued us from our foes,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>;</p> <p>25 he who gives food to all flesh,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>.</p> <p>26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,<br/>for his steadfast love endures <b>forever</b>.</p> |
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**KEY** – To study the Psalms is to study the presence of the Lord in sacred history!

### 3. PRESENCE OF GOD (PERSONAL)

**NOTE 1** – Thirdly, the psalmists would often celebrate the presence and working of the Lord in their own lives. Thus, the work of God was not something relegated to seasons past, but there was an abiding intimacy in the present (i.e., and unto the future).

**QUOTE** – “We sense God’s intimate presence in the shouts of rejoicing and the cries of lament in the Psalter. The psalmist knows that God hears him. He often directly addresses God. The psalmist speaks as one aware that God is with him.”

**NOTE 2** – The seminal example of these sentiments is this beloved psalm of King David. Allow for its repetition!

#### Psalm 23 (NKJV, Emphasis Mine)

1 The Lord is **my** shepherd;  
I shall not want.

2 He makes **me** to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads **me** beside the still waters.

3 He restores **my** soul;  
He leads **me** in the paths of righteousness  
For His name’s sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with **me**;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort **me**.

5 You prepare a table before **me** in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint **my** head with oil;  
**My** cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow **me**  
All the days of **my** life;  
And I will  **dwell** in the house of the Lord  
Forever.

**NOTE 3** – At times the psalmists will note the influence and impact the nearness of God has upon life and living:

#### Psalm 73:1–3, 16–17 (ESV, Emphasis Mine)

1 Truly God is good to Israel,  
to those who are pure in heart.

2 But as for me, my feet had almost **stumbled**,  
my steps had nearly **slipped**.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant  
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

16 But when I thought how to understand this,  
it seemed to me a wearisome task,

17 until I went **into the sanctuary of God**;  
then I discerned their end.

**KEY** – To study the Psalms is to study the personal presence and intimacy of the Lord!



## 4. GOD AS KING

**NOTE 1** – Fourthly, the Book of Psalms often touches upon a central scriptural reality: God as the King over all!

### Psalm 47 (Emphasis Mine)

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the Lord, the **Most High**, is to be **feared**,  
a **great king over all the earth**.
- 3 **He subdued peoples** under us,  
and **nations** under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
- 5 God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
Sing praises to our **King**, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the **King of all the earth**;  
sing praises with a psalm!
- 8 God **reigns over** the **nations**;  
God sits on his **holy throne**.
- 9 The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth **belong to God**;  
he is highly **exalted**!

**NOTE 2** – Thus said, the psalmists touch upon the idea of humanity’s rejection of the King and the folly thereof:

### Psalm 2

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Why do the nations rage<br/>and the peoples plot in vain?</li> <li>2 The kings of the earth set themselves,<br/>and the rulers take counsel together,<br/>against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,</li> <li>3 “Let us burst their bonds apart<br/>and cast away their cords from us.”</li> <li>4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;<br/>the Lord holds them in derision.</li> <li>5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,<br/>and terrify them in his fury, saying,</li> <li>6 “As for me, I have set my King<br/>on Zion, my holy hill.”</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 I will tell of the decree:<br/>The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;<br/>today I have begotten you.</li> <li>8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,<br/>and the ends of the earth your possession.</li> <li>9 You shall break them with a rod of iron<br/>and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”</li> <li>10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;<br/>be warned, O rulers of the earth.</li> <li>11 Serve the Lord with fear,<br/>and rejoice with trembling.</li> <li>12 Kiss the Son,<br/>lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,<br/>for his wrath is quickly kindled.<br/>Blessed are all who take refuge in him.</li> </ol> |
|--|---|

**NOTE 3** – The psalmist notes the folly of rejecting God as King and the king (i.e., David) he had set in Israel. How much more foolish is it to reject God as King and the King (i.e., Christ) He has established on David’s throne!

**NOTE 4** – Be not mistaken: the King is Coming!

**Revelation 19:11–16**

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule [i.e., shepherd] them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

**KEY** – To study the Psalms is to study the reality of God’s kingship, rulership and reign.

## 5. THE LAW OF GOD

**NOTE 1** – Fifthly, the psalmists often touch upon the Law of God (i.e., from a wide variety of perspectives). Earlier I had noted the Mosaic Covenant and its place in history. Pardon the repetition, but the psalmists both reveled in and regarded the Law of God (i.e., *Torah* or *Instruction*) given through Moses at Mt. Sinai post-Exodus.

**NOTE 2** – The Law of God was comprised of 600-plus commandments which governed the moral, religious and civil life of ancient Israel. The 10 Commandments, which serve as the bedrock for the remaining regulations, are the most known components of the Law. Psalms recurringly touches upon the Law, its beauty and import!

**Psalm 19**

1 The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.

4 Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his  
chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course  
with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

[NOTE THE **HEIGHTENING** AS WE MOVE ON]...

7 The **law** of the Lord is **perfect**,  
**reviving the soul**;

the **testimony** of the Lord is **sure**,  
**making wise the simple**;

8 the **precepts** of the Lord are **right**,  
**rejoicing the heart**;

the **commandment** of the Lord is **pure**,  
**enlightening the eyes**;

9 the fear of the Lord is clean,  
enduring forever;

the **rules** of the Lord are **true**,  
**and righteous altogether**.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, **by them** is your servant **warned**;  
in keeping them there is **great reward**.

**NOTE 3** – Once again, review Psalm 119 on your own time. Said psalm is an ode to the wonder(s) of the Law!

**KEY** – To study the Psalms is to study the import, power and beauty of Scripture!

## 6. BLESSING & CURSE

**NOTE 1** – Sixthly, the Book of Psalms often touches upon the biblical concepts of both blessing and curse. Clearly the commandments of God are paramount to the psalmists (i.e., per the previous points made today). Thus, the benefits and consequences related to obedience or disobedience respectively are ALSO paramount!

**Q. What happens to those who are obedient to God and His ways? What of the rebellious?**

### Psalm 2:1–6

1 Blessed is the man  
 who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
 nor stands in the way of sinners,  
 nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
 and on his law he meditates day and night.  
 3 He is like a tree  
 planted by streams of water  
 that yields its fruit in its season,  
 and its leaf does not wither.  
 In all that he does, he prospers.  
 4 The wicked are not so,  
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
 6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

**NOTE 2** – Consider again the warning given to those who reject or rebel against the rule of God and His Christ:

### Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations rage  
 and the peoples plot in vain?  
 2 The kings of the earth set themselves,  
 and the rulers take counsel together,  
 against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,  
 3 “Let us burst their bonds apart  
 and cast away their cords from us.”  
 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
 the Lord holds them in derision.  
 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
 and terrify them in his fury, saying,  
 6 “As for me, I have set my King  
 on Zion, my holy hill.”

7 I will tell of the decree:  
 The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;  
 today I have begotten you.  
 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
 and the ends of the earth your possession.  
 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron  
 and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”  
 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
 be warned, O rulers of the earth.  
 11 Serve the Lord with fear,  
 and rejoice with trembling.  
 12 Kiss the Son,  
 lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
 for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
 Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

**KEY** – To study the Psalms is to study the nature of both blessings and curse (i.e., both obedience v. rebellion)!

## 7. FORGIVENESS

**NOTE 1** – Finally, the Book of Psalms often touches upon the themes of forgiveness, pardon and mercy divine. The Bible abounds with evidence of our proclivity for failure. The psalms revel in the assurance of God’s grace!

### **Psalm 32:1–2, 5 (Emphasis Mine)**

- 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is **forgiven**,  
whose sin is **covered**.
- 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- 5 I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, “I will **confess** my transgressions to the Lord,”  
and you **forgave** the iniquity of my sin. Selah

### **Psalm 103:1–5 (Emphasis Mine)**

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 **who forgives all your iniquity**,  
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

### **Psalm 130:3–4, 7–8 (Emphasis Mine)**

- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But with you there is **forgiveness**,  
that you may be feared.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful **redemption**.
- 8 And he will **redeem** Israel  
**from all his iniquities**.

**NOTE 2** – Of course, the seminal psalm on matters of forgiveness, mercy and restoration has to be Psalm 51!

**Psalm 51:1–17 (NOTE CONTEXT)**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!
- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.
- 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,  
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right[b] spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**KEY** – To study the Psalms is to study the willingness of God to both pardon and restore!

## SUMMATIONS & APPLICATIONS

**KEY** – We have studied much this morning! Why take the time to examine the recurring themes in the Psalter?

**NOTE 1** – Partly, this brief examination of the themes of the psalms will help you to better understand Psalms! What is wrong with delving deeper into and gaining mastery of one of the most timeless works in all of Scripture?

**NOTE 2** – Moreover, coming to better understand the themes presented in the Psalms will unlock the OT! Many believers struggle to both understand and access the OT. However, coming to study the recurring motifs of the Psalter enables you to contend with much of the Law, the Wisdom Literature and the Prophets of the OT.

**Q1. How many struggle with the OT?**

**Q2. How many want to grow in this arena?**

**A.** Look to the Psalms as the key that opens the door!

**QUOTE** – “Martin Luther, the well-known reformer of the sixteenth century, aptly called the Psalms ‘a little Bible, and the summary of the Old Testament.’ It is stating the obvious to say that the Book of Psalms is in the Old Testament. It is more significant to discover that the Old Testament is in the Psalms! It has long been recognized that the psalms are a microcosm of the message of the Old Testament.”

**NOTE 3** – Finally, coming to understand the themes presented in the psalms unlocks the glories of the NT era! Though we are removed by space, time and culture from the world of the Israelites who penned the psalms, the themes they touched upon are timeless and timely (i.e., even for followers of Christ in the New Covenant)!

- 1) We recognize God is yet a God of covenant (Noahic, Abrahamic, Davidic & New Remain in Effect).
- 2) We do well to look to history past in order to bolster our faith in the present and hope unto the future.
- 3) We do well to consider the abiding intimacy of our Lord and Savior (who NEVER leaves us nor forsakes us).
- 4) We yet recognize Christ as King in the present and anticipate His imminent Return and reign in the earth.
- 5) We yet esteem the beauty, wonder, value, necessity and impact of Scripture and the written Word.
- 6) We realize the temporal and eternal implications of serving or rejecting our Lord and Savior.
- 7) We do well to remember that He is yet forgiving (i.e., ever calling us unto His grace).

**KEY 2** – Thus, this OT work and microcosm of the OT both informs and impacts NT Christians in '23 and beyond!

## CONCLUSION

**NOTE 1** – Feel free to give either in person or online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org).

**NOTE 2** – Check out our website for any of our beyond Sunday ministries (MM, WM & CYC)...

**NOTE 3** – Of particular note: **a)** Men’s Ministry; **b)** CYC; **c)** Women’s Ministry; **d)** Family Fun Day 2023.