

TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

The Psalms model for us
what it means for us to
connect with God-
in *praise, thanksgiving,*
and *sorrow.*

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



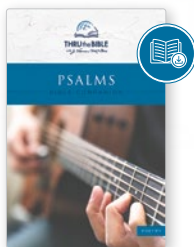
WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



PSALMS: A FRESH LOOK AT A FAVORITE BOOK



Dr. J. Vernon McGee
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This article is an excerpt from our **Psalms Bible Companion**. Download the full digital booklet at TTB.org/booklets.

- CAN WE TELL GOD THAT WE LOVE HIM?** Yes!
- CAN WE THANK HIM FOR THE SUNRISE?** Yes!
- CAN WE CONFIDE IN HIM OUR DEEPEST FEARS?** Yes!
- CAN WE ASK THAT HIS GOOD WOULD TRIUMPH OVER EVIL?** Yes!

→ *How do you know we can do all these things? Because God shows us how in the book of Psalms.* -Dr. J. Vernon McGee

The book of Psalms is one of Dr. McGee's favorite studies—and you'll soon see why.

The key word in the book of Psalms is “hallelujah”—that is, “praise the Lord.” This phrase has become a Christian cliché, but it is one that should cause a swelling of great emotion in the soul. The Psalms model what it means for us to connect with God—in praise, thanksgiving, and sorrow.

The Psalms record deep devotion, intense feeling, exalted emotion, and dark dejection. They play upon the keyboard of the human soul with all the stops pulled out. Very candidly, I feel overwhelmed when I come to this marvelous book. It is located in the center of God’s Word. Psalm 119 is in the very center of the Word of God, and it exalts His Word.

This book has blessed the hearts of multitudes down through the ages.

Ambrose, one of the great saints of the church: “The Psalms are the voices of the church.”

Augustine: “They are the epitome of the whole Scripture.”

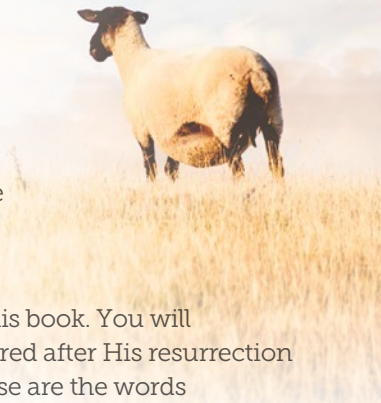
Martin Luther: “They are a little book for all saints.”

John Calvin: “They are the anatomy of all parts of the soul.”

I like that. When I have been sick at home, or in the hospital, or when some problem is pressing upon my mind and heart, I find myself always turning to the Psalms. They always bless my heart and life.

Someone has said that there are 126 psychological (human) experiences—I don’t know how they arrived at that number—but I do know that all of them are recorded in the Psalms. It is the *only* book that contains every experience of a human being. Every thought, every impulse, every emotion that sweeps over the soul is recorded here. Perhaps that’s why it always speaks to our hearts and finds a responsive chord wherever we turn. They express the deep feelings of all believing hearts in all generations.

The Psalms are also full of references to Jesus Christ. Did you know that? We get a more complete picture of Him in the Psalms than in the Gospels. The Gospels tell us that He went to the mountain to pray, but the Psalms give us His prayer. The Gospels tell us that He was crucified, but the Psalms tell us what went on in His own heart during the crucifixion. The Gospels tell us He went back to heaven, but the Psalms begin where the Gospels leave off and show us Christ seated in heaven.



Christ the Messiah is prominent throughout this book. You will remember that the Lord Jesus, when He appeared after His resurrection to those who were His own, said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me” (Luke 24:44). Christ is the subject of the Psalms. He is the object of praise in every one of them. Some are technically called messianic psalms. These record the birth, life, death, resurrection, glory, priesthood, kingship, and return of Christ. There are 16 messianic psalms that speak specifically about Christ, but all 150 of them are about Him. The book of Psalms is a hymnbook and a HIM book—it is all about Him. As we study it, that fact will become very clear.

Contrary to what many think, Psalms is not arranged haphazardly. They weren’t dropped in a tub, shaken up, then put together with no arrangement. Often one psalm will state a principle, then there will follow several psalms that explain it. Psalms 1–8 are an example of this. The sections of the Psalms are also arranged orderly, corresponding to the Pentateuch of Moses. There are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy sections.

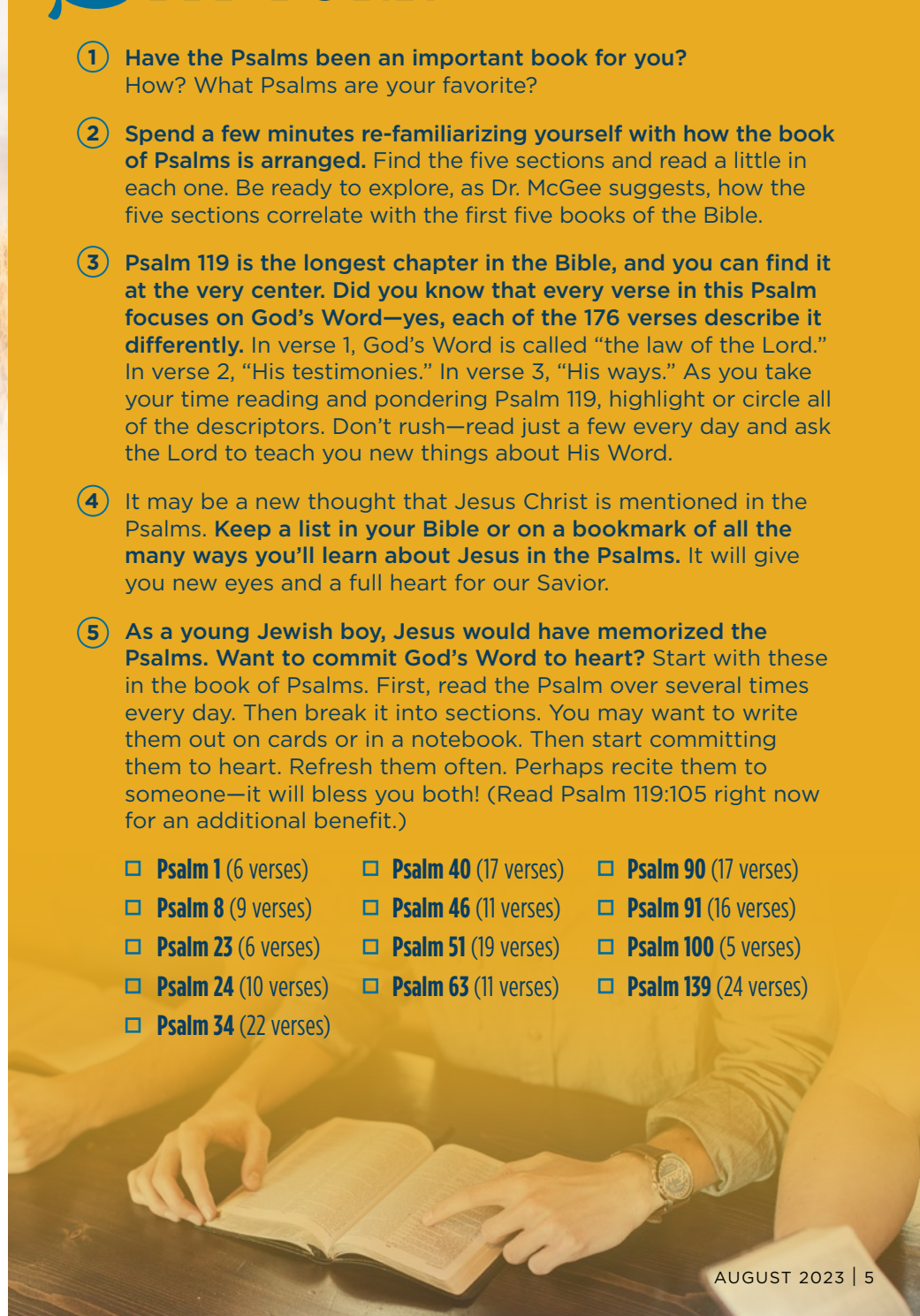
Many other things could be said about the Psalms. It’s the inspired book of prayer and praise. It is the soul’s anatomy, the soul’s epitome. It is the garden of Scripture. Of 218 quotations of the Old Testament in the New Testament, 116 are from the Psalms.

God initiates our worship through our life situations, and we respond by acknowledging Him in every situation. In good times, He is all we need. When our soul is laid bare, He is all we need. He is faithful and true in His dealings with us when we worship Him in spirit and in truth—that’s what we’ll learn in our study of this magnificent book.

MY TURN

- 1 **Have the Psalms been an important book for you?** How? What Psalms are your favorite?
- 2 **Spend a few minutes re-familiarizing yourself with how the book of Psalms is arranged.** Find the five sections and read a little in each one. Be ready to explore, as Dr. McGee suggests, how the five sections correlate with the first five books of the Bible.
- 3 **Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, and you can find it at the very center. Did you know that every verse in this Psalm focuses on God’s Word—yes, each of the 176 verses describe it differently.** In verse 1, God’s Word is called “the law of the Lord.” In verse 2, “His testimonies.” In verse 3, “His ways.” As you take your time reading and pondering Psalm 119, highlight or circle all of the descriptors. Don’t rush—read just a few every day and ask the Lord to teach you new things about His Word.
- 4 It may be a new thought that Jesus Christ is mentioned in the Psalms. **Keep a list in your Bible or on a bookmark of all the many ways you’ll learn about Jesus in the Psalms.** It will give you new eyes and a full heart for our Savior.
- 5 **As a young Jewish boy, Jesus would have memorized the Psalms. Want to commit God’s Word to heart?** Start with these in the book of Psalms. First, read the Psalm over several times every day. Then break it into sections. You may want to write them out on cards or in a notebook. Then start committing them to heart. Refresh them often. Perhaps recite them to someone—it will bless you both! (Read Psalm 119:105 right now for an additional benefit.)

- ❑ Psalm 1 (6 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 8 (9 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 23 (6 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 24 (10 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 34 (22 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 40 (17 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 46 (11 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 51 (19 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 63 (11 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 90 (17 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 91 (16 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 100 (5 verses)
- ❑ Psalm 139 (24 verses)





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AFRICA?

A CONVERSATION WITH ED ANDERSON




Ed Anderson
Board Member, THRU the BIBLE

For many years, Ed has been God's instrument in facilitating THRU the BIBLE's launch and growth of *Mmanyanya Baibuliyo*, TTB's Luganda program reaching Uganda. But as we've previously reported, the impact of God's Word continues to spread throughout eastern Africa from this one program to launch *Manyanya Baibuli Yawe* in western Uganda and *Kelima ta Rabana* in South Sudan.

Q Tell us, Ed, how is God working in eastern Africa?

A Oh my! The Word of God cannot be chained. It accomplishes what God intended. Testimonies of the impact of the radio programs and apps prove that so beautifully! As Joan from western Uganda said, "the radio program teaches the Bible in detail from beginning to end." Praise the Lord for the whole Word for the whole world.

Q Give us some highlights from these three THRU the BIBLE programs that are spreading like wildfire across Africa.

A **1 – *Manyanya Baibuli Yawe* in the Runyakitara language in western Uganda** | It's great to see so many  **WhatsApp messages and phone calls!** Shantari says that God has "beautified my life." Another says, "You reach a point where you don't want to stop learning!" We couldn't make these words up; the Spirit of God prompts them. And though this effort is fairly young, 68% of the programs are "in the can." **They are producing a five-year Bible study that will serve their generation and their children's generation and their children's children's generation, provided the Lord tarries.**

2 – *Kelima ta Rabana* in Juba Arabic in Sudan | What an encouragement to know that the program has been on the air for a year now! Considering all that the team has been through, it's amazing! The testimony from Samuel is proof positive of the purpose of the program. Samuel said that through the program he "got to understand" a truth of God. **It's through the systematic teaching and subsequent study of God's Word that listeners "come to understand" God's Word.**

“

Samuel testified that, through the program, he got to understand that you have to believe in Jesus for you to go to heaven and not to hell. He said he wants other people to listen so that they too may believe and not go to hell.

”

3 – *Mmanyanya Baibuliyo* in Luganda in Uganda | Great strides have been made in establishing listener clubs! God's Word is best applied when it has been "chewed on" collectively and discussed. **And it's amazing that there are over 1,000 followers on Facebook and 341 members on  WhatsApp!** We are finding that once the 5-year program is produced, numerous delivery methods will arise, which means more and more people will find a way to hear God's Word. Lydia shares, "Today we don't have Bible study programs in churches and this has affected the spiritual growth of the church." So true. And all the more reason to deliver the whole Word in whatever method works. She concludes, "... pastor David explains verse by verse in a very simple way that opens my eyes."



We received word that a 40-day crusade just ended in Mbale, Uganda. Our local THRU the BIBLE team helped to lead it. "Hundreds were saved, thousands heard the gospel, children were ministered to by a visiting medical team, and lives were redeemed." **May God's Word take root in people's lives and may He continue to bless this team of workers!**

"Yes, God is mightily at work in Uganda and South Sudan!" says our faithful team in Uganda, led by David Wamimbi. **"We thank God for His goodness and faithfulness."**

LEARNING TO REST

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” -Matthew 11:28-30

Are you tired? Overwhelmed? Stressed out? God’s Word tells us we don’t have to live that way. When we walk with Jesus, He’ll do the heavy lifting for us and we can learn to breathe slowly and easily because He has lightened our load.

That’s the message we hear in Matthew 11, and that’s also the message we hear from Ga-ram in South Korea. He shares:

“I’m listening to the broadcast on the way home from work. Many hard things have happened today, and I didn’t handle them all well. My exhausted body and mind feel comforted by this Bible teaching. Thanks to God I will arrive home refreshed and renewed. Thank you so much for teaching God’s Word in a way that we can easily understand!

I pray that everyone who listens to the program will experience the peace God offers when we give Him our sin and let Him carry our burdens and worries.”

What a great reminder. Today as we pray for THRU the BIBLE as it goes out to precious people in South Korea, let’s thank God for His promises in their lives as well as our own.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](https://ttb.org/pray) TO SIGN UP.

WHY STUDY PSALMS?

Join in the studies on THRU the BIBLE **AUGUST 2—OCTOBER 16** or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

What do the Psalms teach us? God is good, and life is hard. The person who walks by faith in God walks between these two realities every day of their life.

“God initiates our worship through our life situations, and we respond by acknowledging Him in every situation. In good times, He is all we need. When our soul is laid bare, He is all we need. He is faithful and true in His dealings with us when we worship Him in spirit and in truth.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

KEY VERSE

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. –Psalm 119:97

A PSALM FOR EVERY LIFE MOMENT

Most of the 150 Psalms can be categorized into one of these five groups:

- ANTHEMS OF PRAISE** → Tell the world how wonderful God is; → Like **PSALM 108** celebrate who He is
- SHOUTS OF THANKSGIVING** → Be grateful and thank Him → Like **PSALM 100** for what He’s done
- SONGS OF LAMENT** → Ask God for help in a difficult situation → Like **PSALM 142**
- HYMNS OF WISDOM** → Celebrate a life well lived → Like **PSALM 1**
- REFRAINS OF HISTORY** → Sing about a lesson learned from God’s work → Like **PSALM 121**

- **DAVID** wrote most of the Psalms, but at least seven others contributed from 1000 to 450 B.C.
- **MOSES** wrote the earliest around 1405 B.C. (Psalm 90).
- **EZRA** likely compiled and organized all the Psalms in their final form.

The Psalms show us how to turn every situation into an occasion for worship.

- **If we are sad, we should worship.**
- **If we are in the dark, we should worship.**
- **If we are glad, we should worship.**
- **If we are in the light, we should worship.**



“Fling the Seed”

Dr. McGee loved to read your letters. He especially loved to read favorite ones on the program. Thus began our tradition that we still enjoy today. **He called these testimonies of what God was doing the best ministry report we had. They showed in real time the fruit of our investment of prayer, of resources, of efforts, etc.**

While certainly it’s good practice to open the ledgers and business reports to keep communication clear and upfront, we try our best to keep you who invest in this ministry aware every month of the best ministry reports—what God is doing in people’s lives all over the world.

In addition, every day the THRU the BIBLE team—spread all over the world through our high-trust partnerships—works diligently to fulfill our amazing mission of taking the whole Word to the whole world. **Because of your generous prayer and financial support, we can together fling the seed of the Word of God almost everywhere on earth.**

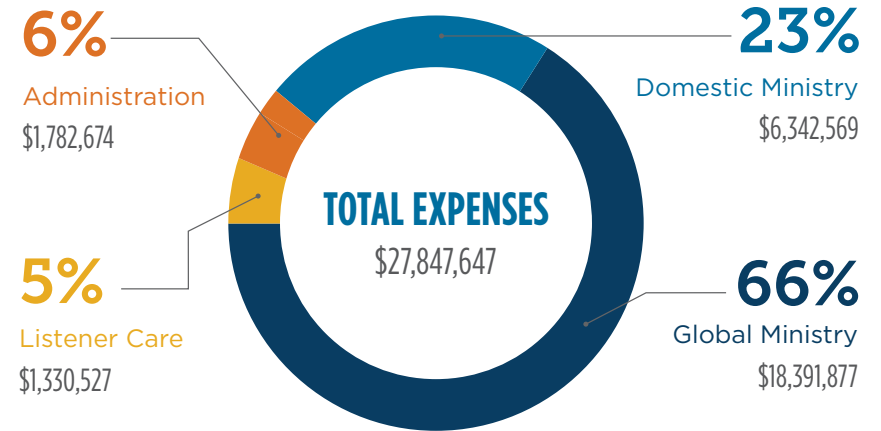
The ministry of THRU the BIBLE is reaching farther and deeper than ever before. Let’s trust God to continue to honor our humble efforts to reach the world for Jesus Christ!

Grateful for your partnership in the gospel,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



2022 ALLOCATIONS



THRU the BIBLE carefully invests the funds entrusted to us to make Dr. McGee’s teaching available to anyone who wants to hear it. Over the past decade, God has opened the floodgates of opportunity to give out this systematic teaching through radio, TV, dozens of digital platforms, more than 30 different language apps, along with tens of thousands of digital players.

“The Lord Jesus is the Sower, the seed’s the Word of God, and the field is the world. He’s flinging it out in the world. Now there’s going to be a harvest someday, but ... you and I are not harvesters. That’s not our business. Our business is sowing seed, and that’s the reason that I don’t worry today about the results. I worry a great deal about the source. I want to do my best here in giving out the Word of God. Why? Because that’s my business, sowing seed!” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee


WHERE WILL *God’s Word* GO TODAY?


I LOVE TO

TELL THE STORY

GREETINGS FROM THE BIBLE BUS

“Thanks so much for carrying the torch of Dr. McGee’s vision of taking the whole Word to the whole world. **I plan to be on the Bible Bus till the Lord takes me home. It’s the only bus I know that gives us a good view of heaven.**” **From Gene | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

“**The Lord used *Thru the Bible* to give me a biblical foundation to stand on.** I have listened in very lonely times like when I moved to Nicaragua to work full time in missions. Later, I listened in Costa Rica to keep me grounded as my husband and I moved there for work and ministry opportunities. Now, I listen as a homeschool mom in Florida, and Dr. McGee has accompanied me in my transition to living in the U.S. So, I guess that makes it three states and three countries! **God knew the plans He had for me so long ago, and by faith, I keep seeking and knocking so I can be a godly woman, wife, and mother. I have been on the  WorldPrayerToday team for over a year. My heart has grown for people in other countries, and I want to keep praying for the work the Lord is doing around the world until He comes back.**” **From Tracey**

“I’m thankful that Jesus is at the wheel of the Bible Bus. Once we accept the free lift, He will be faithful to get us to our heavenly destination. I loved the recent  WorldPrayerToday email about John’s story and heart change. **I am praying for many others around the world who have wandered from the truth. And for others wandering on dark roads without hope. I pray God’s message of salvation will reach them. Bless this team, Lord, with good fruit every day as their lives are rooted in Your Word.**” **From Julie**



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