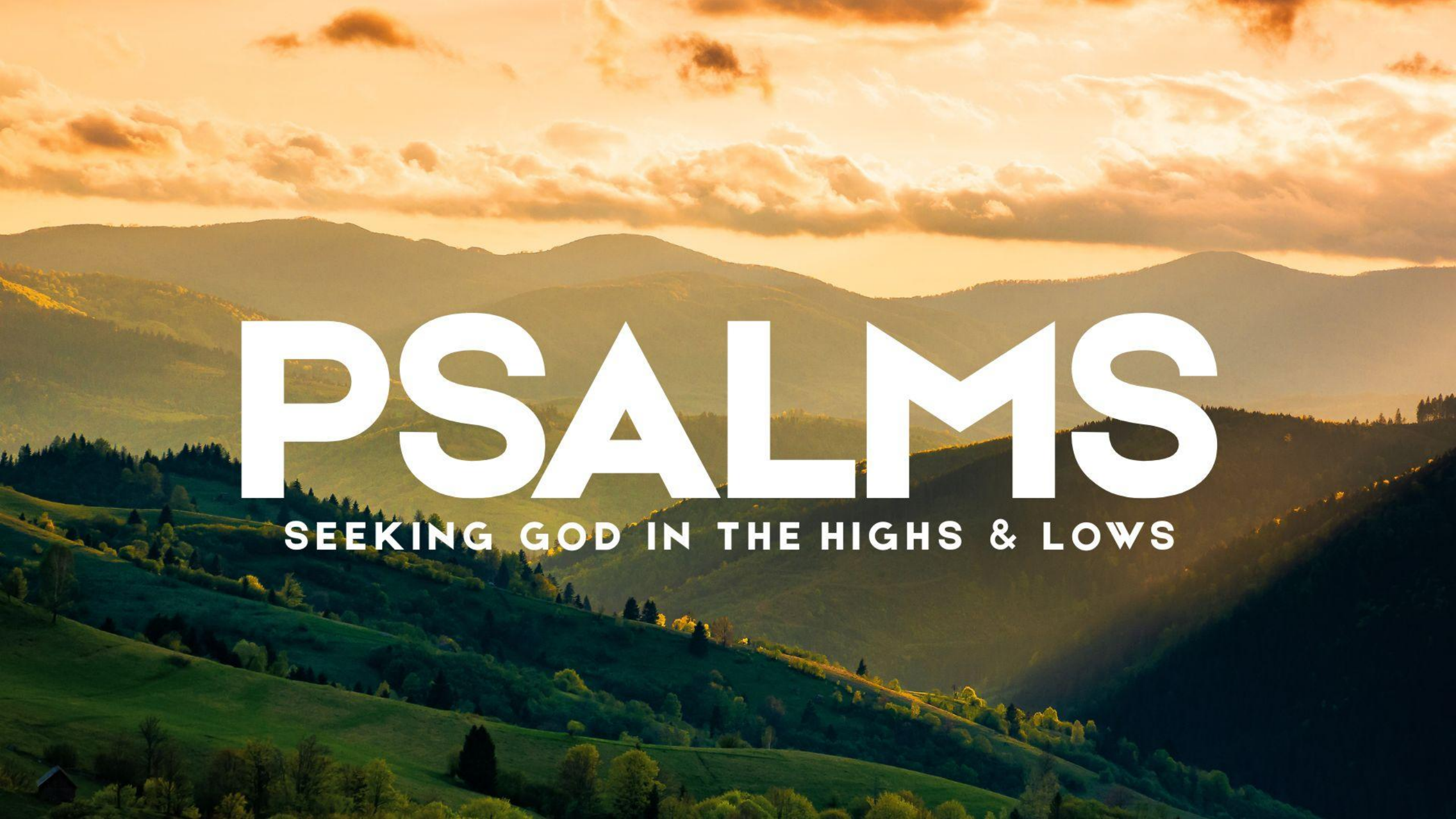




PSALMS

SEEKING GOD IN THE HIGHS & LOWS

Psalms

Seeking God in the Highs and Lows

Week	Psalm	Teacher
October 4	Psalm 122	Grant Phipps
October 11	Psalm 91	Stew Bruner
October 18	Psalm 22	Mike Gann
October 25	Selected Psalms	George Peavy
November 1	Selected Psalms	Greg Moore
November 8	Psalm 20	Stew Bruner
November 15	Psalm 139	Grant Phipps
November 22	Psalm 103	Mike Gann

Psalms: Overview

	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5
Chapters	1-41	42-72	73-89	90-106	107-150
Parallel	Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
Focus	Messiah	Desire	Israel	King	Praise
Theme	Man	Deliverance	Worship	Wandering	Law & Land

Type of Psalm	Description
Royal	Focus on the king as the son of David
Imprecatory	Calls for God's judgment against God's enemies
Penitential	Confesses sorrow for sin and appeals to God for grace
Messianic	Describes some aspect of the Messiah's person or ministry
Hymns	Song of praise and thanksgiving to God
Wisdom	General observations on life
Lament	Laments one's conditions

Q: Why Psalm 91, Stew?

A: The Lord's personal COVID encouragement to me

A: Who quotes from it and when...

-- Satan in wilderness temptation #2/#3

-- Jesus in relation to the 70 being sent out

A: Fundamental to understanding spiritual warfare as a NT believer

A: Inspiration for that famous hymn "Ein Feste Burg" in verse 4b (one of my favorites)



Psalms 91 – Lead-In

- 5 distinct “books” within Psalms
 - 1 (duh), 42, 73, 90, 107
- Several different psalmists, per the commentaries
 - David, Moses, Heman, Asaph his brother, Solomon, Ethan, sons of Korah, Anon.
- A bunch of different purposes
- Lesser discussed among them is imparting general wisdom for life
 - Providing encouragement for desperate life situations, like war and COVID

Psalm 91 – aka God's COVID Psalm for Me

- A snare, pestilence, plague, fear, and terror verses 3, 5, 6
- Thousands fall, ten thousand next to you verse 7
- You will not be afraid, it shall not approach you, no evil will befall you vv10
- “You will call on me and I will answer you” vv15-16
 - “I will be with you in trouble,” “rescue you,” and “satisfy you with long life”
- Specific application of Isaiah 41, 42, and 43 encouragements

Psalm 91 – Let's Read It, Already!

- Follow along in your own translation

Psalm 91 – Break it into Sections

- Looking by subject or by pronoun
 - V1 -- “He who”
 - Vv2 – “I”
 - Vv 3-4 – “He” (God)
 - Vv 5-10 – “You” (...or “Jesus” according to Satan)
 - Vv11-12a -- Angels
 - Vv12b-13 – “You” (or “disciples” according to Jesus)
 - Vv14-16 – “I” (God)

Psalm 91 – Emotions List / Situation Described

Psalm 91 – Any Poetic Conventions?

- Parallelism all over the place
- Imagery
- Metaphor / Simile
- Personification
- Hyperbole
- Chiasm
- Inclusio – (I got it from Ryan)

Psalm 91 – Relationships Among Subjects

- Bad things and me
- Angels and me
- Angels and Jesus
- God and me

Psalm 91 – Benefits and Conditions

- If you make the Most High your refuge/dwelling place...No evil or plague will befall you (vv9-10)
- “Because he has loved Me...I will deliver him” (v14)
- “Because he has known (*yada*) My Name...I will set him securely on high” (v14)
- “If he calls on Me...I will answer him” (v15)

Psalm 91 – Key Truths / Relation to Life Now

- God Himself is your ultimate refuge, shelter, and protection from whatever snare/pestilence/plague, if you trust and abide in Him
- Treading upon demonic entities in Jesus' name has been normative for all believers, pre-Deism/Scientism world view
- God Himself will answer and send you help when you call on Him
- He is “A Mighty Fortress (vv 4b& 9),” as Luther penned

Psalm 91:12 – Quoted by Satan...Wait...What?

- Context: Matthew 3:16 – 4:11 / Luke 4:1-13
 - Jesus' baptism and subsequent temptation in the wilderness
 - #1 – “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread”
 - #2 – “Bow down before me and all the kingdoms of the world shall be yours”
 - #3 -- “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here (temple pinnacle)”
- “For it is written...”
 - He will give His angels charge concerning You to guard You... and
 - On their hands they will bear you up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.”
- Why this portion of this psalm in opposition to Jesus' previous 2 quotes?
 - What do you think? Does it merely relate to James 2:19?

I think it demanded Satan's attention due to the next verse: 91:13

Psalm 91:13 – A Spiritual Warfare Primer

- Jesus quotes v 13 directly in Luke 10:19
- Context: Results of sending the 70 out “in Jesus’ name” (aka using His personal authority)
- “The dragon” was well known as a personification for Satan in Jewish & Christian circles
 - We understand the term clearly from Rev 20:2: “the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan...”
 - Jesus connects Satan to verse 13 Himself in Luke 10:18-19
- A 1st Century protective prayer type use of Psalm 91 seems to have followed

Prof. Matthias Henze's Assertions

- “Many interpreters, from ancient times to the present, have understood the two perils in verse 6 not to be epidemics but rather malevolent spirits, or demons. The idea is [present] in the LXX, which translates the final phrase as ‘the misfortune and evil spirit (*daimon*) of midday’...”
- “In the *Midrash on Psalms*, first the flying arrow is interpreted [by certain rabbis in history] as a demon...”
- A prayer based on verse 13 was often used as protection against demons by Jews and the early church
 - Engravings of the protective portions have been found on medallions, rings, pendants, and doorposts in Jewish and early Christian areas

Spiritual Warfare Takeaway – Eph 6:12,13

We have a sworn and highly active enemy, but we also have Jesus' authority to violently overcome that enemy. Therefore, there is no need to fear and certainly no reason to ignore the reality of spiritual warfare as long as we remember our power to overcome resides in aligning ourselves with Jesus and operating solely under His authority, just like the 70 did. -- Stew

Psalm 91 – Your Key Takeaways

- “So what?”
- How should you pray in light of what we’ve uncovered?
- Fill in Ryan’s blank: “When I feel _____, I will turn to Psalm 91.”

Adam's Challenge:

Read 1-2 Psalms each day during this class to get through all 150 Psalms.

Bonus: Keep a journal with a 2-3 sentence response to your daily reading