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The Psalms in the Christian life

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Wednesday 30 August 2017
1. Psalm 1, poetry and the purpose of the book
ACTIVITY 1: READ

Psalm 93 (NIV 2011)  

1 The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;  
   the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength;  
   indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

2 Your throne was established long ago;  
   you are from all eternity.

3 The seas have lifted up, Lord,  
   the seas have lifted up their voice;  
   the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

4 Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
   mightier than the breakers of the sea—  
   the Lord on high is mighty.

5 Your statutes, Lord, stand firm;  
   holiness adorns your house  
   for endless days.

   Emotional journey  Rational journey
2. Psalm 2, pottery and the plot of the book
Psalm 64 (NIV 2011)  

David/Israel  

Christ  

Me/us  

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint;  
protect my life from the threat of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked,  
from the plots of evildoers.

3 They sharpen their tongues like swords  
and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.

4 They shoot from ambush at the innocent;  
they shoot suddenly, without fear.

5 They encourage each other in evil plans,  
they talk about hiding their snares;  
they say, “Who will see it?”

6 They plot injustice and say,  
“We have devised a perfect plan!”  
Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.

7 But God will shoot them with his arrows;  
they will suddenly be struck down.

8 He will turn their own tongues against them  
and bring them to ruin;  
all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.

9 All people will fear;  
they will proclaim the works of God  
and ponder what he has done.

10 The righteous will rejoice in the Lord  
and take refuge in him;  
all the upright in heart will glory in him!
INTERLUDE: RESPONDING VISUALLY TO THE PSALMS (FIONA PFENNIGWERTH)

3. Psalm 8, personhood and the practice of praise

Resources


Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, my soul.

1 I will praise the Lord all my life;
   I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

2 Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.

3 When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

4 Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
   whose hope is in the Lord their God.

5 He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
   the sea, and everything in them—
   he remains faithful forever.

6 He upholds the cause of the oppressed
   and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,

7 He delivers from oppression,
   feeds the hungry in their plight.
the Lord leads prisoners out to freedom,

8 He lifts up those bent with anguish;
   God loves all the righteous ones;

9 The Lord watches over the foreigner
   and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
   but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

10 The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord.

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