

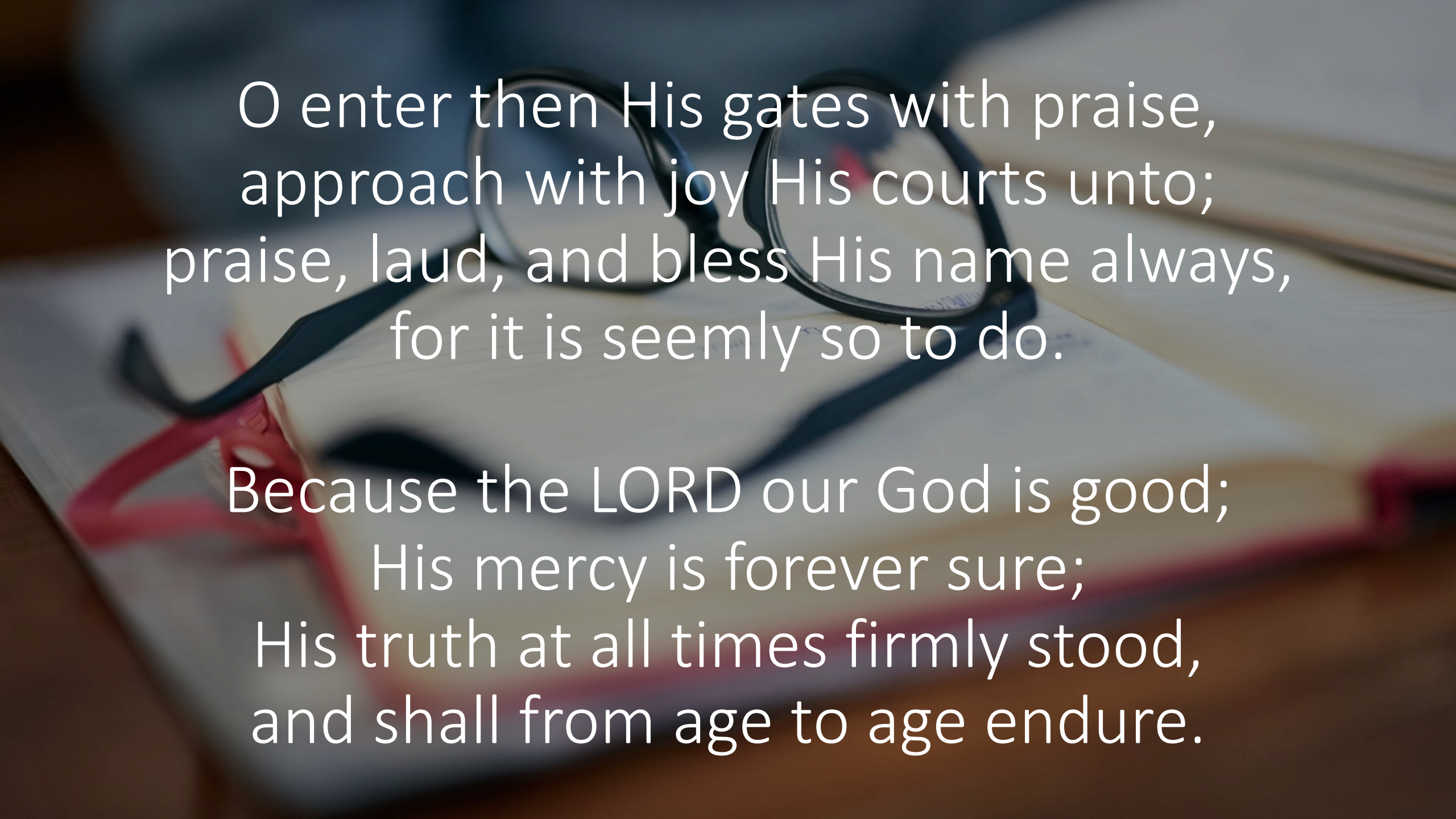
A pair of black-rimmed glasses with thin temples is resting on an open book. The book has a red bookmark visible on the left side. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and a wooden surface.

Bracknell Bible Study Day

15th June 2024

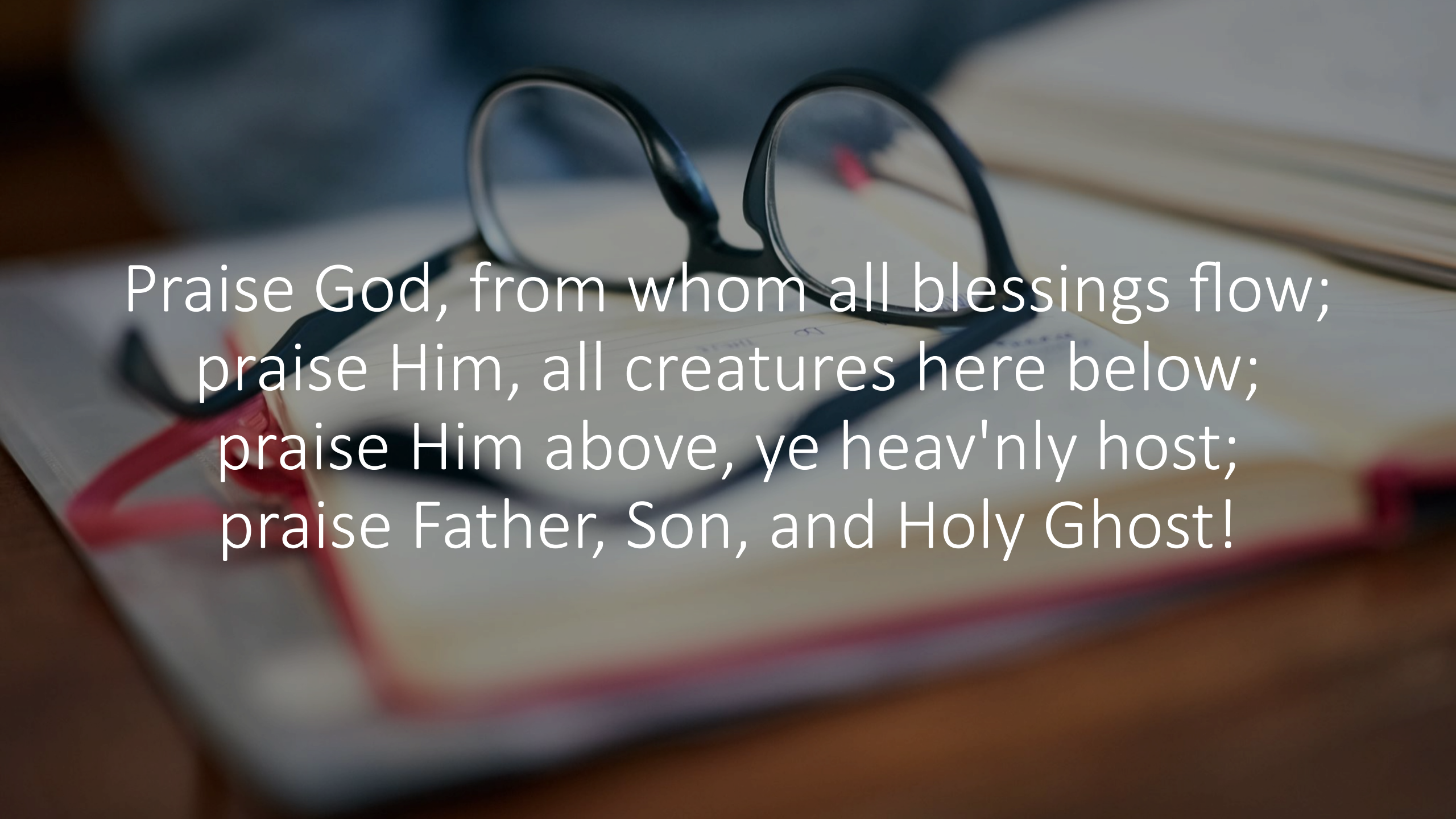
All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth-tell;
come ye before Him and rejoice!

Know that the LORD is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His flock, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with thin temples is resting on an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is slightly blurred, showing the pages of the book and the texture of the cover.

O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

Because the LORD our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is resting on an open book. A red bookmark is visible in the left page. The background is softly blurred, showing the pages of the book and a wooden surface.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with a slight reflection on the lenses, resting on an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is softly blurred, showing the pages of the book and a wooden surface.

Bracknell Bible Study Day

15th June 2024

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with round lenses is resting on an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and a wooden surface.

Studying the Book of Psalms

Book Study

An overview of Psalms



Read a Psalm-a-day

Read a few Psalms at a time

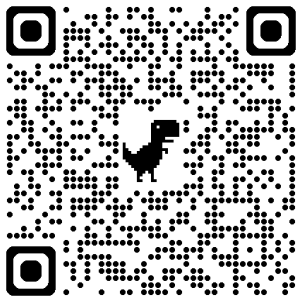
Identify and read Psalms for a particular need

Listen to some being read

Use them to guide your prayers

Meditate on them

Where to begin- READ



The Book of Psalms – the context

The book of Psalms has no title in the Hebrew text.

Psalm 72:20 may hint of an early collection of some of the psalms when it says, “The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.” It may be that an early collection of psalms was named The Prayers of David.

The title of the book in Rabbinic and subsequent Hebrew literature is Book of Praises or simply Praises (tehillim).

The Hebrew word for psalm occurs dozens of times in the book, and the Septuagint picks this up in the plural as the title of the book: Psalmoi. In Jerome’s Latin Vulgate, it became *Libra Psalmorum*, The Book of Psalms.

So the English title, The Book of Psalms, comes to us from the Greek through the Latin. The Hebrew word psalm denotes a liturgical song sung to an instrumental accompaniment, but because the note of praise is so dominant in these psalms, the word has come to denote simply a song of praise, a sacred song, or a hymn.

The Book of Psalms – the context

150 Psalms

Around 4.5 hours reading time

Psalms of lament, praise, sadness, joy, faith, hope

Poems, hymns, prayers

Backward looking e.g. Psalm 78

Forward looking e.g. Psalm 24

They speak of Christ – some are designated ‘Messianic’, but really they all point to Him

Repeated use of the word ‘Selah’ – 71 times – ‘This word is of very obscure meaning. It probably denotes rest or pause, both as to the music and singing, intimating something emphatic in the sentiment’ *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown*

The Book of Psalms – the context

Written over the course of around 1000 years – first one was Moses (Psalm 90)
– between BC1500 and BC500

Various authors – David (73), Anonymous (49), Asaph (12), Sons of Korah (11),
Solomon (2), Moses (1), Heman (1), Ethan (1)

Organised into five books – some say that the first four were in place by 1 Chr.
16:36/Psalm 106:48 where there are clear parallels

Book 1 may have been compiled by Solomon; Books 2 and 3 maybe by men of
Hezekiah 2 Chr. 29:30; Books 4 and 5 maybe in the time of Ezra/Nehemiah

*Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with
the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their
heads and worshipped. 2 Chronicles 29:30*

Literary structure

The poetry of the Psalms is unsurpassed

Nine psalms are alphabetical or acrostic (Pss. 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145). Each successive line or group of lines begins with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. In Psalm 119, each of the eight verses in a given stanza begins with the same letter.

They are characteristic of Hebrew poetry – parallelism – how one verse relates to another

Synonymous parallelism

Synonymous parallelism – the same thing is repeated in different words; in which the second member enforces the thought of the first

LORD, how are they increased that trouble me!
many are they that rise up against me. *Psalms 3:1*

The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof;
the world, and they that dwell therein.
For he hath founded it upon the seas,
and established it upon the floods.
Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?
or who shall stand in his holy place? *Psalms 24:1-3*

Antithetic parallelism

Antithetic parallelism, in which the thought of the first line is emphasised by a contrasting thought in the second. (e.g., 1:6; 90:6)

For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous:
but the way of the ungodly shall perish. *Psalms 1:6*

In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up;
in the evening it is cut down, and withereth. *Psalms 90:6*

For evildoers shall be cut off:
but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. *Psalms 37:9*

Synthetic parallelism

Synthetic parallelism, in which the second member explains or add something to the first

Blessed is the man
that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners,
nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. *Psalms 1:1*

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever:
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. *Psalms 19:7-9*

Other parallelism

There are a number of other forms of parallelism

Emblematic parallelism, where the second line illustrates the thought of the first line, often by a simile *Psalms 42:1*

Introverted parallelism – lines are placed in inverse order *Psalms 5:7*

Iterative parallelism – the thought is simply repeated *Psalms 93:3*

Responsory parallelism – the lines appeal and answer alternately *Psalms 95:9-11*

Climacteric parallelism – the second line completes the first *Psalms 29:1*

Alternate parallelism – the lines follow one another by turns, the first line being parallel to the third, and the second to the fourth *Psalms 103:11,12*

Things people say about the Psalms

The Book of Psalms instructs us in the use of wings as well as words. It sets us both mounting and singing.

Spurgeon: Treasury of David

Things people say about the Psalms

It has been said by church historians that in those periods of Christian history where renewal, revival, and awakening took place and the church was at its strongest, that coincidental with those periods in church history, there was a strong focus on the psalms in the life of God's people- particularly in the worship of God's people.

R.C. Sproul

Things people say about the Psalms

Imagery and similes are drawn from all quarters in the Psalter. Here are the everlasting hills, the rushing torrents, the roar of thunder, the desolating hail, the storm-tossed ocean, the sheltering rock, the fruitful fields, the fearsome valley, the hunter's trap, the passing ship, the dazzling snow, the refreshing cup, the glowing stars, the midday sun, the passing shadow, the roaring lion, the subtle unicorn, the fleeing dove, the timid sheep, the horned unicorn, the worrying dog, the hind and the stag, the buffalo and the bull, the horse and the mule, the worm and the moth, the locust and the bee, the crocodile and the dragon, the sparrow and the eagle, the bottle in the smoke, the purified silver, the holy oil, the burning sacrifice, the sacred House, the forbidding desert, the narrow cliff, the slipping foot, the concealed pit, the shepherd's club, the bow and arrow, the sword and spear, the tower and fortress, the shield and buckler, the wealthy mines, the withered grass, the scattered seed, the driven chaff, the olive and the vine, the prince, the slave, the razor, the crown; and scores of other facts and figures are laid under contribution by these Hebrew poets. For poetic beauty Psalm is a masterpiece. Its author has been called "The Wordsworth of the ancients," and Gray in his *Elegy* follows him afar off.

Only the wholly unimaginative can fail to appreciate the wealth and purpose of such imagery as this.

W. Graham Scroggie

The IMPORTANCE of the Psalms

Deeply precious for the Jew

Part of their on-going worship e.g. the Psalms of Ascent

Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. 1 Chronicles 16:9

Deeply precious to the Christian, as endorsed by Paul

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16

The BIG picture of the Old Testament

Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Kings
1 & 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of
Songs

Prophecy

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The BIG picture of the New Testament

Gospel

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

Paul's Letters to Churches

Romans
1&2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians*
Philippians*
Colossians*
1&2 Thessalonians

Paul's Pastoral Letters

1&2~ Timothy
Titus
Philemon*

Other Letters

Hebrews
James
1&2 Peter
1,2&3 John

Prophecy

Revelation

* 1st imprisonment, ~ 2nd imprisonment



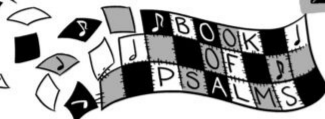
150 Hebrew Poems

- DAVID (73)
- ASAPH (12)
- SONS OF KORAH (11)
- HEMAN & ETHAN (2)
- SOLOMON & MOSES (3)
- ANONYMOUS (19)

MANY WRITTEN FOR CHOIR...

...BUT NOT A HYMNBOOK

(SEE 1 CHRONICLES 25 & NEHEMIAH 11:22-23)



PSALMS

Torah & Messiah

Lament & Praise

Faith & Hope



HOW LONG, O LORD?

LAMENT

- PRAYERS OF PAIN, CONFUSION, & ANGER
- DRAW ATTENTION TO WHAT'S WRONG IN THE WORLD
- ASK GOD TO DO SOMETHING

PRAISE

- PRAYERS OF JOY & CELEBRATION
- DRAW ATTENTION TO WHAT'S GOOD IN THE WORLD
- RETELL THE STORY & THANK GOD



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD

LAMENT & PRAISE

BOOK 1

3-41

1 **BLESSED** IS THE ONE WHO MEDITATES ON THE



TORAH TEACHING
5 BOOKS OF MOSES

PSALMS = A NEW TORAH
ABOUT PRAYER

2 **POETIC REFLECTION** ON 2 SAMUEL 7



MESSIANIC KING
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN THE KING

15 **CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS**

16-18 **DAVID'S PAST DELIVERANCE AND ELEVATION AS KING**

PSALM 19
TORAH

20-23 **FUTURE KING'S DELIVERANCE AND KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS**

24 **CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS**



41:13

BOOK 2

42-72

12-13



HOPE FOR A FUTURE RETURN TO THE TEMPLE IN ZION

72 **FUTURE REIGN**

MESSIANIC KING



ECHOES THE PROPHETS:
• ISAIAH 11, 45, & 60
• ZECHARIAH 9

FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM
(PS 72:17 = GEN 12:3 & 22:17)

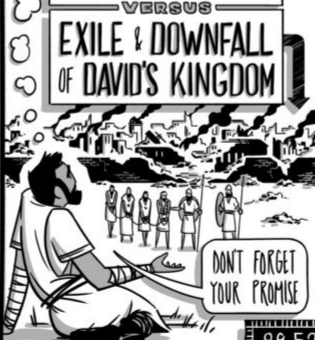
72:18-19

BOOK 3

73-89



PROMISE OF A MESSIANIC KINGDOM
VERSUS
EXILE & DOWNFALL OF DAVID'S KINGDOM



DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE

89:52

BOOK 4

90-106

90

MOSES



HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SERVANTS!

93-99 **THE LORD REIGNS AS KING**



106:48

BOOK 5

107-145

107-110

THE

MESSIANIC KING

DEFEATS EVIL & BRINGS GOD'S KINGDOM



113-118 **THE HALLEL**

118 **MESSIANIC KINGDOM**

SUSTAIN HOPE IN A FUTURE EXODUS WHEN GOD REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE

PSALM 119
TORAH

"GOD HAS RAISED UP A HORN FOR HIS PEOPLE" (118:19)



SEE 1 SAM 2:10 & PS 132:17

120-136 **THE SONGS OF ASCENTS**

132 **MESSIANIC KINGDOM**

HALLELU - YAH
PRAISE + YAHWEH

HALLELU - YAH
146
HALLELU - YAH

HALLELU - YAH
147
HALLELU - YAH

HALLELU - YAH
148
HALLELU - YAH

HALLELU - YAH
149
HALLELU - YAH

HALLELU - YAH
150
HALLELU - YAH

PSALMS: THE PRAYERBOOK OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE **TORAH** AND WAITING FOR THE **MESSIANIC KINGDOM**

MAY THE **LORD GOD** OF ISRAEL BE **BLESSED FOREVER, AMEN AND AMEN**



created by the Bible Project

The BIG picture of the Psalms

Book 1

Book 2

Book 3

Book 4

Book 5

Psalms 1-41

Psalms 42-72

Psalms 73-89

Psalms 90-106

Psalms 107-150

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Man's sin
God's power

Deliverance
Wilderness

Worship
Sacrifice

Rebellion
God's judgement

Guidance
Promised land
Praise

Blessed be the LORD
God of Israel from
everlasting, and to
everlasting. Amen, and
Amen. Psalm 41:13

The prayers of David
the son of Jesse are
ended.
Psalm 72:20

Blessed be the LORD
for evermore.
Amen, and Amen.
Psalm 89:52

Blessed be the LORD God of
Israel from everlasting to
everlasting:
and let all the people say,
Amen.
Praise ye the LORD.
Psalms 106:48

Let every thing that
hath breath praise
the LORD.
Praise ye the LORD.
Psalm 150:6

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Book 1

Psalms 1-41

Genesis

Man's sin
God's power

Blessed be the LORD
God of Israel from
everlasting, and to
everlasting. Amen, and
Amen. Psalm 41:13

Matthew

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. *Psalm 1:1*

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained *Psalm 8:3*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. *Psalms 24:9*

Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. *Matthew 21:5*

Book 2

Psalms 42-72

Exodus

Deliverance
Wilderness

The prayers of David
the son of Jesse are
ended.
Psalm 72:20

Mark

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so
panteth my soul after thee, O God *Psalm 42:1*

My tears have been my meat day and night,
while they continually say unto me, Where is
thy God? *Psalm 42:3*

And straightway coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like
a dove descending upon him *Mark 1:10*

Book 3

Psalms 73-89

Leviticus

Worship
Sacrifice

Blessed be the LORD
for evermore.
Amen, and Amen.
Psalm 89:52

Luke

But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my
steps had well nigh slipped. *Psalms 73:2*

Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then
understood I their end. *Psalms 73:17*

According to the custom of the priest's office,
his lot was to burn incense when he went into
the temple of the Lord. *Luke 1:9*

Book 4

Psalms 90-106

Numbers

Rebellion
God's judgement

Blessed be the LORD God of
Israel from everlasting to
everlasting:
and let all the people say,
Amen.
Praise ye the LORD.
Psalms 106:48

John

A Prayer of Moses the man of God

For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy
wrath are we troubled. *Psalm 90:7*

They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his
counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and
tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their
request; but sent leanness into their soul. *Psalm 106:13-15*

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but
have eternal life. *John 3:14,15*

Book 5

Psalms 107-150

Deuteronomy

Guidance
Promised land
Praise

Let every thing that
hath breath praise
the LORD.

Praise ye the LORD.
Psalm 150:6

Acts

They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. *Psalms 107:4,7*

Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. *Psalms 149:1,4*

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. *Acts 7:51*

But the Lord said unto him [Ananias], Go thy way: for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel *Acts 9:15*

CONNECT: Groups of Psalms

The Cross, the Crook, the Crown

Psalms 22, 23, 24

Theme:

The Lord Jesus – forsaken of God

The Lord Jesus – the Good Shepherd

The Lord Jesus – his future glory

Study them a group at a time

CONNECT: Groups of Psalms

Psalms of Asaph

Psalms 73-83

Themes:

The History of Israel

Confidence in God in the sanctuary of God

The end of the wicked

God's strength and dominion

Study them a group at a time

CONNECT: Groups of Psalms

Psalms of Ascent/Songs of Degrees

Psalms 120-134

Themes:

Going up to worship
The House of the Lord
God's faithfulness
Unity

Study them a group at a time

CONNECT: Groups of Psalms

'Messianic' Psalms

Psalms 2,8,16,22,24,40,41; 45,68,69,72; 89; 91,102; 110, 118 (x16)

Themes:

Christ – his person, his coming, his work

NB - we might say that all Psalms are messianic in that they all speak of Christ

CONNECT: Groups of Psalms

Maschil Psalms – for Instruction and wisdom

Psalms 32,42,44,45,52,53,54,55,74,78,88,89,142 (x13)

Themes:

Warning

Encouragement

Trouble

Rejection

Significant for the remnant in days of Tribulation

[Believers' Magazine – John Grant](#) – Part 1

[Believers' Magazine – John Grant](#) – Part 2

Also in Charting through the Old Testament, Grant, J. - Ritchies

Study them a group at a time

CONNECT: Groups of Psalms

Michtam Psalms – ‘golden’ Psalms

Psalms 16; 56-60 (x6)

Themes:

Similar musical character

Precious/golden truths

Blessings of God in a believer's life

God's deliverance and presence in the face of opposition/rejection

Study them a group at a time

CONNECT: Groups of Psalms

Hallelujah Psalms

Psalms 146-150

Theme:

Praise and worship

Study them a group at a time

Alternative categorisation

Lament

3-7, 12-13
22, 25-28
38, 39
42, 44
51, 54-57
59-61, 63
64, 69-71
79-80
83, 85-86,
88, 90
102, 108
109, 120
123, 130
140-143

Thanksgiving

8, 18, 19
29-31
32-34
36, 40, 41
65, 66, 81
91, 92, 95
100, 103-106
111, 113
116-118
124, 129
135, 136
138, 139
145-150

Enthronement

9, 10, 11
24, 47, 93
96-99

Pilgrimage

14-16, 23
43, 46, 48
62, 67
73-78
84, 87, 107
112, 114, 115
120-134

Royal

2, 20
21, 45, 72
89, 101, 110
132, 144

Wisdom

1, 37
40, 49
119

Imprecatory

7, 17, 35
50, 52, 53
55, 58, 59
68, 69, 79, 82
94, 109, 137
139, 144

QUESTIONS for studying any Psalm

What does this Psalm teach me about the psalmist?

What does it teach me about Christ?

What can I apply to my life?

Is there someone else who might be blessed by me sharing this Psalm with them?

When might I want to come back to this Psalm?



APPLY and PRAY

Whichever way you decide to study the Psalms, they are a never-ending treasure trove

Come back to them regularly

In all your reading, think about how they APPLY to you and your present situation

Consider how you might be able to use it to APPLY it to others as well

And PRAY over them again and again, thanking God for 'all his wondrous works'



APPLY and PRAY

Rejoice in the harmony of scripture – see how it all fits together and all points to Christ

Use the Psalms for prayer, meditation, praise and worship, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord

Use them for comfort and guidance

Use them in every circumstance of life – particularly when life is at its hardest

Approach them prayerfully, asking for God's leading and guidance

Thank God for the Psalms!

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with a thin bridge is resting on an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is a soft-focus view of the book's pages and the wooden surface it sits on.

READ!
CONTEXT
COMMENTS
IMPORTANCE
BIG PICTURE
CLOSER CONSIDERATION
CONNECTIONS
QUESTIONS
APPLY AND PRAY

Book Study
SUMMARY



Bibliography

- a few of the books I've used

Flanigan, J. – Psalms – What the Bible Teaches, Ritchie

Grant, J. – Charting through the Old Testament- Ritchie

Nelson – Complete Book of Bible Maps and Charts

Scroggie, W. – A Guide to the Psalms

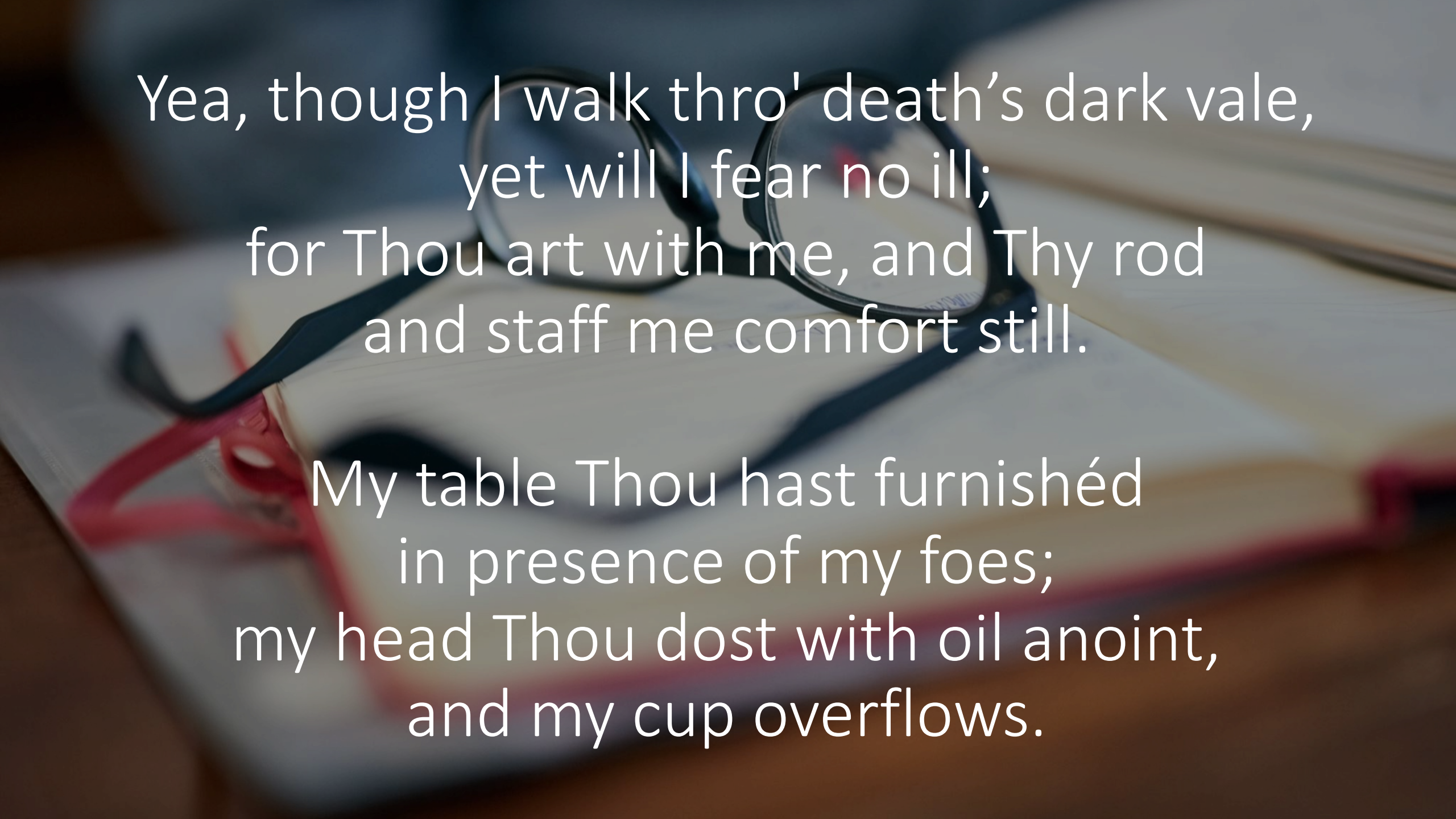
Spurgeon , C.H. – Treasury of David

Precious Seed Magazine

Believers' Magazine

The LORD's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with thin temples is resting on an open book. A red ribbon bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is softly blurred, showing the pages of the book and the texture of the paper.

Yea, though I walk thro' death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishéd
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with thin temples is resting on an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is softly blurred, showing the pages of the book and a wooden surface.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.'