

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**November 19, 2018**

Psalms of Thanksgiving

1. Thanksgiving:

- Equal to praise. Thanksgiving to God is more than transactional, but it is deeply inter-personal. It is an acknowledgement of who God is and who I am in relationship to God.
- We thank God for his goodness. God is good because he is faithful. His goodness is rooted in his fidelity. God is true to his word and his promises. He bound himself to us in a covenant.
- Thanksgiving is rooted in the saving actions of God: (1) Creation (2) the Exodus event (3) personal salvation e.g. from illness or from enemies
- Thanksgiving deepens our relationship with God because we become more aware of what he has done for us.

2. Psalms of Thanksgiving: Psalms 30, 34, 67, 92, 100, 118, 136, 147

3. Psalm 118

- A thanksgiving liturgy to accompany a procession of the king and people into the temple
- vv 1-4: a litany (call and response) as an introduction
- 5-9: the leader speaking for the people describes how they called on God for help
- 10-14 enemies surrounded them
- 15-18 vivid description of God's rescue and deliverance
- 22: what is insignificant or rejected by humans, God uses for his purposes
- 26: Grant salvation=Hosanna
- Christians see in this psalm, Jesus' victory over sin and death. It is the psalm that is sung at the Easter Vigil as we celebrate the Resurrection.

4. Psalm 136

- Call/response
- 4-9 Creation: who created the world in which we live. He did it *for us*, so that we can praise, reverence and serve him
- 10-25 God's mercy shown in the history of Israel

5. Psalm 105

- 1-6: Invitation of Israel to seek God and recall what he has done for them
- 7-11: he is faithful to the promise of land to the ancestors
- In every phase of their national history
  - 12-15: ancestors in the land of Canaan
  - 16-22 Joseph in Egypt
  - 23-38: Israel in Egypt

- 39-45: In the desert on the way to Canaan  
God has remained faithful, renewing his promise to his servants from generation to generation

6. Psalm 92

- 2-5: A hymn of praise and thanksgiving for God's faithful deeds
- 6-9: the wicked are deluded by prosperity
- 10: they are punished
- 11-15: the psalmist has already experienced God's salvation
- 14: the just are like trees planted in the temple gardens—growing by the power of the presence of God

7. Psalm 30

- Thanksgiving for personal favor received/deliverance and restoration
- 3: God as healer
- Sheol: underworld/abode of the dead. A near death experience
- God anger is temporary; his love is everlasting
- Tears last through night. Joy comes in the morning
- Complacent: untroubled existence is seen as a temptation to forget God
- 12-13: transformation of mourning into dancing

8. Final prayer: Harvest thanks and petition Psalm 67

- Israel's prosperity will make other nations want to follow God
- 2: the people's prayer echoes the blessing of Aaron

*Happy Thanksgiving!*  
*God is good!*