

Shorter Catechism: QA 47-48 • Heidelberg: QA 59-61 • Psalter: 260 (Ps. 97) • Memory Verse: Psalm 97:10

Sabbath: *Psalms 90*

1. Psalm 90, "The Prayer of Moses the Man of God," was very likely written near the end of the forty years in the wilderness, as the generation that had gone up out of Egypt with Moses was dying out, and Moses himself was an old man. In the light of God's eternality (vv. 1, 2), Moses broods on the brevity of human life, and the looming reality of death (vv. 3-6). What is meant by the word, "return," in verses 3 & 13? Why was God angry with the people (vv. 7, 8; Ps. 95:8-11)? Who alone has known the the full fury or power of God's wrath (v. 11)? Why is the fear of the Lord (v. 11) the beginning of wisdom (Ps. 111:10)? Why must we "number" our days if we would "apply our hearts unto wisdom" (v. 12)?
2. Darkness gives way to light in the latter part of the Psalm. Those who fear the Lord may ever hope in His mercy (Ps. 147:11) though they have sinned against Him. How does mercy "satisfy us" (v. 14)? Note the connection between the experience of joy (v. 15) and seeing God at work in our lives, and the lives of our children, to His greater glory (vv. 15, 16; Ph. 2:13). How can the beauty of the Lord be upon us (v. 17; Ps. 45:2; Ro.8:29)?

Monday: *Psalms 91*

1. Psalm 91 may also be the work of Moses. The speaker is, by turns, the human author (v.1, 3-13), the believer whom the author addresses (v. 2), and the Lord Himself, confirming the truth of what the author has said (vv. 14-16). How can we "dwell" in the "secret place of the most High" (v. 1; see vv. 2b, 14a; Jo. 15:4-10)? How is the idea of faith, or believing on the Lord, expressed in other words in verses 14 and 15?
2. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous" (Ps. 34:19). The Form for Baptism (The Psalter, p. 126) says that God promises to avert all evil, or turn it to our profit. How then should we understand the promises of protection and preservation in Psalm 91? Do these promises give us the right to be careless about our personal safety (Matthew 4:5, 6)?

Tuesday: *Psalm 92 & 93*

1. Psalm 92 is a "Song for the Sabbath Day." Temple worship associated a particular Psalm with each day of the week. What elements in the Psalm make it an apt choice for Sabbath day worship (vv. 1-3; 4, 5; 13)? Why is God's lovingkindness (v. 2a) associated with the dawn, or morning? Or His faithfulness (v. 2b), with the night? What quality is associated with the palm tree (v. 12a)? With the cedar in Lebanon (v. 12b)? What can believers expect in old age (v. 14)? What should we do earlier in life to obtain this promise when old age comes?
2. Psalm 93 may have been written in reponse to some great storm at sea, or along the coast, with mighty breakers rolling one after another to roar and crash upon the shore (vv. 3, 4). Why does the world stand fast nonetheless (vv. 1, 4)? What does that say about the power of God? About the safety of His throne on high (v. 2)? What makes His testimonies sure (v. 5a)? What is the "holiness" that is fitting for God's house (v. 5b; He. 12:28, 29)?

Wednesday: *Psalm 94*

1. Psalm 94 is a protest against injustice, man's inhumanity to man, and a prayer for God to arise and avenge the victims of such injustice (vv. 1-7). What don't the perpetrators of injustice understand (vv. 8-11)? What comforts the believer and sustains his faith under such conditions (vv. 12-19)? Note the description of how legal means can be used to pervert justice (vv. 20, 21). How was this prophecy fulfilled in Christ's experience? How are we to behave toward those who mistreat us (Mt. 5:43-45; Ro. 12:19-21)? Why?

Thursday: *Psalms 95 & 96*

1. Psalm 95 is a call to worship (vv. 1-7a), and to faith (vv. 7b-11). Note, the essence of true worship is praise and thanksgiving, by the singing of Psalms (v. 2; Ep. 5:19, 10; He. 13:15). Why should we worship the Lord (vv. 6, 7)? What was the "provocation" (v. 8a; Ex. 17:1-7)? What was the "day of temptation in the wilderness" (v. 8b; Nu. 14)? What was the heart sin of the people that kept them from entering into God's rest (He. 3:1-11)?
2. Psalm 96 is a prophecy of the gathering of the Gentiles into the church (Pss. 22, 66, 87). Central to this vision is the triumph of God over the "gods" of the nations (vv. 4, 5), as men "turned from idols to serve the living and true God" (I Th. 1:9, 10). Israel's call to worship (Ps. 95:1-7) is extended to the "kindreds of the nations" (v. 7). Why will the coming of the Lord bring joy to the creation as well as to men (vv. 11-13; Ro. 8:19-23)?

Friday: *Psalm 97 & 98*

1. Psalm 97 is a prophecy of Christ's second advent, "when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel" (II Th. 1:7-10). What will happen to His enemies (v. 3)? What will happen to the earth and the works therein (vv. 4, 5; II Pe. 3:10)? How should we live now in the light of this coming day (v. 10-11; II Pe. 3:11-14)?
2. Psalm 98 celebrates Christ's fulfillment of God's promises to Israel (v. 3a), and the sending of the gospel to the ends of the earth (v. 3b). What is the "new song" we must sing (v. 1; Pss. 33:3, 96:1)? What will the world be like in the end (Is. 66:17 & 66:22; II Pe. 3:13)?

Saturday: *Psalm 99, 100, & 101*

1. Psalm 99 expounds the Ter Sanctus ("thrice holy") of Isaiah 6:3 (vv. 3, 5, 9). God's holiness is revealed in His heavenly glory (vv. 1-3), the law He has given to Israel (vv. 4, 5), and His gracious dealings with His servants, such as Moses and Samuel (vv. 6-9). How did they demonstrate their faith in Him (vv. 6, 7)? How did God deal with the "inventions" or sinful deeds of His people (v. 8)? Does forgiveness undo the consequences of our sins?
2. Psalm 100 is a vision of the Gentiles pressing into the kingdom of God, and "into His courts with praise" (v. 4). Why are they exhorted to acknowledge God as God, and as their Maker (v. 3a; Ro. 1:21-23)? Do they stand on equal terms with Israelite believers (v. 3b; Ps. 95:7; Eph. 2:19-22)? What does this say about the unity of the church under both testaments?
3. Psalm 101 is another "Song of the Righteous Judge" (Ps. 75), a prophecy of Christ. It is also David's description of what he aspired to be as Israel's king. What attributes of Christ does he celebrate (v. 1a)? What is it to "turn aside" (v. 3; Jos. 23:6)? What is a "froward heart" (v. 4a)? Why are sins against the truth, such as slander (v. 5), deceit (v. 7a), and lying (v. 7b), so detestable? Who will be cut off from the city of God (v. 8; Re. 22:13, 14)?