

May 2008

Anchor Park & East Anchorage United Methodist Churches Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
“If you make my Word your home, you will indeed be my disciples.” John 8:31 NJB				1 <i>Acts 14 Josh. 22 Job 31</i>	2 <i>Acts 15:1-21 Josh. 23-24 Job 32</i>	3 <i>Acts 15:22-41 Judg. 1 Job 33</i>
4 <i>Acts 16:1-15 Judg. 2-3 Job 34</i>	5 <i>Acts 16:16-40 Judg. 4-5 Job 35</i>	6 <i>Acts 17:1-15 Judg. 6 Job 36</i>	7 <i>Acts 17:16-34 Judg. 7-8 Job 37</i>	8 <i>Acts 18 Judg. 9 Job 38</i>	9 <i>Acts 19:1-20 Judg. 10:1-11:33 Job 39</i>	10 <i>Acts 19:21-41 Judg. 11:34-12:15 Job 40</i>
11 <i>Acts 20:1-16 Judg. 13 Job 41</i>	12 <i>Acts 20:17-34 Judg. 14-15 Job 42</i>	13 <i>Acts 21:1-36 Judg. 16 Psalms 42</i>	14 <i>Acts 21:37-22:29 Judg. 17-18 Psalms 43</i>	15 <i>Acts 22:30-23:22 Judg. 19 Psalms 44</i>	16 <i>Acts 23:23-24:9 Judg. 20 Psalms 45</i>	17 <i>Acts 24:10-27 Judg. 21 Psalms 46</i>
18 <i>Acts 25 Ruth 1-2 Psalms 47</i>	19 <i>Acts 26:1-18 Ruth 3-4 Psalms 48</i>	20 <i>Acts 26:19-32 1 Sam. 1:1-2:10 Psalms 49</i>	21 <i>Acts 27:1-12 1 Sam. 2:11-36 Psalms 50</i>	22 <i>Acts 27:13-44 1 Sam. 3 Psalms 51</i>	23 <i>Acts 28:1-16 1 Sam. 4-5 Psalms 52</i>	24 <i>Acts 28:17-31 1 Sam. 6-7 Psalms 53</i>
25 <i>Rom. 1:1-15 1 Sam. 8 Psalms 54</i>	26 <i>Rom. 1:16-32 1 Sam. 9:1-10:16 Psalms 55</i>	27 <i>Rom. 2:1-3:8 1 Sam. 10:17-11:15 Psalms 56</i>	28 <i>Rom. 3:9-31 1 Sam. 12 Psalms 57</i>	29 <i>Rom. 4 1 Sam. 13 Psalms 58</i>	30 <i>Rom. 5 1 Sam. 14 Psalms 59</i>	31 <i>Rom. 6 1 Sam. 15 Psalms 60</i>



May 2008

Anchor Park & East Anchorage United Methodist Churches Bible Reading Information

The Book of Psalms

Our monthly Bible readings will “sprinkle” the Book of Psalms throughout the year and this article is intended to help our reading and understanding of this beloved book of the Bible.

Athanasius, a preacher and significant leader of the Christian Church in the 4th Century, observed that the Psalms are unique because most Scripture speaks to us while the Psalms speak for us.

Following are some facts about the Psalms that will enhance our reading:

- The Psalms are a collection of songs/hymns written over several centuries and probably compiled into their present form in the 3rd Century B.C.E.
- The Psalms are the most often quoted book by Jesus and the authors of the New Testament.
- Of the hymns in our current United Methodist Hymnal, more are based upon the Psalms than any other book in the Bible.
- The Psalms are Hebrew poetry. This poetry does not rhyme, instead its distinctive feature is parallelism in which lines are composed of phrases that are complementary in substance and style. Such as:

*“May God arise, may His enemies be scattered;
May His foes flee before Him.”
- Psalm 68:1*

*“In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;
In spite of His wonders, they did not believe.”
- Psalm 78:32*

- The word “*selah*” occurs in 39 of the 150 Psalms. It is usually placed in the margin because its meaning is unknown. Some Bible scholars suggest it is some sort of musical or liturgical instruction. Though theories abound, its exact meaning is hidden for the ages.
- Over one-third of the 150 Psalms are “laments” - that is, songs in which the poet and singers are faced with life’s brokenness (everything from personal illness to national tragedies). Praying the Psalms causes us to honestly confront both our brokenness and our ultimate de-

pendence upon God. Because these “laments” often end with high praise and promises of obedience, they model for us a faithful response to difficult times.

- Most Psalms have a “superscription” (such as Psalm 45: “*For the director of music. To the tune of “Lilies.” Of the Sons of Korah. A maskil. A wedding song.*”) These were added years after the Psalms were written and often reflect their use or function within a worship service.

As you read the Psalms, do so in the spirit of prayer and you will experience them speaking *for* you.

I am a creature of a day passing through life
as an arrow through the air.

I am a spirit come from God and returning to
God; just hovering over the great gulf, till, a
few moments hence, I am no more seen; I drop
into an unchangeable eternity.

I want to know one thing—the way to heaven;
how to land safe on that happy shore.
God himself has condescended to teach the
way; for this very end he came from heaven.

He hath written it down in a book.

O give me that book!

At any price, give me the book of God!
I have it; here is knowledge enough for me.

Let me be a man of one Book.

- John Wesley