

What the Psalms Mean to Us

In Scripture, the book of Psalms is unique. There is no New Testament equivalent to this Old Testament hymnal, and it took more than 1000 years to write. If we examine both its superscriptions and content, we learn that it contains writings as early as the poetic musings of Moses and as late as Jewish rejoicings at the return from the Babylonian captivity.

However, this unique book is often very difficult for today's Christians to study. For one thing, the sheer size of the book means that a verse-by-verse study would take more than a year of Bible classes. Even beyond that, we often struggle to grasp the spiritual perspectives of its authors. How many of us have ever offered the sacrifice of a bull to God, or heard Him worshiped with trumpet and cymbals in the Temple of Solomon? On a more personal level, how many of us would feel comfortable praying for God to strike down our enemies? And yet, all of these jarring elements, and many more, are present in the book of Psalms.

However, daunting though the task may appear, the study of Psalms is still important to our spiritual wholeness. Some of the most important Messianic prophecies in the entire Bible are found in Psalms, and even today, they provide us with supernatural proof that Jesus is the Christ. Furthermore, many hymns in our worship repertoire are based on the Psalms, and we can't really understand those hymns unless we understand their connection to the text.

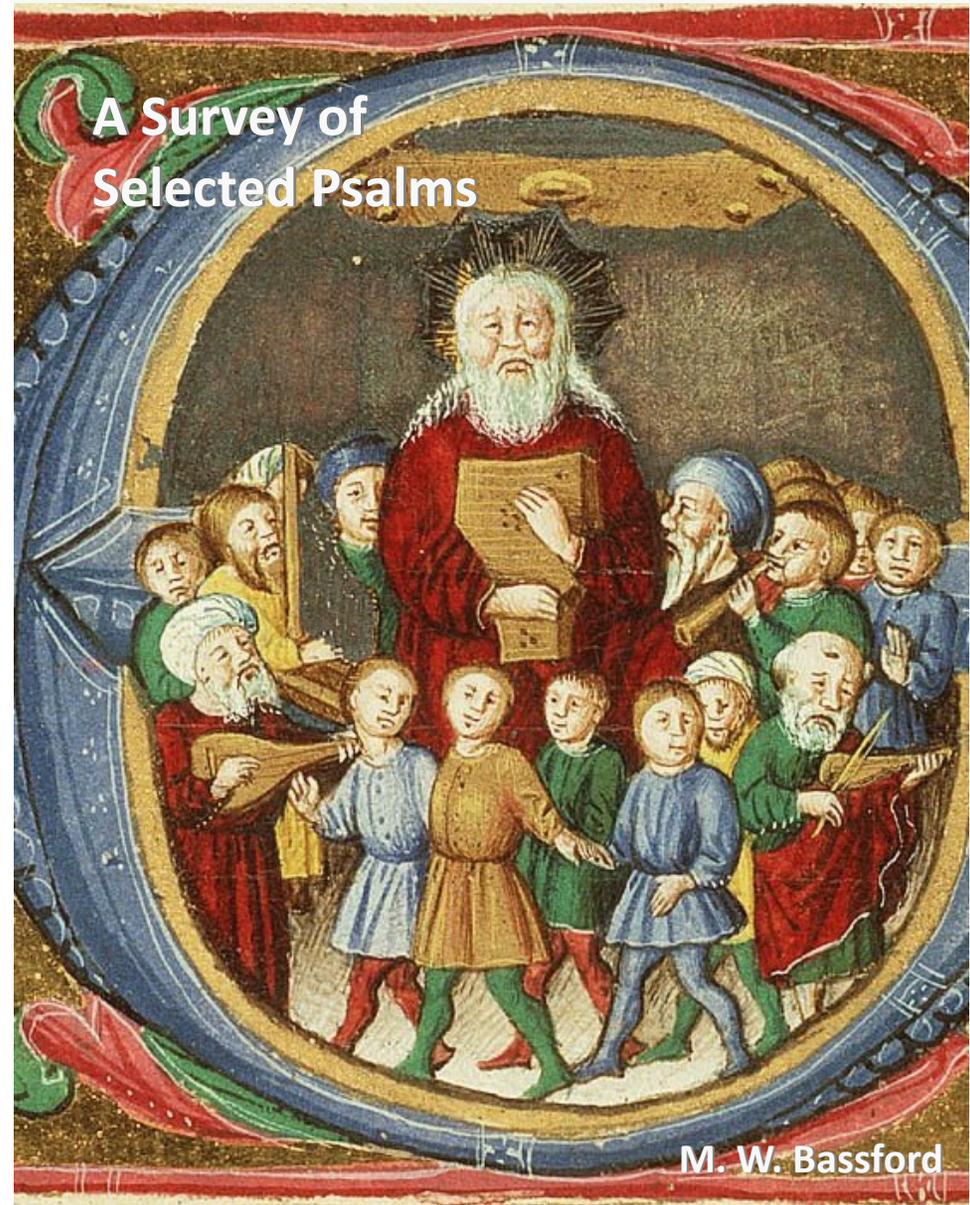
This workbook is an attempt to pursue those two courses of study. It examines 21 psalms, the vast majority of which were selected either because of their prophetic importance, their use in our worship, or both. Sadly, this represents only a fraction of the entire book. Nonetheless, even if we only devote our attention to these few for a quarter, we will come away enriched and blessed, with a fuller appreciation of God's will for our worship and our lives.

About the Author

M. W. Bassford lives in Joliet, IL, with his wife, Lauren, daughter, Zoë and son, Mark, where he preaches for the Joliet church of Christ.

The Sound of Joyful Shouting

A Survey of Selected Psalms



M. W. Bassford