

TRANSFORM JOURNALS

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David Nunnery

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Transform Journal: Thanksgiving Psalms
David Nunnery

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▼ WELCOME TO TRANSFORM JOURNAL

Transform Journals are built on the power of everyday habit to build up as a foundation for massive movement and transformation.

So many Bible Studies and Devotionals are wrapped around the idea of acquiring knowledge. And, we certainly believe in the power of knowledge, but not knowledge simply for knowledge's sake.

Our goal in creating these journals/devotions is to take knowledge into the realm of action and experience. Action is muted when separated from a base of knowledge, and knowledge is just words and musings unless directly applied to daily life.

Therefore, we believe meaningful transformation comes by applying knowledge directly into our everyday.

Transform Journals are designed to help you:

- Build a habit of Bible Study
- Develop a stronger prayer life
- Pursue your calling
- Guard your heart against anxiety
- Have a deeper walk with God
- Improve relationships with those around you.

They are built with research in mind to help you cultivate mindsets and actions that will strengthen your resolve in following the plan and calling God has put

before you. In a nutshell, these journals will build habits that will pay dividends to you and those around you long after you have finished them.

They are directed in terms of fully exploring the subject, which is thanksgiving, and then allowing you to fully interact with the Bible's knowledge and apply it to your current life.

After a few days of diligently working through the material, we believe that you will notice a difference in the way you feel and approach each day. After 40 days, we believe that the journal will help you cultivate a new reflex in dealing with challenges and view your life's various relationships and events from a new perspective.

We are excited for you! Our prayer is that over the next 40 days, you will start a legacy of thanksgiving that will provide an infinite return on the time and mental energy you have invested.

In Christ,
David Nunnery

▽ 40 DAYS TO TRANSFORM

Whether we are comfortable admitting it or not, our lives are dominated by a collection of reflexes and routines for which we expend very little brainpower. We readily accept that habits have power in our lives, but we underestimate just how much do not utilize intentional thought.

A recent scientific study showed that 45% of our daily lives are determined by mindless reflexes to stimuli or routine. We eat meals at the same time, sleep at the same approximate cycle, get angry at the same things, watch the same shows, and drive the same way home. We are dominated by routine and rhythm. And, these patterns can be both destructive and life-giving, but they do dominate our lives.

Habits are rigid patterns that shape our lives. And, they do not just creep up without a consistent pattern over a long period. In short, they are learned over time. While there is little disagreement about the dominance of routine in our lives, you will find dissent regarding how long it takes to establish a habit. I have read as low as 20 days and as much as 6 months, but there is a long-held religious belief that it takes 40 Days to create a new habit or routine. The thinking which is supported by wide-ranging research is that it takes 20 days to unseat any bad habit and an additional 20 days to replace it with a beneficial or good habit.

Over and over again, you will find the number 40 come up across diverse cultures related to creating lasting change or purification. Whether tied to meditation and prayer, post-birth purification rituals, or diets, 40 days seems to be the accepted line in these cultures between a lasting habit or simply a short-lived ritual.

This means that the truths found in the Bible regarding 40 Days are written into our DNA. It is evident to even those who have never read a Bible that 40 days has an observable impact on our lives' rhythms.

In the Bible and Jewish tradition, the number 40 is the number of transformation. It rained for 40 days straight during The Flood, which massively transformed the earth's atmosphere and geography and destroyed every living creature that breathed air. Or the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness after His baptism. In those 40 days, He transformed from being a good man to the head (or leader) of a powerful ministry. As Luke 4:14 mentions, "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee...". Certainly, Jesus' interaction with those around Him reflected a transformation from before and after His time in the wilderness.

And there are many other instances of transformation after 40 Days in the Bible:

- Moses and the relationship of God to the Israelites was transformed by 40 days on top of Mt. Sinai.
- The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land.
- Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
- The entire city of Nineveh was transformed after 40 days of Jonah's preaching.
- The disciples were transformed after 40 days with Jesus after the Resurrection.

And, for you, we believe the next 40 days will transform your life.

That is the promise of this journal and the reason for its name. Transform Journals focus on one aspect of a person's walk with Christ that promises to have a ripple impact through their entire life. We have chosen Thanksgiving carefully.

Thanksgiving is such a foundational concept in the Christian walk which overflows into our own demeanor but also will improve every relationship in our life.

This little journal is meant to plant and cultivate a reflex of thanksgiving within our hearts and minds. The promise of cultivating thanksgiving is much deeper than being a courteous individual. After 40 days, if you are diligent, you will notice an impact that goes way beyond the simple courtesy of "please" and "thank you."

▽ A NOTE ABOUT HISTORY

There is no doubt that history has power in the psyche of a people. History supports identity and answers questions regarding who we are as a people, a country, a father, or a son. And the interpretation of historical events and the way they are connected in our narrative has the power to impact future decisions and approaches to events. This is why there are such brutal battles over museums, monuments, and history textbooks. Whether we consciously admit it or not, we feel the power of our understood history.

Therefore, I want to be real careful in how you, as the reader, understand the history of when these Psalms were written. The history in this journal is meant to open up layers of meaning. We want the reader to understand the emotion of the writer which will bring alive the words of the Bible.

The history is important because it enhances the feeling that real people with real emotions like yours are writing these Psalms. They felt the hairs stand up on their arms, the knot in their stomach, the anguish of failure, etc., and then wrote these words under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

However, keep in mind that the history we provide is the best available so far. We have done the research and present a narrative that has the most consensus among trusted Biblical scholars. We believe that if you, as the reader, did the same research that you would come up with the same conclusions on when the Psalms were created based on what we know today.

However, our warning is that most Psalms do not have a 100% locked-down, concrete description of when they were written. This took some detective work, and I included a narrative that made the most sense according to what scholars know today. There is always a chance one of our narratives on the history of the Psalms could be proven to be off in the future. Our fear is that this new, future revelation would undermine a readers' faith because of what we have written.

In short, the historical context we have included is the best guess for many of these Psalms, and additionally, if one day, the history is proven to be off, it will not undercut the teaching on Thanksgiving, which is the meat of this journal. However, keep in mind, my writing is not “inspired” by the Holy Spirit like Scripture.

We included the history because we believed the benefit far out-weighed the potential problems.

▽ SIMPLE GUIDE: GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE DAILY SPREAD

- Read the entire chapter for the history behind each Psalm and the featured Psalm each day, rather than just the specific verses we site.
 - This will take you about 20 minutes but it is important to get your own Bible out and read along with the devotional. Our words will make more sense.
 - You will find that reading one chapter will lead to more because we reference sections of verse throughout the journal that you can research. Through this study, you can get engrossed by following the lines of thought we present. That is okay! Remember, you will get out of this what you put in.
- On the questions, be as extensive as you are able. Describe everything that you can. Be detailed and feel free to give several examples of things you are thankful for. There is a more extensive list of best practices for this question in our section on Gratitude Fatigue.
 - Don't just say that you are thankful for your car, or your wife, or your brother. Why are you thankful for this event or person? Be as specific as possible.
- We challenge you to connect the events or people to your life and how they impact you. How did you feel? What was the impact? Did this event or person participate in some sort of success in your life? Be as specific as possible.
- Grace is unmerited favor. This question on grace is meant to draw out why these elements or gifts represent God's goodness and love.
- Cast your cares on the Lord is a major gateway to peace. Prayer and thanksgiving are connected as Phil. 4 describes. Therefore, the purpose of this question is for you to declare thanksgiving and identify any concerns and present them to the Lord in prayer, verbally.

▽ SIMPLE GUIDE: GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE WEEKLY SPREAD

The weekly spread is based off synthesis in terms of stages of learning, in which you acquire knowledge, synthesize or summarize knowledge, and then progress to teaching others.

- Accountability is built into the check boxes. It is best to go through the study everyday for 40 days straight. Sometimes accountability keeps us on track the best. Enjoy checking these boxes. Because 40 consecutive days of thanksgiving is an achievement.
- Simply summarize what stood out to you regarding the daily teaching on thanksgiving and history from the passages. Fill this section up!
- Multiplication of thanksgiving is achieved through sharing. Therefore, we encourage you to pull your thanksgiving from the pages of the journal and share verbally. Share what you write with the object of your thanksgiving at least once per week. There is a lot of joy in this! Joy for you and for them.
- Take it with you! Memorization is a powerful method to make knowledge permanent. We encourage you to memorize and meditate on the thanksgiving verses throughout your daily life. Rehearse the truth

▽ A SIMPLE GUIDE: HAVING TROUBLE COMING UP WITH SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

There is a concept called “gratitude fatigue” that describes the sense of tiredness and unemotional attachment to what you are grateful for. After a while, the joy that you felt with thanksgiving will start to subside related to certain events or people. Another way to put this is the rush of excitement becomes common and no longer stands out. Also, when you have to work for gratitude, the rush of joy becomes muted. Therefore, here are some tips on combating this damaging phenomenon. And, I do mean “damaging” because what is called “gratitude fatigue” can cause you to give up on the entire process.

Remember, you are in this for the impact it will have on others and how it will affect you long-term. Gratitude offers much more than just a short-term rush. So, here are a few ways to combat “gratitude fatigue.” You are creating a reflex and habit that comes through establishing routines and systems. This is beyond just a feeling.

- Move your attention around. You will find that without effort, many times, your gratitude sits in just a couple of areas. The answer is to work at it. Work hard to find things you are thankful for. Rotate your attention around. Try thinking about being thankful for something or an element that you really don't want in your life. Also, remember that you can be thankful for more than one thing in a sitting.
- Sometimes, you will find that you might even think of what you write down as a “thankful prize,”—like you are giving out a special award. The reason for this is that gratitude assigns value. You might even struggle to assign gratitude to anything or anyone you don't like, or you are angry with. You might struggle with this because you don't want to give up your anger or dislike. But, those are the kinds of things you should assign gratitude to. You will find that gratitude will change your demeanor toward that someone or something and change you in the process. Just a note, this is a common hindrance to husbands and wives or siblings that have a tense relationship.
- If you are struggling to think of anything new to be grateful for regarding someone or something you are normally grateful for, imagine loss. Imagine

your life without them or it. Now, what would you miss without them there? This exercise might seem painful, but it will lead to a deeper appreciation of them or it in your life.

- Detail, Detail, Detail...The more general you are, the less impactful your gratitude. Don't just leave it at, “I am grateful for my wife.” Be as detailed and specific as possible. “I am thankful for my wife because yesterday morning she wrote me a little note that says...just to encourage me on a difficult day, and she took great care to put it in a place I would find it in the morning. Her timing is so good.” The next day and the next day, you can give another specific example of why you are thankful for her. Talk about the ripple effect of her actions, what she did, the little things that made it special, what it is, etc. It is okay to be verbose in this circumstance.

There are four elements that illustrate and potentially measure the abundance of thanksgiving:

- 1) Gratitude Intensity—How deep and strong do you feel gratitude?
- 2) Gratitude Frequency—How often do you feel gratitude?
- 3) Gratitude Span—How many life circumstances or events? (Job, health, families, etc.)
- 4) Gratitude Density—How many people are you grateful for related to a certain outcome? E.g. If you are happy because something was successful or something provided joy or thanksgiving in your life, think of all the people that made that possible. The more, the merrier!

Don't forget you will receive from the questions what you put into them each day.

▽ THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The idea of seed and harvest is so important in studying the Bible. I have gotten into gardening. We have some blueberries and raspberries in our front flower beds. I still kill a lot of plants.

However, what I have learned is that you have to tend the ground if you are going to plant something. You don't just blindly throw a seed into the soil. You spend time preparing the soil to grow a bountiful harvest.

To me, that is why the first mention of thanksgiving is important. You understand what is important foundationally on a subject or theme.

Additionally, when you study the feasts and holidays, and offerings of the Old Testament, it is important to remember that these are not recipes. What is important to remember is not the specific elements and movements associated with the Old Testament's instructions and commandments but the premise. Why did God tell the Israelites to do this? God had a reason! What was the principal or premise that led to these instructions by God?

In Leviticus 7, God is describing to Moses the peace offering, specifically the Thanksgiving offering. When you think of peace offering in our modern culture, you might have the wrong idea of a peace offering, as mentioned by God in these verses.

To us, we might think of a peace offering as something you do to make up for a wrong. Maybe you would make a peace offering to get back into good graces with your wife. I feel like I am getting quite good at peace offerings. Maybe you would bring home roses or candy or something else that you know your wife would like to make up for angering her in some way. You want to get back into good standing with her.

Well, that is not what is meant by the Thanksgiving offering here, which is a kind of peace offering.

The Thanksgiving offering, as described here, was voluntary. It did not have a prescribed time or holiday associated with it. However, if you did make a Thanksgiving offering, God was specific on what it should be.

A Thanksgiving offering was for those that were in communion with God. You had a right standing with God already. You were not making up for something or trying to get back into good graces with God.

It was not from a heart that was trying to put God in debt to you. The offeror did not think, "If I do this, then God will have no choice but to do this." That is a heart of entitlement.

It came out as an overflow. It was a result of what God was already doing and was going to do. It was a recognition, not an urging to God. You were expectant of additional blessing, but you did not do this trying to urge God to do more. What you find in Leviticus 7 is that on top of the normal "animal without blemish" that was offered in a guilt or sin offering, you would also bring:

- unleavened loaves
- unleavened wafers
- loaves of fine flour
- loaves of leavened bread

You would slaughter the animal at the door of the Tabernacle and then bring in the slaughtered animal and roast it on the alter, draining the blood and filleting off the fat. While the meat roasted and the grain mixed with the oil, you would tell or testify to the priest, and those around the alter what you were thankful for. Then you would give a portion to the priest, and you would take a portion while also providing some as a heave offering to the Lord.

Then you would consume all of the offering that same day, leaving none until morning. We have 6 people in my family, and we will typically finish off 2 pounds of meat at one meal. There is approximately 100 pounds of meat in a single animal, plus all of the leaven and unleavened bread with grains and oil.

So, this was not really an offering as much as a feast. And, there was no way you were going to consume all of this offering by yourself.

Just as it was impossible for you to consume the entire offering on your own in one day or with even one other person, thanksgiving is meant to be shared. You will find that a person doesn't just think thankful thoughts and keep them to themselves. Thanksgiving is meant to be shared. As a matter of fact, I will tell you that a truly thankful person cannot keep it to themselves. If you are thankful, you are going to share. It must be shared. It comes out.

Thanksgiving that is kept to yourself is stifled. It fizzles. However, by sharing it, you will find that it grows and multiplies. It actually impacts you deeper, and by sharing your thanksgiving, it also sweetens the life of those around you.

Furthermore, the requirement to consume all of the thanksgiving offerings in one day symbolized that thanksgiving is to be a daily occurrence. The thanksgiving for today is not adequate for tomorrow or the next day.

Additionally, while this Thanksgiving offering was voluntary, it was most prevalent under certain conditions or a certain mindset.

First, you had to believe that it was just the start. What I am saying is that you were offering just a portion of what you expected or had. A thanksgiving offering would come out of a belief that you served an abundant and generous Father. That He truly did possess the cattle on a thousand hills, and He was not done sharing with you. You had faith that there was more to come. You were not rationing a gift of God but overflowing out of an abundance of blessing.

Do you believe that? It is a whole lot easier to live in thanksgiving if you believe that God is not done and you are in the midst of blessing. God is going to continue to heap blessings on you from his storehouse. Also, that he cares for you and has not forgotten about you.

Something that is unique about this offering is that it includes leaven and unleavened bread. Additionally, I think this is the only offering that includes both leaven and unleavened bread, which is interesting.

Leaven in the Old Testament tradition represented what was unholy or impure or sinful. In this, I believe there is a recognition that God is good no matter what. All works together for the good of us and the glory of our Father in heaven. In other words, leaven and unleavened; the holy and unholy are worthy of thanksgiving because they both work together for good. The unholy does not have the power to strip God of His generosity, goodness, or strength our Father brings to bear on the world. In actuality, the impure and unholy essentially directs back to a good Father that loves and cherishes us.

As the history of the Nation of Israel moves through the pages of the Old Testament, an evolution of disgust from God rises up in the pages. God wants our heart, which is the reason the Thanksgiving offering was voluntary. Thanksgiving is an overflow from a heart at peace with God. Even today, once you believe and accept the free gift of Salvation offered through Christ's sacrifice, you can expect two mental convictions to bubble up—thanksgiving and repentance.

In Israel's later history, the guilt offering became duty and not heart-felt, and the thanksgiving songs and peace offerings stopped. God no longer had the heart of the people, and he knew it. That is why he said,

"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen." (Amos 5:21–23)

And during the Babylonian Captivity,

"The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me: to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!" (Psalm 50:22)

PSALM 7:17

"I WILL GIVE TO THE LORD THE THANKS DUE TO HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND I WILL SING PRAISE TO THE NAME OF THE LORD, THE MOST HIGH."

ON THE INSULTS OF SHIMEI (2 SAM. 16: 14) 1023 B.C.

The scene at the top of a hill in Gibeah is a kingly one. Saul sits under a tamarisk tree, spear in hand, and surrounded by the house of Benjamin. Saul accusing his advisors and officers of joining a usurpation with David. Saul presents David as stirring up a rebellion under encouragement from Jonathan. By doing this, Saul sets the stage of poisoning the land against David through whispers and makes it impossible to stand neutral.

In the title, the inspiration for Psalm 7 is Cush the Benjamite, who is representative of the house of Saul. King Saul's father is named Kish, and Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin. Kish and Cush are used interchangeably, which would indicate that this person mentioned in the title of this Psalm is representative of Saul's family (1 Sam. 22:6).

The Psalm was written after fleeing the palace during the rebellion of Absalom. David is running and faces ridicule from a Benjamite, which is like Satan himself accusing David. One of David's men offered to walk over and cut off the head of Shimei, who was yelling accusations at David, but David declines. Why did he do this? One of the reasons is because, at that moment, David thought the accusations were plausible. He was beginning to believe them himself.

Mentally David was downtrodden and susceptible to the whispers of being an illegitimate king. Shimei yelled lies, but David was starting to believe those words. With this mental-state, David probably wondered if he didn't deserve the ridicule and even death from Absalom. All his mistakes and even poison from those that hated him started to ring in his head. He was believing the chorus. Maybe, David was responsible for his son's rebellion, and Absalom was just a victim of David's inaction and mistakes. All of this is what David felt. If David was a better king, or he had more honor for Saul, or he was a better father, none of this would have happened.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

A Shiggariyon is associated with the idea of solace and pleasure. The only other Shiggariyon scholars have identified in the Bible is Habakkuk 3. This category of song means variable, like the up and downs of life. It was written to calm David's soul and thoughts during an anxious experience. This Psalm was written in response to the accusations of Shimei.

While the verses in Habakkuk are different, there are similarities. Habakkuk does not rest and praise God because of what he has done in terms of superficial things (houses, riches, revenge, etc.) Instead, Habakkuk rests his heart on what he knows about God's character and his position with God.

Like Satan accuses us daily, we are faced with lies constantly that undermine our view of our position with God. Shimei is not just hurling insults hoping that they might hurt David. These are targeted accusations that pierce right into the heart of David and attach to the words David was already rehearsing in his own head. But, David does not strike out in anger to return this evil with judgment from himself. He asks God to take it. When faced with deep insecurities, David does not defend himself. He combats these accusations with who God is and thanks Him.

David is determined to give thanks. He is rehearsing what he knows to be true, which brings thanksgiving. David has a commitment to being thankful to God no matter what. Simply because of what he believes about God, he does not need the empty promises of the idols or people who hate him. Because of what he believes about God, he will rejoice. That is it! His belief, rejoicing, and joy are not dependent on circumstances.

In Psalm 7, David responds to anxiety and depression that is deepened by the accusations of Shimei by:

- Asking for confidence in his standing with God because God is just.
- Asking God to respond for him.
- Declaring God as his shield (David's position is under God's shield).
- Declaring truth and confidence in God.
- Giving thanks.

PSALM 7:17

"I WILL GIVE TO THE LORD THE THANKS DUE TO HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND I WILL SING PRAISE TO THE NAME OF THE LORD, THE MOST HIGH."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

PSALM 9:1

"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART,
I WILL RECOUNT ALL OF YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS."

AFTER THE VICTORY OVER GOLIATH (1 SAM. 17: 4) 1063 B.C.

The majority of the trusted scholarship has coalesced around connecting this Psalm to Goliath. The title of this Psalm relates to Goliath. Muth-Labben means "The death of the Son," or as an ancient Chaldee version relates, "Concerning the death of the Champion who went out between the camps." There is the potential that the verses were written later in David's life and looking back.

Standing in the Valley of Elah today, it is hard to get the significance of the moment Goliath was defeated. The small brook that David lifted the five stones from is simply a dry rut carved into the ground most months of the year. Only during the rainy season does it fill with water now.

When David was young, the Philistines would often flow up the Valley to raid Bethlehem from Gath. The scene of the Israelites perched on one hill, and the Philistines on the other occurred regularly. David's childhood was most likely impacted by the insecurity of knowing that the raids could happen anytime, especially during harvest season.

However, this time, Saul was involved, which would mean that this had escalated. Saul was 11 miles from his home in Gibeah. Saul was there to put a stop to the oppression and bullying of the Philistines. Matter of fact, regular raids like this one would have been the reason the Israelites requested a king like Saul from God. This was not just grabbing a few sheep on the outskirts or taking a harvest. The Philistines from Gath were emboldened by a champion. And, Israel gained a champion as well this day, which was not Saul.

Many years before, the 12 spies during Moses' time refused to attack Canaan because of giants. Now, David steps forward when no one else would to put an end to the taunts of a giant. David did what the early Israelites would not do. He grasped the calling that God put upon him.

▼ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

Notice the Psalm starts with Thanksgiving. It does not state a gift or an answered prayer or great act of power from God and then gives thanks. It starts with thanksgiving.

For 40 days, Goliath came out cursing God and challenging the army congregated for Israel. As I have mentioned, whenever 40 days is mentioned in the Bible, it marks a transformation. This marks David's transformation from a shepherd in the pastures and valleys around Bethlehem to a warrior declaring God's glory. Additionally, the 40 days solidified the character of Goliath. This was not just a momentary epiphany of defying God. Goliath hated God and stood against Him. This was who Goliath was and the reason he had to be defeated.

Many talk about facing giants as in facing challenges and Godlessness put before them, but also, facing a giant in your life indicates moving through a new level of maturation in your walk with God. When you face a giant and are victorious, you are different before and after. There is growth! You are ready for the next challenge.

The original language for "thanks" in this Psalm is "yadah." This is the word that David uses most often in Psalms to indicate thanks or thanksgiving. In ancient Hebrew, this word means to cast away or yield to God, Lack of worry, trust, and thanks. This usually came with a physical motion of being on your knees and throwing your hands out in prayer. It is the word used by Daniel to describe what he was doing before the window turned toward Jerusalem in the story of the Lion's Den. This word has an additional meaning of honoring and acknowledging God's hand and purpose over our lives. It is a word that declares your position before God.

In other words, David is saying by giving thanks that he recognizes his position and God's position.

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

PSALM 9:1

"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART,
I WILL RECOUNT ALL OF YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS."

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Dotted grid for writing answers to 'WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?'

Dotted grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?'

📝 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

👐 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Dotted grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?'

Dotted grid for writing answers to 'CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.'

PSALM 26:7

"PROCLAIMING THANKSGIVING ALOUD, AND TELLING
ALL YOUR WONDROUS DEEDS."

WRITTEN BY DAVID AFTER THE MURDER OF ISHBOSHETH

(2 SAM. 4) 1010 B.C.

After Saul and three of his sons were killed by the Philistines on Mount Gilboa, the Nation of Israel split for about three years. Judah went with David as their king, and the Northern Tribes accepted Saul's son Ishbosheth. Saul's son was supported by Abner, who was the captain of Saul's army after David. In fact, Abner goes and gets Ishbosheth and brings him before Israel after David has been crowned in Judah.

During this time, the events became filled with men attempting to tilt circumstances in their favor for the sake of gaining more power.

David executes an Amalekite that claims to have killed Saul and taken his crown. A civil war breaks out between the house of David and Saul for the combined throne of Israel. Many of the elders of Israel wanted David as king, but Abner stood in the way because he served as the captain of the army. Then Abner comes to David and is offered the captain position over David's army. Joab then kills Abner.

There are two traitors to Ishbosheth that kill him. And, David executes these two traitors when they announce their deed in David's presence. At this time, the political intrigue and alliances for power were at an all-time high. David was caught up in the rumors. It seemed believable that David was behind the backstabbing and rumors. Yet, he maintained his innocence for the sake of his testimony before God and never rejoiced at the fall of his enemies. This Psalm is an answer to those that thought David was behind everything.

David would have been immediately accused of any change of the power structure in the Northern Kingdom, especially anything that consolidated the kingdom under him.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

The act of thanksgiving changes the conversation. It actually supports David's stance of integrity. As king, David must winnow out falsehood and people that are superficial and selfish in their desires. They seek power and nothing else. Their heart is not for God or Israel or loyalty to the king. And, as king, David is constantly implicated in evil plans through those that would tear him down.

As Paul says,

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Phil. 4:8)

Thanksgiving is rehearsed and strengthened by those that you surround yourself with. Who is with you?

When I was drinking a lot before I came to know the Lord. I was not able to stop partly because no matter what my determination was mentally, I would still surround myself with people who encouraged drinking alcohol. They would ridicule me to keep me drinking. When I came to know the Lord as my Savior, I was not only mentally determined to stop, but I changed my circle of friends.

Thanksgiving will be either reinforced or undermined by who and what you surround yourself with. If you want to cultivate praise, which is really thanksgiving out loud, you need to look for it. You don't need the envy and judgment and complaining accentuated in your life. There needs to be a conscious effort to think on things that will uphold thanksgiving.

So, amid the uncertainty and craziness of civil war and backstabbing associated with the transition of power, David runs to thanksgiving before the Lord. David says,

"But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me. My foot stands on level ground; In the great assembly I will bless the LORD." (v. 11-12)

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

PSALM 26:7

"PROCLAIMING THANKSGIVING ALOUD, AND TELLING
ALL YOUR WONDROUS DEEDS."

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙌 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD IN HIM MY HEART TRUST, AND I AM HELPED;
MY HEART EXULTS AND WITH MY SONG I GIVE THANKS TO HIM."

WRITTEN BY DAVID AND INSERTED NEAR THE END OF HIS LIFE WHILE PICKING SOLOMON AS HIS SUCCESSOR AND GATHERING THE MATERIAL FOR THE TEMPLE. THERE ARE SEVEN THANKSGIVING PSALMS FROM THIS PERIOD (1 CHRON. 28:21) 1015 B.C.

David has undoubtedly experienced the deliverance of God in near-death events and felt the crush of guilt from failures. This Psalm is written as wisdom to pass down to a younger generation—likely to his son Solomon. It is also meant to be sung in the Temple when it is built.

Solomon is a young man when he becomes king, which adds an interesting layer to the story. Some history places Solomon's age around 12 years old, but that does not work because of when Rehoboam, Solomon's son, was born and reigned according to the history of the Bible. Solomon was actually more in the range of 16-18 years old when his father dies, and the crown comes to him.

David was twice this age when he becomes king. This provides a new layer of meaning in the verses in which David is so direct in instructing Solomon. Solomon actually describes himself as a young man when requesting wisdom from God. (1 Kings 3:7)

Early in his reign, David decides that he wants to build a house for the Lord. The Lord stops him because he is a man of war, and then God reveals the Davidic Covenant. The Lord continues by telling David that his son will build the Temple (2 Sam. 7). This is before David's failure with Bathsheba, but after David brought the Ark to Jerusalem.

Then David spends the rest of his life collecting material for the future Temple. He writes Psalms to be sung in the Temple and organizes the priests with this in mind. David is legacy-minded. These Psalms that David wrote near the end of his life are "summaries" of David's walk with the Lord through failures and successes.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

David's thanksgiving centers on knowing God. There are **four(?)** related words to keep in mind when studying thanksgiving in the Bible.

Yad/yadah/yada

Yadah is Hebrew for casting away, confession, praise, and thanksgiving. Like English, Hebrew words can have multiple meanings. However, with English, a word can only have one meaning at a time. While with Hebrew, additional meanings for a word simply provide a new layer of meaning. Therefore, yadah can mean casting away, confession, praise, and thanksgiving all at the same time. In English, this word could only mean casting away or confession or praise or thanksgiving at one time.

Yadah is the Hebrew word used in this Psalm for "thanks," which means that David is casting away his fears and concerns; confessing his failures, praising God for his goodness; and thanking God all at the same time. "Yadah" is the word used most often in the Psalms for thanks.

The Hebrew word "yad" is related to yadah. Yad means hand, power, control, strength, possession, and axle. Axle is an interesting meaning because a wheel moves forward as it rotates on an axle. Whenever yad is used, it denotes a transfer or recognition of power or control. It can also mean the physical hand. Another word related to yadah is the Hebrew word yada. Yada means to perceive, know intimately, to understand, and to experience. This word was used in the Old Testament in terms of knowing a husband or wife, but it was also used in terms of knowing someone deeply in terms of friendship.

So, to put this all together...Late in his life, David creates songs of praise that pull from his knowledge of who God is. His perception is oriented toward an enduring faith in God's goodness and that God loves him. A perception that rotates around an intimate experience of knowing God through years of submitting to His power and a daily walk with God. Day by day, faith leads to a posture of thanksgiving, which leaps to praise.

"THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD IN HIM MY HEART TRUST, AND I AM HELPED;
MY HEART EXULTS AND WITH MY SONG I GIVE THANKS TO HIM."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to 'WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?'

⬇️ HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?'

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?'

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to 'CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.'

PSALM 30:4

"SING PRAISES TO THE LORD, O YOU HIS SAINTS,
AND GIVE THANKS TO HIS HOLY NAME."

**WRITTEN BY DAVID ON THE DEDICATION OF THE THRESHING
FLOOR OF ARAUNAH (I CHRON. 21:30) 1017 B.C.**

In Exodus 30, God tells Moses to count the people of Israel. During Biblical times, a man only had the right to count what belonged to him. Israel belonged to God, which is the reason God asked Moses to count the people way back in Exodus. However, after counting, God also told Moses that the people needed to pay a ransom for their life at the time of counting as atonement.

In the telling of this story, Satan incites David to count the people in I Chronicles 21. In 2 Samuel 24, God was angry with the people. However, this order to count came from David's mind and lips. But, God allowed it.

This was later in David's reign, and after years of victories and subjugating their enemies around them, David was a hero. The people and advisors were heaping praise to David to the point of worship. To them, David was the source of these victories and prosperity. David was puffed up from the glory heaped upon him. He started to believe his own press. And, it was not long before the kingdom revolved around David rather God.

David's thoughts in this environment directed inward. Over time, his attention would have shifted from what is good for me rather than what God wants. He would have gone so far as to believe that what was good for him was good for the kingdom. David would have absorbed the worship of the people as a kingly right. So rather than worshipping dead statues made with hands, they would have directed their worship to their king—feeding his narcissism.

The Bible passage of this story is considered by the Jews to be an agreement that proves that they own the land of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The threshing floor of this story becomes the place the Temple is built.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

God is not like a quiet father who, when angry, sits with arms folded in silence. God takes action against the damaging demeanor of David—his anointed king of God's people. Surely, one of the lessons of this story is that God does not let His people alone.

The census is a massive failure of David, but to his credit, he does not defend his actions or try and shift blame to others. David heaps on himself the full responsibility for his actions. This is a vast differentiator between David and Saul. David, in his ego and selfishness, heaps glory to himself by counting the people of Judah. These are God's people, and by counting them, David forgets his position before God. No matter that the people are partly to blame by lauding David's achievements as if they were his alone. David heaps fault on himself at the same level as he stole glory from God.

When God relents from punishing, David lifts himself from tears. He casts off the death of self-idolatry and runs to his God. Life is in praising God, but idolatry is a void that strips life from those that pursue it. It is just the way things work; living things are thankful.

David leaned into God's mercy when the prophet Gad brought three impossible choices before David as punishment. David knew God would be merciful, but he had no such confidence in his enemies. David is in tears, and the reality of God's grace is upon him. Praise springs forth from this experience and not anger because David knows neither he nor Israel deserves deliverance.

In David's narcissism, he was not thankful. He could not be thankful because to be thankful is to recognize God as the creator of goodness. This is the transformation of this Psalm. David enters from heaping self-love to himself to pushing it back to the Lord his God.

PSALM 30:4

"SING PRAISES TO THE LORD, O YOU HIS SAINTS,
AND GIVE THANKS TO HIS HOLY NAME."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing reflections on things to be thankful for.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing reflections on how God shows grace.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing reflections on the impact of the psalm.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing reflections on casting cares on the Lord.

PSALM 33:12

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH THE LYRE,
MAKE MELODY TO HIM WITH THE HARP OF TEN STRINGS!"

WRITTEN AT THE PARDON OF DAVID'S ADULTERY WITH BATHSHEBA (2 SAMUEL 12:15) 1034 B.C.

The narrative of David's life seems to take a turn after his sin with Bathsheba. While David never struggles as Saul or Solomon did, he seems to wrestle with his own pride. David comes to this sin after staying home and sending Joab out to battle. It seems that he didn't feel as though he needed to go. He lost his edge in striving. The army could defeat the enemy without him. He relaxed. He gave occasion for sin by not being who God called him to be—a warrior.

After defeating all the armies around and subduing Israel's enemies, David stayed home in the Spring. He was relaxed and walking on the rooftop, and he saw her bathing. Like the boxing champion that trains only half-way for the next bout, he doesn't have the same edge as he had 20 years earlier. He sends out the B-team. What is he doing?

David was called to finally bring Israel in control of the Promised Land. He had lost his sense of position in God's kingdom and what his calling was.

This would be a sin that would follow him. The shockwave of this sin would ripple into the rape of his daughter, the murder of Amnon, the rebellion of Absalom, and the pain associated with knowing his son had to die for David to stay in power. This event would remind him of his failure and great weakness, but it would also testify of God's grace. Sometimes God allows pain in our life to remind us what we are to be and who we are. We need to know our weakness. Without it, we think we are entitled to good favor.

In his puffed-up mind, David "earned" the throne by being as great as he was. He did not have the correct perspective on his position before God. Therefore, he was not thankful. His heart's desire was for what he should not have. His foolish heart was darkened by envy and lost all sense. He did not think. He just wanted...

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

A major feature of thanksgiving in the Bible is understanding your position. Your calling and role come into focus in a thankful heart. But it is not just about your position but God's. God is on the throne, not you. He is your creator.

When thankful, you understand that what someone gave was a gift. They were not required to give to you like a debt payment. But, at that moment you receive the gift, you did nothing to earn it. You—positionally—are under the giver. You have a need or desire that you need their help to fulfill.

Thanksgiving is from your knees. Your posture is humble. While pride has difficulty thanking anyone.

In sinning, David's desire was worked up through envy. He wanted Bathsheba. The route to justifying this sin in David's mind would have flowed through entitlement. He deserved this. He was king and the savior of the Israelites.

Thanksgiving does not hang out in the same space as envy. They are opposites. In Thanksgiving, you are humble, and you sense grace. With envy, you are puffed-up, entitled, and selfish. In envy, you will take, but, in thanksgiving, you will give.

David starts the Psalm in thanksgiving because that was his guard against pride. Thanksgiving was the defense against the destructive forces of envy. Thanksgiving was not a response or courtesy but the start. Thanksgiving provided the defense against the constant assault of pride.

One way to look at David's reign is that as a thankful king, he conquered evil and built up the good. When selfish, God brought David's perspective back in line by punishing him. But, as David went, so did the people of Israel. So, it is today, a thankful leader grows the people they shepherd, but an envious leader is like a virus that sucks the life out of their flock. A leader needs to start daily in thanksgiving, lest they slouch into pride and ego.

PSALM 33:12

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH THE LYRE,
MAKE MELODY TO HIM WITH THE HARP OF TEN STRINGS!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to 'WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?'

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?'

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?'

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to 'CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.'

PSALM 35:18

"I WILL THANK YOU IN THE GREAT CONGREGATION;
IN THE MIGHT THROUGH I WILL PRAISE YOU."

AFTER DOEG TURNED ON AHIMELECH FOR MEETING WITH DAVID AND MURDERS THE PRIESTS. (1 SAM. 22:19) 1060 B.C.

There are many occasions that caused an outburst of verse from David. Few of these occasions would be described as happy. Actually, the verses he wrote on these occasions would be therapeutic in function. David laments about the emotional pain and guilt of the situation. But he also reminds himself who God is.

Saul's insecurity has reached a new height by this point in the story. Saul meets on a hilltop in Gibeah of Benjamin with his officers. Jonathan could have been in attendance, but he is not mentioned. Saul did not have a palace like David or Solomon. During this point in history, hilltop meetings were more official than we realize. Saul, in this meeting, is asserting his power and wants to preserve his legacy. Many of those standing around him are from the tribe of Benjamin.

He is under a tamarisk tree, which is a tree of special significance. Abram planted one in Beersheba. They are slow-growing and are meant to signify legacy. Saul is holding his spear, which is like a scepter to Western monarchs. This meeting is to consolidate power and root out conspiracy. In a sense, to say you are with me or against me. Saul is accusing his officers of being conspirators unless they give a sign of loyalty. He is testing them. This is the time in royal courts that promotions happen, and officers are executed.

Doeg was a herdsman before this meeting. He offered up Ahimelech to an insecure king for his selfish benefit. Saul was willing to stand against God to keep the legacy of the throne within his house. Saul was powerful. He had a legion of soldiers and the kingdom's treasury, and the crown's influence at his disposal. This event showed the lengths he would go to keep the crown and the kind of people he was allied with.

▼ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

When reading these Thanksgiving Psalms, it is like there is a description of two paths. One is filled with affliction that leads to destruction. The other is characterized by building up and encouragement. Although, the act of building up can be painful because sometimes it involves pruning and cutting away things that hinder and distract from our Lord.

David approaches the world as a warrior would. His verses are filled with suggestions of a great battle between those that are good and evil. Yet, the evil will someday destroy themselves because their path always leads to destruction. The envy of the evil leaves a wasteland in their wake.

For David, thanksgiving is a weapon. It is a guard and armor that will rescue him from destruction. David knows that it is just a short leap from thanksgiving to envy—from righteousness to evil. Thanksgiving characterizes the good like colors and flags represent soldiers.

David is challenged by mockers, and wretches, and those that hate him without cause. In return, David is thankful. It is like he is thinking of the damage he can do to those that hate him just by being thankful.

But, not only that, but he is also confident that his thanksgiving and praise will draw the righteous to him the same way that the evil are pulled to transgression.

In this sense, thanksgiving is a verb, an action word. The Hebrew word here is yadah, which means casting out your hands—lifting them up into the air the way a child reaches out to a parent. The opposite would be wringing of the hands, to bemoan, or worry.

With David, his reflex was not to wring hands when scared or enduring hardship. He would rush to thanksgiving. If nothing else, he would simply thank God for being His God and always good.

PSALM 35:18

"I WILL THANK YOU IN THE GREAT CONGREGATION;
IN THE MIGHT THRONG I WILL PRAISE YOU."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing reflections on things to be thankful for.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing reflections on how God showed grace.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing reflections on the impact of the passage.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing prayers and reflections on casting cares on the Lord.

REVIEW

DID YOU DO THE THANKSGIVING STUDY EACH DAY THIS WEEK?

M T W TH F S S

SUMMARY OF YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TEACHINGS

Grid of dotted lines for writing a summary of thoughts from the history of Thanksgiving teachings.

SHARE

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE WHY YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM THIS WEEK?

YES NO

HOW DID THEY RESPOND?

Grid of dotted lines for describing how others responded to the Thanksgiving study.

MEMORIZATION

WRITE OUT YOUR VERSE FROM EACH DAY THIS WEEK (CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE MEMORIZED IT)

PSALM 7:17

Grid of dotted lines for writing out Psalm 7:17.

PSALM 9:1

Grid of dotted lines for writing out Psalm 9:1.

PSALM 26:7

Grid of dotted lines for writing out Psalm 26:7.

PSALM 28:7

Grid of dotted lines for writing out Psalm 28:7.

PSALM 30:4

Grid of dotted lines for writing out Psalm 30:4.

PSALM 33:12

Grid of dotted lines for writing out Psalm 33:12.

PSALM 35:18

Grid of dotted lines for writing out Psalm 35:18.

PSALM 44:8

"IN GOD, WE HAVE BOASTED CONTINUALLY,
AND WE WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME FOREVER."

AFTER THE BLASPHEMOUS MESSAGE OF RABSHAKEH

(2 KINGS 19:7) 701 B.C.

Hezekiah's father reigned 16 years in Jerusalem and closed up the Temple for worship. He was captivated by the idols of other lands. He even sacrificed one of his sons to these idols. Ahaz, Hezekiah's father, paid tribute to Assyria to protect himself from the Northern Kingdom and Syria.

In Hezekiah's fourth year, the Assyrians conquered Samaria. The Temple was in disrepair, and the once rich land of Judah had lost power, military might, and economy. The weight of idolatry had taken its toll, and Judah was caught in a tug of war for influence between Egypt and Assyria.

Sennacherib invaded Judah because Hezekiah refused to pay the tribute started by his father. By the time Sennacherib sends emissaries to Hezekiah in Jerusalem, he had conquered 46 Judean cities and taken thousands into exile.

From Lachish, Sennacherib sends a second emissary who mocks the lowly condition of the Jewish army, plus he undermines Hezekiah's leadership. Sennacherib's defeat of Lachish, which is the second most important city in Judah at this time, is shown on a relief carving that previously hung in the Assyrian palace and now is in the British Museum. The Assyrian king saw his defeat of Lachish as not only against Hezekiah but also against God.

This Psalm was written by one of the priests over the songs of the Temple, which is interesting because these priests had not been active previously. The singing of thanksgiving, as David ordered, was given up before Hezekiah's reforms.

Hezekiah tried to turn back from his rebellion against Sennacherib. However, what Sennacherib asked in tribute to leave, Hezekiah could not pay. The king gave everything he could give. They could do no more. Yet, at this point, Isaiah prophesies to Hezekiah that the Assyrians will abruptly leave and not return.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

There is no middle road. A heart of thanksgiving takes effort. To not put in the effort results in negativity to enter in. Vacuums do not exist. Once negativity such as envy and idolatry enter into the daily routine, they are hard to unseat. We all have a taste for narcissism, selfishness, and envy, and to give occasion puts us in the clutches of those beasts that are not easily broken.

Hezekiah is now king of Judah, and he is determined to dig out idolatry in the kingdom. With the priests' help, his father before him committed their way to emulate the idolatrous nations around them. They wanted the prosperity and viciousness they witnessed in the Assyrians, Egyptians, and others.

Hezekiah goes farther than the kings before him in cutting out the idolatry by tearing down the high places. He also restarts the celebration of feasts and festivals, including the daily praise and thanksgiving first initiated by David. This is important because thanksgiving acts as an immune system against selfishness, idolatry, and envy.

When Sennacherib invades Judah, Hezekiah improves the defenses around Jerusalem. He builds a tunnel to fresh water and cuts off the springs that flowed outside the city, which deprived enemies sieging the city of a fresh water source. He also built up the wall and raised towers.

The psalmist commits to thanking the Lord forever. He also juxtapositions the deliverance and amazing victories in their early history to the defeats and hardship they are facing. So many of their countrymen had already been killed and exiled by the army that was besieging their city. The writer begs God to take action. The writer is committed to running to God and not turning to idols. Yet, if they did turn, there is no guarantee that Sennacherib would be merciful.

They had taken a step of faith by rebelling against the Assyrians, and there was no turning back. Even if they wanted to, they could not, which was actually a sign of God being with them. Like a bridge, they could not jump off this road. They had to move forward, and God, through Isaiah, the prophet, told them He would deliver them.

PSALM 44:8

"IN GOD, WE HAVE BOASTED CONTINUALLY,
AND WE WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME FOREVER."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"OFFER A SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING AND PERFORM YOUR VOWS TO THE MOST HIGH AND CALL UPON ME IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE: I WILL DELIVER YOU AND YOU SHALL GLORIFY ME."

DURING THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY (DANIEL 7) 539 B.C.

The Jewish exile in Babylon lasted from approximately 606 BC to 536 BC. King Jehoiachin, who only ascended the throne 100 days earlier, surrendered in order to avoid the destruction of himself and the Holy City. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem and carried off 10,000 of the smartest and most impressive leaders with all the treasures of Judah, including the implements from the Temple. After Hezekiah, the Southern Kingdom had only one good king, Josiah, who was killed by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt. The rest stubbornly held to their idolatrous ways. Consequently, they presided over a diminishing influence and wealth until Jerusalem was destroyed.

By the time God was ready to judge Jerusalem for her idolatry, God had come, through Jeremiah, to those that followed him wholeheartedly and told them not to fight. He wanted them to willingly go into exile and live life, and God would prosper them in Babylon. Somehow, this message made it to the ears of the idolatrous King Jehoiachin. The Jews from this first exile lived in prominence within the political and economic system of their captors. Jehoiachin and his family even received an allowance from Nebuchadnezzar while in exile in Babylon.

However, there were as many as three waves of exiles that came out of various sieges of Jerusalem. The next, which was 10 years later, was the most violent in which King Zedekiah revolted against the tribute of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon leveled the city and killed the King's sons before him.

This psalm was written while in captivity by one of the sons of Asaph, who was of the division of priests assigned by David 500 years before to continually praise and worship the LORD. There is no way to know if this psalm was ever sung in the presence of the Ark. The history of the ARK gets uncertain after the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem. It could have ended up in Ethiopia or Egypt, or it could be deep under the Temple Mount or even still lost in Iraq.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

Thanksgiving starts in recognizing God as Creator (Rom. 1:20–22). The psalmist clearly illustrates that the Israelites diminished God in their perception. They saw him as a lowly deity with a similar breadth and hunger as themselves. For the false deities of the time would hunger and thirst and chase their passions as their worshippers. To them, gods were figments of the people's imagination that became carved figurines carried in the purses and pockets of their worshippers and persuaded with rituals and duties.

Yet, the LORD God is not like that. He cannot be confined. Although he is all-powerful and always present, He loves us. His goodness is presented in everything around us (v. 1–2). He does not have to give us good things, but he does because of who He is.

Knowing God as Creator is to be thankful. As Creator, he doesn't need our things. But he wants our heart, a heart that is not bound to Him through mindless rituals and duties as the idolators, but thanksgiving. Thanksgiving presents God's gifts as from his goodness and grace rather than persuasion.

He is not hungry as the lowly idols (v. 12). God never needs our help. He is never in distress or debt to us for our goodness. The good he gives is from grace. God has every right to judge us. For we are His as the whole world is.

Those that recognize Him as Creator are thankful. While those that diminish Him are marked with slander and stealing and casting God's words behind them. In envy, which is the opposite of thanksgiving, they justify their evil. They are able to keep company with those that do evil because they approve. They want what they should not have. And take from those too weak to defend themselves.

They have no reservations because they don't believe in God as over all things. There is no judge in their perception of the world.

To be thankful is to perceive God as Creator.

"OFFER A SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING AND PERFORM YOUR VOWS TO THE MOST HIGH
AND CALL UPON ME IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE: I WILL DELIVER YOU AND YOU SHALL GLORIFY ME."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

PSALM 50:22

"THE ONE WHO OFFERS THANKSGIVING AS HIS SACRIFICE GLORIFIES ME:
TO ONE WHO ORDERS HIS WAY RIGHTLY I WILL SHOW THE SALVATION OF GOD!"

LIVING IN BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY (DANIEL 7) 539 B.C.

When Nebuchadnezzar was defeated by the Egyptians in battle in 601 B.C., Jerusalem revolted against Babylon and stopped paying tribute. After a few months, the Babylonians with a huge, multi-national army besieged Jerusalem for two years. King Jehoiachin surrendered the city and was carried into exile by Nebuchadnezzar with 10,000 others, along with the treasures of the city and the Temple.

Then the city limped along for 11 years after this with a new king, Zedekiah, that was put in place by Nebuchadnezzar and forced to pay a massive tribute. This king was to be loyal to the Babylonians, but he never gave up hope of independence. Zedekiah revolted against the prophecy of Jeremiah, which brought down the wrath of Nebuchadnezzar upon the city. As a result, the violence escalated, and the city walls and Temple were torn down. Many thousands were forced into exile (2 Kings 23–25).

The 70 years of exile are marked by the first surrender and exile that carried off many of Judah's prophets and king. Both Daniel and Ezekiel were carried off in this first wave of exiles. Jeremiah did not come to Babylon.

God refers back to the evil of King Manasseh, Hezekiah's son, in the later years of the Southern Kingdom, as the tipping point of God's judgment (2 Kings 23:26). While the evil of the kings in the Northern Kingdom seemed to be deeper, Judah seemed to have its share, especially after re-establishing normal relations with King Ahab (2 King 8).

We will talk about this in greater detail later, but as the Israelite kingdoms flowed in and out of idolatry, there seems to be a consistent feature. David instituted a system of regular thanksgiving and praise before the Ark. When the people swayed away from this discipline, they would also flow in and out of idolatry.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

For the Israelites living in captivity in Babylon, the weight of sin as a nation would have loomed large. For they fixated on their sin as the reason for judgment, and the natural inclination would have been to profusely ask for forgiveness. They saw their idolatry as the reason for their exile. Yet, God, in this Psalm, rejects the guilt offering and asks for thanksgiving.

The original language for thanksgiving in these verses would have been the word for a ceremony of thanksgiving like the peace offering of Leviticus 7. God wanted the willing heart bent to Him in the voluntary thanksgiving offering. God did not need the blood of bulls and goats. He was not hungry, and the animals could not bribe him to forgive. We cannot give God anything that is not already his. He wants our heart. The pathway to the peace of God and Salvation is thanksgiving. This is the way forward.

Discipline is action in moving forward in the calling God has given you. A disciplined person structures their days with constant progress in mind to an ultimate goal. Thanksgiving comes through discipline because the posture of thanksgiving must be renewed and strengthened each day with constant effort.

The Israelites in their later history were just going through the motions and duty of sin offerings and celebrations. They did not discipline their heart and mind. They followed every whim and emotion and what felt right at the time. But a central message in this Psalm was that God was not done with the Israelite nation.

They were in exile in a foreign land and judged for their sin, but God still had a major role for them to play in the history of the world. Thanksgiving represented a moving forward rather than constantly circling around their failure. God wanted them thankful! To discipline their heart and mind to thanksgiving would lead them to peace. Therefore, when they return from captivity in Ezra and Nehemiah, they reinstitute regular thanksgiving. Daniel, while in captivity, kneels in prayer and thanksgiving three times per day. The discipline of thanksgiving lifted the captives from the bounds of their failure and made them active channels for the will of God.

"THE ONE WHO OFFERS THANKSGIVING AS HIS SACRIFICE GLORIFIES ME:
TO ONE WHO ORDERS HIS WAY RIGHTLY I WILL SHOW THE SALVATION OF GOD!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"I WILL THANK YOU FOREVER; BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE IT. I WILL WAIT FOR YOUR NAME,
FOR IT IS GOOD. IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GODLY."

UPON PERSECUTION BY DOEG THE EDMITE (1 SAM. 21 & 22) 1060 BC
Based on the number of Psalms that are written by David regarding Doeg, we can assume that he is a major figure in David's early flight from Saul.

It is hard to fully discern why Doeg was in Nob while David spoke to Ahimelech. However, the scripture does describe Doeg as "detained." He was apparently being held for some sort of ritual violation.

When Saul was interrogating his leaders on how David escaped, Doeg stepped forward when others would not. To be in this meeting, Doeg had to have a level of prominence and trust in Saul's court.

Traditional Rabbinic literature (not inspired) claims that Doeg was characterized by malice and jealousy. Additionally, he was a noted scholar but lacked the ability to apply correctly because of his lack of humility and piety. He argued with David often in Saul's court and held grudges. Doeg, according to tradition in Jewish literature, fed the jealousy and self-destructive actions of Saul. There is even tradition that Doeg protected the king of the Amalekites by arguing from passages in Leviticus.

It is also important to remember that the meeting at the top of a hill in Gebeah (1 Sam. 22:6) was Saul looking for organized conspiracy among his officers. Saul was angry and "out for blood." Therefore, Saul's response came from a sense of the priests being a part of an organized conspiracy against the crown and the tribe of Benjamin. Saul did not see this as an innocent instance of helping a representative from Saul's court.

David knew that the only way he escaped was because God was with him. Sometimes when God is against a leader or any individual, he allows someone into their life that hastens their demise. It is so important who you surround yourself with. Are those around you feeding your weaknesses or developing your strengths? Are they feeding your anxiety or your thanksgiving?

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

David is so confident, he is almost boastful here. He seems to be talking down to his pursuers, daring them to continue.

David's confidence is that the actions of his pursuers will result in their own demise and that his own trust in the Lord will keep him safe. Actually, he is stirring up his pursuers with the idea that their pursuit, in fact, will result in his own growth and maturity. The pursuers are preparing David to one day be king.

David's confidence re-frames the violence Doeg perpetrates on the city of Nob, just as thanksgiving re-frames our own struggles today. David is thankful. Even though the violent actions of Doeg illustrates the length that Saul and his pursuers would stoop to trap David, he is not distraught. The killing of the priests not only showed the desperation of Saul but also served to scare others away from helping David. What a horrible scene, but David raced to thanksgiving! The sense is that David struggles a little with worry, but he counteracts the fear with thanksgiving. He has confidence that this situation will work out.

The evil of his pursuers will serve to clear the court for David's future kingdom of the wicked and place David in the presence of the godly. David is confident that on the other side of his thanksgiving will be a blessing. Which is the reason he is willing to have others join him.

David is not inviting others to put their lives in danger. On the contrary, they would be sharing the blessing God has for him.

Reading this Psalm, it is hard to remember that David is running for his life, and an entire city of innocent people has been destroyed. His confidence has overwhelmed any fear.

"I WILL THANK YOU FOREVER; BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE IT. I WILL WAIT FOR YOUR NAME,
FOR IT IS GOOD. IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GODLY."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"I WILL SACRIFICE TO YOU; I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME, O LORD, FOR IT IS GOOD. HE HAS DELIVERED ME FROM EVERY TROUBLE, MY EYE HAS LOOKED IN TRIUMPH ON MY ENEMIES."

WRITTEN ON THE TREACHERY OF THE ZIPHIMS TO DAVID

(1 SAM. 23:23) 1060 B.C.

The Philistines were not the type of enemy that would conquer and occupy a people like the Assyrians or Babylonians. They would raid and steal the resources a community relied on. They were very willing to let a village do the work of planting and feeding animals and then come in and steal. David was used to this behavior from the Philistines from Gath. He experienced firsthand its impact on a community while in Bethlehem. The Philistines were ruthless and could cripple a city or community in their annual raids.

After the events of Nob and running for his life, David still felt an obligation to save Keilah from one of these raids. At this time, Saul was not aware of David's location, making it easier to hide. David had the advantage in the pursuit because Saul did not have a standing army and did not know David's location. Protecting Keilah would take away David's advantage.

Many things are illuminated by this story:

- 1) David's courage and willingness to follow God in the midst of dangerous circumstances.
- 2) Saul's singleness of focus in supporting his legacy and power. In his selfishness, he did not care about Keilah.
- 3) Fear causes you to do things that violate what is right.

David was given up by the Keilites even while he was fighting the Philistines. David was a fugitive. His actions were met with surface gratitude because of their fear. Their concern stemmed from the reports from Nob, which emptied out any sense of character in Keilites actions before David.

David knew from this experience that the enmity was not just between David and Saul. There were many in Israel who would give him up and even join the pursuit. Doing good did not matter. How alone must have David felt?

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Against the odds, David launched out to protect the people of Keilah. David had in his possession an ephod from a priest that fled the massacre at Nob. He inquired of the Lord twice, which is such an example for us.

Action is inspired through certainty. Truly, it can be said that David's thanksgiving enabled his action. Protecting Keilah was rooted in deep confidence in who God was and what God had planned for David. He knew he was anointed as king, and his inquiry of the Lord was clearly answered twice. David would not turn away from a troubled city after God told him to move on it.

David knew that protecting Keilah would not result in peace with Saul, but rather, a more severe pursuit from Saul and his army. David and those with him knew that troubles would multiply. Yet, they moved forward because they did not view the danger as most would. Fear did not seize them as it did the leaders of Keilah.

Trust in God was the foundation of David's confidence. He had faith that God would be with him and not turn on him after defeating the Philistines. David never doubted that God would keep him safe. Therefore, David acted trusting in God's deliverance.

It had been a difficult year for David. This raid most likely took place during the fall harvest. David had already been on the run for months. He fled to Nob, which resulted in the destruction of an entire city of priests. He went from there to Gath in hopes of a reprieve but had to fake craziness to escape with his life. He hid in a cave alone while family and others came to him. Then, he was given up by a city leadership that he saved.

To be thankful is to be expectant. You know that God is not done. Whether in a difficult circumstance or in blessing, you have confidence that God is not done. There is more to come! And, because God is good, you will be blessed and triumphant! With this confidence, you are determined to be thankful and not complain.

"I WILL SACRIFICE TO YOU; I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME, O LORD, FOR IT IS GOOD. HE HAS DELIVERED ME FROM EVERY TROUBLE, MY EYE HAS LOOKED IN TRIUMPH ON MY ENEMIES."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the thanksgiving question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the impact question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the grace question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the prayer question.

"I MUST PERFORM MY VOWS TO YOU, O GOD; I WILL RENDER THANK OFFERINGS TO YOU."

DAVID WAS WITH THE PHILISTINES IN GATH (1 SAM. 21:15) 1060 B.C.

The instance in which this song is written was at the beginning of David's flight from Saul. Neither his family had come to him yet in the cave of Adullam nor his mighty men. He has left Nob and has Goliath's sword in his possession. David went to Gath out of desperation. At this point in his flight, he is wandering. He hoped that somehow bringing the sword would gain favor with Achish. Along the way, David is scared for his life because he knows Saul's allies are poisoning the people against him, and there must have been some sort of bounty on him.

Saul was upset on the hill because he knew David should not have survived this trek through the Valley of Elah. Saul suspected that David must have had help. David knew he could trust no one, which is why he ran from Nob to Gath. By the way, David would have had to pass by Bethlehem on his way to Gath—stopping would have been dangerous. His pursuers would have gone to his hometown first to find him.

He was hoping to be met with appreciation as soon as he arrived with the prize of Goliath's sword, but he was not. He was recognized, and David fears for his life.

During this time, the ruler of a city resided at the gate to control entry and departure. This way, they could charge fees to those that entered for trade and other business. When David is recognized, he feigns insanity by marking on the gate and allowing spittle to fall down his beard. To do this would have been embarrassing. A man of David's stature and respect in the Israelite court and the army would have never allowed such a diminishment. So, David does what others would not to save his life. David humiliates himself to sell that he is insane. Achish goes for it, and David thanks God for delivering him.

Achish is not stupid. David was just that convincing—cratering his reputation and supporting the rumors. The rumors were that he had to be crazy to turn against Saul.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

The tear catcher or tear bottle existed mainly in the ancient Near East and Roman societies as precious memorials to loved ones. Loved ones would cry into bottles when they were going on long journeys, or battle, or at funerals, and the bottles would be presented as a representation of love. The more the tears, the deeper the mourning at being apart and deeper the love.

The verse referencing "catching tears" in this Psalm is credited with setting off the tradition of tear bottles in the ancient Near East, Rome, and in 19th Century America. David is illustrating the preciousness of his tears to his God, who loves him. David's depth of pain is captured in the bottle and is not wasted. God is at work for David, and the tears are like deposits in a greater plan God has for him.

This is written during the first year of flight for David. He has just started running, and he is scared. David is rehearsing to himself who God is and that God loves him to counteract the fear that is gripping him. At this point, it has been 7 years since he was first anointed king by Samuel. There has been a lot of time that has passed. Over this year, he escapes Doeg and the tragedy of Nob; sneaks through the Valley of Elah; heads to Gath and hides in a Cave of Adullam; defeats a Philistine raid at Keilah, and escapes a pursuit of Saul and his army. This time is the most prolific of David's Psalms writing. It is also the most uncertain.

Yet, David is confident. In this Psalm, David seems to flow from pleading with God and afraid to invincible because of confidence in God. He knows he will be delivered. He knows God will defend him. And he is determined to be thankful. He has to perform his vows—his thank-offering, before a caring God.

"I MUST PERFORM MY VOWS TO YOU, O GOD; I WILL RENDER THANK OFFERINGS TO YOU."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD, AMONG THE PEOPLES; I WILL SING PRAISES TO YOU AMONG THE NATIONS. FOR YOUR LOVE IS GREAT TO THE HEAVENS, YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE SKY."

WHEN DAVID WAS HIDING WITHIN THE CAVE OF ADULLAM IN THE WILDERNESS (1 SAM. 22) 1060 B.C.

The Cave of Adullam is at the edge of the Valley of Elah, which is in the same area as Bethlehem and Gath, but still in the Judean wilderness. Many scholars believe this cave to be a stronghold for military encampments. We think of walled defenses and towers when we think of strongholds, which may or may not have been true here. Strongholds during this time would have referred to hard to access military establishments that are highly defensible. They don't need to have buildings with thick walls. This particular stronghold would have been a defensive location against Philistines' marauding bands that attacked each harvest season.

When he arrives, David is alone. He came through Nob and escaped barely with his life from Gath. This is a place for David to re-group. This Psalm is a glimpse into David's meditation while on the run and hiding for his life. He doesn't know who to trust. While here, his family and many others come to him. How encouraging this must have been for him! Maybe he left word for them as he fled through the Valley of Elah. Regardless, they came while he was down. And many others came as well. This must have been an encouragement for him.

Do Not Destroy in the title of this Psalm is reiterated by David in I Samuel 26 when he tells Abishai to not destroy Saul. There is a hint of what this means in Isaiah 65:8.

"Thus says the LORD; As the new wine is found in the cluster, And they say, 'Do not destroy it, For there is a blessing in it.' so I will do for my servants sake. And not destroy them all."

Do not destroy the whole cluster of grapes on a corrupt vine, for out of this cluster is a new cluster, which will be a blessing. God has placed blessing in the new, so you should allow the old to die on its own and run its course. To snuff out the old would hinder the blessing found just beyond the corrupt.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

It is like David's praise awakes the dawn—brings forth the sun (v.8). His willingness to praise seems to awaken the blessing of our Father in Heaven. When David struggles to see God's blessing, he goes to the Heavens, and there David re-orient his perception.

These verses seem to be a turning point for David. He is fearfully running through the valley until he regroups at Adullam to re-orient his view. Interestingly, David's experience during this time could have been daily. The first day he runs from Saul and arrives in Nob the next night. Then the next day, he is in Gath, and the next day he is hiding in Adullam. Each day he writes verses and meditates on thanking God in the midst troubles. If you pay attention, you witness a growing confidence and maturity.

There is a determination. He will not complain. Although he could have. After all, he was already anointed king by Samuel. Instead, he is set toward thankfulness. Against the mental anguish of running and fear, he fortifies with thanksgiving. He will not doubt or lose faith.

David is willing to stand out in praising and thanking the LORD. He is hunted, but he is thanking God out loud—writing verse and playing the lyre. He stands out! He cannot be quiet. Boldly—he is willing to be heard. He is generous with his praise of his Savior! That is why this is a turning point. He has returned to his warrior demeanor. Yet, his weapon is no longer a sword or sling but praise. He becomes a magnet that draws those with need. They want to be around a thankful, generous king. He is no longer alone!

I believe these verses memorialize a new boldness in David. He is no longer running from evil but launches out against it. Although, David is unwilling to destroy Saul. As we will see, Saul is a chosen vessel to grow David into the King he needs to be.

"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD, AMONG THE PEOPLES; I WILL SING PRAISES TO YOU AMONG THE NATIONS.
FOR YOUR LOVE IS GREAT TO THE HEAVENS, YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE SKY."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

WEEK 2 SUMMARY

REVIEW

DID YOU DO THE THANKSGIVING STUDY EACH DAY THIS WEEK?

- M T W TH F S S

SUMMARY OF YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TEACHINGS

Grid for writing thoughts from the history of Thanksgiving teachings.

SHARE

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE WHY YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM THIS WEEK?

- YES NO

HOW DID THEY RESPOND?

Grid for writing how others responded to sharing thankfulness.

MEMORIZATION

WRITE OUT YOUR VERSE FROM EACH DAY THIS WEEK (CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE MEMORIZED IT)

PSALM 44:8

Grid for writing Psalm 44:8.

PSALM 50:14-15

Grid for writing Psalm 50:14-15.

PSALM 50:22

Grid for writing Psalm 50:22.

PSALM 52:9

Grid for writing Psalm 52:9.

PSALM 54:6-7

Grid for writing Psalm 54:6-7.

PSALM 56:12

Grid for writing Psalm 56:12.

PSALM 57:9-10

Grid for writing Psalm 57:9-10.

PSALM 69:30

"I WILL PRAISE THE NAME OF GOD WITH A SONG,
I WILL MAGNIFY HIM WITH THANKSGIVING."

WRITTEN NEAR THE END OF DAVID'S LIFE (1 CHRON. 28:21) 1015 B.C.

At the end of David's reign, he collects the resources and has plans drawn up for Solomon to build the Temple. Even though God specifically told David not to build the Temple, David threw that energy into lining everything up for his son to build the Temple. Part of this activity was pulling together a psalter of praise and thanksgiving.

Although when you read this, you realize that this Psalm could have been written at many points in David's life. This Psalm illustrates the constant reality of David's life of people around him that undermined his position in their own jealousy and evil. Also, David never quite got over his big failures. The adultery, murder, and counting were ever before him. He knew what he was capable of and that any blessing was not earned.

This Psalm is referred to as a Messianic Psalm by scholars. There are Psalms that foreshadow and prophesy of our coming Savior. On the Cross, Jesus was given vinegar and gall when thirsty (Mt. 27:34) as David describes in this Psalm (v.21). David is describing the despair of being surrounded by sin. Not his own but the sin of others, as Jesus would on the Cross. When Jesus was with the disciples after the Resurrection, he said, *"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."* (Lk. 24:44)

The connection of the words of King David to the life and sacrifice and Resurrection of Christ, our Lord places David's words on a different level. They are not words of just a good man and king who is wise. They are more significant than that. They are part of a plan of a good and loving God to redeem a kingdom out of the dirt and grime of human desire and empty idol-worshipping to a better eternal life with Him. David, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, and Paul are all part of this story.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Like the ripple of a stone striking the water, we magnify the giver when we are thankful. We call attention to their goodness and their service to us. Think of the joy! The blessing of a gift-giver is in our appreciation for their kindness. Still, we multiply joy by sharing to another and another and another. Like ripples that stretch away from the impact of that stone, each person we tell makes a new wave of joy for the giver.

In this Psalm, David references how pleasing it is to God for us to be thankful. Would God prefer to be viewed as the Giver and Savior rather than the punisher of sin, feared judge, and wrathful? A Giver is a friend as Jesus describes himself. (John 15: 14)

David writes many verses around his faults and failures. He finds no comfort in those around him, for they seek his destruction. But God does not seek David's destruction. This cycle is broken when David settles on the praise of his Father. David's thanksgiving is a move forward from sinking in the sin of his heart and the world around him. He is hoarse from crying out in failure, but he has plenty of voice for praise. David is ready!

He is ready to magnify God with Thanksgiving. David knows he is saved, and he is ready to declare it. David is not alone. Those throughout the centuries have longed for a Savior, and he has come. Therefore, we are glad! We are made whole in Him. "For the LORD hears the needy," and our need is great.

Therefore, we are thankful. We magnify and draw attention to God's goodness through sending His Son. He is good, and good all the time!

PSALM 69:30

"I WILL PRAISE THE NAME OF GOD WITH A SONG,
I WILL MAGNIFY HIM WITH THANKSGIVING."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing responses to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing responses to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing responses to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing responses to the fourth question.

"WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD; WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR NAME IS NEAR.
WE RECOUNT YOUR WONDROUS DEEDS."

WRITTEN UPON THE DEATH OF SENNACHERIB (2 KINGS 19:35) 701 B.C.

During this time, Judah was caught between the competing powers of Egypt and Assyria (Pharaoh Neco and Sennacherib). Approximately ten years before this Psalm was written, The Northern Kingdom was defeated by the Assyrians and taken into captivity. Hezekiah is the king of Judah when the Assyrians invade in his 19th year.

Hezekiah is described,

"He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses." (2 Kings 18:6)

He turned away completely from the idolatry of previous kings and tore down the high places. Therefore, it is only natural to continue turning away from previous administrations' errors by rebelling against the bonds of the Assyrians. Hezekiah is in Jerusalem, and Sennacherib is defeating the cities of Judah. Over several years of war, the Assyrians counted 46 Jewish cities they had overcome.

Hezekiah's father reigned for 16 years and turned away from the LORD. Like all kings that turned away from the LORD, Ahaz ran to another nation, the Assyrians, for help when the Syrians and the Northern Kingdom attacked. This was the reason Judah was paying tribute to the Assyrian king. But, unlike his father, Hezekiah runs to the LORD.

Miraculously, an angel of death runs through the army of Sennacherib, killing 185,000. This is not an event the Assyrian king cast upon his throne room wall as he did the siege of Lachish. Suddenly, Sennacherib leaves. And one day, while worshipping his false god, his sons kill him, which completely eliminated the threat of Assyria.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Sennacherib viewed his victories against Judah as not just battles of men but of gods. To him, he was defeating the God of Hezekiah and boasted in his own power. His view was that his oppression and humiliation of other powers lifted him up, not so with Hezekiah.

There are two very different and distinct views competing in this battle. Hezekiah starts with thanksgiving but Sennacherib, envy. Envy tears down and oppresses while thanksgiving builds up. You can see this in the way the emissary of Assyria insults Hezekiah.

Distinction is the underlying message of this story. Hezekiah was different. Distinct...He was not like the other kings that came before him in Judah who tolerated the high places and idolatry in the kingdom. They were only moderately better than the idolatrous kings of the Northern Kingdom. Hezekiah followed hard after the Lord, which made him stand out.

Hezekiah has faith in the Lord. He does not run to the East, which is Assyria, or the West, which is Egypt, or to the wilderness, which is other idols. He comes to the Lord.

Idolatry—no matter how minor—will eventually suck the life from those that practice it. Pulling it from you. Rooted in desire, there is no stability and no truth in idolatry.

Hezekiah re-centers his view and focus on God. This is hard! Evil will not just let you go. The influence of negativity is not easily broken. It takes commitment and discipline and determination to break the thirst and hooks of evil. And above all, you need God to carry you through.

"WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O GOD; WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR NAME IS NEAR.
WE RECOUNT YOUR WONDROUS DEEDS."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"BUT WE YOUR PEOPLE, THE SHEEP OF YOUR PASTURE, WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR FOR-
EVER; FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION WE WILL RECOUNT YOUR PRAISE."

WRITTEN AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE BY BABYLONIAN ARMIES. THIS EVENT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO THE SCOPE OF JEWISH HISTORY THAT IT IS DESCRIBED FOUR TIMES IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES (2 KINGS 25, 2 CHRONICLES 36: 11–21, JEREMIAH 39: 1–14, JEREMIAH 52) 587 B.C.

Asaph was the family name of a division of priests first assigned the duty of praise and thanksgiving before the Ark after David first brought the Ark to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 15). These priests were active from David's time, and their activity was a bellwether of the heart of the Jewish people and their associations with idolatry. When the Jewish people and their kings were enamored with other gods, praise and thanksgiving from these priests would slow or stop altogether. When a good king was on the throne, the commitment would intensify, and the inspiration of written Psalms would become more prevalent.

110 years before, Hezekiah's son Manasseh was a severely idolatrous king for which God promised to punish Jerusalem.

"...Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another..." (2 Kings 21:16).

The reign of Manasseh started a fast decline of Judah, for which it never fully recovered, even during the 31 years of Josiah's reign. Josiah was a good king, but he was killed by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt at the Battle of Megiddo (2 Kings 23). Then Neco installed a ruler from Josiah's sons and forces Judah into tribute. This tribute moved from Egypt to Babylon after Nebuchadnezzar comes into power.

After 9 years, Jerusalem revolts against Nebuchadnezzar, who sends armies to conquer the city. The king of Judah, Jehoiachin, surrenders in about 607 B.C., and some of the instruments of the Temple are removed along with about 10,000 of its leading thinkers and warriors. This is considered the beginning of the 70 years of Captivity. After this first surrender and exile, two other groups are captured and led from Jerusalem. The last and most brutal was in 587 B.C. when Zedekiah was king. This is also when the city is burned, and the walls and Temple are leveled.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

The overarching emotion of this Psalm is grief. It is written as if the author is watching the smoke rise from his destroyed city, which marks the closing of a stage of history. Even though it was an event that developed over decades and was expected, it came with sadness. Things were not going to be the same.

More than a century before, God tells Hezekiah through His prophet Isaiah that God's people and some of the king's sons would serve in the Babylonian king's court, and all the wealth of Israel would be in Babylon (2 Kings 20: 19). Therefore, the judgment of God on Jerusalem was not a surprise to those that knew Him.

The idolatry of their kings and people had diminished and sucked the glory from the city. Their pride returned to them as embarrassment. The writer knew that the Jewish people took a hit with the destruction of Jerusalem.

Even though the scene was horribly violent, the sense from Scripture is that God's people who first surrendered and were carried into captivity in approximately 607 B.C. were not slaves. They had standing among their captors as Mordecai and Daniel. Even up until the last moment, Jeremiah prophesied to the last king, Zedekiah, that his family would not be destroyed if he surrendered. The city would be preserved. Yet, Zedekiah would not humble himself. Those that went to Babylon had a much easier time than those that stayed in Jerusalem or fled to Egypt during this time.

There was a determination to come to God in Thanksgiving and Praise above all else. No matter the circumstances, they were going to hold strong to approaching God with Thanks.

Thanksgiving provided a window to fully appreciate the power and glory of their God. Therefore, the thanksgiving statement at the end of the Psalm is like a sunrise on a new epoch. They grieved the setting of the old but thanked God expectantly for the dawning of a new, which lessened their grief. Thanksgiving always has a tendency to thrust your attention forward. Thanksgiving is marked by action.

"BUT WE YOUR PEOPLE, THE SHEEP OF YOUR PASTURE, WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR FOREVER; FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION WE WILL RECOUNT YOUR PRAISE."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

PSALM 86:12

"I GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD MY GOD, WITH MY WHOLE HEART,
AND I WILL GLORIFY YOUR NAME FOREVER."

WRITTEN LATER IN LIFE OF DAVID (1 CHRON. 28:21) 1015 B.C.

This Psalm could be referencing numerous instances within David's life. The subtitle indicates it as a prayer, and David seems to be looking back on his life and walk with God.

David intentionally structures this verse, using numbers to communicate with his expected audience. He uses "Adonai" seven times in reference to God, which means "master" in the original language. He makes 15 different requests to God.

In Hebrew tradition, 7 is the number of completeness. There are 7 days in the Biblical week, and the Jewish Sabbath is on the 7th day.

The number 15 is the number of rest after deliverance. God told Abraham in a vision, just as the sun was setting in the Jewish month of Nisan on the 15th day, that his descendants would be enslaved and then set free (Gen. 15). Many years later, after the plague of the first-born son dying, the Israelites were freed on Nisan 15 again. Also, Jesus Christ, after dying on the cross, was placed in the Garden Tomb on Nisan 15.

It is easy to make too much of the use of numbers when studying Scripture. In the sense of believing numerology dominates the structure of Scripture and even holds a hidden code or formula for the work of God. However, it is clear that God is a God of order and not chaos when considering the use of numbers in the Scripture. There is a pattern and symmetry, but we can't use formulas and numbers to predict God's future plans.

In David's case, he is writing art with words or poetry. The connection with numbers is intentional in his communication and inspiration to provide an additional layer of communication with his audience. Using numbers in this sense for poetry is common throughout the history of all literature.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

One night, a full crowd gathered to hear the master, Itzhak Perlman, play. There was a chair positioned in the middle of a large stage. Once the violinist made his way across the stage and sat down, he motioned to the conductor of the accompanying symphony to start. As the master played through a few musical bars, one of his strings snapped like a gunshot. The musicians on stage jumped and stopped and waited for Perlman. He could have simply stopped the performance, replaced the string, and started over. Instead, he motioned to the conductor to continue where he left off.

Perlman now had only three strings with which to play his soloist part. He was able to find some of the missing notes on adjoining strings, but where that wasn't possible, he had to rearrange the music on the spot in his head so that it all still held together. He played with passion and artistry, spontaneously rearranging the symphony right through to the end. When he finally rested his bow, the audience sat for a moment in stunned silence. And then they rose to their feet and cheered wildly. They knew they had been witness to an extraordinary display of human skill and ingenuity.

As the story goes, Perlman raised his bow to signal for quiet. "You know," he said, "sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much beautiful music you can still make with what you have left."

When I think of the suggestion of completeness in Psalm 86 through referencing God as Adonai 7 times, I think of this story. Of course, Perlman had a sophisticated ability to lean on to complete his song. However, we have the Lord God, our Creator. Gratitude is finishing the song with His help to make us whole and fill in our gaps.

By recognizing God as our master, we are able to lean on Him to fill in our weaknesses and inability. Gratitude starts with recognizing God as our master and then tossing to Him what we can't do. By casting our cares to the Master, we are able to have rest through Him delivering us. In short, we are made whole.

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

PSALM 86:12

"I GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD MY GOD, WITH MY WHOLE HEART,
AND I WILL GLORIFY YOUR NAME FOREVER."

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to 'WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?'

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?'

📄 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?'

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to 'CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.'

PSALM 92:1

"IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, T
O SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH;"

AN INTERESTING POINT ABOUT THIS PSALM IS THAT THE ANCIENT JEWISH WRITERS ATTRIBUTE IT TO ADAM. They say Adam was created on Friday and wrote this for the first Sabbath the next day. While interesting, Spurgeon dismisses such a contention as "raving." And we have to admit that while attractive as history, there is no way this Psalm was written for the first Sabbath. There were no "evildoers" or "stupid" men in existence at the first Sabbath. The context of the Psalm does not support this history.

However, this Psalm was written for the Jewish Sabbath, as indicated in the title. This is the only Psalm designated for the Sabbath in this manner. There were songs for each day song after the morning sacrifice in the Temple. The other days were associated with the following Psalms:

1ST — PSALM 24
2ND — PSALM 48
3RD — PSALM 82
4TH — PSALM 114
5TH — PSALM 81
6TH — PSALM 93

This Sabbatical Psalm is focused on rest.

One of the more interesting aspects of this Psalm is that the writer mentions the name Jehovah, which is the Latinization of the Hebrew for the Most High God, Seven Times (Verses 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15). We know the number 7 to be the number of completeness in Hebrew tradition.

This illustrates a point that the opposite of thanksgiving draws out our incompleteness while gratitude makes us whole no matter what our shortfall might be. It fills in the gaps of our weaknesses, resulting in more confidence and strength in approaching our days. We are ready, as opposed to shrinking from challenges and obstacles.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

This Psalm seems to have a unique focus on the physical aspect of interaction with God. Not at the exception of the Spiritual, but the Psalm seems to draw out the sense of a deep breath and focuses on the pure pleasure of worship and rest.

The writer comes to the Sabbath in a posture of thanksgiving. This is not an emotion that is trumped up and created out of duty. On the contrary, the writer enters the scene already thankful and declares that it is good like God declared Creation good in the Beginning. Meaning that the goodness of thanksgiving satisfies something deep within you that you need. It connects to a thirst and satisfies the tension associated with pursuit. Physically, this results in a deep breath of satisfaction. And gratitude lifts you up.

Like you found what you are looking for!

Creation is of the Lord, and you recognize it. You can see the Lord in the world around you. God has made you glad by His work, and your joy is in declaring it. Gratitude starts in recognizing God as Creator.

But this is compared to a counter experience that the stupid and foolish know. The evil and wicked might flourish in this counter-world, but it ends in destruction. There is no life or goodness in their world, which is doomed to perish and subject to death. The foolish and wicked might strive, but they cannot cross over to the joy of rest without God. They are doomed to this lower level. They search, but the tension of pursuit never goes away.

The foolish never fully appreciate the goodness of God and never enter the rest of our Lord. They are never satisfied! They pursue truth but never find it. They run after riches but always want more. They ask for rest, but all they find is tension until they diminish. In old age, their strength and glory melt away, but the grateful give way to praise and forever bear fruit that glorifies God and has meaning. They never have to worry about legacy because they have it in the fruit of gratefulness to God.

PSALM 92:1

"IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, T
O SING PRAISES TO YOUR NAME, O MOST HIGH;"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"LET US COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING;
LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE!"

INSERTED TOWARD THE END OF DAVID'S LIFE

(1 CHRON. 28:21) 1015 B.C.

This Psalm is quoted in Hebrews 4:7 as being "through David." By some, the verses of Hebrews 3 and 4 are the most thorough commentary of an Old Testament passage in the New Testament.

In relation to Sabbath rest, David in this Psalm mentions how Israel contended with Moses in the wilderness at Meribah and Massah. These are two distinct instances in which the Israelites contended against Moses and Aaron. One was just a few months after leaving Egypt, and after God had already miraculously split the Red Sea and provided food as Manna. They were about to kill Moses when God tells Moses to strike the rock to make water flow. The other is after Miriam's death (Num. 20), and, in a similar scenario, God tells Moses to speak to the rock, and he strikes it. This last one is what God pinpointed as the reason Aaron and Moses did not enter Canaan.

This is a vivid illustration of how short the memory of the Israelites was. Really, we are the same. The Israelites had spent years in Egypt, driven by fear. Fear over a lifetime had been exercised by the cruelty of their masters. There was no contentment as slaves—no rest. But these events show that slavery is as much of a mental construct as a physical one. The Israelites brought the fear and discontent exercised in their slavery into the wilderness with their LORD, except without the chains of Egypt. They were physically free but not mentally.

The heart was considered when this was written to be the seat of wisdom (v. 7). In this Psalm, the Israelites had the hardening of the heart in common with Pharaoh as he endured the plagues. The same demeanor and posture of heart that caused Pharaoh to resist God's clear urging also resulted in the grumbling and violence of Meribah and Massah.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

How often these songs start with thanksgiving! In most cases, thanksgiving was not something that formed because of the circumstances that inspired the writing of the verse. Rather, the writer came to the situation with a posture of thanksgiving, and the verse overflows out of a thankful heart. These Psalms are a study of the approach and perception of a person filled with thanksgiving. We are looking through the eyes and experiences of someone with a thankful reflex.

The biggest mistake people make when thinking of "rest" is that they imagine it as nothingness. Lying on the sofa, watching television, reading a book, or playing video games—we imagine rest as a space of no genuine activity. But this is not true. We need to keep in mind that rest is inseparable from calling. There is no true rest without calling. What I mean by calling is the reason you were put on this earth. We are all called. But the Israelites in their mental slavery could not appreciate the calling God had for them.

To understand your calling, you have to hear the Lord. (V. 7) When you hear God, the next logical step is action, while envy invites either paralyzation or oppression.

I don't want to over complicate hearing God's voice. You can hear God through events or circumstances, through reading His Word, or you can hear Him through prayer and a strong urging.

Slavery had taken such hold of the Israelites that they preferred the bonds of the Egyptians over the rest of God. They were not thankful for their freedom and what God called them to. Their hearts were eaten up with the constant pursuit of what they did not have. Their lot was dissatisfaction.

How silly to wish for the chains and whips of Egypt! They could not see the freedom or appreciate the miracles God performed for them. They explored every depth and sadness of what they lacked rather than glorying in the gifts of the Father. They were left with only envy and idols that, in the end, sucked the life from them.

"LET US COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING;
LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO HIM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

ON MOVING THE ARK INTO THE FIRST TEMPLE (2 CHRON. 7:10) 1004 B.C. The next four Psalms are written (ch. 97–100) on the dedication of the Temple by Solomon. We do not know who wrote these Psalms. However, we know that Solomon played a central role in this celebration. Certainly, a sin offering was included in the celebration, but the description of the sacrifices seems to be more in line with the peace offering of Leviticus 7. Thousands of animals were offered and shared among the people. A thanksgiving offering is voluntary and conjures more of a scene of a feast than a sacrifice. It is to be shared and eaten before sundown by all those that are present.

Keep in mind, the Temple was not God's idea. It was first brought up by King David out of a heart of wanting to do more for the Lord. When David first initiates the idea of a magnificent structure, he had just finished a luxurious cedar palace for himself. He did not want to have a house of cedar while God had a house of curtains.

With Moses, God ordered the Tabernacle and provided the dimensions and a list of materials. With David, God simply allowed an idea from David to come into reality. However, God did not want David to build the Temple because David was a warrior. Warriors do not build Temples but memorials. God does not want dusty and moldy memorials that are good to look at. He wants our heart. He wants active participants that will be the hands and feet of his plans and that are willing to give their heart to him.

God allowed the Temple because it became representative of David's heart and the sacrifice of the people to do something good to honor God. When the feasts and sacrifices became mechanical duties, God allowed the Temple to be destroyed.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

"Clouds and thick darkness" pile up around the Lord the way a river piles up against a dam. They cannot penetrate His glory or overwhelm His love for us. Thanksgiving is a guard that aggressively protects our perception and spirit from the evil of this world. But the fire of the Lord is not just defensive protection but offensive. The fire of the Lord rushes out and consumes the worthless dust and stubble that so many put their hope in. Nothing burns as fast as dry wood, dead leaves, and thorns.

Certainly, light and joy can at times only be seen by those that look. They spend the effort to breathe in the sweet air of God's creation. Looking past the darkness in a thankful posture starts with recognizing God as Creator. This is God's world.

There is a focus that comes with thanksgiving that sees God as just and worthy of praise. Others see your rejoicing and wonder.

Thanksgiving among God's people illuminates the goodness of our Creator. We are witnesses to the goodness of our God which shows brightest when evil seems darkest. Those that watch wonder, "How are they thankful? How are they rejoicing?"

Well, the answer is that God's people see the world differently. It is not falling apart. Rather, things are coming together, and we rejoice because of it. Like a sunrise, "light is sown for the righteous."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the thanksgiving question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the grace question.

📄 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the impact question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the prayer question.

REVIEW

DID YOU DO THE THANKSGIVING STUDY EACH DAY THIS WEEK?

- M T W TH F S S

SUMMARY OF YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TEACHINGS

Grid for writing summary of thoughts.

SHARE

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE WHY YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM THIS WEEK?

- YES NO

HOW DID THEY RESPOND?

Grid for writing response.

MEMORIZATION

WRITE OUT YOUR VERSE FROM EACH DAY THIS WEEK (CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE MEMORIZED IT)

PSALM 69:30

Grid for writing Psalm 69:30.

PSALM 75:1

Grid for writing Psalm 75:1.

PSALM 79:13

Grid for writing Psalm 79:13.

PSALM 86:12

Grid for writing Psalm 86:12.

PSALM 92:1

Grid for writing Psalm 92:1.

PSALM 95:2

Grid for writing Psalm 95:2.

PSALM 97:12

Grid for writing Psalm 97:12.

"ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING; AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE!
GIVE THANKS TO HIM; BLESS HIS NAME!"

ON THE MOVING OF THE ARK TO THE FIRST TEMPLE

(2 CHRON. 7:10) 1004 B.C.

We are now halfway through the reign of Solomon, who ascended to the throne at approximately 16 years old. David looms large in this scene. He collected all the raw resources, and he organized the priests into the division that praised God before the Ark continually. The systems and organization were already there by this time. And this is something that David very much wanted to be a part of but could not.

When God told David he could not build the Temple and that it was not his role, he started accumulating and organizing to be as much a part of it as possible.

Solomon starts to build the Temple in the fourth year of his reign. He reigned for 40 years. The first 4 years were quite violent, with him consolidating his throne. At some point during the building of the Temple, Solomon also commissioned the building of his palace. It took 20 years to finish both. Therefore, he was deep into his reign before his palace, and the Temple was complete. The Temple had resources saved up from David, but not so for Solomon's palace. Therefore, because of the opulence of the palace, it would have taken significant taxes and manpower to build. This was the burden the men of Israel talked about when they came to Solomon's son—Rehoboam (2 Chron. 10).

During Solomon's reign and quite quickly, his attention turned inward. His selfish attention resulted in a longing to build up himself, which became a burden to his subjects. Thanksgiving builds up while narcissism takes away from all those around you. Eventually, narcissism leads to the impoverishment of everyone within the sphere of influence, including yourself.

Consider the incredible opulence of Solomon's state buildings. (1 King 12) Even after David spent years collecting resources for the Temple, Solomon still levied a burdensome tribute that caused the people to plead for relief.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Narcissism is at odds with thanksgiving. The two cannot exist within the same space. A mind set inward cannot sense the joy of a gift. It is more like a black hole that sucks the energy and light from those around. Rather than build-up, it will diminish. Rather than multiplying joy to both the giver and receiver, it sucks life away through expectation. Amid an outpouring of thanksgiving at the opening of the first Temple, the seeds of a great falling away have already been planted.

Thanksgiving is a hedge against the assault of pride and ego. Solomon would have been subject to a constant barrage of subjects and other nations that would grovel and toss empty compliments at him. They would feed his ego and puff him up.

Thanksgiving will guard your heart against fear. It is there to deflate your ego, and it is meant to pull you from the doldrums of failure and depression.

At night, shepherds during this time would bring their sheep into an enclosed area. The fence would serve as protection from predators and kept the sheep from innocently wandering at night and getting into trouble. There was one entrance to this yard, and the shepherd would lay across this opening. He was the door.

God is the gate, and we enter through the gate, declaring thanksgiving out loud to our Savior. Thanksgiving is the hedge that repels envy and pride that eats away at our hearts. Envy is like rust in our hearts.

Over time, Solomon went from a humble teenager to an idolatrous slave. Even though he was surrounded on all sides with opulence, his ego could not be satisfied. He constantly added more wives and taxed his people until the burden split the kingdom, which ensured no other Israel king could match his wealth.

Without thanksgiving, opulence will change us.

"ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING; AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE!
GIVE THANKS TO HIM; BLESS HIS NAME!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD; CALL UPON HIS NAME;
MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES!"

ON THE REMOVAL OF THE ARK FROM OBED-EDOM'S HOUSE BY DAVID (1 CHRON. 16:43) 1051 B.C.

The problem of idolatry with the Israelites was not confined to the era of the kings or the split of the kingdom into north and south. Before Saul and during the time of the Judges, the Israelites flowed in and out of severe idolatry and mimicked the evil practices of the people they shared the land with.

They did not abandon the worship of the Lord completely. Instead, they would mix in the idolatrous practices of those around them with the practices of Moses's law, which diminished God.

As happened throughout Israel's history, when they moved away from God and swayed into idolatry, God would allow them to fall under the thumb of an outside power. Before Saul was anointed king, the Israelites lost the Ark to the Philistines (1 Sam 4). A plague afflicting the conquerors followed, and the Philistines sent the Ark back on a cart to Bet Shemesh. For 20 years, the Ark sat at the home of Abinadab in the city of Gibeah, which was in Benjamin. (This gives an idea of how long Saul reigned.)

Once David became king and conquered Jerusalem, he wanted to bring the Ark into his new capital. However, he transported the Ark the same way the Philistines did when they sent it out of town. During the trip, one of the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah stuck his hand out to steady the Ark. In anger, the Lord struck out and killed Uzzah, which upset the entire project. The Ark was diverted to Obed Edom's home (2 Sam. 6).

Dejected, embarrassed, angry, and afraid, David left the Ark there three months. During this time, the Lord blessed Obed Edom beyond what he could imagine. Jewish history claims that his wife and eight daughters in law had six children (sextuplets) each during this time. When someone told David, he was encouraged and went to get the Ark to bring it into Jerusalem.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Near the beginning of David's reign as king of Israel's combined kingdoms, he brings the Ark into Jerusalem. At this time, he writes Psalms 105 and 106 as a celebration of thanksgiving for the occasion.

David's thanksgiving is what made him the great king that he was. Of course, he would struggle at times with fear and envy as he did after Uzzah died or when he fled from Saul to Gath. However, he was characterized by thanksgiving.

This Psalm is about multiplication. Thanksgiving elicits a crying out and sharing of blessings, which results in a ripple of the exponential increase of blessing.

The death of Uzzah was an embarrassment. He was the son of Abinadab, who had looked after the Ark safely for two decades. The entire nation came out to watch the moving of the Ark, and they witnessed the "striking out" against Uzzah for doing nothing more than keeping the Ark safe. This had to remind the nation of the death of many in Bet Shemesh for simply looking into the Ark (1 Sam. 6). This event would seem that God was not with David.

However, David transported the Ark like it was just another thing. Kings during this time were carried on poles like God told Moses to carry the Ark. The poles were not to be removed, and the Ark was to be carried specifically by priests. But David did not follow any of these directions!

When David returned three months later, he would start with Thanksgiving. He lifted the Ark up and carry the Ark as a king would be carried, which mirrors what we do when we give thanks to anyone or anything—we honor them and lift them up!

Not only did he handle the Ark as God prescribed, but he would tell the history of how God blessed the people. David chose in this Psalm to remember what brought forth thanksgiving. God's blessing would be shared, which multiplied the blessing. One person would tell another, which would tell another, and another. Each new person that hears the blessing and remembrance is blessed. "Make known His deeds among the peoples." (V. 1)

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD; CALL UPON HIS NAME;
MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

PSALM 106:1

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!"

ON THE REMOVAL OF THE ARK FROM OBED-EDOM'S HOUSE BY DAVID (2 SAMUEL 6) 1051 B.C.

When David placed the Ark in the Tabernacle he set up in Jerusalem, he preceded to offer a sin offering and a peace offering. This was a peace offering as described by Moses in Leviticus 7, which resulted in David sharing a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to all of Israel that was present at the celebration (which was thousands).

This must have been a huge feast!

Thanksgiving Offerings were voluntary, and as mention before, Israel swayed in and out of Thanksgiving Offerings to the same extent that they swayed in and out of idolatry. However, David took this opportunity to set up a division of priests with the expressed purpose of singing praise and thanksgiving before the Ark constantly (1 Chron. 16). No longer would thanksgiving be offered only when they felt like it. A feeling is not enough. Anything important must be systemized in order to have staying power or else it gets squeezed out.

Over and over again, the Israelites would return to this tradition when they abandoned their idols, cleaned off the dust from their scrolls, and sang before God again. How often today are we the same!

After this celebration day, David and the others in attendance went home and blessed their households. They expected God to bless them as God blessed Obed-Edom's home. This blessing is not defined as greater harvests or more children or simply laughter. It is only described as a general blessing. This brings forth the idea that we do not decide what is a blessing and what is not; God does! We are simply tasked with recognizing blessing when it happens.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

God's love cannot be stopped, and it always has a target. It is like a raging river or a tidal wave that the greatest structures cannot stop. It flows around and through all in its path. Not to destroy but to bless and comfort.

This Psalm again starts with thanksgiving. But it also exhibits the powerful love of the Lord that cannot be stopped. It is steadfast and endures. The original language here actually suggests something that cannot be held back. God's love is steadfast and bursts through.

Interesting that David describes the Lord with enduring love just after the valley of fear he experienced after Uzzah. David, with a thankful heart, chose not to remember God's anger but His steadfast love.

In reading this Psalm, you can see how steadfast love is framed by someone with humility and no entitlement. David is the king and leader of God's people. David has been sustained for years and clung to the promise of his anointing to this point. He does not build himself up or try to heap praise to himself. Instead, David, with a humble and thankful heart, recognizes the steadfast love of the Lord.

David rehearses the failures of the people over and over through this Psalm. He remembers God's punishment and deliverance. Undeserved, but the deliverance came through the enduring love of David's Lord. We are not entitled to a love like our Lord's. Yet, it is freely given. We simply need to believe.

Biblical thanksgiving starts with the confidence that God's love endures. That we can do nothing to separate ourselves from the love of the Lord (Rom. 8: 35). Through the good and the bad, God is always good. This is impossible to understand without humility.

After Uzzah, David had a heart crisis. What turns his demeanor is seeing that God blesses. His faith in God's enduring love was renewed. Then when David comes to get the Ark from Obed-Edom, there is no resistance. Even though Obed-Edom was blessed, he did not selfishly hold on.

PSALM 106:1

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

PSALM 107:1

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

ON THE RETURN FROM THE CAPTIVITY (EZRA 3:7) 536 B.C.

After seventy years of captivity in Babylon, a group of Hebrews returned to the city on a hill—to Jerusalem with hopes and dreams of serving God. They still failed in many ways while in Jerusalem during this time, but at this moment, they are hopeful.

It is like they knew exactly what was the root of their failures. They turned their back on God to follow lesser lights in their corrupted perception. Through their history, it is like they could not help but be idolators. There was something in them that they could not avoid. They were born to fail, but they were also born to be redeemed. God loved them!

Years before the Northern Kingdom was conquered and carried off to Assyria, never to return. A century after Samaria's fall (capital of Northern Kingdom), Judah became a vassal state of Egypt and Babylon. 10,000 of the highest standing individuals (in 606 B.C.), including the royal family, willingly surrendered to captivity in Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar. Several years later, another group is conquered and was forcibly carried to Babylon (587 B.C.). Another group split off and ran to Egypt while another stayed in Israel. These groups were in dire condition except for the first group that surrendered and included Daniel, Mordecai, Esther, Ezekiel, and others.

Ezra was a priest related to Aaron who returned several decades after the Cyrus decree. Ezra is credited with collecting the books of the Old Testament as we see them today. During the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, several groups of Hebrews traveled to the city. We do not know specifically who penned this Psalm, but it has more verses on Thanksgiving associated with it than any other. Of the 53 thanksgiving verses in Psalms, six are in Psalm 107.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

Often after going through a trial or valley of emotion, we are overwhelmed with a heart of gratitude that we can't help but exude through a smile or declaration of joy. In redemption, we realize the deep debt we were in. At the moment of redemption, we understand the depth of our valley.

There is nothing quite like absence to stir up appreciation.

However, this song does not wait for the sting of absence to settle in or the realization of redemption. This Psalm starts with a command of thanksgiving, as we have seen often in this study. The psalmist starts with thanksgiving. He calls out the redeemed to declare their gratitude.

Even today, in salvation, a new believer will have at least two responses when receiving the free gift of salvation. They will repent and turn away from their worthless lifestyle, and they will be grateful. The realization that they were hopeless and did not deserve to be rescued will bring forth gratitude. Sometimes, the deeper the stain of sin will bring forth a higher jump of joy in gratitude.

Notice what they were redeemed from...Some were wanderers that did not know their way. They were weary from wandering without direction. Some were hungry and thirsty. They had a longing that they could not satisfy. Others had a clear knowledge of what they should do. They knew what God wanted, but they rebelled. In each, before they were redeemed, they cried out to God. Only he could lift them up. When he did, they were thankful.

Also, notice that God doesn't just have the quality of being good. He is the personification of good. He is good. He is the source of all that is good. Therefore, He cannot help but be good. If He is good, then all that he creates is good. Think of the implication of that in this world. Nothing is truly bad when it declares the goodness of a Creator that is good and therefore worthy of appreciation.

Sure, evil exists, but even the worst things still can't help but declare the goodness of God.

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD,
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Dot grid writing area for the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Dot grid writing area for the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Dot grid writing area for the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Dot grid writing area for the fourth question.

PSALM 107:22

"AND LET THEM OFFER SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING,
AND TELL OF HIS DEEDS IN SONGS OF JOY."

ON THE RETURN FROM THE CAPTIVITY (EZRA 3:70) 536 B.C.

The occasion for the Psalm is the Feast of the Booths in the seventh month, fifteenth day. We are uncertain of the year, but we are confident that the Israelites had just finished the altar of the Temple.

The Feast of Booths was commanded by God as a remembrance of the wilderness journey when they lived in small, temporary structures. It was to come after harvest.

The timing was important because, after harvest, the Israelites would have felt their most prosperous. Think of our response after we might receive a big bonus paycheck at the end of the year. Instead of the Israelites feeling "fat and happy" in their homes after harvest, they were to go out and live in meager shelters. They were to do without.

As history says, "the people were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem." (Ezra 3:1). We so often think of cities as evil. In our modern world, cities are crime-ridden, unsafe, and dirty. To the captives, it was a place of rest and safety. The city was a crossroads like the multiplier in a math formula. Joy on top of joy on top of joy; thanksgiving on top of thanksgiving on top of thanksgiving; their joy resounded and multiplied, and it attracted attention. Drawing in those who are like-minded but also bringing in those that were threatened. Yes, there are always those that hate the sound of thanksgiving. In their shared joy, they remembered God. And they knew God was with them, which gave courage and safety.

The people gathered here would be described as redeemed. We think of that term as only used for slaves, but it also would apply to captives. These people are rescued. The Psalm calls four groups specifically that are rescued—the lost, the guilty, the sick, and the storm-tossed. It would be wrong for these redeemed to not say so.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

Yes, not only are we called for the work of the Lord and called to be redeemed, but we are also called to "say so." We are called to declare our thanks to a good Father. To proclaim his praise across a lost world that can't help but look. They have to turn their heads to see!

After the captives drew attention to themselves through celebration and constructing an altar, adversaries are stirred to oppose the building of the Temple (Ezra 4).

Notice that a response has to come in the midst of thanksgiving. It cannot be ignored. Thanksgiving identifies adversaries and friends. Friends will resound with even more praise, but adversaries will be spurred to halt it. An enemy does not want thanksgiving.

A believer loves hearing the Gospel preached, and thankful people love hearing the gratitude of others. They are even drawn to it. But the envious, complainers, and entitled can't stand it.

The thankful seems to be marked by action. They know what to do next. They understand their calling, which makes action the very next logical step. But lack of thanksgiving shows up as melancholy, wringing of the hands, inaction, worry, anxiety, and wandering. You are lost!

Realized sin brings shame. Shame in the sense that we fully comprehend that we relied on something that will let us down. When we realize the shaky foundation we have depended on, we feel shame. But God does not withhold forgiveness. He is already leaning toward forgiveness before we realize our faulty foundation. God is ready to forgive.

A person is on their way back from sin when they can be thankful for God's goodness.

"AND LET THEM OFFER SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING,
AND TELL OF HIS DEEDS IN SONGS OF JOY."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to 'WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?'

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?'

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to 'HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?'

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to 'CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.'

PSALM 108:3

"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD, AMONG THE PEOPLE;
I WILL SING PRAISES TO YOU AMONG THE NATIONS."

**ON THE DEFEAT OF EDMOM BY DAVID. THERE IS A CONNECTION
IN THIS PSALM TO SEVERAL SECTIONS OF SCRIPTURE**

(1 KINGS 11:20, PSALM 60, PSALM 57, 2 SAMUEL 8, 1 CHRONICLES 18) 1040 B.C.

Edom was a great adversary of Israel associated with the lineage of Esau. Israel and Edom's history together was tumultuous. With Moses, the Israelites were instructed by God to not engage with the Edomites, for they had been given their land as the Israelites were given the land of Canaan. However, by David's time, the relationship was stressed, and David entered the land to defeat them. David was a warrior king who would spend his time in the Spring expanding Israel's influence through conquering the surrounding threats.

The historical narrative is a little uncertain around the conquest of the Edomites. David first went with Abishai and defeated their army in the Salt Valley near the Dead Sea. But there is also the description of Joab killing every male, which hobbled the nation for a generation. There is no indication on whether Joab set out to kill the Edomite males on his own or with David's blessing. However, this action subdued a rival of Israel and brought peace to Israel for a generation. Yet, it also created a greater threat when Solomon strayed from God (1 Kings 11).

Later, Edom was part of the worldwide force that attacked Jerusalem and destroyed it with Babylon. And, later still, Edom came to be known as Idumea, which was the birthplace of Herod the Great (The Roman King that murdered babies in Bethlehem in the First Century).

Clearly, according to the Psalms, the defeat of the surrounding nations, including Edom, came with some discouragement. The Israelites did face some disappointments, but these specific losses are not recorded in the Biblical record.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

David saw the world as binary—either good or evil. The less evil individuals in the world, the better it was for God's people. Therefore, there was thanksgiving for the impact of mitigating a substantial threat to God's people. The reduction of evil would result in the growth of good.

And we would be well served to take the same stance with the opposites of a posture of gratitude. The less complaining, entitlement, and envy that you surround yourself with, the better. We should be ruthless in removing this negativity from our atmosphere.

David pulls from two other songs to complete Psalm 108. Verses 1 through 5 are very similar to Psalm 57:7–11. And verses 6 through 13 are almost identical to Psalm 60:5–12.

Interestingly, in this Psalm, and when he feels the weight of difficulty, David returns to verses that were written in the Cave of Adullam. The Cave represented a transition for David when he was first running from Saul and desperate. David arrived at the Cave, discouraged and alone. He left the Cave with a host that made up the core of his trusted associates during his reign.

To the verses from Adullam, he adds,

"My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!" (V. 1)

David declares that as king that he will pour his glory into God's will and praise. He says that he is fixed and steadfast. He is holding strong to praising God no matter the circumstances. And, by declaring, "with all my being," he is saying that his glory is God's glory.

He has no desire to take the glory of God, and He is determined to give thanks to God. There is a stubbornness to these verses that we would all be well-served to emulate.

Any glory we have should resound to the glory of God!

PSALM 108:3

"I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD, AMONG THE PEOPLE;
I WILL SING PRAISES TO YOU AMONG THE NATIONS."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"WITH MY MOUTH I WILL GIVE GREAT THANKS TO THE LORD.
I WILL PRAISE HIM IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONG."

WHEN PERSECUTED BY DOEG THE EDMITE (1 SAMUEL 22:19) 1060 B.C.

There are a group of Psalms that are described as "imprecatory Psalms." Their name represents a curse or to pray for justice on an evil person or nation.

This category of Psalms has been met with difficulty by many modern readers of the Bible. They are seldom discussed, and some really struggle to rectify the love of God, the canonization and inerrancy of Scripture, and the curses of these verses. Many simply skip these passages, and some try to remove them from the Canon of Scripture.

The subject of this particular Psalm is David's evil rival—Doeg the Edomite. Doeg's ruthlessness in pursuing and persecuting David provided confidence to Saul's maniacal obsession with snuffing out David's life. Because of Doeg, Saul believed that David was as good as dead and would never ascend to the throne.

The evil of Doeg was fully realized in the destruction of the priestly town of Nob. He was the representative of the mania of Saul. Therefore, it is important to remember the character of those imprecatory Psalms are directed toward. Their evil is insidious and complete, and they have become a threat to God's people. The subjects of imprecatory Psalms are evil resistance to the calling of God's people to the point that they must be removed for God's plan to be realized.

The theme of these Psalms are basically that the evil and wickedness of these people or nations will have its full reward and rebound back against them.

These verses are not just asking for a judgment on evil. These passages are casting off hate. They ask God to step in and remove an evil challenge that is a weight on their heart. Hate is cancer in your heart, and David is casting off this hate. He is asking God to step in so David can focus on the positive and the encouraging.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

David sees himself as needy. He is not the captain of the guard who is able to wipe out cities; kill 10,000 Philistines, or slay a giant. For he is the needy one of v. 31. He needs God's help—the power of God's hand.

David cannot overcome Saul's pursuit, the poison darts of Saul's alliances, and the selfish interests of evil men. Confident that God will stand for him. David flees to God like a son fleeing to a father asking for help. This situation is beyond him.

This inspires a breakout of praise and thanksgiving in the middle of a merciless pursuit by an evil pursuer. This must have emboldened the throng to know their leader claimed the power of God in praise and thanksgiving.

Besides being mentioned as the inspiration for Psalm 52, Doeg does not show up specifically in Scripture again except for the incident at Nob. His fate spreads out into the dust of history. Despite being a major figure in the pursuit of David by Saul, he disappears. There is no satisfaction for the reader from a painful destruction for Doeg.

Regardless, his legacy is intertwined in David's character. Doeg the Edomite's pursuit shaped the character and strengthened the emotional reflexes of the future king. David was more thankful and stronger and confident because of the poison of Doeg.

Doeg is like the personification of the unleavened bread in the thanksgiving peace offering of Leviticus 7. He makes the good seem that much better. He also acts like the machines of a fitness gym in strengthening the resolve and character of God's anointed.

For this role, David is thankful for those like Doeg even though he abhors their evil. David takes comfort in knowing that the evil role of Doeg is actually of God. He also knows that Doeg would hate to know that his actions are actually of the Lord.

PSALM 109:30

"WITH MY MOUTH I WILL GIVE GREAT THANKS TO THE LORD.
I WILL PRAISE HIM IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONG."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

WEEK 4 SUMMARY

REVIEW

DID YOU DO THE THANKSGIVING STUDY EACH DAY THIS WEEK?

- M T W TH F S S

SUMMARY OF YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TEACHINGS

Grid for writing thoughts from the history of Thanksgiving teachings.

SHARE

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE WHY YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM THIS WEEK?

- YES NO

HOW DID THEY RESPOND?

Grid for writing how others responded to sharing.

MEMORIZATION

WRITE OUT YOUR VERSE FROM EACH DAY THIS WEEK (CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE MEMORIZED IT)

PSALM 100:4

Grid for writing Psalm 100:4.

PSALM 105:1

Grid for writing Psalm 105:1.

PSALM 106:1

Grid for writing Psalm 106:1.

PSALM 107:1

Grid for writing Psalm 107:1.

PSALM 107:22

Grid for writing Psalm 107:22.

PSALM 108:3

Grid for writing Psalm 108:3.

PSALM 109:30

Grid for writing Psalm 109:30.

"PRAISE THE LORD! I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART,
IN THE COMPANY OF THE UPRIGHT IN THE CONGREGATION."

WRITTEN UPON THE BUILDING OF THE ALTAR BY THE RETURNING CAPTIVES OF JUDAH (EZRA 3:7) 536 B.C.

Even though there would have been a small harvest because they didn't have the time to plant much because of not arriving long before, the captives celebrate with a feast. They had not been in Jerusalem for a year yet.

This passage was written upon the return of the Israelites from the Babylonian captivity. The Israelites that had returned had just finished the altar. The foundation and walls were not rebuilt yet. There was only an altar open to the elements and whims of their enemies.

The altar was the first thing they rebuilt. Once finished, they started having offerings, sacrifices, and feasts. It had been 70 years, and this time was marked by an outpouring of emotion and excitement. They had not been able to worship in this way while living in Babylon.

For many, this was the sons and daughters and grandchildren of those taken captive. Even Ezra was only about 40 years old when arriving in Jerusalem. Of course, a few had vivid memories but most only heard romantic stories of the glory of the first Temple. I would think that even in the midst of the danger and resistance from others around them, thanksgiving came easy. Finally! They would have a chance to right the wrongs. Fix the failures of their ancestors. There was hope!

This event would have happened in September around the Feast of the Booths, which was during the late summer/fall harvest. It was a time of double thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for the harvest and thanksgiving for being in Jerusalem once again.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

A thankful person is seldom alone. Their gravity draws all men, magnifying the praise and thanksgiving to warm the heart of all God's people. We need this! We can't move forward without sharing in the praise of our LORD. We know we need others!

Nothing promotes the glory and good news of our Lord and Savior, quite like genuine gratitude.

The evil definitely hates the thankful hearts of God's people. Evil knows the power of thanksgiving. Evil cannot conquer thanksgiving or penetrate the guard of those that wield it. Therefore, the hope of evil is counterfeit. Many try to separate thanksgiving from the Lord, which is not near the same. Thanksgiving without the Lord is a simple courtesy or shallow happiness that is more of a medication and not a healing.

God's people know the difference, and they are drawn to genuine praise and thanksgiving of our Lord.

God's people are anxious to be in the midst of thanksgiving. They run to it. They build the altar before the building. They rush to thanksgiving. For God's people, the sweet notes of thanksgiving are enough blessings for them. The Israelites have just come through a time of upheaval and expect more upheaval. Yet, they think on the LORD and the fact that He does not change. He provides food for his people even when times feel impoverished. Circumstances change, people change, but God is the same. He is always good, loving, and worthy of praise. He is an anchor that remembers promises. Yet, He chose to not remember sin and evil. So, when we are weak, He is strong. When things are uncertain, He is our foundation.

In this song, they leaned hard on the Father's steadiness and eternal love in singing praise. Their thanksgiving was founded in the infinite character of God. Their people had been gone for 70 years. Thank God, He has not changed!

"PRAISE THE LORD! I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART,
IN THE COMPANY OF THE UPRIGHT IN THE CONGREGATION."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"I WILL OFFER TO YOU THE SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING
AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD."

UPON RETURNING FROM BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY (EZRA 3:7) 536 B.C.
In this study, we have claimed that the captives that first left Jerusalem on the first siege of Nebuchadnezzar did not have it as hard as the captives from the destruction of the city in 587 B.C. This is true, but it does not mean that things were easy. Many of the smartest and most talented left upon the surrender of Jehoiachin, such as Ezekiel, Daniel, and others, and assumed valuable positions in the administration of their conquerors.

Upon the proclamation of Cyrus, a group of Israelites returned to Jerusalem from captivity. Ezra was not with this first group, but he did return later to educate the people on the law and tradition of the Hebrews.

The Israelites returned first to re-establish the Temple. Then another group returned with Nehemiah to build the wall of the city. Out of Ezra and Nehemiah's time, several Psalms of thanksgiving were written as the Israelites reestablished the traditional worship and celebrations in Jerusalem. As a result, the peace offerings established by Moses in Leviticus 7 and the regular singing of thanksgiving before God by David were reestablished.

Many did not know Solomon's Temple that was there. However, some did. The verses describe an outpouring of emotion after the priests started to sing the traditional thanksgiving verses of David and Asaph. The singing of the Thanksgiving Psalms led to an outpouring of generosity and a recognition of how they fell short of God's goodness and faithfulness to them. And this song drew the attention of those around them. This is what Thanksgiving does!

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

In the very familiar story of Jonah, he prays a prayer of repentance while in the belly of the whale. Jonah was disobedient in fleeing in the opposite direction from Nineveh. He avoided his calling, which meant there was no action toward the will of the Lord. However, after Jonah's prayer, he vows a vow of thanksgiving and comes out of the fish's belly, and heads directly to the city of his mission. This is a picture of the influence of thanksgiving on our demeanor. We go from pause to action.

In reading the book of Ezra, you can see ups and downs. Times of activity and times of hesitancy. The courage of the Israelites certainly seems to ebb and flow based on the bullying of their enemies and their own laziness. Yet, you can sense a push and urge toward the building when they were thankful.

When the writer of this Psalm turned his attention to his troubles, he was lost in despair. It did not motivate. It paralyzed him in concern. He lost hope. But, when the writer looks again at what has been done for him, he has peace. He claims his rest.

The thanksgiving offering was voluntary. It was not something forced by law. It was an offering that came from thanksgiving. It indicated ownership, stewardship, generosity, and humility. This led to abundance because you did not focus on what you lack but what you have. This would have led to hope!

When you are in despair and feel afflicted, you feel like there is little to thank the LORD for. You feel punished and forgotten. Think on your salvation! You are here for a reason. God has prepared you for a time. He is good and full of love. He does not hate you. You are his child. You are not alone. Your heart is transformed. You see all the ways God has benefited you. You see the blessing and not despair. God loosened your bonds of despair. And you burst forth, ready for action.

You go from poverty to generosity—lack to giving. Voluntarily giving to God what you have.

PSALM 116:7

"I WILL OFFER TO YOU THE SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING
AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD."

▼ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing reflections on thankfulness.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing reflections on God's grace.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing reflections on life impact.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing reflections on prayer.

PSALM 118:1

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD;
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

DAVID, UPON HEARING FROM GOD THROUGH NATHAN, THE PROPHET, THAT GOD DID NOT WANT HIM TO BUILD A TEMPLE, BUT THAT GOD WOULD RAISE UP A SON TO BUILD THE TEMPLE.

AND THAT GOD WOULD ESTABLISH DAVID'S THRONE FOREVER

(1 CHRON. 17: 27) 1044 B.C.

David is now king. He has gone from being the youngest shepherd boy in Jesse's family to the throne room of God's people. David was promised the crown by God and subsequently chased through the wilderness and lived in exile for more than 7 years. There were times that he was on the edge of death, and people were killed because of him. Yet, God sustained David. David became tired and frustrated but never lost faith in God because, at David's core was a heart of thanksgiving.

Yes, inside David was the heart of a warrior king, a heart of thanksgiving, and he was described as a man after God's own heart. Contrast that with the heart of the Nation of Israel upon leaving Egypt. They still conducted themselves as slaves that were scared of the presence of God, complained and murmured about the provision of God, and even longed for the shackles of Egypt. They were marked with the opposite of thanksgiving, which is Envy. They never had enough, and God was not enough. They were impoverished by their complaining. For the blessings of God were diminished in their minds.

Upon hearing from the prophet Nathan that God would sustain David's dynasty through history, David's response was a prayer of thanksgiving. He is amazed and humble regarding what God is going to do for him. His response illustrates that a heart of thanksgiving is cultivated in humility. He did not say, "It's about time, God."

On the contrary, his response was, "*Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?*" (1 Chron. 17: 16)

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Thanksgiving in hardship is only possible in the light of the expectation of goodness shining through. David was expectant and confident that blessing was on the other side of his troubles. This is how praising God during storms is possible.

While running from Saul, approaching enemies; and insults, David was expectant. In his thanksgiving, there is this sense that praise and thanksgiving pushed him through to the blessing. He did not take events into his own hands but confidently waited for God to act. Even his action was first directed by what God wanted.

Shame in the Bible is related to putting confidence in something that will let you down.

In Psalm 118, David is touting his confidence in God and the fact that his confidence was proven to be correct. David is boasting in the LORD before his enemies. Those enemies inside the kingdom and outside that surrounded Israel. The people that chased him in the wilderness of Judea and poisoned others against him. Even those that hate him as king. David is saying that his confidence in the LORD was proven out.

When he writes this Psalm, he is expectant of God's blessing. God has given him victory and peace with all the nations around Israel. This is not about how great David is, but how great God is.

Yet, this is not abnormal for David. Rather than face troubles in anxiety and worry, he approached them with confidence in God. He did not know how events would work out, but he knew it would work out in fulfilling God's promises and proving that God is good.

PSALM 118:1

"OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD;
FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

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 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid of dots for writing.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid of dots for writing.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid of dots for writing.

"YOU ARE MY GOD, AND I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, YOU ARE MY GOD; I WILL EXTOL YOU.
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!"

In its ancient Jewish context, Psalm 118 was most likely an entrance liturgy to the Temple, used at the festival of Passover. It proclaimed God's deliverance from Egypt and, later on, from the Exile. The Psalm was a liturgical script, complete with speaking parts for leaders and congregation. One can hear the jubilant call and response. The approach to the Temple would be timed perfectly to culminate on verse 19, "Open to me the gates of righteousness."

This Psalm is meant to be responsive, but it is also to communicate movement. The liturgy would be started outside the gates and proceed through the gates and to the altar of the Temple.

When the captives returned from exile, they recited the Psalm as they built back up the altar and cried to the Lord in gratitude during the first Feast of Booths celebration (Ezra 3).

This Psalm was also a favorite of Luther, who wrote an extensive commentary while hiding in the Coburg Castle in 1530. The Psalm, especially verse 17, came to inspire Luther's pursuit of truth in his fight against the Catholic Church.

David suffered from a humble sense of rejection. He never quite lost the young brother syndrome. In his family, he was the youngest and was not even invited in when Samuel came to anoint a new king from his household. He was always the young shepherd. When he fled from Saul, he was subject to a campaign of ridicule and poison. As king, he had enemies who were constantly working to build coalitions and posturing for more power. They tore him down to lift themselves up.

When he wanted to build a Temple, he was disappointed when God rejected him, but subsequently, God encouraged him with a promise.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

David never lost that sense of surprise. A gift is made more special when you don't expect it. The intensity of gratefulness becomes greater when the gift is a surprise. We can read of David's faith and confidence in God. He expected good things from God. But, for the most part, he never allowed confidence to mutate into narcissism. He was not cocky or egotistical. How did he do this?

The answer is that he understood his position before God. He saw God as the gift giver and his master. He understood that he was not owed these blessings. God was not in debt to David or compelled to give gifts because of something David did. David's confidence was sourced by his faith in the character of God. Each new blessing revealed God's character. And David was always surprised by God's goodness to him.

Hardship did not undermine David's belief in the love, goodness, and promise of God. David maintained his sense of surprise because he didn't see himself as great—rather, God as good! (1 Cor. 17:27)

"YOU ARE MY GOD, AND I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, YOU ARE MY GOD; I WILL EXTOL YOU.
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

PSALM 122:4

"TO WHICH THE TRIBES GO UP, THE TRIBES OF THE LORD,
AS WAS DECREED FOR ISRAEL, TO GIVE THANKS TO THE NAME OF THE LORD."

INSERTED AT THE END OF DAVID'S LIFE (1 CHRON. 28:21) ABOUT 1015 B.C.

Near the end of David's life, he gathered together the materials and plans to build the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem. God came to David and made a promise concerning the future of the throne of Israel and his future sons. God also told David that he would not be the one to build the Temple because David was a man of war. This no doubt informed David on the next king. David's death would symbolize the end of an era in Israel in which the nation moved from conquering to diplomatic administration and influence. His son Solomon would be the diplomat.

The last half of David's reign was consumed with creating plans and accumulating the resources to make sure the Temple was built. He wanted building the Temple to be the very next thing after ascending the throne for Solomon. It was such a priority for David that he gave freely of his own personal treasury, and he encouraged the people to give precious gems and stones in support of the work which gave them joy (1 Chron. 29).

Thanksgiving leads to joy in giving! This was not a debt or a tax but a freely offered expression of thanksgiving. This kind of giving multiplied the joy of a giver and all those around.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

In some translations, the word for thanks here is translated as praise. Further illuminating the fact that thanks are meant to be shared. Praise is thanking God out loud. It is contagious and infects all those around that hear it. Thanksgiving builds upon itself with thanks upon thanks.

This Psalm was written for the Jews to sing as they walked up to Jerusalem during Passover.

Jerusalem is at the top of a tall hill with several hills around it, one being the Mount of Olives. A pilgrim on a religious journey to Jerusalem would have to head up, climbing the hill into the old town of Jerusalem.

The imagery of this Psalm described a compact city bursting with people packed in. This is often the imagery of praise before God. Multitudes of people from different countries and locales who are drawn together in a desire to declare the goodness, glory, and character of our LORD.

Even now, with its tight streets with apartments and stores crammed in on top of each other, Jerusalem lends itself to this imagery of a sea of humanity. Like a church today in which people gather together willingly with joy to declare their thanksgiving for God. The voice of one spreads to many. Generously sharing the emotion overflowing from the heart to voice. It is transformative, and we need it. We need to pause and consciously focus and share praise. To reflect and generate thanksgiving because God is who He is. We often make the mistake of framing thanksgiving and praise as a response, but it is not. It is a beginning and a recognition of God, who does not change.

PSALM 122:4

"TO WHICH THE TRIBES GO UP, THE TRIBES OF THE LORD,
AS WAS DECREED FOR ISRAEL, TO GIVE THANKS TO THE NAME OF THE LORD."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD OF GODS, FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OF LORDS, FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

UPON THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE (2 CHRON. 7:10) ABOUT 1004 B.C. Solomon starts to build the Temple in the fourth year of his reign on Mt. Moriah, where his father bought the land from Ornan the Jebusite. It took at least 7 years to build the Temple and 20 years to build both his palace and the Temple. Interestingly, the census and the land that came from the counting David ordered later in life and resulted in a plague from the Lord became useful in building the Temple (2 Chron. 2:17).

Many years before, when David brought the Ark to Jerusalem, he systematized the regular praise and thanksgiving before the Ark and separated out the division of priests, the sons of Asaph. Solomon inherited this system of thanksgiving from his father. As seen here, habit and systemization will make things permanent. Through the systemization of praise and thanksgiving, thanksgiving became a tradition. Thanksgiving became an ancient landmark (Ps. 22:28) set by Solomon's father that the Jews would return to often.

Through the songs that came from this institution of thanksgiving, the Jews rehearsed the knowledge of who God is and was. Their thanksgiving was not based on emotion or a response to a gift or event. It was not anchored on fickle happiness, but what they knew about God. But, when an amazing event came about, the outpouring of emotion was all the greater.

This also seems like a peak. Solomon was consumed with carrying out the wishes of his father. While building the Temple, the wealth of Israel compounded and drew the attention of many nations and leaders. Solomon made many alliances that allowed trade to flow from faraway lands. Ironically, these alliances would have come with marriages, which were ultimately the downfall of Solomon. Once the Temple was finished, the introduction of new gods seemed to magnify, resulting in the flat-lining and fractioning of Israel's glory.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Give thanks for His steadfast love endures forever. This mantra is repeated and rehearsed over and over. This fact becomes the root of the thanksgiving of this generation of Jews. We would do good to emulate...!

No matter what happens, this fact does not change. God's love for His people endures forever. He is good! He loves! Therefore, what He does and allows to happen is for me and not against or to me. It is a gift because it will benefit me in the future despite my corrupt will.

God is good and he is Creator. Therefore, only good can come from him. He is the source of good.

This is a hard truth when all we see is evil. Think of Elijah. His depression was sourced from the false perception that evil surrounded him and that he was alone (1 Kings 19:10). At the moment of talking to God, Elijah could not see good! Sometimes we simply need to reframe our perception. Sometimes we just need God to show us the good. Even God's warriors get caught in dark mental valleys that they need to be rescued from.

He is good! He is love! This faith is necessary for joy. God does not wish for us to be an adversary. He wants us to partake in His goodness. God's desire is for us to step into the plans He has and allow His current to carry us. But, to step in, we need to believe that He is good. No matter how rocky, all things work together for good.

When reading about this celebration, it brings up another question. How did Solomon go from this to building idolatrous temples within eyeshot of God's Temple? The answer would be narcissism. His perception went from looking outwardly to looking inside himself. He went from praising and thanking God to hoarding glory to himself. Internal attention always leads to envy at some point and idolatry and diminishment. The way to combat hurling yourself to destruction is genuine thanksgiving.

▼ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

PSALM 136:1-3

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD OF GODS, FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OF LORDS, FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"I GIVE YOU THANKS, O LORD, WITH MY WHOLE HEART, BEFORE THE GODS I SING YOUR PRAISE, I BOW DOWN TOWARD YOUR HOLY TEMPLE AND GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME FOR STEADFAST LOVE AND YOUR FAITHFULNESS, FOR YOU HAVE EXALTED ABOVE ALL THINGS YOUR NAME AND YOUR WORD."

(1 SAMUEL 22:19) 1060 B.C.

There are a group of Psalms that are described as "imprecatory Psalms." Their name represents a curse or to pray for justice on an evil person or nation.

This category of Psalms has been met with difficulty by many modern readers of the Bible. They are seldom discussed, and some really struggle to rectify the love of God, the canonization and inerrancy of Scripture, and the curses of these verses. Many simply skip these passages, and some try to remove them from the Canon of Scripture.

The subject of this particular Psalm is David's evil rival—Doeg the Edomite. Doeg's ruthlessness in pursuing and persecuting David provided confidence to Saul's maniacal obsession with snuffing out David's life. Because of Doeg, Saul believed that David was as good as dead and would never ascend to the throne.

The evil of Doeg was fully realized in the destruction of the priestly town of Nob. He was the representative of the mania of Saul. Therefore, it is important to remember the character of those imprecatory Psalms are directed toward. Their evil is insidious and complete, and they have become a threat to God's people. The subjects of imprecatory Psalms are evil resistance to the calling of God's people to the point that they must be removed for God's plan to be realized.

The theme of these Psalms are basically that the evil and wickedness of these people or nations will have its full reward and rebound back against them. These verses are not just asking for a judgment on evil. These passages are casting off hate. They ask God to step in and remove an evil challenge that is a weight on your heart. Hate is cancer in your heart, and David is casting off this hate. He is asking God to step in so David can focus on the positive and the encouraging.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

The heart during these historic days was seen as the seat of wisdom and understanding. The verses start by saying that God has their attention and focus. In all the noise and distraction competing for attention, God captures their wonder even under threat of danger. He rises above every other voice, competing for attention.

This rises to a song of praise. For thanksgiving magnifies in your own mind anything you set it on. Appreciation is a synonym for thanksgiving, which also means to increase in value.

And in praise, you cast your anxiety onto Him as an offering. This anxiety is transformed into an instrument of praise because God's action and simple presence melt anxiety—bestowing peace. This further magnifies who the Lord is.

Do you understand the progression there? We go from thanksgiving to greater value to casting fears and worries on him to praising Him to sharing to greater blessing and back to thanksgiving.

Idols are not capable of this. They create storms within your heart. They suck the life from your days (Ps. 115). They destroy and tear down. They are void and take our affections and give nothing in return—while God builds. *"My strength of soul you increase"* (v. 3).

This is what rightly placing our thanksgiving on the LORD Almighty does (v. 4). There is nothing normal about thanksgiving. It is learned. What is natural is envy and complaining and left unchecked and without interference, the current of our fallen heart sinks quickly into our natural state. But the writer of this verse is confident about the power of thankfully focusing on God. He is resistant to the natural current of anxiousness and worry. It's like he has immunity to the virus of panic, anxiety, and worry.

Why? Because they are thankful, thanksgiving mercilessly strikes down hate, envy, and fear. And replaces them with love, grace, generosity, and joy.

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

PSALM 109:30

"I GIVE YOU THANKS, O LORD, WITH MY WHOLE HEART, BEFORE THE GODS I SING YOUR PRAISE, I BOW DOWN TOWARD YOUR HOLY TEMPLE AND GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME FOR STEADFAST LOVE AND YOUR FAITHFULNESS, FOR YOU HAVE EXALTED ABOVE ALL THINGS YOUR NAME AND YOUR WORD."

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

▼ REVIEW

☑ DID YOU DO THE THANKSGIVING STUDY EACH DAY THIS WEEK?

M T W TH F S S

SUMMARY OF YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TEACHINGS

Grid for writing a summary of thoughts from the history of Thanksgiving teachings.

▼ SHARE

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE WHY YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM THIS WEEK?

YES NO

HOW DID THEY RESPOND?

Grid for writing how others responded to the sharing.

▼ MEMORIZATION

WRITE OUT YOUR VERSE FROM EACH DAY THIS WEEK (CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE MEMORIZED IT)

PSALM 111:1

Grid for writing out Psalm 111:1.

PSALM 116:7

Grid for writing out Psalm 116:7.

PSALM 118:1

Grid for writing out Psalm 118:1.

PSALM 118:28-29

Grid for writing out Psalm 118:28-29.

PSALM 122:4

Grid for writing out Psalm 122:4.

PSALM 136:1-3

Grid for writing out Psalm 136:1-3.

PSALM 138:1-2

Grid for writing out Psalm 138:1-2.

PSALM 138:4–5

DAY 37

"ALL THE KINGS OF THE EARTH SHALL GIVE YOU THANKS, O LORD, FOR THEY HAVE HEARD THE WORDS OF YOUR MOUTH, AND THEY SHALL SING OF THE WAYS OF THE LORD, FOR GREAT IS THE GLORY OF THE LORD."

The action of this Psalm is anchored in knowledge. The writer is not hoping that God will protect them; they are not thinking the kings are likely to thank God.

The person who wrote these lines did not have just an academic knowledge based on studying books and hearing stories. Their claim was based on their experience of what God does and will do. He knows!

He has special knowledge that the pursuers or threateners either do not know or refuse to acknowledge. Think of this the next time you are challenged by bullies or those that wish to hurt you.

There is experience that is spilling onto the page. Daniel was about 70 years old when he faced the decree on praying and was cast into the Lion's Den. David was late in life when fleeing Absalom. And so was Ezra when he returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.

These men already faced challenges when they were younger. Think of David being chased across Israel by Saul. His confidence was not just book knowledge. It was an experience that was rooted in knowledge. This is a different level of knowledge, which usually involves some level of hardship. It is not easy. When going through difficulty, there are really two options. You can be determined and "force" your thoughts to focus on what God is doing. Or you can writhe in the difficulties of your circumstances. Some might claim that this is looking at the "bright-side," and it is but deeper than that. You are resting in who God is. You choose to be thankful. You hold on to who God is, which guards your heart and brings peace.

This sort of discipline only comes through intentional exercise and strengthening of your "thankful muscle."

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

The previous Psalm that we looked at (Psalm 136) went through the Israelites' history as proof of why they should be thankful. Stones, if you will—memories collected. Psalm 138 seems to be written by a hand that has a lifetime experience of following the Lord. Memories testify to the character of our Lord. He is in heaven above us—looking down—with a view of everything. Past, present, future, God can see consequences and root causes. He knows our end and beginning. Our faith and understanding of who He is, feed our thanksgiving. We see things as a gift because we understand the character of the giver.

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River with the Ark, God instructed them to pick up stones from the riverbed and put them down in a pillar on the other side. These stones were to be a remembrance of what God had done (Josh. 3).

When our children were young, we worked hard to have representatives of memories from what God had done in their lives. Whether it was pictures or videos or crafts, we collected these little memories for our children. It is also common for us to sit around our table and talk specifically about our memories of answered prayers when the children were younger.

These memories are powerful in anchoring a thankful heart. Faith is built through memory, and faith is a contributor to thanksgiving.

▼ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

📄 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

PSALM 111:1

"ALL THE KINGS OF THE EARTH SHALL GIVE YOU THANKS, O LORD,
FOR THEY HAVE HEARD THE WORDS OF YOUR MOUTH, AND THEY SHALL SING OF THE WAYS OF THE LORD,
FOR GREAT IS THE GLORY OF THE LORD."

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"SURELY THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME;
THE UPRIGHT SHALL DWELL IN YOUR PRESENCE."

**WHEN DAVID FLEES NOB AND IS PERSECUTED BY DOEG THE
EDOMITE** (1 SAMUEL 22:19) 1060 B.C.

As David fled south away from Saul in Gibeah, he came to the priestly town of Nob, which was in the boundaries of the tribe of Benjamin. The tribes had boundaries in the same way that our provinces, territories, or states have boundaries. This town was within view of Jerusalem.

Ahimelech, the priest, would have unknowingly welcomed a refugee on the run from the king. The encounter was strange, and David clearly lied to Ahimelech. He must have known that something was not right. But, because it was David, he gave him what he asked for.

This encounter cost Ahimelech and his family's life, and these events must have made an indelible impression on David. He was not honest with the priest and felt responsible for the slaughter.

The ghastly slaughter of the priests of Nob was the moment that David understood the lengths Saul would go to kill him, and the evil of men that would help Saul. From this point forward, David knew that the engagement between him and Saul would corrupt anyone that showed him kindness. This was a defining moment that led to an outpouring of verse from David. David would approach this in his typical reflex of thanksgiving.

He cast his cares upon the LORD. He was real with the LORD about his hatred of violent men and those that poisoned the people against David. He had a desire for revenge, and he shared that with the LORD. David did not mask his anger. He expressed it trustingly with God. He did not bury his feelings. The Psalms from this time have a therapeutic sense to them in terms of the honesty they convey.

After David heard about what happened to the priests of Nob, he knew survival depended on him being clear and strong. His reflex of thanksgiving fortified his mentality against depression.

▽ **THANKSGIVING TEACHING**

To cast...

That is what is happening in this Psalm. David understands how tenuous his life is. He is on the edge of destruction.

So, he prays. He takes his anxiety and worry, and he throws them to the LORD. He turns to his Savior, knowing that this is his hope, not himself or even an anointing several years before. He is scared and comes to the One that can and will deliver him. Where does his help come from? (Ps. 121:1)

Fleeing Gibeah and running through Nob to Gath, the sense from David's words is that he is a little more worried than typical. Once he comes to the Cave of Adullam, he has an opportunity to gather himself and pray. His confidence is not turned toward himself. His "casting" results in confidence.

He invites others to come with him. When Ahimelech's son, Abiathar, flees with an ephod from the destruction of Nob, David invites him to stay with him, saying, "With me you shall be in safekeeping" (I Sam. 22:23). Think of that; David now thinks of himself as a safe place for this young man to hide. His warrior demeanor is returning.

David longs to be in the presence of God. He knows God's presence gives peace. Plus, David's posture gives others peace. Other men are drawn to him because of this posture of thanksgiving. Think of this in the context of leadership. People will follow a thankful leader, but conversely, people also flee a narcissistic and egotistical ruler.

"SURELY THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME;
THE UPRIGHT SHALL DWELL IN YOUR PRESENCE."

▼ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

"BRING ME OUT OF PRISON, THAT I MAY GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME.
THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SURROUND ME FOR YOU WILL DEAL BOUNTIFULLY WITH ME."

WRITTEN AS DAVID LEAVES GATH WHEN PURSUED BY SAUL

(1 SAMUEL 21:10) 1060 B.C.

David is alone and continues to flee south. He first heads to Gath, which is one of the 5 principalities of the Philistines. Gath is through the valley of Elah that Goliath was killed in. David holds the sword of Goliath that we assume he was going to take back to Gath in exchange for favor. But he is viewed there as a killer of Philistines rather than the bearer of treasure. In order to get out of Gath alive, he pretends to be crazy. He diminishes himself by allowing spittle to flow out his mouth and down his beard. This insult on himself sells the insanity. No self-respecting and clear-thinking prince would allow spittle to foam out and spill down his beard in this way.

As a side note, this is actually hard to do on purpose while standing and talking normally. It seems a natural reaction to not allow saliva to come out on your chin.

David leaves Gath and heads southeast of Jerusalem and heads down into the desert. In this area, run-off from the mountains and foothills have created many caves, and David fled to this area before crossing the Jordan River into Moab. Moab offered a greater opportunity for protection since the king there was related through Ruth and Boaz to David's family, and he was also a clear enemy of Saul (I Sam. 14).

At the Cave, David's family comes to him along with hundreds of others in debt and isolated from Saul's governance. They were outcasts and shared in their isolation. Each person who came to that Cave must have had a story to share how they were left behind in the system or how wrong was perpetrated against them. They saw David as representing some level of hope.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

David arrives at the Cave of Adullam alone. He had just lied to the priests at Nob to get food and a weapon. Then he fled to his enemy in Gath of the Philistines and barely escaped with his life by tricking Achish into thinking he was crazy.

He was deemed an enemy of the crown by Saul. He lost his reputation and had to play directly into the false and negative narrative by feigning insanity. He couldn't fight for his reputation. Instead, he had to support the rumors by allowing spittle to flow down his beard. He fled into the desert wilderness in the south, just like any other refugee or troublemaker. He was alone, and no doubt felt the walls closing in on him. He knew he was being chased, and he was low on provisions and running out of safe places to flee. He was an officer of the king and well-known. He was considered a prize worth capturing or killing because there must have been a bounty on his head. David has lost all that he had before through the envy and jealousy of Saul. His position and accolades, the good food, warmth, and honor of the king's court are all gone. He is a castaway.

David cries out to God in this circumstance. He is concerned, for he sees no way out. He casts his burden on God. He doesn't know what to do next, for he fears he will step into a trap (v. 3). He feels the grasp of those that hate him tightening. No place feels truly safe. So, he runs to his God and to our God. He declares God as his refuge and guide.

This Psalm feels like a transition from running scared to confidently running to God. He leaves the Cave much more confident than he arrived.

David's loss has yielded thanksgiving for what he has. He pulls himself from the emotional valley of isolation and casts his care on the LORD. I love that David uses the word "bountifully" here. It communicates a belief that the blessing of God is not rationed. Instead, God will deal bountifully with him, and He does. This event sets the stage for the rest of the pursuit between Saul and David.

PSALM 142:7

"BRING ME OUT OF PRISON, THAT I MAY GIVE THANKS TO YOUR NAME.
THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SURROUND ME FOR YOU WILL DEAL BOUNTIFULLY WITH ME."

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

PSALM 145:10

"ALL YOUR WORKS SHALL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD,
AND ALL YOUR SAINTS SHALL BLESS YOU!"

DAVID WHEN OLD AND REVIEWING HIS PAST LIFE

(1 CHRONICLES 28:10) 1015 B.C.

David is looking back on his life as an old man who has done some level of an official ceremony in handing over the throne to Solomon. David gives charges to all Israel and to Solomon. It took about 20 years to fulfill these charges during Solomon's reign. Seeing these charges through to completion can be seen as honoring to David and his legacy.

David gives toward building a future Temple out of his personal treasury, and the nation is gives even more. The attitude toward giving from the people seems to be very different at this point compared to the elders at the end of Solomon's life. The suggestion here is the impact of thanksgiving and unselfishness on leadership and people's willingness to follow.

This ceremony is before David's last words to Solomon in the next chapter (1 Chron. 29). Before the scene in which David is very ill and struggles to keep warm (1 King 1). David is obviously lucid at this point and strong enough to preside over the ceremony. Furthermore, after this ceremony, David goes back to reigning, which is unique in the annals of kings in Israel, and suggests that at this ceremony Solomon was very young (maybe 11 or 12). No other king takes control of the ascension plan like this in the narrative of Scripture. (Scholars believe Solomon became king when he was 16 to 18 years old.)

David wants to ensure that his plans happen. Of course, the legacy of the throne of Israel reflects back on David, but this act seems unselfish and humble. What is to keep this ceremony from mutating into a rebellion?

Furthermore, it is interesting that even with this ceremony, Joab goes with Adonijah. Joab was involved in the counting of the people, the killing of Absalom, and the murder of Uriah. Clearly, there seems to be a loss of confidence between David and Joab during the end of David's reign.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

Looking back, David views his life with the benefit of knowing the outcome. He has the benefit of seeing how these events and circumstances come together for good. There is the wisdom of an old man that comes through. One that has lived through the peaks and valleys of following God. His roots of faith are deep. Dug down deep through hardship and deliverance; failure and forgiveness; anxiety and restful sleep. David knows the LORD. And this is a daily walk built up over years of habit of daily meditations, thanksgiving, and praise.

David knows he is coming to the end of his life. He knows the daily routine here on earth will end soon. And he wants his son to take up the cycle of praise and glorify God as he has—to "pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness" (v. 7).

It is common for a thankful servant of God to look toward their legacy at the end of their earthly journey.

Those that are God's see that God is good, and their declaration of his goodness abounds to them in greater goodness. Not because they are good, but God is good. Thanksgiving to God starts with faith in the right character of God—knowing Him and who He is.

Faith in yourself pushes you to vanity, as in Ecclesiastes. Faith in God leans into the thanksgiving of the Psalms. Over the timeline of his reign, Solomon tilted to himself, but David tilted to God.

David had the experience of being chased across Israel by Saul and his henchman, while Solomon experienced a relatively smooth transition to the throne. With David, we have the Psalms, and with Solomon, we have Ecclesiastes. Solomon explored the depths of riches and ease and learned that all is vanity. David experienced great hardship, but he understood the power of thanksgiving and had joy in serving the Lord.

In Jewish practice, this Psalm was sung twice in the morning and once in the evening. The Jewish Talmud commends all who repeat this Psalm three times a day as having a share in the future glory of the Lord.

"ALL YOUR WORKS SHALL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, O LORD,
AND ALL YOUR SAINTS SHALL BLESS YOU!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

🌙 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

🕒 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

📖 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

🙏 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

ON THE DEDICATION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE

(AFTER EZRA 6:22 WITH PSALM 146-150) 515 B.C.

The events at the end of Daniel overlap just barely with the events that took place before the book of Ezra. The Israelites returned to Jerusalem about 536 B.C. after 70 years of exile.

Darius I is the king in Ezra 6, which is not the same as Darius the Mede in Daniel. There is some debate in scholarship regarding who was the actual king of Persia during the events of Esther. However, it seems pretty clear that the events of Daniel and the Lion's Den happened a couple of years before the decree of Cyrus and the first exiles returning to Jerusalem. From Daniel to Esther, Jewish influence in the court diminished after Daniel and returned with Mordecai and Esther. And, the events of Esther led to the events of Ezra and Nehemiah, with Nehemiah 13 being the last chapter written in chronological order of the Bible. These books are tied together as the story of God orchestrating a return of the Jews to their land against the backdrop of the drama in the Persian Royal Court; power struggle for dominance among oppressors around Jerusalem; and bringing this about in the 70 years that was foretold by Jeremiah. In this story around these three books, the Jewish nation goes from certain genocide under the influence of Haman to Persia underwriting and supporting the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple.

I am sure some Jews lost faith during this time because they saw themselves as abandoned by God. Some would have foolishly predicted that there was no way that the world events would be orchestrated for their return by 537 B.C.

Those who knew Jeremiah's prophecy that the exile would be 70 years probably had a clock counting from the time of Nebuchadnezzar and the first exile in 607 B.C. The time between the decree of Cyrus and the writing of Nehemiah 13 was about 100 years.

▽ THANKSGIVING TEACHING

This is an amazing Psalm to read when considering the challenges the Israelites had to endure to get to this point. The writer frames these events in thanksgiving rather than considering their timeline to be proof of God's abandonment or even non-existence or even a God that rations His blessing.

There were Jews and Samaritans that lived around Jerusalem and never left the land. They were open to the bullying and oppression of the governors and vassal lords of the area. All along the migration from Babylon, the first group to return had exiles join them along the journey. And, these Jews that joined the returning exiles and never went to Babylon had a hard history. They were exposed to the whims and anger, and oppression of the nations that hated the Israelites. Yet, they never left because they had hope of a return one day.

However, as seen in Ezra's narrative, others would resist the building of the Temple (Ezra 3). The action of the exiles returning and the building up of the Temple and walls of Jerusalem was a filtering event. It brought forth those that were for God and those that were against Him. Those that lost faith, and those that leaned into their faith more. Those that had joy in the building of the Temple and those that wanted to undermine it. Those that were thankful and those that were envious.

And, through all of this difficult history, the Israelites that gathered at the dedication of the Temple circle back to the promise to Moses of the Law being a unique inspiration from God. The Law lifted the Israelites to a unique relationship. God did not deal with other Nations the way He dealt with Israel. And they praised Him.

They are thankful. How often does song go with thanksgiving!! They are partners together. Thanksgiving lifts into praise that resounds to the glory of God. That all the world may know!

"Let the Redeemed of the LORD say so."

PSALM 147:7

"SING TO THE LORD WITH THANKSGIVING;
MAKE MELODY TO GOD ON THE LYRE!"

▽ DAILY THANKSGIVING

 WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Grid for writing answers to the first question.

 HOW DOES/DID GOD SHOW GRACE TO YOU TODAY/YESTERDAY?

Grid for writing answers to the second question.

 HOW DOES/DID THIS IMPACT YOUR LIFE?

Grid for writing answers to the third question.

 CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD, THANK AND PRAISE HIM IN PRAYER.

Grid for writing answers to the fourth question.

▼ REVIEW

☑ DID YOU DO THE THANKSGIVING STUDY EACH DAY THIS WEEK?

M T W TH F S S

SUMMARY OF YOUR THOUGHTS FROM THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING TEACHINGS

Grid for writing a summary of thoughts from the history of Thanksgiving teachings.

▼ SHARE

HAVE YOU TOLD ANYONE WHY YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM THIS WEEK?

YES NO

HOW DID THEY RESPOND?

Grid for writing how others responded to the sharing.

▼ MEMORIZATION

WRITE OUT YOUR VERSE FROM EACH DAY THIS WEEK (CHECK THE BOX IF YOU HAVE MEMORIZED IT)

PSALM 138:4-5

Grid for writing out Psalm 138:4-5.

PSALM 140:13

Grid for writing out Psalm 140:13.

PSALM 142:7

Grid for writing out Psalm 142:7.

PSALM 145:10

Grid for writing out Psalm 145:10.

PSALM 147:7

Grid for writing out Psalm 147:7.