

# WHY THE PSALMS?

## Week 3: Psalms of Praise

\_\_\_ Psalms of praise by individuals

\_\_\_ Psalms thanksgiving and adoration

1 Chronicles 21 (the context for Psalm 30)

### **Psalm 30**

vv. 1-3 (David's initial expression of praise)

vv. 4-7 (David's response from his experience)

vv. 8-10 (David's appeal for mercy)

vv. 11-12 (David's expression of praise)

### **Psalm 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100**

What is something you are super excited about that you love to talk about, that you can't help but share with other people?

C. S. Lewis:

- "... all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise . . . The world rings with praise – a lover praising the one they love, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, player praising their favorite game – praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, motors, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians or scholars . . .
- Just as men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it, 'Isn't she lovely? Wasn't that glorious? Don't you think that's magnificent?' Likewise, the psalmist in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about . . . we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses, but completes the enjoyment . . . It is

frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent, to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with . . .

How do the Psalmists illustrate what C. S. Lewis is saying?

### **Psalm 95**

vv. 1-7: The first seven verses have been used by many traditions for Morning Prayer (Matins, the Venite)

vv. 8-11: A shift in mood

### **Psalm 96**

vv. 1-6: Praise for God's greatness

vv. 7-10: A call for the nations to worship at the temple

vv.11-13: A call for all creation to worship

In 1 Chronicles 16, David is bringing the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem, vv. 23-33 are repeated as the very words of Psalm 96

### **Psalm 98**

vv. 1-3: Our worship and praise begins with Israel

vv.4-6: Our worship and praise expands to all the earth

vv.7-9: Our worship and praise includes all of creation

### **Psalm 100**

vv. 1-2: A call to worship

v. 3: A personal connection

v. 4: Invitation to worship and acknowledge God's goodness

v. 5: An acknowledgement that God is good