

# Treasure Hunt

- What is the role of Psalm 25 in Book 1 of the Psalter?
- What is the theme of the opening and closing verses of the Psalm?
- What earlier episode is David's inspiration for this Psalm?
- What two themes are repeated three times in the body of the Psalm?
- What is the relation between these two themes?
- What motivates God to direct and forgive his people?
- How many different expressions does David give for our attitude toward the Lord, and what does each of them mean?

# Groups of Psalms in Book 1

Book 1: 1-41

1-2: Opening

3-14: Strength in **Weakness**

3-7: Laments of the Tired

8: Victory of Babes & Sucklings

9-14: Laments of the Poor

15-24: **Dwelling** with God

15: Keep the Law to dwell with God

19: 2<sup>nd</sup> Torah Psalm

24: Keep the law to dwell with God

25: Trusting God for Direction and Forgiveness

26-32: Regal **Dwellingplace** Psalms

26-28: God's House for the Righteous

29: The Lord Enthroned on the Flood

30-32: God's Shelter for the Penitent

33-41: Psalms of the **Sufferer**

34-37: The Innocent Sufferer

38-41: The Guilty Sufferer

# Structure of Psalm 25

Psalm 25: Trusting God for Direction and Forgiveness

1-3: Trust, Wait, Ashamed, Enemies, Soul

4-7: First Cycle

4-5, Request: (Show, **teach**, lead) in thy (**ways**, truth, paths) because you **save** me

6-7, Request: **Forgive** me for thy mercies רחם and lovingkindnesses חסד

8-11: Second Cycle

8-10, Statement: (**Teach**, guide) in thy (**way**, paths, judgment) because of your **goodness**

11, Request: **Forgive** me for thy **name's** sake

12-18: Third Cycle

12-15, Statement: (**Teach**, show) in thy (**way**, covenant) those who **fear** you

16-18, Request: **Forgive** me for thy **mercy** חנן

19-21: Trust, Wait, Ashamed, Enemies, Soul

22: From David to the Nation

# Correspondence of 1-3 and 19-21

1 Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my **soul**. 2 O my God, **I trust בטה (Strong 982) in thee:**  
**let me not be ashamed,** let not mine **enemies** triumph over me.  
3 Yea, let none that **wait קוה (Strong 6960) on thee** be **ashamed:**  
let them be **ashamed** which **transgress [betray me] בגד** without cause.

19 Consider mine **enemies;** for they are many; and they hate me with **cruel hatred**.  
20 O keep my **soul**, and deliver me:  
**let me not be ashamed;** **for I put my trust חסה (Strong 2620) in thee.**  
21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I **wait קוה (Strong 6960) on thee.**

# Echoes of Exodus 33-34

Exo 33:13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, **shew me now thy way**, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight:

34:5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed **the name** of the LORD....

6 The LORD, The LORD God, **merciful רחום** and **gracious חנוּן**, longsuffering, and abundant in **goodness תּוֹן** and **truth אֱמֶת**

7 Keeping **mercy תּוֹן** for thousands, forgiving **iniquity עוֹן** and **transgression פְּשָׁע** and **sin חַטָּאָה**,

Psa 25:4 **Shew me thy ways**

5 Lead me in thy **truth אֱמֶת**

6 Remember, O LORD, thy **tender mercies רַחֲמֶיךָ**

and thy **lovingkindnesses תּוֹנֶיךָ**;

7 Remember not the **sins חַטָּאָתִי** of my youth, nor my **transgressions פְּשָׁעֵי**:

according to thy **mercy תּוֹן** remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

10 All the paths of the LORD are **mercy תּוֹן** and **truth אֱמֶת** unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 For thy **name's** sake, O LORD, pardon mine **iniquity עוֹן**; for it *is* great.

16 Turn thee unto me, and have **mercy חַן** upon me; for I *am* desolate and afflicted.

18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my **sins חַטָּאָה** .

# The Three Panels of vv. 4-18

	4-7	8-11	12-18
Human attitude	5 on thee do I <b>wait</b> קוה all the day	9 The <b>meek</b> will he guide in judgment: and the <b>meek</b> will he teach his way	12 What man is he that <b>feareth the</b> <b>Lord</b> ? 14 The secret of the Lord is with them that <b>fear him</b>
Divine motive	6 <b>thy</b> <b>lovingkindnesses</b> ... <b>thy mercy</b> חסד	8 <b>Good and</b> <b>upright</b> is the Lord 11 <b>For thy</b> <b>name's sake,</b> O Lord ...	16 have <b>mercy</b> חנן upon me

# v. 11 “for thy name’s sake”

Exo 32:12 **Wherefore should the Egyptians speak**, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Jos 7:9 For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear *of it*, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto **thy great name**?

# Our Attitude toward the Lord

- Trust, belief בטח, Strong 982, v. 1
- Waiting on the Lord קוה, Strong 6960, vv. 3, 5, 21
- Meekness, v. 9
- Fearing the Lord, vv. 12, 14
- Fixing our eyes on him, v. 15
- Taking refuge חסה (Strong 2620 “trust”), v. 20