



## Psalms & Song of Songs of Solomon<sup>1</sup>

### **Faculty Contact**

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Please contact me if you have comments, suggestions, questions or you would like to talk about this course in relation to your overall learning and ministry goals.

### **Course Description**

This course is an in-depth study of the Book of Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon beneficial for personal spiritual growth, teaching, preaching, worship, prayer, evangelism and counselling. The course will explore the important features and power of Biblical poetry, Psalms types and forms, collections within the Book of Psalms, and the relationships of Psalms and Song of Solomon to the gospel of Jesus, Wisdom and Law. In addition to standard introductory matters such as authorship, date, audience, etc., the study will also examine these books in their historical contexts, theology, themes, prophetic importance, particularly regarding Jesus, the Messiah, and messages and applications for today including the value of Song of Songs of Solomon in marriage enrichment.

### **Course Objectives in Bible, Ministry and Worldview**

#### **Bible**

1. Gain knowledge of the importance of Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon in knowing God, Father, Son and Spirit, and their use by Jesus and New Testament authors who quoted more from Psalms than any other Old Testament book.
2. Read all 150 Psalms and Song of songs of Solomon and understand their historical, theological, prophetic and spiritual significance.
3. Develop awareness of the power of Biblical poetry through understanding its intentional linguistic and formal characteristics.

#### **Ministry**

4. Gain knowledge of the importance of Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon in knowing God's wisdom and will and dwelling with Him in and through the challenges and rewards of daily righteous living in the twenty-first century.

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<sup>1</sup>Song of Songs of Solomon is English for the Hebrew text of the first verse. Common titles for the book include "Song of Songs" and "Song of Solomon."

5. Research specific passages from Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon and articulate the many ways these texts inspire, empower and equip us for public ministry: preaching, teaching, worship, prayer, evangelism, apologetics, benevolence, visitation and counselling, etc.
6. Develop skills in preaching and teaching these foundational books through thorough research, exegesis, hermeneutics and application of their important messages to our lives to today.
7. Learn how to apply the message and meaning of Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon today in our own personal spiritual growth and righteous, just and merciful living.
8. Keep a notebook journal while reading through these books to record insights and information that will be valuable in our spiritual growth and ministry.

## **Worldviews**

9. Enhance our Biblical worldviews by articulating how God's revelations Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon answer these twelve vital questions:
  1. Who is God?
  2. What is the nature of external reality, the world around us? (i.e. real or an illusion)
  3. What is a human being?
  4. Where do we come from?
  5. What happens to a person at death?
  6. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
  7. How do we know what is right and wrong?
  8. What is the meaning of human history?
  9. How do we perceive time? (i.e. linear, circular cycles, etc.)
  10. Is the worldview/culture open or closed?
  11. Is the centre of this worldview/culture its groups or individuals?
  12. Where are we going, how does the world end?
10. Articulate ways that we by our thoughts, actions and words can graciously communicate God's worldview to others and fulfil His purpose for Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon.

For students who have not taken Introduction to Worldviews, background information on these questions will be provided to you to clarify what is meant by each dimension of worldviews.

## Textbooks and Class Resource Handouts

**The Bible.** Psalms 1–150 and Song of Songs of Solomon 1–8.

### For Psalms Introduction:

Cloer, Eddie. *Psalms 1–50*. Truth for Today Commentary. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2004.

### For Song of Songs of Solomon Introduction:

Petrillo, Denny. *Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon*. Truth for Today Commentary. Searcy, AK: Resource Publications, 2016.

### Link to Your Online Folder of Class Resources

<https://app.box.com/s/xerqrqa75cdw69d69pu5aevupx2mrte2>

If contents are not in alpha-numerical order in the folder, click on “Name” to sort. These and more resources are also on the GLBC learning management system.

### Credit Student Assignments (See details below)

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Research Paper on Psalms | 35%                                       |
| Journal                  | 35%                                       |
| Psalms Exam              | 20% Introductory Matters and Short Essays |
| Song of Solomon Exam     | 10% Introductory Matters and Short Essays |

| Lesson    | Scripture Text Reading | Assignment Dates |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------|
| Lesson 1  | Psalms Introduction    |                  |
| Lesson 2  | Psalms 1–17            |                  |
| Lesson 3  | Psalms 18–27           |                  |
| Lesson 4  | Psalms 28–37           |                  |
| Lesson 5  | Psalms 38–48           |                  |
| Lesson 6  | Psalms 49–59           |                  |
| Lesson 7  | Psalms 60–70           |                  |
| Lesson 8  | Psalms 71–78           |                  |
| Lesson 9  | Psalms 79–89           |                  |
| Lesson 10 | Psalms 90–102          |                  |
| Lesson 11 | Psalms 103–108         |                  |

|           |                   |  |
|-----------|-------------------|--|
| Lesson 12 | Psalms 109–119:64 |  |
| Lesson 13 | Psalms 119:65–132 |  |
| Lesson 14 | Psalms 133–150    |  |
| Lesson 15 | Song of Songs 1–8 |  |

## Credit Student Assignment Details

### Research Paper on the Psalms

The research paper is an opportunity for you to explore and research dimensions of Psalms that interest you and are relevant to your spiritual growth and work with God.

**Length:** You paper will be 10 to 12 pages (minimum) double-spaced 12 point font (bibliography, appendices or personal research, title page, etc. are over and above the 10 to 12 page content body of your paper).

**Application:** One fifth (20% or 2 to 3 full pages) of your paper will focus on application (“so what now?”). What does this study mean for me and my congregation and people needing to know God?

**Sources:** Use a variety of reliable sources: Scripture, lexicons, peer-reviewed scholarly conservative books and journal articles.

Do not use Internet sites, including AI, and do not include them in your bibliography or footnotes. The purpose of this direction is to keep you focused on high quality published and peer-reviewed sources that have the most value.

**Form:** Follow SBL (Society of Biblical Literature) form.

The ultimate purpose of writing form is effective communication, particularly communicating God’s Word, accurately credibly and convincingly with those you are trying to teach and reach. Form counts for 10% of your grade. As noted below, I am willing to review a draft of your paper, including its form, three weeks prior to final submission. Comments may be helpful in completing your research, composition and application in good quality form to most effectively communicate your insights.

|                 |                             |     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| <b>Grading:</b> | Research and use of sources | 30% |
|                 | Application (so what now?)  | 30% |
|                 | Development of thought      | 20% |
|                 | Clarity of Structure        | 10% |
|                 | Correct Language & Form     | 10% |

## **Term Paper Topics and Submissions**

The following are suggested research paper topics. You may develop your own topic in consultation with me.

Let me know your choice of topic by the third week of classes.

Remember to work towards clearly articulated applications as noted above.

### **Topics Related Directly to the Psalms Exegesis and Application**

- \* An Exegesis, Exposition and Application of Any of the 150 Psalms  
(You may choose any five stanzas of Psalm 119)
- \* An Exegesis, Exposition and Application of Any of the 150 Psalms and a Parallel New Testament Passage (You may choose any five stanzas of Psalm 119)
- \* Jesus' Use of the Psalms
- \* Psalms in Matthew
- \* Psalms in Acts
- \* Paul's Use of Psalms in Romans
- \* Psalms in Hebrews
- \* A Sermon or Bible class from Psalm \_\_\_\_  
(Include exegesis and full manuscript including application)

### **Topical Subjects and Backgrounds**

- \* What the Psalms Say About Jesus
- \* The Prophetic Dimensions of Psalms
- \* The Historical Dimensions of Psalms
- \* How the New Testament Writers Used the Psalms
- \* Psalms in the Life of David
- \* The Power of Biblical Poetry in Psalms
- \* Psalms Superscripts as Evidence of Authorship
- \* How the Psalms Came Together as a Book (History of the Psalms Canon as God has give it to us)
- \* Rediscovering Lament in Church and Individual Life
- \* Imprecatory Psalms and Their Relevance Today

### **Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon Journal**

The ultimate purposes of the Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon journal are to help us listen to God closely, to get the most out of what He is saying to us in each Psalm and chapter of Song of Songs of Solomon, to know Him better, to appreciate His salvation, grace and guidance and to strengthen our ministry to others.

The format of the journal is informal. The following are given as suggestions.

Reading 12 Psalms and then 4 chapters of Song of Songs of Solomon each week takes about twenty minutes per week. You can make your journal entry for each Psalm and Song of Solomon chapter as you read them.

Your journal entry for each Psalm and Song of Solomon chapter could take the form of a few sentences or point-form notes about your personal observations and reflections, which part of the Psalm or chapter of Song of Songs of Solomon you find most helpful, things you have not noticed before, truths that could be most helpful to others in your ministry, etc.

You may include some point-form observations about the background of the Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon that could be helpful in interpreting it: author, circumstances, structure, interesting language and poetic features that impress you, etc.

Keeping your journal electronically in one file will make your submission easier. You may also want to add to it over the years as you continue to read and live with the Psalms and Song of Songs of Solomon.

Please submit an updated of your Psalms and Song of Solomon Journal to me by at the end of each month (or every fourth class if you are studying from the archive). As with the term paper, if you would like to submit a preliminary sample for review, please do so.

### **Exams (Parts 1 and 2)**

**Part 1:** Short objective questions based on the introduction chapters in *Psalms 1–50* by Eddie Cloer, pages 1–32 and *Song of Solomon* by Denny Petrillo, pages 251–304.

**Part 2:** The exams will include a choice of the essay questions below in Part 2 for Psalms and your own choice of one passage from Song of Songs of Solomon that is of particular interest to you.

### **Essay Questions Part 2 of Your Psalms Exam**

The focus of your short essay is on what you think and understand God is saying.

This essay portion of the exam is “open Bible” and you may also use any of your course handouts. You can use an electronic Bible to search and copy clip sections of Scripture you want to incorporate into your answers. You can use your class resources to identify Psalms types. You don’t have to use any other books because in this part of the exam I am primarily interested in what you think and how you understand and benefit from the Psalms. So you needn’t quote other authors (and don’t plagiarize or use AI), this is about what and how you think.

Your answers will be between 1,000–1,400 words for each of the two essays. Write your answers on your computer in a Word file. You can check the length of 1,000–1,400 words with your word counter function. You can write your answers in advance of doing the objective portion of the exam and give them to your proctor then if you wish.

Choose **any one (1)** of the following questions for your Psalms exam Part 2 essay.

### **Questions**

1. **Psalm 1** Psalm 1 is one of three Torah Psalms (1, 19, 119). Discuss some of the ways you think Psalm 1 acts as an excellent introduction to the main themes of the whole book of Psalms.
2. **Lament** Lament is the most common type of Psalm. Using some examples discuss how lament Psalms can be important in maturing our relationship with God and how as a church we might benefit from occasionally including lament Psalms in our preaching and worship.
3. **Hebrews** The writer of Hebrews quotes more Psalms than any other writer of the New Testament. Using examples discuss how you think Psalms support some of the major themes of Hebrews.
4. **Prophecy, History, Law and Wisdom** Psalms contain prophecy, history, law and wisdom. Identify by number Psalms containing elements of these and discuss how you think Psalms can enrich Christians' understanding of both the Old and New Testaments.
5. **Jesus** Jesus said, "all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44b). Give some examples of Psalms which Jesus spoke and those which speak about Jesus. Discuss how these examples are personally meaningful to you to build your faith in Jesus, and your trust in God and His Word.
6. **Imprecatory Psalms** Imprecatory Psalms appeal to God to act justly against the psalmists' enemies (and God's). Using examples, discuss how you think imprecatory Psalms could be used in our personal and church life today, including their potential influence in our private and public prayers.
7. **Psalms of Trust** Many Psalms express trust and confidence in God. Using a few examples discuss how Psalms build your confidence in God - and - briefly discuss one example of a Psalm that you think could help someone going through a difficult time and how it could help them.

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