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# PSALMS - The SONGS

Twenty-five

To You, O LORD, I Lift up My Soul

## READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every reference to the psalmist or the righteous man, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "R+".

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every reference to enemies, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with an orange capital "W".

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every reference to the ways or paths of the LORD, along with all pronouns and synonyms, by highlighting in light brown.

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every reference to sins or transgressions, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with an orange "do not" sign (a circle with a diagonal slash).

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every reference to waiting for the LORD with a purple underline.

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every reference to fearing the LORD with a purple jagged circle surrounded by yellow.

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every time phrase with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 25** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital "T".

Read through **Psalm 25** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Trust in God
2. Truth of God
3. Transgressions against God
4. Teachings from God
5. To fear God
6. Turn to me in my troubles, God

## READ AND ANSWER

### Psalm 25:1-3

Who is addressed in the first line of **Psalm 25**?

Who is addressing the LORD?

According to the title, who wrote this **Psalm**?



**This particular Psalm was written as an acrostic.  
Each verse begins with consecutive letters of the Hebrew alphabet.**

What does the psalmist say to the LORD?

What does it mean to “lift up your soul”?

What does it mean to lift up your soul to the LORD?

Why does the psalmist lift up his soul to the LORD (as opposed to someone else)?

What does David ask from the LORD?

- 1.
- 2.

Does this give you a clue as to why the psalmist is lifting up his soul?

What assurance does the psalmist have regarding those who wait for the LORD?



**Waiting for the LORD is a wonderful privilege.**

**The Hebrew word for “wait” is *qavah*  
and means to bind together.**

**The one who waits for the LORD is bound together with Him.  
The one who is bound together with the LORD  
will make it through the trials and tribulations of life without dropping  
because his life is bound up together with Christ.**

What assurance does the psalmist have regarding those who deal treacherously without cause?

What have David’s enemies done?



**Ashamed is a key word in these first three verses.**

**The Hebrew word for “ashamed” is *bush*.  
It has the idea of falling into public disgrace  
(rather than an inner attitude of feeling ashamed over what you have done).**

**This fits perfectly with the realization  
that there will be a time of judgment for each and every person.  
Everyone’s deeds will be examined by the One and Only Judge.**

**It will be before Him (and by Him) that we will be disgraced or honored.**

**Psalm 25:4-5**

What does David ask God to do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Why does he want to know God's ways and walk in His truth?

From where does David's salvation come?

What is David determined to do?

How much of the time is David's life bound together with the LORD?

**Psalm 25:6-7**

What does David ask the LORD to remember or consider?

- 1.
- 2.



**Remember is a key word in verses 6 and 7.**

**The Hebrew word for “remember” is *zakar* and means to mark or recognize.**

**God, of course, can remember everything and all things.  
The word for remember is not an antonym for forget.  
Rather, it means to think upon, to consider or ponder.**

What does David remind the LORD is true about His compassion and His lovingkindnesses?

Why? What benefit is it to David that the LORD's compassion and His lovingkindnesses have always been part of His character and are everlasting?

What does David ask the LORD to not remember or consider?

- 1.
- 2.



**Because of the reference to the sins of his youth,  
we may assume this Psalm was written later in David's life.  
If so, we may also assume, from the reference to his treacherous enemies,  
that Absalom was in mind, rather than Saul.  
(Treachery means deceit *with* betrayal.  
Certainly this is what Absalom perpetrated against his father, David.)**

By what "measurement" does David want the LORD to consider him?

Why? What end result is important?

What does it mean "for Your goodness' sake"?

### **Psalm 25:8-11**

What is true of the LORD?

- 1.

2.

What does the LORD do because He is good and upright?

1.

2.

3.

What is true of all the paths of the LORD?

1.

2.

What is true of those who keep the LORD's covenant and His testimonies?

Why are all the paths of the LORD's lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies?

What does it mean "for Your Name's sake"?

What does David ask God to do for him?

What is true of David's iniquity?

**Psalm 25:12-15**

What question does David pose?

What is true of the man who fears the LORD?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What help will the LORD give you if you fear Him?

What will be true of your soul if you fear the LORD?

Does this help you to understand why David lifted up his soul to the LORD (**verse 1**)?

What will be true of the descendants of the man who fears the LORD?

What will those have who fear the LORD?



**The Hebrew word for “secret” is *sode* and means confidential speech, or a session or company of persons in close deliberations. By implication it means intimacy.**

What will those who fear the LORD understand and know?

Obviously David fears the LORD. What is his wise response?

What does he believe the LORD will do for him?

What does the net represent?

Who has laid the net?

**Psalm 25:16-22**

What does David ask the LORD to do?

1.

2.

Why does David want the LORD to turn to him and be gracious to him?

1.

2.

What is enlarged?

What are the troubles of the heart?

What does David ask the LORD to do for him regarding his distresses?

What does David want the LORD to look upon?

1.

2.

What does David connect to his affliction and trouble?

What does David ask God to forgive?

What else does David ask God to look upon?

Why?

1.

2.

If David's enemies hate him with *violent* hatred, what must be happening? (Is this just the way David's enemies feel about him or are they acting out on their hatred?)

What does David ask God to guard? (Do you notice the connection again with lifting up his soul to the LORD?)

What does David ask the LORD to do for him?

Deliver him from what?

What is David asking the LORD to spare him from?

Why does he believe he should be spared from disgrace?

What does it mean to take refuge in the LORD?

What is David planning on using to preserve himself?

1.

2.

How can he rely on his ability to keep his integrity and uprightness intact?

In your own words, write out what it means to “wait for the LORD”.



**There are three main concerns David has in Psalm 25—  
his enemies, his need for guidance, and his own sin.**

**In each case, he trusts his concern with his LORD.  
He chooses to lay his problems at the feet of the One  
Who sits on the throne of the universe.**

**His next move is to simply wait on the LORD.**

Write out the last verse of this **Psalm**.

Does it seem out of place?

Of course, it is not out of place. What is its place in **Psalm 25**? What is the connection?

Who does David lay before the LORD in his prayer?

What does David ask the LORD to do for Israel?

What troubles did (and does) Israel have?

Just as David connected his troubles with his own sin (**verse 18**), how are Israel's troubles connected to sin?

## **READ AND REASON**

The Hebrew word for “redeem” is *padah* and means to sever, ransom, or release.

David's request for Israel can only be answered in one word—Messiah. The Coming One, the Promised One, Who turned out to be Jesus, is the only One Who can redeem Israel from his troubles.

He came to save His people from their sins—He came to take them out of their sins.

Matthew 1:21

***She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.***

How will He take His people out of their sins?

By offering a New Covenant—one which gave them a heart to obey.

Israel entered a Covenant with God after He delivered them from Egypt. In this Covenant, called the Mosaic Covenant or the Old Covenant, God promised to bless, prosper, and give life to Israel if the people obeyed Him. He also promised to curse, bring adversity and death to Israel if the people disobeyed Him. He kept His promises. Israel's troubles were the result of their disobedience.

The Covenant was cut (made) at Mount Sinai (Horeb) with Moses and all the people of Israel after hearing His demands (the 10 Commandments).

**Deuteronomy 5:1-21**

***Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:***

***“Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully.***

***The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.***

***The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, with all those of us alive here today.***

***The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, while I was standing between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD;***

***for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.***

***He said,***

***‘I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.***

***You shall have no other gods before Me.***

***You shall not make for yourself an idol,***

***or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.***

***You shall not worship them or serve them;***

***for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,***

***visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children,***

***and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,***

***but showing lovingkindness to thousands,***

**to those who love Me and keep My commandments.  
You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,  
for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.  
Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.  
Six days you shall labor and do all your work,  
but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God;  
in it you shall not do any work,  
you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant  
or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle  
or your sojourner who stays with you,  
so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.  
You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt,  
and the LORD your God brought you out of there  
by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm;  
therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.  
Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you,  
that your days may be prolonged  
and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.  
You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,  
and you shall not desire your neighbor's house,  
his field or his male servant or his female servant,  
his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.'"**

The assembly agreed to God's demands (mainly because they were terrified of the voice of the LORD). They told Moses to listen to everything God said and then inform them of all that He said. The people promised to hear what Moses told them and to obey all that God said.

#### **Deuteronomy 5:22-27**

**These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly  
at the mountain from the midst of the fire, of the cloud and of the thick gloom,  
with a great voice, and He added no more.  
He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.  
And when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness,  
while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me,  
all the heads of your tribes and your elders.  
You said, "Behold, the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness,  
and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire;  
we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives.  
Now then why should we die?  
For this great fire will consume us;  
if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer, then we will die.**

***For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? Go near and hear all that the LORD our God says; then speak to us all that the LORD our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do it.”***

The LORD heard Israel promise to obey Him and commended them for saying the right thing. However, God knew they wouldn't actually obey Him. He knew they had a problem—a heart problem. He knew they wouldn't continue to fear Him (in order to obey). He knew they needed a new heart...

#### **Deuteronomy 5:28-33**

***The LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me,  
“I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you.  
They have done well in all that they have spoken.  
Oh that they had such a heart in them,  
that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always,  
that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!  
Go, say to them, ‘Return to your tents.’  
But as for you, stand here by Me,  
that I may speak to you all the commandments and the statutes and the judgments which you shall teach them,  
that they may observe them in the land which I give them to possess.  
So you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.  
You shall walk in all the way which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you,  
and that you may prolong your days in the land which you will possess.”***

God had always known about man's heart condition...

#### **Jeremiah 17:9**

***The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?***

And God had always had a plan...

#### **Ezekiel 36:26**

***Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.***

God's plan was offered to all who would believe in His Son's propitiatory work on the cross as the means for their salvation from His wrath. He would offer a New Covenant

through His Son—Jesus, the Christ—and each and every believer would receive a new heart.

**Hebrews 8:10**

***“FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS”, SAYS THE LORD. “I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.”***

The Redeemer, Jesus Christ, has severed all who believe in Him from their sins—not just Jews, but Gentiles, too.

**Titus 2:11-14**

***For the grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all men,  
instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly,  
righteously and godly in the present age,  
looking for the blessed hope  
and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,  
Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed,  
and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession,  
zealous for good deeds.***

 Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.  
Ask God to help you.**

**Verses 1-3**

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**Verses 4-5**

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**Verses 6-7**

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Verses 8-11

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Verses 12-15

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Verses 16-22

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 Purpose of Psalm 25

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 25.  
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

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 Theme of Psalm 25

**Try giving Psalm 25 a title by identifying its theme.  
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**

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