

## Week 14 - 25 May 2024

### The Davidic Psalms

#### Background

We are about to embark on the life of King David in our series based on 1 & 2 Samuel.

David is probably best known as the psalmist (Psalm-writer), then as the hero who killed Goliath and then as the anti-hero who seduced Bathsheba. He did, of course, do (and *not* do) many, many other things, good and bad, as we will discover in our continuing journey through 1 & 2 Samuel in the weeks to come.

This week is more of a pen and paper exercise, so please arm yourselves appropriately and let us imagine ourselves in an RI/RE class at school. Not all Bibles show a heading for each Psalm. The Authorised KJV and the NRSVA show these very clearly at the start of each Psalm. Different English translations may use different wording. Don't worry too much about this for our study this week. And there will be time for some discussion on Sabbath as well.

#### Exercises for the week:

This week I'd like us to:

1. Check how many of the Psalms David actually wrote.
2. Note the names of any other Psalmists who are named and check on line to find who they were, what their jobs were and when they lived.
3. Draw up a table of David's Psalms which have specific relevance to events in his life. This is noted in the headings to these Psalms in some Bibles (not all do). E.g.

Psalm 63	A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness
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4. Note in passing that terms such as 'Jeduthan', 'Maskil' and 'Miktam' appear occasionally. If you have time you might like to check on line for further information regarding these terms. (Ignore any references to musical instruments.)

As we continue through the life of David we will be referring to appropriate Davidic Psalms when they refer to specific events in David's life and experience. We will also make time to consider how some of these Psalms might help us individually on our life journey. (*Facilitators please note!*)

#### Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the compilers of the Hebrew Bible included a book of Psalms?
2. In your Christian life and experience have you found individual Psalms helpful personally? If so, please choose one and tell us why.