

## Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

### Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms

11-2-11

#### Psalm 111

#### The Story Behind the Psalms 111 & 112

These form a new group of Psalms called the "Hallelujah Psalms." Hallelujah means "Praise ye Jah," or "Praise ye Jehovah." An interesting thing about the word "hallelujah" is that it is the same in every language. It is the one word in all languages that becomes the common denominator. We cannot all speak the same language about most subjects, but when it comes to praising the Lord, we all speak the same language.

These Psalms are divided into three groups—group one ends with hallelujah. In this group are Psalms 104 and 105. Group two begins with hallelujah. This includes Psalms 111 and 112. Group three both begins and ends with hallelujah. Included are Psalms 106, 113, 135, and 146 through 150.

It is interesting that with the passing of the years David's praise becomes greater. The term, "Praise ye the Lord," is included more and more in the Psalms written near the end of David's life. He once said, "I will praise Him more and more," and so he did. As these Psalms are read, the reader should picture an aged David lifting his hands and voice Heavenward thanking God for His grace, for His mercy, for His lovingkindness and for His faithfulness.

#### The Way They Were Used by God's People

The Jews would use these as doxology Psalms when they wanted to praise the Lord. They were used at any time. They were much like our songs, "Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus Our Blessed Redeemer," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," etc. In other words, they were general songs of praise used at any occasion the heart leaped with joy.

**Theme:** All that God does is good. Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.

**Author:** Believed to be David

#### PSALM 111–118

Psalms 111–118 are called hallelujah psalms. *Hallelujah* means "praise the LORD" and expresses the uplifting and optimistic tone of these songs.

PSALM 111:9

The ransom here pictures the rescue by God of the Israelites from Egypt and the future return from captivity in Babylon (see Deuteronomy 7:8; Jeremiah 31:11). *Ransom* means “to free from captivity by paying a price”. All people were being held in slavery by sin until Jesus paid the price to free us—giving his life as a perfect sacrifice. Before Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice for sin, people were not permitted into God’s presence (the Most Holy Place); now, all believers can freely approach God’s throne through prayer and have God in their lives through the Holy Spirit.

PSALM 111:10

The only way to become truly wise is to fear (revere) God. This same thought is expressed in Proverbs 1:7-9. Too often people want to skip this step, thinking they can become wise by life experience and academic knowledge alone. But if we do not acknowledge God as the source of wisdom, then our foundation for making wise decisions is shaky, and we are prone to mistakes and foolish choices.

## Psalm 112

**Theme:** The advantages of having faith in God. God guards the minds and actions of those who follow his commands.

**Author:** Believed to be David

PSALM 112:1

Many blessings are available to us—honor, prosperity, security, freedom from fear (112:2-9)—if we *fear* the Lord and *delight* in obeying his commands. If you expect God’s blessings, you must revere him and gladly obey him.

PSALM 112:5

Generosity can cure two problems that having money can create. The rich person may abuse others in the desire to accumulate wealth. Generosity will eliminate that abuse. Also, the fear of losing money can be a snare. Generosity shows that we have placed our trust in God, not in our money, for justice and security.

PSALM 112:7, 8

We all want to live without fear; our heroes are fearless people who take on all dangers and overcome them. The psalmist teaches us that *fear* of God can lead to a *fearless* life. To fear God means to respect and revere him as the almighty Lord. When we trust God completely to take care of us, we will find that our other fears—even of death itself—will subside.