

Introduction & Information

Introduction

The authors of this Bible study are interested in shaping the way fellow Christians think about God, his creation, the place of human creatures in God's creation, and even what it means to be human creatures living in this world. We want to provide a context for groups of Christians gathered around God's word to rethink their answers to some big questions. Questions like: What is God's interest in his creation? How is he involved in it? What use does he make of it? What is our relationship to the rest of the created world? What use do we—should we/should we not—make of it? What does it mean to live as a human in this world? What practices have perhaps de-humanized us? In our life together in the created world, what kind of practices ought God's people be engaging in?

In the Psalms (as well as in other parts of the Scriptures), there are voices that offer reflection on questions such as these. Our hope is that through our mutual meditation on this word of God, the Holy Spirit would enrich our understanding of our identity—who we are as God's redeemed people—and that in our varied vocations he would give us the strength to live lives of praise to him, even when that looks completely counter-cultural.

Meet the Professors

- Professor Tim Saleska teaches Exegetical theology / exegesis – Exegetical theology is the study of Scripture working through the verses and passages of the Bible. Exegetical theologians translate and interpret the books of the Bible to bring out the full meaning of God's word.
- Professor Chuck Arand teaches Systematic theology – Systematic theology is the study of organizing the knowledge of God using Scripture and doctrinal teaching. As Lutherans we use the doctrinal teachings of the Lutheran church. Systematics allows us to take a more scientific view of the study of God's word.

Book	Principal Author
Psalms 1-41	Intensely personal psalms of David <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life of David; 11th century BC; time of the tabernacle
Psalms 42-72	Psalms of David and the kingdom; nationalistic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reigns of David & Solomon; 11th & 10th century BC; time of the first temple
Psalms 73-89	Psalms of Asaph and the Sons of Korah; nationalistic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reign of Solomon; 10th century BC; some psalms difficult to date.
Psalms 90-106	Anonymous psalms and laments
Psalms 107-150	Songs of ascents and praise; psalms of David <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical context less clear; some of the psalms refer to earlier writers such as Moses (Ps 90) and David (Ps 122), but others refer to the time of exile in Babylon (Ps 137, 6th century BC).