

GROUNDS OF FAITH CAFÉ: “Experiencing the Psalms” Lesson 1. (1 Chronicles 16:1-36).
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Primary resources: James L. Mays, *Psalms*, 1994, John Knox Press; *Shepherd's Notes on the Psalms*, 1999, Broadman & Holman Publishers; *Life Application Study Bible*, NIV, 1991, Tyndale House Publishers and Zondervan Publishing House.

Introduction: The selection of David's initiation of praise to God by Psalms in 1 Chronicles 16:1-36 opens our study of the Psalms. The theology of the Psalms has been said to be summed up in one phrase: “*The Lord reigns!*” Thus, the most common metaphor for God appears to be “King.” Other roles such as “Warrior,” “Judge,” “Savior,” “Shepherd,” “Refuge,” and “Creator” are understood as part of His Kingship. Partial pictures of God emerge from today's passage.

Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-36 completely through: For background, consider the fact that David has just become king of Israel after a lengthy battle with King Saul. At this point, David is completing his consolidation of the political, economic and Theological framework of his kingdom. He appoints some Levites to certain positions. As you read, note particularly the verses that picture God in various ways, for example Sovereign and Holy Lord (verses 16:10, 14, 23, etc).

- What picture does David draw of God in verses 1-36? Briefly discuss.
- Now discuss what picture you each hold of God today. Does your picture frame your identity – your understanding of who you are in God? Or does it not? Discuss.

Now re-read 16:1-7:

- What is David's apparent purpose in initiating the Psalms? Briefly discuss.
- Now think of your own lives. Does your recitation of a Psalm also glorify God? If so, in what way? If not, why not? Briefly discuss.

Re-read 16:8-22: Note again the emphasis on identifying God through His deeds for Israel.

- Now read and compare Psalm 105:1-15 to what you have just read. For background, you should be aware that Psalm 105 is a call for trust in God as it details God's works in response to Abraham's faithfulness. What strikes you about these accounts? Briefly discuss.
- Now re-read 1 Chron 16:12. Some have argued that the benchmark of faithfulness is in our “remembering” the mighty works of God on behalf of His children. Do you agree or disagree? Briefly discuss.
- Now read Deuteronomy 8:1-6; 11-20. According to these verses, what happens when we “remember” God? What happens when we “forget” God? What does this mean to you in your own lives? Discuss.

Re-read 16:23-33: Note again the picture drawn by the Psalmist of various attributes of God.

- Now read and compare Psalm 96 to the verses in 1st Chronicles. What similarities do you see? What is the picture given of God? And what relationship do you think is depicted between the Psalmist and God. Discuss.

Re-read 16:34-36:

- Now read Psalm 106:1, 47-48 to compare with the verses in 1 Chronicles. You should be aware that in the collection of all 150 Psalms, Psalms 105 and 106 form a thematic pair. Psalm 105 (as mentioned earlier) calls for renewed trust based on God's history of mighty deeds on behalf of Israel. Psalm 106 calls for repentance as Israel fails to remember God's mighty works. What lesson do you learn from the closing verses in David's song of thanksgiving in 1st Chronicles? Discuss.