

Try reading through the entire Psalter in one month--only five psalms each day. This is a good way to avoid the rut of only reading the old favorites and to appreciate them more by seeing them in light of the rest of the book.

In classical vein some of the psalms might be considered classics in themselves. Psalms 23 and 100 are certainly two of these. The Psalms have inspired many of the great hymns of the church and have been set to music as choral works or solos (for example, portions of Brahms's "A German Requiem" and Handel's "Messiah"). The subject of David, the sweet singer of Israel, has also been a favorite theme of artists through the ages.

Further reading includes The Treasury of David, C.H. Spurgeon (7 vols..Zondervan). Psalms 1-75 and Psalms 76-150 by Derek Kidner (IVP). Songs from a Strange Country, by Jay Goldingay is a good expositional study of Psalms 42-51. A good introduction to Hebrew poetry is found in Job, by Francis Andersen (IVP). The amount of literature on the Psalms is immense and a great wealth of help, both technical and non-technical is available.

b. Further considerations on the Psalter:

Among other items of special interest in the Psalter are these:

- Psalm 119 is the great commentary on God's word
- Psalm 19 the great creation psalm
- Psalm 78 the great commentary on Israel's history
- Psalm 73 the explanation of human folly
- Psalm 139,145 the character and dealing of God
- Psalm 27, the protection of God
- Psalm 95, 96, the model of worship
- Psalm 51, the penitent
- Psalm 32, the psalm of forgiveness....

and you will discover that there is no area of life not touched on in the Psalter at some length. Among particular classes of psalms we usually list:

- Messianic psalms
- imprecatory
- devotional
- historical
- prophetic

and there are sub-classes to all of these. I will flesh this out just a bit but you must remember this is a survey course. An interesting aspect is the calling of Psalm 90...the "Song of Moses"...or the psalm of Moses. And David is noted as the author of the second psalm in the book of Acts although no inscription is given with the psalm itself. The Psalms show both the height and the depth of spiritual living. Honesty is a prevailing watchword and much emotional life is expressed just this way. Some part of the psalter is involved in everyone's favorite Scripture and the teacher of this course loves to "sing the Psalms."