

OT-OV

Lesson 103

1. Last week I finished our overview of the book of Job. When time expired we were over-viewing the book of Psalms. I want to review some of that learned and then pick-up with new material on page two.
2. The book of Psalms was written by David and others over a period of 550 years with the last being completed around 450 B.C. Many subjects are covered both in poem and prose, certainly to include the prophetic future of Israel and the coming of the Messiah.
3. Information regarding the authorship and dating of the Psalms, is to say the least, problematic.

The Book of Psalms

1. The variety of songs, laments, and praises in this book left it unnamed in the Old Testament. The Jews referred to it as "The Book of Praises," while the Septuagint entitled it "The Book of Psalms" (from a Greek word indicating songs sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments).
2. The titles to the various psalms relate 73 of them to David, two to Solomon, 12 to the sons of Korah, 12 to Asaph (a music minister at the time of David, he and Heman served together) one to Heman, one to Ethan (a singer appointed by David), and one to Moses.
3. Unlike much Western poetry, Hebrew poetry is not based on rhyme or meter, but on rhythm and parallelism. The rhythm is achieved by tonal stress or accent on important words.
4. In parallelism, the poet states an idea in the first line, then reinforces it by various means in the succeeding line or lines.
5. Classification of the Psalms:
6. The most generally agreed upon categories of the psalms are:
 - the lament or petition psalms, either individual (Psa 3) or communal (Psa 44)
 - thanksgiving or praise psalms, either individual (Psa 30) or communal (Psa 65)
 - psalms of trust in God (Psa 4)
 - psalms on the enthronement of Jehovah (Psa 47), psalms concerning Jerusalem, and royal psalms (some of which are Messianic; Psa 2 and 110);

- didactic and wisdom psalms (Psa 1, 37 and 119).

A Psalm Written By An Anonymous Writer - The Door To The Psalms

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psa 1:4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Psa 1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Psa 1:6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

A Psalm of David To Trigger Memories

Psa 37:1 Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;

Psa 37:2 for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

Psa 37:3 Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Psa 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psa 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:

Psa 37:6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Psa 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psa 37:8 Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret-- it leads only to evil.

Psa 37:9 For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

Psa 37:10 A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.

Psa 37:11 But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

Psa 37:12 The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;

Psa 37:13 but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.

Psa 37:14 The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.

Psa 37:15 But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

Psa 37:16 Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;

Psa 37:17 for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.

Psa 37:18 The days of the blameless are known to the LORD, and their inheritance will endure forever.

Psa 37:19 In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

Psa 37:20 But the wicked will perish: The LORD'S enemies will be like the beauty of the fields, they will vanish--vanish like smoke.

Psa 37:21 The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously;

Psa 37:22 those the LORD blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be cut off.

Psa 37:23 If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm;

Psa 37:24 though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

Psa 37:25 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

Psa 37:26 They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.

Psa 37:27 Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

Psa 37:28 For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;

Psa 37:29 the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.

Psa 37:30 The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is just.

Psa 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; his feet do not slip.

Psa 37:32 The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, seeking their very lives;

Psa 37:33 but the LORD will not leave them in their power or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

Psa 37:34 Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Psa 37:35 I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a green tree in its native soil,

Psa 37:36 but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found.

Psa 37:37 Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace.

Psa 37:38 But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.

Psa 37:39 The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

Psa 37:40 The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

7. Psalms may also be classified according to themes; for example:

7.1 creation

Psa 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Psa 8:2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Psa 8:3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

Psa 8:4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Psa 8:5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Psa 8:6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

Psa 8:7 all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,

Psa 8:8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Psa 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psa 19:2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

Psa 19:3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

Psa 19:4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

Psa 19:5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

Psa 19:6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

Psa 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Psa 19:8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psa 19:9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

Psa 19:10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

Psa 19:11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psa 19:12 Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

Psa 19:13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

Psa 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

7.2 the Exodus,

Psa 78:1 O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

Psa 78:2 I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old--

Psa 78:3 what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.

Psa 78:4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Psa 78:5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children,

Psa 78:6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Psa 78:7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psa 78:8 They would not be like their forefathers-- a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

Psa 78:9 The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle;

Psa 78:10 they did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law.

Psa 78:11 They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them.

Psa 78:12 He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.

Psa 78:13 He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.

Psa 78:14 He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

Psa 78:15 He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas;

Psa 78:16 he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

Psa 78:17 But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

Psa 78:18 They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.

Psa 78:19 They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the desert?"

Psa 78:20 When he struck the rock, water gushed out, and streams flowed abundantly. But can he also give us food? Can he supply meat for his people?"

Psa 78:21 When the LORD heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel,

Psa 78:22 for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.

Psa 78:23 Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;

Psa 78:24 he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.

Psa 78:25 Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

Psa 78:26 He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by his power.

Psa 78:27 He rained meat down on them like dust, flying birds like sand on the seashore.

Psa 78:28 He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.

Psa 78:29 They ate till they had more than enough, for he had given them what they craved.

Psa 78:30 But before they turned from the food they craved, even while it was still in their mouths,

Psa 78:31 God's anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel.

Psa 78:32 In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.

Psa 78:33 So he ended their days in futility and their years in terror.

Psa 78:34 Whenever God slew them, they would seek him; they eagerly turned to him again.

Psa 78:35 They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer.

Psa 78:36 But then they would flatter him with their mouths, lying to him with their tongues;

Psa 78:37 their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant.
Psa 78:38 Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.
Psa 78:39 He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return.
Psa 78:40 How often they rebelled against him in the desert and grieved him in the wasteland!
Psa 78:41 Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel.
Psa 78:42 They did not remember his power-- the day he redeemed them from the oppressor,
Psa 78:43 the day he displayed his miraculous signs in Egypt, his wonders in the region of Zoan.
Psa 78:44 He turned their rivers to blood; they could not drink from their streams.
Psa 78:45 He sent swarms of flies that devoured them, and frogs that devastated them.
Psa 78:46 He gave their crops to the grasshopper, their produce to the locust.
Psa 78:47 He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamore-figs with sleet.
Psa 78:48 He gave over their cattle to the hail, their livestock to bolts of lightning.
Psa 78:49 He unleashed against them his hot anger, his wrath, indignation and hostility-- a band of destroying angels.
Psa 78:50 He prepared a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death but gave them over to the plague.
Psa 78:51 He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt, the first fruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.
Psa 78:52 But he brought his people out like a flock; he led them like sheep through the desert.

7.3 imprecation,

Psa 7:6 Arise, O LORD, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies. Awake, my God; decree justice.
Psa 7:7 Let the assembled peoples gather around you. Rule over them from on high;
Psa 7:8 let the LORD judge the peoples. Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High.
Psa 7:9 O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure.
Psa 7:10 My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart.
Psa 7:11 God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.
Psa 7:12 If he does not relent, he will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow.
Psa 7:13 He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows.
Psa 7:14 He who is pregnant with evil and conceives trouble gives birth to disillusionment.
Psa 7:15 He who digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit he has made.
Psa 7:16 The trouble he causes recoils on himself; his violence comes down on his own head.

Psa 7:17 I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

7.4 penitence,

Psa 6:1 O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

Psa 6:2 Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony.

Psa 6:3 My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long?

Psa 6:4 Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

Psa 6:5 No one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave?

Psa 6:6 I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.

Psa 6:7 My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.

Psa 6:8 Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping.

Psa 6:9 The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.

Psa 6:10 All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.

8. Psalms which include important prophecies concerning the Messiah include Psalms 2, 8, 22, 40, 72 and 110.

Psa 2:6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psa 2:7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Psa 8:5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Psa 8:6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:

Psa 8:7 all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,

Psa 8:8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Psa 8:9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psa 22:17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

Psa 22:18 They divide my ^{roy} garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

Psa 22:19 But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me ...

Psa 22:26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him-- may your hearts live forever!

Psa 22:27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

Psa 22:28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

Psa 22:29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him-- those who cannot keep themselves alive.

Psa 22:30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

Psa 40:6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

Psa 40:7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come-- it is written about me in the scroll.

Psa 40:8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Psa 72:1 Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

Psa 72:2 He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

Psa 72:3 The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

Psa 72:4 He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.

Psa 72:5 He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

Psa 72:6 He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

Psa 72:7 In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

Psa 72:8 He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Psa 72:9 The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.

Psa 72:10 The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him; the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.

Psa 72:11 All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

Psa 72:12 For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

Psa 72:13 He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

Psa 72:14 He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Psa 72:15 Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

Psa 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Psa 110:2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.

Psa 110:3 Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth.

Psa 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Psa 110:5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

Psa 110:6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

9. All but 34 of the psalms have titles or superscriptions which normally comprise the first verse of the Hebrew text. They are editorial titles, added after the psalms were written but are historically accurate.

9.1 The two most frequently used technical terms are:

9.1.1 Selah (occurring 71 times in the Psalms). Selah is a musical note signaling an interlude or change of musical accompaniment; and

9.1.2 To the chief Musician (choir director), which is attached to 55 psalms, suggesting that a collection of psalms existed for the choir director, possibly for use on special occasions.

10. Imprecatory Psalms: These psalms (7, 35, 55, 58, 59, 69, 79, 109, 137 and 139), invoke judgment or curses on one's enemies they have perplexed many expositors.

10.1 Keep in mind these imprecations are out of zeal for God and abhorrence of sin, a call on God to punish the wicked and to vindicate His righteousness.

11. Many Psalms have special messages and meanings for us:

11.1 to demonstrate God's just and righteous judgment toward the wicked (Psa 58:11);

Psa 58:11 Then men will say, "Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth."

11.2 to show the authority of God over the wicked (Psa 59:13);

Psa 59:12 For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, let them be caught in their pride. For the curses and lies they utter,

Psa 59:13 consume them in wrath, consume them till they are no more. Then it will be known to the ends of the earth that God rules over Jacob. Selah

11.3 to lead the wicked to seek the Lord (Psa 83:16);

Psa 83:14 As fire consumes the forest or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,

Psa 83:15 so pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your storm.

Psa 83:16 Cover their faces with shame so that men will seek your name, O LORD.

11.4 to cause the righteous to praise God (Psa 7:17);

Psa 7:17 I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

11.5 to let all know from where promotion comes;

Psa 75:5 Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck.

Psa 75:6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

Psa 75:7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

11.6 to let us know God is always with us both in time and eternity;

Psa 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

Psa 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

Psa 23:3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psa 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

11.7 to let us know Who keeps us safe;

Psa 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

11.8 to let us know rebound is a must if our prayers are to be heard.

Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

12. The psalms are divided into five books, each ending with a doxology (Psa 1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106 and 107-150).

End Lesson