



Psalms



Plucking a stringed instrument



Psalms




Question:

How do these words spoken to God
function as a Word from God to us?

Discuss.....




The Use of the Psalms

- 
- Not propositional truth.
 - Not imperatives.
 - Not stories that illustrate doctrine
 - They don't function primarily for the purpose of teaching doctrine or moral behavior.
 - So what is the purpose of the Psalms?




The purpose of the Psalms

- 
- Psalms help us to:
 - 1. Express ourselves to God.
 - (express our joy, sorrow, successes, failures, hopes and regrets)
 - 2. Reflect (meditate) on his ways.
 - Two Hebrew words used 28 times in the Psalms.




Reflective and Expressive

- 
- Where are we in these areas?
 - Are we doing these things?
 - Can Psalms teach us something?
 - Discuss this. Your thoughts.




My thoughts on this

- 
- As a culture I think we are becoming less and less meditative on God.
 - Too busy, too in a rush to stop and meditate. We are looking for quick ways to be spiritual.
 - Are we expressive? Yes and No.
 - Worship is often a few professionals, a show and I feel lost and insignificant.




My thoughts on This

- 
- I often can't even hear my own voice. Why does everyone sound like the lead singer for Third Day?
 - Our daily tasks don't allow us to meditate. So we always feel stressed.
 - People used to have more monotonous jobs or tasks with long hours to think.



My thoughts on this



What can we do to put more meditative
time into our lives.

Gardening- yard work


after dinner stroll

snowboarding by myself

making bread



Conclusion




- We need the Psalms and what they can teach us.

- Read “Mojave Desert” *//* Page 52 from Psalms of my Life by Joseph Bayly.




Poetry in the Bible

- 
- Why such a large amount of poetry in the Bible?
 - “The Bible is an affective book that communicates much of its meaning by moving the feelings and the will of its readers.
 - Tremper Longman III A Literary Guide to the Bible. Page 81



Hebrew Poetry

- 
- See Handout Pages 1,2,3.
 - Hebrew Poetry: Redundancy was a literary form to be cultivated.
 - “Redundancy is the epitome of the finest speech.”
 - Page 200. Understanding and Applying the Bible.



Hebrew Poetry

- Besides parallelism:
 - Terseness-compact; it says a lot using a few words.
 - Uses few conjunctions and connectives though sometimes supplied in the English Text.
 - Ellipsis- dropping of a major element in the second line- usually the verb.
 - Blow the trumpet in Gibeah,
 - The horn in Ramah.



Hebrew Poetry




■ Terseness

- Imagery: “ an image not only triggers a train of thinking about a subject but also evokes an emotional response.”

(Complete literary Guide of the Bible)



Interpretation Helps


- 
- 1. Psalms are poetry. Musical poems.
Hebrew poetry is emotive.

Don't look for meanings in every phrase. (Hebrew parallelism)

Note the punctuation. See handout to show poetry and Parallelism in NRSV.




Interpretation Helps

- 
- 2. Psalms are musical poems designed to evoke feelings. We are to respond with our emotions not just our understanding.
 - Read "A Seminary Wife" Page 60.





Interpretation Helps

- 
- 3. The vocabulary is metaphorical.
Learn to listen and understand what the metaphors signify.
 - Example: Psalms 23^o "The Lord is my Shepherd."
 - The Lord is a sun and a shield.
 - Psalm 104:1-4 Psalm 102:3-8.




Interpretation Helps

- 
- 4. The Psalms as literature.
 - A. Types: there are several different types . Israel was familiar with these types. We need to understand the different types.
 - (we will cover the types of Psalms)




Do we have types of Hymns , Songs etc?

- 
- What do you think-
discuss among yourselves.
 - What types do you see ?




Modern types of Hymns, Songs

- 
- Hymns , Choruses,
 - Upbeat, joyful or pensive, quiet.
 - Fast tempo – slow tempo.
 - Me focused or God focused.



Psalms as literature

- 
- 2. Some types have a specific structure.
 - Lament Psalms have a certain elements.
 - Some Psalms can be acrostics. Psalm 119
 - 3. Each Psalm is a literary unit.
 - Though some groupings. Handout page 6




7 Main Types- Lament

- 1. **Laments:** the distress of our lives.
- The largest group. More than 60.
- Used to express struggles, suffering, and disappointment to God.
- Individual Laments:
3,22,31,39,42,57,71,120.139,142
- Corporate Laments: 12,44,80,94,137




Do we have Laments in the 21st Century?

- 
- Yes- but don't always end on the upbeat or a note of confidence as they do in the Psalms.




Structure of Laments

- 
- Invocation
 - Plea for help
 - Complaint(s)
 - Confession of sin or statement of innocence.
 - Cursing of enemies
 - Confidence in God's response.
 - Hymn or blessing.




Psalm 13

- 
- Play Psalm 13 by Shane Barnard and Shane Everett- CD title *Psalms*.
 - *Song #5 on the CD*




Psalm 13



■ How long , O Lord,
Will you forget me?
How long, O Lord will you hide?
Hide your face from me.
How long must I wrestle with me?
And everyday have sorrow in my heart?
Sorrow in my heart.




Psalm 13

- 
- Look on me, Lord, and answer me.
 - Give my eyes light or I will sleep in death,
 - I will sleep in death.
 - My enemies say, "I will overcome him"
 - And my foes rejoice even when I fall
 - I don't want to fall.




Psalm 13

- 
- For I will trust in Your unfailing love.
 - My heart rejoices in Your salvation.
 - I will sing of the Lord.
 - For He has, He has been good to me.




READ Psalm 13

- 
- Find structure of a Lament.
 - Invocation
 - Plea for help.
 - Complaints.
 - Confession of innocence or guilt.
 - Cursing of enemies.
 - Confidence of the Lord's response.
 - Hymn or blessing.



Main Types-Thanksgiving

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- **2.Thanksgiving:**the opposite of a Lament. An expression of joy because something has gone well. Example: deliverance.
 - Community-65,67,75,107,124,136
 - Individual-
18,30,32,34,40,66,92,116,118,138



Psalm 32

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- Play Psalm 32 by Nicholas Giaconia from the album Center of Earth.
 - Song #1 on Storyville CD.




Main Types- Hymns of Praise

- **3.Hymns of Praise:** these Psalms center on praising God for who He is: His greatness as creator (8,19,104,148) protector (66,100,111,114,149) and Lord of History (33,103,113,117 and 145-147)




Structure of Praise Psalms

- 
- Praise Psalms(Hymns) also have a structure:
 - Formal call to praise
 - A catalogue of praiseworthy acts and attributes of God,
 - Ending with praise and sometimes in a brief prayer.



Psalm 117

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- Play Psalm 117
 - Psalms tape-Side 1 – Song #1
 - Go over structure of praise Psalm.



Main Types- Psalms of Remembrance

- **4. Psalms of Remembrance and Salvation History.**
- These Psalms tell of God's saving works among the people of Israel, especially deliverance from Egypt.
- **78,105,106,135,146.**
- Read –Easter, page 40.



Main Types- Psalms of Celebration and Affirmation

- **5. Psalms of celebration and affirmation.**
- Covenant Renewal liturgies: 50,81
- Royal Psalms (Kingship)-
2,18,20,21,45,72,101,144
- Enthronement: 24,29,47,93,95-99
- Songs of Zion, Jerusalem:
46,48,76,84,87,122



Psalm 97

- 
- Reading from Michael W. Smith Worship CD.




Main Types- Wisdom

- **6. Wisdom Psalms-** these speak of the merits of living life wisely.
- Psalm
1,36,37,49,73,112,127,128,
 - 133.




Main Types- Trust and Confidence

- 
- **7. Psalms of Trust and Confidence:**
 - These Psalms affirm that God can be trusted even in times of despair
 - 11,16,23,27,62,63,91,121,125,**131**.




Subcategories

- 
- Imprecatory Psalms
 - Messianic Psalms
 - Psalms with Historic Settings in the Title
 - (See all these in handout page 6)




Imprecatory Psalms

- 
- Cries for justice and righteous vindication from God.
 - Imprecatory passion for justice not revenge.
 - Expression of outrage over what has occurred rather than actions that one actually wants done.




Imprecatory Psalms

- 
- They allow the Psalmist to express anger verbally rather than physically.
 - To reassure the Psalmist that God does care about justice.
 - A realistic recognition that right cannot triumph without the actual overthrow of evil and the punishment of evil.
 - Parallel idea: Rev. 6:10





Imprecatory Psalms

- 
- Psalm 69
 - Read : *Death of an 18 year old Son.*
 - Page 27.
 - Visual of Venting.




Authors

- 
- See handout page 5 for the list of Authors.
 - The preposition translated "of" can mean ; by ,of, about, and for.
 - 73 Psalms written about or for David is unlikely. But some could be.
 - "of"- authorship. Compare 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18.
 - Sweet Psalmist of Israel: RSV 2 Samuel 23:1



Titles in the Text

116 Psalms have Titles

- 
- Example: Psalm 56
 - See page 4 of handout
 - The Title gives: a. assignment (to the Leader or Choirmaster) b. musical instructions (according to The Dove on Far –off Terebinths) c. author (David) d. literary type(Miktam) e. Occasion for writing(when the Philistines seized him in Gath). Other examples 59,60




Titles of the Psalms

- 
- To the Choirmaster:
 - See I Chronicles 16:37-42




Information about the titles

- 
- All manuscripts contain the titles.
 - Not Textual evidence that Psalms ever lacked the titles.
 - In the Hebrew Text and sometimes the first verse.
 - In the Dead Sea Scroll and Septuagint.




Information about the titles

- 
- Jesus treated them as authentic.
 - Mark 12:35-37 quote of Psalm 110 and Jesus says that David is the author.




Information about the Titles

- 
- New Testament writers treated then as authentic:
 - Acts 2: 29 and Psalm 16
 - Acts 2:34 and Psalm 110
 - Acts 13:35-37 and Psalm 16




Information about the titles

- 
- Very detailed: Psalm 60 and Psalm 7.
 - Does this show that they were written by the author or that they were put in by an editor?
 - Used in more than one place.
 - 2 Samuel 22:2-51 and Psalm 18
 - I Chron. 16:35,36 and Psalm 106:47,48
 - 1 Chron. 16:8-22 and Psalm 105:1-15.




Information about the titles

- 
- Did the author actually write the title?
 - Psalms in first person and titles in 3rd person. Psalm 3,18,51.
 - Possible that author could write in 3rd person or put the titles later or an editor added them later.




Information about the Titles

- 
- Summary:
 - Some say that maybe they are not authentic(the author didn't actually write them) but they were added later.
 - But they are reliable and a part of the Canon.




Psalms: A Collection

- 
- 150 Psalms arranged into 5 books.
 - See page 8 of Handout
 - Psalm 90 written by Moses. Psalm 126 believed to be post exilic.
 - How did this collection come about?




How the collection came about

- 
- Evidence that when the Psalms were added they were not just appended at the end of the book.
 - See Example :Psalm 72:20 which states that this concludes the prayers of David the son of Jesse.
 - At one time this was a collection of just David's Psalms.




The book of Psalms

- 
- How did it become a book of the Bible?
 - How are our hymnals arranged?
 - Variety of authors
 - Editors
 - Done over a period of time/
 - Topical?
 - Liturgical?
 - By Author?




How the Collection came about

- 
- But Psalm 72 is not a Psalm of David but of Solomon. Also Psalm 42,44,45 and Psalm 50 are not Psalms of David.
 - And there are Psalms of David after Psalm 72. (86,101,103---etc.)
 - So- there were various collections prior to our final collection.




The Five Books

- 
- Why 5? To Parallel the Pentateuch?
 - Each book ends with a doxology and Amen.
 - The collection ends with Psalm 150 a long doxology.
 - Author of the last Psalm in each book may be the compiler.




How do we arrange Songs

- 
- What will future generations think of our outdated overhead boxes/
 - What will they think of our power point files?
 - Will our Psalms, Songs and Hymns be preserved??




Movement in the Collection

- 
- There is movement in the book from laments to hymns of Praise. The book ends in praise.
 - The overall mood is – Joy.



Use of the Psalms

- 
- Page 7 of the Handout
 - Up to date story; Psalm 141;9,10
 - Play Psalm 150- cassette tape.