



PSALMS

The Hymnal of Israel



Psalm Tidbits

- Timeless literary forms—lament , thanksgiving, praise, trust, wisdom, and more.
- Largest book in the Bible and most quoted book in the NT.
- All were written in Hebrew.
- Contain superscriptions or “titles.” While they may not have been part of the original text, they are reliable (Luke 20:42, Mat 22:41 cf Ps. 110).
- *Selah*—pause, crescendo, musical interlude
- They are Hebrew poetry



English vs. Hebrew Poetry

- Sound, rhythm and rhyme.

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair,

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Trees by Joyce Kilmer



Hebrew is Different

1. Rhythm of Thought (Parallelism)

- **Synonymous** (Ps. 1:2, 7:16; 15:1;19:1; 49:1; 51:3)
 - ✓ The heavens **declare** *the glory of God*;
 - ✓ The skies **proclaim** *the work of His hands* (Ps. 19:1)

- **Antithetical** (Ps. 1:6)
 - ✓ A wise son **makes** a *father glad*.
 - ✓ But a foolish son **is a grief** to his *mother*

- **Synthetical** (Ps. 3:4; 29:1; 95:3) (Prov. 10:1)
 - ✓ But To the **LORD I cry aloud**,
 - ✓ And *He answers* me from His holy mountain (Ps. 3:4)

- **Emblematic** (Ps. 42:1; 103:13)
 - ✓ As the deer **pants** for the water
 - ✓ So my soul **pants** for You, O God (Ps. 42:1)



Hebrew Poetry (cont.)

- Rhythm of Sound
 - a) Acrostic (Ps. 119, 145)
 - b) Alliteration (ps. 122:6) (Shalu Shelom Yerushalem Yisheli-u)
 - c) Assonance (Ps. 119:29)
 - d) Paranomasia (Is. 5:7)
 - e) Onomatopeia (Judg. 5:22; Ps. 81:7)
 - ✓ Hoof beats –DahRoath, DahRoath
 - ✓ Thunder –Ra-ahm, Ra-ahm



Psalm Basics

- Title
 - a. Hebrew: “tehillim”—Praises
 - b. LXX: “psalmoi” – “*songs accompanied by the plucking of strings.*”



Who Wrote 'em

- Authors
 - a. David (73)
 - b. Moses (1x—90)
 - c. Solomon (2x—71, 127)
 - d. Asaph (12x—50, 73-83)
 - e. The sons of Korah (10x—42, 44-49, 84, 85, 87)
 - f. Heman (1x—88)
 - g. Ethan (1x—89)



Psalms (cont.)

- Date: 1410bc (Ps. 90) → 450bc (ps. 126)
- Organization:
 - a. Book 1 (1—41)
 - b. Book 2 (42—72)
 - c. Book 3 (73—89)
 - d. Book 4 (90—106)
 - e. Book 5 (107—150)
- Each book ends with a *doxology*—a special song of praise to God.



Major Themes of Psalms

1. The Sovereign God (33, 105, 22, 2,++)
2. The People of God—the righteous; The Enemies of God—the wicked (1)
3. God's attributes known to people (loyalty, goodness, faithfulness, righteousness, compassion) (scripture reference everywhere).
4. Davidic Covenant (78, 89, 132).



Christ in the Psalms

- Luke 24:44.
- Psalms about/by the Messiah
 - a) Ps. 2:2-12 (cf. Acts 4:25-7; Acts 13:33; Heb 1:5, 5:5)
 - b) Ps. 22 (cf. Jn. 20:25, luke 23:27, Mt. 27:35, Mt. 27:46)
 - c) Ps. 45:6-7 (cf Heb. 1:8-9)
 - d) Ps. 69:9 (cf John 2:14-17) “Zeal for Your house..”
 - e) Ps. 69:21 (John 19:28) “I thirst.”
 - f) Ps. 110 (Jesus quotes this psalm several times (Matt. 22:41-45, Mark 12:35-37), Peter explicitly says it points to Jesus in his Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:32-36). Author of Hebrews do same in 1:13; 4:14-5:10, 7:11-28 does the same



Christ in the Psalm (Cont.)

- a) Ps. 31:5 (Luke 23:46) “..into Your hands I commit..”
- b) In Acts 2:22, Peter points to Psalm 16:10 to explain the resurrection.



So....

- What are YOUR favorite Psalms and why?



Next Week

- Proverbs