

### XIII. UNIT 13: “Psalmish 101” – The Psalter

#### I. “PSALMISH 101” – THE BOOK OF PSALMS

##### A. “Singing In The Dark” – Stumbling Over The Psalms

1. The Hebrew Psalter is *not* \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. Ancient near Eastern religious culture was saturated with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. A compilation of hymns, gods, and temples in Mesopotamia was done by an Akkadian high priestess before \_\_\_\_\_ day.
  - c. Paleographers have found anthologies, and individual \_\_\_\_\_ to specific deities and their temples, as well as to kings, etc.
  - d. ANE hymns frequently contained superscriptions concerning musical \_\_\_\_\_ and rituals.
  - e. The repetitive style of the Psalms is also a reflection of the \_\_\_\_\_ in which they were written (e.g., Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Sumer).
  - f. The \_\_\_\_\_ of imagery, structure, and content between pagan hymns and the Psalms is striking:

Hebrew Poetry	Sumerian Poetry	Egyptian Poetry
<p><i>“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.</i> <span style="float: right;"><b>Psalm 1:1-6</b></span></p>	<p><i>“The man who knows fear of god...days will be added to his days, the name he has will become greater... The man who does not fear the gods... his old age will not last long. His inheritance will not be dear to him.”</i></p>	<p><i>“[the silent man] he is like a tree grown in a meadow. It greens, it doubles its yield, it stands in the front of its Lord. Its fruit is sweet, its shade delightful, its end comes in the garden.... As for the heated man in the temple, he is like a tree growing indoors; a moment lasts its growth of shoots. Its end comes about in the woodshed.”</i> <b>The Instruction of Amenemope</b></p>

2. The Hebrew Psalter, is \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. No other ANE hymn literature compares in terms of the \_\_\_\_\_ of songs and internal organization.
  - b. The entire \_\_\_\_\_ is known as “Psalms.”
    - (1) Each unit is a “psalm,” not a “\_\_\_\_\_.” (e.g. “Psalm 23” not “Psalms 23”).
    - (2) Superscriptions provide \_\_\_\_\_ but not interpretation (Pss. 3,7,18,30,34,51,52,54,56, 57,59,60,63,142).
  - c. We must never forget that the Book of Psalms is \_\_\_\_\_ in every possible way.
    - (1) The Psalms’ theology is uncompromisingly monotheistic *and* \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., one God, one Temple, and one ritual).
    - (2) The *primary* purpose of the psalms was \_\_\_\_\_ praise, *not* private “worship” (the Hebrew title is, *cepher tēhillīm* - “book of praises”).

B. The “Books” *Within* The Book

1. Psalms is an \_\_\_\_\_, not a “book.”
2. It is the *only* anthology in a larger book that is *not* itself an anthology: \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It is comprised of five “Books” that are also \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. Book I .....Psalms 1 - 41
  - b. Book II .....Psalms 42 - 72
  - c. Book III.....Psalms 73 - 89
  - d. Book IV .....Psalms 90 - 106
  - e. Book V .....Psalms 107 - 150

C. The Book of Psalms had *multiple* \_\_\_\_\_:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – wrote 73 psalms
2. \_\_\_\_\_ – wrote 12 psalms (50, 73-83).
  - a. One of King David’s three chief musicians (1 Chron. 15:29-16:6).
  - b. His four sons conducted the massive chorus at the dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem during Solomon’s day (cf. 2 Chron. 20:5-19).
  - c. The “Sons of Asaph” formed a guild and played a prominent role during times of spiritual revival in Israel (cf. 1 Chron. 25:1).
3. The “Sons of \_\_\_\_\_” – wrote 11 psalms (42,44-49,84,85,88,89).
  - a. Korah, their ancestor, died in the wilderness after a rebellion against Moses (Num. 16).
  - b. Korah’s sons, however, did *not* die in the rebellion, and went on to become servants in the Temple (Num 26:11).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ – Psalms 72 and 127
5. \_\_\_\_\_ – Psalm 90
6. Heman the Ezrahite – Psalm 88 (there is much debate regarding this man’s ancestry; Levite vs. Judahite).
7. Ethan the Ezrahite – Psalm 89 (there is much debate regarding this man’s ancestry; Levite vs. Judahite).
8. Unknown authorship – \_\_\_\_\_ psalms

D. It was “\_\_\_\_\_” (not written), over about 1000 years (Exodus to Nehemiah).

1. David has at least two separate “\_\_\_\_\_” of psalms (3-41 and 51-72).
  - a. Psalms 3-41 – “Yahweh” occurs \_\_\_\_\_ and “Elohim” occurs \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Psalms 52-72 – “Yahweh” occurs \_\_\_\_\_ and “Elohim” occurs \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Psalm 14 and Psalm 53 are “\_\_\_\_\_” except for the names of God used.
2. It was a “worship \_\_\_\_\_” on some occasions (David’s dedicatory prayer in 1 Chron 16:8-36 is taken from Pss. 105:1-15; 96:1-13; 106:1, 47-48).
3. The “Songs of Ascent” (Pss. 120-134) were specifically for pilgrims coming to Jerusalem who would be “\_\_\_\_\_” the city and Temple mount.
4. The “\_\_\_\_\_ Psalms” (Pss. 113-118) were sung during Israel’s high holy days. (E.g. Passover, Tabernacles, Pentecost, Dedication).
5. Our present Book of Psalms most likely came into its present form around the \_\_\_\_\_ century B.C.

E. The Book Above All Books

1. Psalms is a book that speaks *for* us \_\_\_\_\_ God, instead of speaking *to* us \_\_\_\_\_ God, like the rest of Scripture:

*“Here, for the most part, we find people addressing God in various ways—complaint in situations of distress and perplexity, thanksgiving in moods of liberation and joy, and hymnic praise in times of rejoicing in the goodness and wonder of God’s creation and providential care. In this sense, the Psalms may speak ‘for’ us by expressing the whole gamut of human responses to God’s reality in our midst and thereby teaching us how to pray with others in the various times of our lives.”*

**Bernard W. Anderson, *Out of the Depths*, p. ix**

2. It reflects the hearts of \_\_\_\_\_ in a covenant relationship with Yahweh. (There are over 2,400 references to “I, me, my, mine” as opposed to 350 for “we, us, our.”)
3. But, its real focus is on \_\_\_\_\_, *not* on \_\_\_\_\_. (There are over 1200 references to Him in this book).
4. It was (and is!) primarily the “hymnal” of the \_\_\_\_\_ community, and only secondarily a \_\_\_\_\_ “prayer book” (cf. 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
5. It is the most extensive “teaching tool” on \_\_\_\_\_ in existence!

F. Learning “Psalmish” — Figures of Speech and the Psalms

1. Figures That Compare

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ - an *explicit* comparison that uses the words, “like” or “as”:

*“He shall be like a tree planted by rivers of waters.” (Psalm 1:3)*

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ - an *implicit* comparison in which one thing is said to be or to be represented by another:

*“The LORD is my shepherd.” (Psalm 23:1)*

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ comparison - similar to a metaphor, except the subject is not stated, and must be *inferred*. This figure requires care to determine the subjects before the interpretation:

*“Dogs have surrounded me.” (Psalm 22:17)*

- d. \_\_\_\_\_ - the attribution of human characteristics to non-human things (ideas, inanimate objects, even animals):

*“Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)*

- e. \_\_\_\_\_ - God is described in terms associated with humans. This is done to communicate some truth *about* God, not to actually describe what He is like (E.g. His “eyes” refer to His attentiveness, etc.):

*“Hide your face from my sins.” (Psalm 51:11 [9])*

- f. \_\_\_\_\_ - God is described in terms associated with animals or parts of animals. The intention here is the same as that of the personification:

*“In the shadow of your wings I used to rejoice.” (Psalm 63:8)*

2. Figures that Involve Substitution

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ - a whole is substituted for a part or a part for the whole.

*“I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.” (Psalm 44:7 [6])*

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ - uses the opposite “ends” of something to represent everything in between:

*“If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.”*  
**(Psalm 139:8)**

3. Figures Involving Addition or Amplification

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ - the repetition of an idea in the next line through contrast, completion or continuation:

*"Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!"*

(Ps. 81:13)

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ - repetition of the same or successive letters at the beginning of words or clauses. (Psalm 119 is the best example of this literary device. Its 176 verses are comprised of twenty-two 8-verse stanzas, each line of which begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet of 22 letters. E.g. vv. 1-8 all begin with the letter, "aleph," vv. 9-16 begin with "beth" and so on.)

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ - a literary unit (stanza, etc.) begins and ends with the same or similar word, phrase. It serves to "frame" the words in between and reiterates the theme of the section:

*"O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!"* (Ps. 8: 1 and 9)

- d. \_\_\_\_\_ - deliberate exaggeration to emphasize a point. More is actually said than is really meant.

*"I am worn out from groaning; all night long I make my bed swim with weeping and drench my couch with tears."* [Ps. 6:6]

G. Psalms and the New Testament

- Next to \_\_\_\_\_, Psalms is the most-quoted OT book in our New Testaments (approximately \_\_\_\_\_ direct quotes or allusions in 17 NT books!).
  - There are \_\_\_\_\_ references/allusions to the Psalms in the Gospels.
  - There are \_\_\_\_\_ in Revelation.
  - There are \_\_\_\_\_ in Hebrews
  - There are \_\_\_\_\_ in Romans
  - There are \_\_\_\_\_ in Acts
  - \_\_\_\_\_ quotes/alludes to Psalms the most (34x compared to Paul, 32x)
- Jesus specifically said that the Psalms spoke about \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 24:44).
- Jesus quoted Psalm \_\_\_\_\_ just before He breathed His last breath. (cf. Ps. 22:1 and Matt. 27:46)

H. Psalms and the Christian

- The Psalms contain virtually every human \_\_\_\_\_. There will never come a time when the Psalms do not minister to us.
- It is worth noting that the "petitions" within the Psalms are strangely \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to material wants and needs.
- Even the "lament" psalms make up the largest portion of the Psalter, they invariably conclude with \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ psalms can be an excellent form of private worship.
- In the face of the current "worship movement," we would do well to look to the Psalms for our \_\_\_\_\_ and our \_\_\_\_\_ of worship.

I. PSALMS: Key Information

- Key Word:** " \_\_\_\_\_ " (166x).
- Key Idea:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Book Summary:** Israel's Temple \_\_\_\_\_

## - THE BOOK OF PSALMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT -

*Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything written about me** in the Law of Moses and the Prophets **and the Psalms** must be fulfilled." [Luke 24:44]*

Psalm	NT Citation	Psalm	NT Citation
2:1, 2	<i>Acts 4:25, 26</i>	37:11a	<i>Matthew 5:5</i>
2:7	<i>Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5 ; 5:5</i>	38:11	<i>Luke 23:49</i>
2:8, 9	<i>Revelation 2:26, 27; 12:5; 19:15</i>	40:6-8	<i>Hebrews 10:5-7</i>
4:4	<i>Ephesians 4:26</i>	41:9	<i>John 13:18</i>
5:9	<i>Romans 3:13</i>	41:13	<i>Luke 1:68</i>
6:3a	<i>John 12:27</i>	42:5	<i>Matthew 26:38; Mark 14:34</i>
6:8	<i>Matthew 7:23; Luke 13:27</i>	44:22	<i>Romans 8:36</i>
8:2	<i>Matthew 21:16</i>	45:6, 7	<i>Hebrews 1:8, 9</i>
8:4-6	<i>Hebrews 2:6-8</i>	48:2	<i>Matthew 5:35</i>
8:6	<i>1 Corinthians 15:27; Ephesians 1:22</i>	51:4	<i>Romans 3:4</i>
10:7	<i>Romans 3:14</i>	53:1-3	<i>Romans 3:10-12</i>
14:1c, 2b, 3	<i>Romans 3:10-12</i>	55:22	<i>1 Peter 5:7</i>
16:8-11	<i>Acts 2:25-28</i>	62:12	<i>Matthew 16:27; Romans 2:6</i>
16:10b	<i>Acts 13:35</i>	68:18	<i>Ephesians 4:8</i>
18:2b	<i>Hebrews 2:13</i>	69:4	<i>John 15:25</i>
18:49	<i>Romans 15:9</i>	69:9a	<i>John 2:17</i>
19:4	<i>Romans 10:18</i>	69:9b	<i>Romans 15:3</i>
22:1	<i>Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34</i>	69:21	<i>Matthew 27:34, 48; Mark 15:36; Luke 23:36; John 19:28, 29</i>
22:7	<i>Matthew 27:39; Mark 15:29; Luke 23:35</i>	69:22, 23	<i>Romans 11:9, 10</i>
22:8	<i>Matthew 27:43</i>	69:25	<i>Acts 1:20</i>
22:18	<i>John 19:24; cf. Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34</i>	72:18	<i>Luke 1:68</i>
22:22	<i>Hebrews 2:12</i>	78:2	<i>Matthew 13:35</i>
24:1	<i>1 Corinthians 10:26 [28]</i>	78:24	<i>John 6:31</i>
31:5a	<i>Luke 23:46</i>	82:6	<i>John 10:34</i>
32:1, 2	<i>Romans 4:7, 8</i>	86:9	<i>Revelation 15:4</i>
34:8	<i>1 Peter 2:3</i>	88:8	<i>Luke 23:49</i>
34:12-16	<i>1 Peter 3:10-12</i>	89:10	<i>Luke 1:51</i>
34:20	<i>John 19:36</i>	89:20	<i>Acts 13:22</i>
35:19b	<i>John 15:25</i>	90:4	<i>2 Peter 3:8</i>
36:1b	<i>Romans 3:18</i>	91:11, 12	<i>Matthew 4:6; Luke 4:10, 11</i>

# G E T T I N G   T H E   B I G   P I C T U R E

Psalm	NT Citation	Psalm	NT Citation
91:13	<i>Luke 10:19</i>	110:1	<i>Matthew 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42, 43; Acts 2:34, 35; Hebrews 1:13. Cf. Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; 16:19; Luke 22:69; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12, 13; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22</i>
94:11	<i>1 Corinthians 3:20</i>	110:4	<i>Hebrews 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21</i>
94:14	<i>Romans 11:1, 2</i>	111:9a	<i>Luke 1:68</i>
95:7-11	<i>Hebrews 3:7-11, 15, 18; 4:1, 3, 5, 7</i>	111:9c	<i>Luke 1:49</i>
97:7	<i>Hebrews 1:6</i>	112:9	<i>2 Corinthians 9:9</i>
98:3	<i>Luke 1:54</i>	116:10	<i>2 Corinthians 4:13</i>
102:25-27	<i>Hebrews 1:10-12</i>	117:1	<i>Romans 15:11</i>
103:17	<i>Luke 1:50</i>	118:6	<i>Hebrews 13:6</i>
104:4	<i>Hebrews 1:7</i>	118:22, 23	<i>Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10, 11; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:4, 7</i>
105:8, 9	<i>Luke 1:72, 73</i>	118:25, 26	<i>Matthew 21:9; 23:39; Mark 11:9; Luke 13:35; 19:38; John 12:13</i>
106:10	<i>Luke 1:71</i>	132:5	<i>Acts 7:46</i>
106:45	<i>Luke 1:72</i>	132:11	<i>Acts 2:30</i>
106:48	<i>Luke 1:68</i>	132:17	<i>Luke 1:69</i>
107:9	<i>Luke 1:53</i>	135:14a	<i>Hebrews 10:30</i>
109:8	<i>Acts 1:20</i>	140:3b	<i>Romans 3:13</i>
109:25	<i>Matthew 27:39</i>	143:2b	<i>Romans 3:20</i>

Copied from the appendix in A. F. Kirkpatrick, *The Book of Psalms*, The Cambridge Bible; Cambridge University Press, 1902; (found online at: <http://www.jesuswalk.com/psalms/psalms-NT-quotations.htm>); Only direct citations are listed. Allusions and indirect references are not.