

"Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs"

Wednesday Evening Adult Class by Ray Reynolds (November 6, 2013)

Introduction: **The Story** has led us through life of David and we are about to transition into the life of Solomon. However, before we move further into the kings of Israel, I thought it would be fitting to study the writings of David....specifically the psalms. Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. Why Should We Study the Old Testament?

- A. The OT is valuable to a Christian (**Romans 15:4, I Corinthians 10:11, II Peter 1:19-21**).
- B. The OT is valuable to a child (**II Timothy 3:14-17, Deuteronomy 4:9-10, Proverbs 22:6**).
- C. The OT is valuable to a congregation (**Psalms 119:160, Acts 20:27, I Thessalonians 2:13**).

II. Why Should We Study the Psalms?

- A. The church is commanded to sing the psalms (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, James 5:13**).
- B. The church desires to sing praise to God (**Isaiah 42:10, Jeremiah 20:13**).
- C. The church needs to sing about Jesus (**Luke 24:44-47, Acts 2:25-28, 34-35**).

III. What Can We Learn From Hebrew Poetry?

- A. Progressive Parallelism (**Psalms 1:1, 29:1**)
- B. Antithetic Parallelism (**Psalms 1:6, 115:5-7**)
- C. Synonymous Parallelism (**Psalms 2:4, 7:16, 24:2**)
- D. Acrostic Parallelism (**Psalms 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, 145**)
- E. Emblematic Parallelism (**Psalms 18:31, 23:1-4, 51:4, 57:1**)
- F. Synthetic Parallelism (**Psalms 23:1, 119:11**)
- G. Introverted Parallelism (**Psalms 51:3, 91:14**)
- H. Cadence/Responsive Readings (**Psalms 136**)

IV. How Can We Divide the Psalms?

- A. 5 Distinct Books
 - The Genesis Book = Concerning Man (**Psalms 1-41**)
 - The Exodus Book = Concerning Israel (**Psalms 42-72**)
 - The Leviticus Book = Concerning Worship (**Psalms 73-89**)
 - The Numbers Book = Concerning Nations & The Earth (**Psalms 90-106**)
 - The Deuteronomy Book = Concerning the Word of God (**Psalms 107-150**)
- B. Several Chief Groups
 - **Didactic** - Psalms of teaching and instruction (**Psalms 1**).
 - **Messianic** - Psalms pertaining to the coming Messiah (**Psalms 2, 110**).
 - **Ethical** - Psalms that teach moral principles (**Psalms 15**).
 - **Repentant** - Psalms that express sorrow for sin (**Psalms 51**).
 - **Imprecatory** - Psalms that invoke God to bring punishment (**Psalms 69**).
 - **Thanksgiving** - Psalms of grateful praise to Jehovah (**Psalms 100**).
 - **Suffering** - Psalms that cry out in affliction (**Psalms 102**).
 - **Hallelujah** - Psalms of praise (**Psalms 103**).
 - **Historical** - Psalms that review the history of God's people (**Psalms 106**).
 - **Meditation** - Psalms that give the spirit expression (**Psalms 119**).
 - **Acrostic** - Psalms that follow Alphabetic patterns (**Psalms 119**).
 - **Songs of Ascent** - Psalms sung on the way to worship (**Psalms 120-134**).
 - **Praise and Devotion** - Psalms of joyful praise (**Psalms 148**).

V. **Who Wrote the Psalms?**

- 73 = David - **Psalms 3-9, 11-32, 34-41, 51-66, 68-70, 86, 101, 103, 108-110, 122, 124, 131, 138-145** *David wrote nearly half the book of psalms.*
- 50 = Anonymous - **Psalms 1, 2, 10, 33, 43, 66-67, 71, 91-94, 96-100, 102, 104-107, 111-121, 123, 125-126, 128-130, 132, 134-137, 146-150**
- 12 = Asaph - **Psalms 50, 73-83** *Asaph was the music director during the reigns of David and Solomon (I Chronicles 16:1-7).*
- 10 = Korah - **Psalms 42, 44-49, 84-85, 87-88** *These were Levites who served in the Temple (I Chronicles 26:1-19). They are credited with 10-12 psalms.*
- 2 = Solomon - **Psalms 72, 127** *He actually wrote many more psalms (I Kings 4:29-32).*
- 1 = Heman - **Psalm 88** *He was a contemporary with David and Asaph (I Chronicles 6:33).*
- 1 = Ethan - **Psalms 89** *He was a companion with Asaph and Heman (I Chronicles 15:19).*
- 1 = Moses - **Psalms 90** *He wrote other psalms (Exodus 15:1-15, Deuteronomy 32, 33).*

VI. **How Can We Apply the Psalms?**

A. The Intent of the Psalm

The Greek word is "psalmos," from the Hebrew word "zmr" meaning "to pluck."
 In NT worship, we pluck the heart strings (**Ephesians 5:19, I Corinthians 14:15**).

B. The Intent of the Psalmist

- Are you interested in the Messianic kingdom? Read **Psalms 2, 16, 22, 40, 45, 72, 110**
- Are you looking for encouragement during your morning prayers? - Read **Psalms 5, 94, 95**
- Are you looking for encouragement during your evening prayers? - Read **Psalms 4, 90, 139, 141**
- Are you being falsely accused? Read **Psalm 7**
- Are you curious about the glory of God? Read **Psalms 8, 139**
- Are you seeking wisdom about the righteous and the wicked? Read **Psalms 15, 25, 32, 34, 36, 37, 52, 127, 128**
- Are you amazed by the magnificence of the Scriptures? Read **Psalms 19, 119**
- Are you ready to pray for others? Read **Psalm 20**
- Are you finding it difficult to focus during the Lord's Supper? Read **Psalm 22**
- Are you in need of guidance? Read **Psalms 23**
- Are you steadfast in times of distress, and want encouragement? Read **Psalms 27, 31**
- Are you seeking God's mercy in adverse circumstances? Read **Psalms 34, 40**
- Are you struggling with the futility of this life? Read **Psalms 39, 49, 90**
- Are you finding it difficult to focus during the Sunday collection? Read **Psalms 41, 112**
- Are you wishing for God's blessings? Read **Psalm 46, 48, 66, 67**
- Are you remorseful and penitent for your sins? Read **Psalms 51, 32**
- Are you in trouble? Read **Psalms 54, 63**
- Are you wanting courage and confidence? Read **Psalms 61, 91**
- Are you seeking to meditate on the power of God? Read **Psalms 65, 66, 97, 99, 104, 111**
- Are you under significant mental stress? Read **Psalms 70**
- Are you envious of the wicked? Read **Psalm 73**
- Are you fascinated by the history of Israel? Read **Psalms 78, 105, 106**
- Are you forgetting your responsibilities? Read **Psalms 82, 101**
- Are you seeking a deeper personal devotion to God? - Read **Psalm 91, 103, 104, 138, 146**
- Are you eager to prepare yourself for corporate worship? - Read **Psalms 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 122, 133, 134, 145, 147, 148**
- Are you ready to meditate on the characteristics of God? Read **103, 121, 145, 146**
- Are you being tempted? Read **Psalm 130**
- Are you lacking in humility? Read **Psalm 131**

Conclusion: The psalms may have started as a means of expression, but now they are a significant part of the Bible. They can enhance our walk with God. They are a part of God's story.