

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - October 13, 2022

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Title: Introduction To The Book of Psalms - Part II

I. Introduction

A. Thank you for sharing in our previous study when the Book of Psalms was introduced. We will continue our study here in Part II but first, let's review for just a little while some things that were covered previously.

B. It has been and continues to be my experience as both a student and an instructor, that repetition reinforces what was previously taught and it is also a great aid to memorization.

C. Let's start with this: There are Five Books or Five Divisions of the Book of Psalms, and they are numbered as follows:

Book I - 1 - 41

Book II - 42 - 72

Book III - 73 - 89

Book IV - 90 - 106

Book V - 107 - 150

D. We also covered in Part I of our study, the oldest of the Psalms and its author. What is the Psalm and who was its author? Record your response on the lines provided! _____

E. Thank you and now let's continue on with Part II of our study.

II. Specific Uses and Purposes of Psalms

A. I want to provide you with the functions of psalms in seven broad categories. This will be just a summary and later in this lesson (and follow-on lessons), we will dive a little deeper into the uses and purposes of the psalms.

B. Here are the Seven Broad Categories of Psalms:

1. **Doxological** - to praise the Lord our God for who He is and what He has done and is doing.
2. **Devotional** - to help us meditate upon the greatness, glory, goodness, and grace of God and to encourage us to make all of our needs and problems known to Him.
3. **Liturgical** - to provide a pattern for worship and vocabulary for praying, praising, and giving thanks to the Lord as a corporate group.
4. **Theological** - to teach us more about the nature of God and His ways, especially concerning His Saving Plan and purpose for us.
5. **Confessional** - to give us appropriate words with which we can publicly confess our sins before God as well as profess our faith both to and about Him.
6. **Evangelical** - to witness concerning the Lord of the Holy Scriptures to those from among all nations whom He has called, together with us, to be members of the holy fellowship of believers.

7. **Relational** - to establish and maintain communication between us and God in all the high and low points of life, including catastrophes and crises.

C. Thus, the Psalter (i.e., the entire Book of Psalms) provides a psalm for every occasion. God intends that it serves this purpose for those of every language and culture.

III. Categorizing The Psalms According to Genre

Definition: The term **genre** (pronounced "Jaan-ruh") means "class" or "type." In the context of our lesson, it refers to a group of oral or written texts that are similar to one another in some recognizable ways, whether with respect to form, content, function, or usage.

//Please stay with; there is more to follow, and I'll do my best to make it plain.//

A. We will now consider how the different psalms of the Psalter were typically used in the worship life of God's people. We will examine their principal communicative functions and religious purposes, based on a study of their overall content, style, and manner of structural organization.

B. Although the psalms differ from each other in various ways, they have several major features of structure and style in common.

C. There are certain variations in the style in which they are written (form), in what they say (content), and also in the purpose or occasion for which they were written (function).

D. In this study, we will look at the classification of the psalms

according to their literary genre. For example, songs of praise, songs of petition, songs of thanksgiving, and so forth.

E. As to the different purposes for which the psalms were written, we can see that there are three main ones for which people speak to God (addressing Him in the second person as "You"): to convey (1) petition, (2) thanksgiving, or (3) praise.

F. In **petition**, an individual or the entire community of believers asks God for help in a time of need.

G. In **thanksgiving**, they gratefully and joyfully respond to something specific that the Lord in His mercy has already done.

H. In **praise**, they worship and glorify God for His greatness and goodness as manifested either to humanity as a whole (e.g., the wonders of His creation) or to His chosen people in particular (e.g., His constant protection and provision).

I. There are certain other psalms that are used to speak, **not** to God, but about God, that is, in the third person. These may be divided into psalms that teach people godly wisdom and psalms of trust, in which believers profess their faith in God - who He is and what He may be expected to do for them.

J. All together, there are five major functions of the psalms: **petition, thanksgiving, praise, instruction, and profession of trust.**

K. Additionally, there are another five minor functions which are also, important. They are called "**minor**" because a passage with such a function occurs as a part of a psalm that is classified first as having one of the major functions. //Please stay with me.//

L. The five minor functions are **repentance, remembrance,**

retribution, royalty, and liturgy. Usually, these particular communicative intentions are expressed only by a few verses within a psalm.

Note: You will be responsible for knowing this information on the Final Exam!! ((I'm just kidding.)) But I do want you to know this information, because it will enrich your study and meditation time.))

There is much, much more that I desire to share with you concerning the Book of Psalms (i.e., The Psalter). My prayer is that these study sessions are a blessing to you and will help to kindle a deeper desire within you, to learn more about the beauty, hope, joy, and comfort contained in the Word of God.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. As usual, each passage has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

" _____ is the man that _____ not in the counsel of the _____, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor _____ in the seat of the _____. But his _____ is in the law of the Lord; and in his _____ doth he _____ day and night."

[Psalm 1:1-2]

" I _____ unto the Lord with my _____, and he _____ me out of his _____. Selah, I laid me down and _____; I _____; for the Lord _____ me."

[Psalm 3:4-5]

"O Lord our Lord, how _____ is thy name in all the _____!
Who hast set thy _____ above the _____. Out of the mouth of
_____ and _____ hast thou ordained strength because of
thine _____, that thou mightiest still the _____ and the
_____."

[Psalm 8:1-2]

"I will _____ thee, O Lord, with my _____; I will shew
forth all thy _____ works. I will be _____ and _____ in
thee: I will sing _____ to thy name, O thou most _____."

[Psalm 9:1-2]

"If the _____ be _____, what can the
_____ do? The Lord is in his _____ temple, the
Lord's _____ is in heaven: his eyes _____, his _____ try,
the _____ of men."

[Psalm 11:3-4]

"Thou wilt shew me the _____ of _____: in thy _____ is
_____ of joy; at thy _____ hand there are _____
for evermore."

[Psalm 16:11]

"Now know I that the Lord _____ his _____; he will _____ him from his holy _____ with the _____ strength of his right hand. Some _____ in chariots; and some in _____; but we will _____ the name of the Lord our God."

[Psalm 20:6-7]

"Oh that men would _____ the Lord for his _____, and for his _____ works to the children of men! And let them _____ the _____ of thanksgiving, and declare his works with _____."

[Psalm 107:21-22]

Thank you so much for joining in another Bible Study session my prayer is that you have been blessed.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin