

PSALMS

Old Testament Survey Series – Study # 23 & 24

Psalms – the songbook of ancient Israel
150 poems, songs and prayers from Hebrew
religious life and worship

- The Psalms give us insight into Israelite worship.
- The Psalms deal with every aspect of Hebrew life.

The Use of Parallelism

Parallelism – at least two parallel lines of verse, each complementing the other(s) in some way

1. Synonymous parallelism – the second line repeats the same idea as the first line using similar terminology – Psalm 19:1
2. Antithetic (contrastive) parallelism – the second line stands in sharp contrast to the first – Psalm 1:6
3. Synthetic (developmental) parallelism – the second line develops further the idea of the first – Psalm 1:3; Psalm 2:6

Types of Psalms

1. Imprecatory Psalms
Call on God to judge His enemies or the enemies of God's people – Psalm 137
Application: We can, and should, express our frustration, fear and anger to God.

Application: We should leave the punishment of injustice and evil in God's hands (or the hands of those God has put in authority). – Romans 12:18-21; Romans 13:1-5

2. Royal Psalms

Focus on the Israel's _____, especially as the son of David and as God's chosen man to rule His people – Psalm 2

3. Messianic Psalms

Describe the Messiah ("_____ one") – Psalm 22

Application: We should _____ in God's plans for the future; He will make _____ right!

4. Wisdom Psalms

General observations about _____ and the way _____ intends it to be – Psalm 1, 73

Application: God knows what is _____ and we should _____ out His instruction and be thankful for His blessings.

5. Celebrations of God's law

Speaks of the _____ of the Torah (the Law of Moses) and helps worshipers to aspire to _____ it more fully – Psalm 119

Application: God's word reveals His _____ and brings blessing to those who _____ by it.

6. Penitential Psalms

Individual or corporate confession and repentance to express sorrow for _____ and appeal to God for _____ – Psalm 38, 51

Application: God will forgive us of _____ sin if we repent and ask Him for forgiveness.

7. Lament Psalms

They lay a _____ situation before the Lord, asking Him for _____ – Psalm 3

- Statement of lament
- Statement of _____ in God
- Affirmation of _____ to God

Application: We can bring _____ to God in prayer.

Application: In the midst of difficulty, call out to God, putting your _____ in His desire and ability to help.

Application: Thank and praise God for His _____ and deliverance.

8. Hymns of praise or thanksgiving

Individual or corporate _____ to God – Psalm 150

- For Who He _____
- For what He has _____

Application: God deserves _____ praise for Who He is and what He has done.

Application: Praise and thank God _____!