

Outlines - Psalms

Intro: Tonight we're in the 19th book of the bible...the book of Psalms

A. It's collection of a 150 Hebrew poems and prayers:

1. *David -73*
2. *Asaph - 12*
3. *Son's of Korah -11*
4. *Heman & Ethan - 2*
5. *Solomon & Moses - 3*
6. *Unknown - 49*
7. *Originally written for a choir but sometime after the exile they were intentionally arranged into the book of Psalms as we know it*

B. The book of Psalms is the most quoted book of the Old Testament - *I believe there are just over 280 Old Testament quotations in the New Testament...Of those 280+ Old Testament quotes found in the New Testament...116 of them are from the book of Psalms.*

This is how we're gonna look at Psalm tonight:

- A. *The outline and theme of the book of Psalms*
- B. *The emotion of the Psalms*

I. The outline and theme of the book of Psalms

- A. *Now at first glance The book of psalms seems arranged at random... but with a closer look you start to see clues that tell a different story*
- B. **Look at the last 5 psalms (146 -150)** *They are all songs of praise which all end with "Praise the Lord" thats a really nice arrangement and it looks like someone has arranged these books as a **conclusion***

1. **So this invites the question...praise the lord for what?** - what theme runs through the entire book of psalms that should produce in us thanksgiving and praise?

C. The Book of Psalms is broken into 5 books

1. Book 1 - Chapters 3-41
2. Book 2 - Chapters 42 - 72
3. Book 3 - Chapters 73 - 89
4. Book 4 - Chapter 90-106
5. Book 5 - Chapters 107-145

(1) All of these books have a very similar ending that essentially looks like an editorial edition that joins one to the next...

(2) **Book 1** Psalm 41:13 (ESV) ¹³ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen

(3) **Book 2** Psalm 72:18–19 (ESV) ¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. ¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

(4) **Book 3** Psalm 89:52 (ESV) ⁵² Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen.

(5) **Book 4** Psalm 106:48 (ESV) ⁴⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!

(6) **Book 5** Psalm 145:21 (ESV) ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

So we have a conclusion...we have an internal organization...Do we have an intro?

Psalm 1 - 2 Give the intro and the running theme through the whole book of Psalms "the two blessed's"

These 2 psalms stand outside of book 1 because most of book 1 psalms belong to David...but these first 2 are unanimous

Psalm 1 give us the first "blessed"

*Psalm 1:1–6 (ESV) **1 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; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ 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.***

Psalm 1 gives us the first half of the theme "Blessed is the man or women who meditate and delight in the law of the Lord"

6. The "law" is all Scripture, to "meditate" is to think out its implications for all life, and to "delight" in it means not merely to comply but to love what God commands.

a) **App** - To know how to meditate on and delight in the Bible is the secret to a relationship with God and to life itself.

(1) Views contrary to God's Word are no anchor in time of need. God's Word gives us the resilience of a tree with a source of living water that will never dry up.

Psalm 2 give us the 2nd "blessed"

Psalm 2 (ESV)¹ Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us burst their

bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,⁶ “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”⁷ **I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”**¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.¹¹ Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

Here’s the other half of the running theme in the book of psalms...Blessed are those who place their hope in the coming messianic King

So here’s the running theme in the book of psalms - It’s a book for God’s people that calls us to be faithful to the Law of the Lord, and to set our hope upon the returning King

1. **App:** Think about how relevant that is for today - Each day the media highlights new things to be afraid of and new reasons why obedience to God shackles us
 - a) but In reality...there’s great freedom in knowing who’s really in charge and that He’s coming to make things right
 - b) Those people and forces that appear to rule the world are all under his Lordship, and one day they will know it....God still reigns, and we can take refuge in him from all our fears. So to be intimidated by the world (Psalm 2) is as spiritually fatal as being overly attracted to it (Psalm 1)

So here are the 2 big themes that run through the book of psalms from beginning to end...A call to trust in the Law of the Lord and to hope in the future coming king...and we can trace that all the way to the end of the book

Book 1

Psalm 15-24 Revisits these 2 themes...

A. Chapter 15 - Call to faithfulness

B. Chapter 16-18 Tells about David's past deliverance and elevation as king and Chapter **20-23** speaks about a future king's deliverance and reign over all the earth...

C. Chapter 19 is all about the Law of the Lord - Psalm 19:7-14 (ESV)

*⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, **reviving the soul**; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, **enlightening the eyes**; ⁹ the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.*

D. In the first few verses of this Chapter we read about the non verbal way creation communicates to us the glory of God...but, Nature tells us about God's reality and power but not about his the most beautiful part of Him...His saving grace

a) Only the Bible can enlighten the spiritually blind and "refresh the soul.

(1) Since the Hebrew word for "soul" means one's psyche or self, the Bible has the power to show and restore your true identity.

(2) **Here's the thing** - For the Bible to do all this, you must accept that it is perfectly true and trustworthy in all its parts (verses 7-9).

So here we have these 2 themes of Love for God's word...and hope in God's king..

Book 2

We see this theme in Book 2 opening and in it's close

A. It open's with Chapters 42-43 - *Which are united in their to return Home to Jerusalem to the temple to worship which is grounded in the hope for a new king...*

B. It ends with Chapter 72 - *Psalm 72 (ESV) Of Solomon. ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! ² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! ³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! ⁵ May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!*

1. This speaks his King's good government - *if you have experienced life in a country in which the state is corrupt and the rule of law has failed can you appreciate the blessing of good government.*

a) *The great king depicted here brings social justice to the poor and marginalized (verses 2–4). The economy thrives because of good stewardship of assets and the deep trust among people that is necessary for commerce (verses 3 and 6–7). God is a God who is deeply concerned about these things. But the heading says this is a psalm “of Solomon,” and even he, David's son, became an oppressor of his people (1 Kings 12:4).*

So the psalm provokes us to long for a better king than the best government has ever provided.

C. ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! ⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! ¹² For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

1. This speaks of the how the king will bring healing to the nations - The races and nations—always at war with one another—now offer themselves in service (verses 10–11), not because they have been conquered but rather because they have been attracted like a magnet by the perfect justice and compassion of this king (verses 12–14).

a) No earthly king has ever been like this. This healing of racial strife and the elimination of poverty and injustice are the marks of God's kingdom, but governments, even the best ones, don't come close. Yet when Jesus was born, gifts were offered from afar (Matthew 2:1–12), and when the church was established, the races began to be unified (Ephesians 2:11–22) and the needy helped (Acts 2:44–45, 4:32–36).

D. ¹⁵ Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day! ¹⁶ May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field! ¹⁷ May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed! ¹⁸ Blessed be

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the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. ¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! ²⁰ The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

1. *This speaks of THE TRUE KING'S REIGN - This king's reign is endless (verse 5) and boundless (verse 8), but was that just ancient hyperbole?*
 - a) *No. Here the claims could not possibly be said of any earthly king. The image of full harvests on the tops of hills and mountains, where soil cannot support such growth (verse 16), indicates a supernaturally renewed world.*
 - b) ***This king can only be Jesus.*** *Putting ourselves under his reign brings supernatural life and growth now and Christ will eventually heal and unite everything (Colossians 1:15–20; Romans 8:18–21). **All the old legends of a great king returning to put all things right find their fulfillment in him.***
 - c) ***This psalm is also amazing because it echoes the words of the prophets Isa 11,45, 60 and Zach 9***

Book 3

This book also concludes with with a psalm hoping the coming king, but its in the wake of Israel's rebellion and exile, and and it ends a plea from the author

A. Psalm 89:49 (ESV) ⁴⁹ Lord, where is your steadfast love of old, which by your faithfulness you swore to David?

1. *What faithfulness did God promise? - That a king would come from David's line and restore all things including Israel...*

Book 4

*This book continues this theme in **chapters 93-99** with a collection of poems that describe creation waited with great anticipating for the return of the king to the earth*

A. Psalm 99:1–5 (ESV) ¹ The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! ² The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he! ⁴ The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. ⁵ Exalt the Lord our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

- 1. To say “God is holy” means to recognize he unlike anyone or anything else...He’s completely different...Just unlike anyone ever seen, in authority unlike anyone has ever seen..*

Book 5

*A. **Chapters 107-110** Are a series of poems that affirm that God will send a messianic King that will defeat Evil and usher in God’s kingdom*

*B. **Chapters 113-132** Is a section that is bracketed by 2 different sets of songs*

- 1. **The Songs of Hallel - 113-118** - The Psalms contain three collections titled Hallel, with Psalms 113-118 known as the Egyptian Hallel, mainly because of their connection with Passover celebrations, commemorating Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. The Psalms of the Egyptian Hallel were sung as part of the Passover ceremony, with 113-114 sung before the meal and 115-118 after.*
- 2. **The Songs of Ascent- 120-136** - Four of these songs are attributed to King David (122, 124, 131, 133) and one to Solomon*

(127), while the remaining ten are anonymous. The city of Jerusalem is situated on a high hill. Jews traveling to Jerusalem for one of the three main annual Jewish festivals traditionally sang these songs on the “ascent” or the uphill road to the city. According to some traditions, the Jewish priests also sang some of these Songs of Ascent as they walked up the steps to the temple in Jerusalem

- a) Now what's interesting about these psalms is that both of them end with a looking forward to a future exodus when God redeems his people
- 3. **In between those books is Psalm 119** - It's the longest poem, and it's an alphabet poem each line begins with a new letter from the Hebrew alphabet and it speaks of the wonder and blessing of God's law
 - a) **So here's the first big purpose for the book of psalm** - It was to serve as a prayer book for the people...as they hold on to the word of God, and Hope in the Son of God
 - (1) We're called to do the same thing...Stay faithful to word...always anticipating the return of David's king

II. The emotion of the Psalms

Someone wisely said “*the psalms is where theology meets human experience*”...understand there is not one emotion that you're experiencing tonight that you won't find in the book of psalms...joy, sorrow, desperation, anger, feelings of vengeance, praise, thankfulness

- A. The reason they cover the full spectrum of emotion is because of the circumstances some of these psalms were penned...

3 Examples of this before we close...

B. Psalm 3 - was written when David was fleeing from his own son Absalom, when Absalom was plotting to take the throne (in 2nd Samuel 15).

1. *Psalm 3:1–8 (ESV)* ¹ O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; ² many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.” *Selah* ³ But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. ⁴ I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. *Selah* ⁵ I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. ⁶ I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. ⁷ Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. ⁸ Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people *Selah*
2. David’s son Absalom was trying to kill him. The seeds of that family dysfunction are David’s own fault...now’s he’s fleeing from his life
 - a) *In Prayer He’s realized that the love of a son and popular acclaim have essentially done nothing for him...so he says “God...your my glory and my protector...you sustain my every breath”*

C. Psalm 34 - was written after – faltering in faith and massive fear

1. *Psalm 34:1–10 (ESV)* ¹ I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² **My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.** ³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! ⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

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- a) *This psalm was penned when David was a fugitive on there run from Saul at this time he had plenty of things to fear but he see how he turned that around*
 - b) *He Built this identity (makes its “boast) — not from your accomplishments or racial identity or talent or moral efforts or family but from God (verse 2).*
 - c) **Here’s the point:** *Then and only then is the foundation of your self-worth secure and not subject to fears or shame (verse 5).*
- D. Psalm 51** – *was written after moral failure on the deepest level - adultery and then murder to cover up your adultery*
1. *Psalm 51:1–4 (ESV) **1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;** according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. **2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!** **3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.** **4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.***
 - a) **David’s confession to God is radical and intense:** *“Against you, you only, have I sinned” (verse 4). How can he say that when he has killed someone?*
 - b) **It is because sin is like treason.** *If you try to overthrow your own country you may harm or kill individuals in the process, but you will be tried for treason because you have betrayed the entire country that nurtured you. So every sin is cosmic treason—it is overthrowing the rule of the one to whom you owe everything.”*
 2. *Psalm 51:5–9 (ESV) **5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.** **6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.** **7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and***

*I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.***

- a) *David in verse 1&9 asks God to pardon his sin...why? because sin creates a record...How can that record be clean?*
 - b) **Here's the question: How, can God blot out David's sin without striking him dead?** *Only in the New Testament do we learn what it cost Jesus to "cancel the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us" (Colossians 2:14)*
3. *Psalm 51:10–13 (ESV) ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*
- a) *Guys, this is a prayer we should pray often... "Restore to me the joy of your salvation"*
 - (1) *The Bible commands us to rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4:4). This is a command not simply to have an emotion but to remind ourselves in such a disciplined way about all we have in Christ that the greatness of it breaks in on our hearts.*
 - (2) **Think about it like this:** *It is a sin to be less than joyful at what God has done in our lives. Furthermore, we cannot minister to others except out of our own joy. Our words will be hard, harsh, indifferent, or absent unless we are overflowing with the joy of knowing that we are God's precious possessions, bought at great cost*

Conclusion

The psalms weren't written by a songwriter in Nashville...they weren't written by a seminary student in a classroom talking theology; they're written by who were broken and realizing that their only hope was God!

- E. The psalms were written to remind us to be diligent in the God's law...Hope in his return...and to take our full spectrum of emotions to him...*