



Psalms

The Praises of Gods King

GOSPEL GROWTH | OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY |
MAY 3 2020 – JONATHAN JARRETT

“The Book of Psalms is a prayer and praise book of God’s Son and God’s people.”

“I have been accustomed to call this book... ‘An Anatomy of all the Parts of the Soul’; for there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont to be agitated.”

- John Calvin, Comm. P. xxxvii

6 Questions to Answer

- What are the Psalms?
- Who wrote the Psalms, and when?
- How are the Psalms structured?
- What are the different kinds of Psalms?
- How do the Psalms point to Jesus,
- How do we read the Psalms as Christians?

What are the Psalms?

The Book of Psalms is a collection of 150 musical poems and prayers with different human authors and in different literary forms.

- All were written in Hebrew
- Some have unfamiliar words that appear, like *Selah*, are probably notes for musical or worship direction.
- Many of them have introductory notes, which we can treat as reliable.
- Many of the psalms were composed for and sung on special occasions. For example, at least five psalms (2, 21, 72, 101, and 110) were created for the coronation of the king.
- Some of the Psalms appear linked to historical events. For example, fourteen psalms are linked to historical episodes in the life of David (Psalms 3, 7, 18, 30, 34, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, and 142)

Proverbs 22:17
“A merry heart does good like medicine”

English Poetry vs. Hebrew Poetry

English poetry works through sound, rhythm and rhyme.

Hebrew poetry uses *parallelism* to either reinforce, contrast or develop and expand an idea.

Hebrews poetry translates well

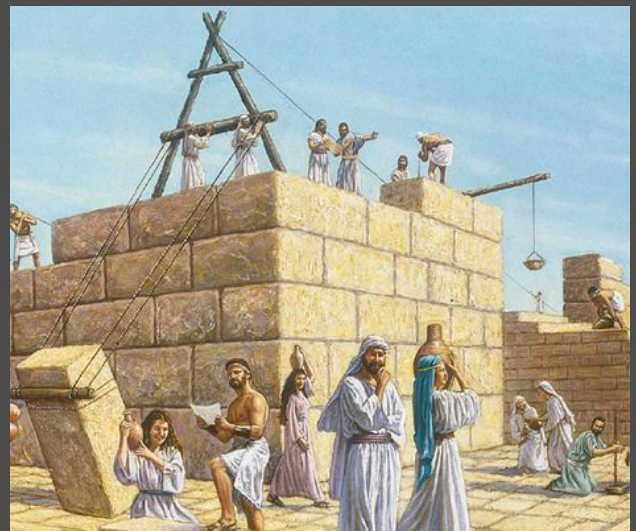
Who wrote the Psalms and when?

The psalms were written by many different people over a long period. In fact, it's likely that they were written over a span of more than 1,000 years before the collection was complete.

Authors include, Azra, the Sons of Korah and Asaph (worship leaders), Solomon, who wrote Psalm 72, and David, who wrote 73 of them. We don't know for sure, but we wonder if perhaps Ezra compiled and organized the Psalms in their present form for use in the rebuilt Temple

Who compiled the Psalms?

We're not totally sure, but many believe it may have been Ezra that organized and compiled the Psalms the way we have them today for use in the rebuilt temple.



How are the Psalms structured?

The psalms are divided into five books. Each book concludes with a doxology - a special song of praise to God, except for Book 5 which ends with not one but five doxologies. And that likely serves as a climax to the whole collection of Psalms, not just book 5.

Book 1 includes Psalms 1-41

Mostly Psalm by David (30 of them), and have messianic as well as eschatological references to the Messiah's ultimate reign.

Book 2 includes Psalms 42-72

Generally speaking, these are Psalms of Great Comfort

Book 3 includes Psalms 73-89

When the evil triumph, God's purpose prevails

Book 4 includes Psalms 90-106

Divine kingship over human kingdoms

Book 5 includes 107-150

Let everything praise God!

What Are the Different Kinds of Psalms?

The psalms were written by many different people over a long period. In fact, it's likely that they were written over a span of more than 1,000 years before the collection was complete.

Psalms of Lament:

Individual: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 22, 25, 26, 27: 7-14, 28, 31, 35, 36 (mixed), 38, 39, 40:12-17, 41, 42, 43, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 64, 69, 70, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 108, 109, 120, 130, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143

Community: 12, 44, 58, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, 90, 94, 123, 126, 129, 137

Psalms of Thanksgiving:

18, 30, 32, 34, 40:1-11, 65, 66:13-20, 67, 75, 92, 107, 116, 118, 124, 138

Psalms of Praise (Hymn):

8, 19:1-6, 29, 33, 36 (mixed), 66:1-12, 78, 103, 104, 105, 106, 111, 113, 114, 117, 135, 136, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

Enthronement Psalms:

47, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, Royal Psalms: 2, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144

Royal Psalms:

2, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144

Psalms of Zion:

46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 122,

Psalms of Wisdom:

36 (mixed), 37, 49, 73, 112, 127, 128, 133

Psalms of Trust:

11, 16, 23, 27: 1-6, 62, 63, 91, 121, 125, 131

Liturgies:

15, 24, 50, 68, 81, 82, 115, 134

Torah Psalms:

1, 19:7-14, 119

How do the Psalms point to Jesus?

Psalms *about* the Messiah

The Psalms about the Messiah are pretty easy to spot. Psalm after Psalm focuses our attention on the great and glorious king of Israel, so great and glorious, in fact, that they must be prophetic.

Psalms *by* the Messiah

There's a sense in which we read the Psalms as if they were by the Messiah, and here especially we find ourselves drawn into a broad range of human experience and emotion.

- Jesus clears the temple (John 2:14-17) because, quoting from Psalm 69:9, “Zeal for your house consumes me.”
- Jesus goes to his death (John 15:25) because, quoting from Psalm 35:19 and 69:4, “They hated me without reason.”
- And describing his own heart's turmoil (John 12:27), Jesus quotes David in Psalm 6:3-4.
- A number of Jesus' last words are taken from the Psalms: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:45; Psalm 22:1); “I thirst” (John 19:28; Psalm 69:21); “Into your hands I commit my Spirit” (Luke 23:46; Psalm 31:5).

How do we read the Psalms as Christians?

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur dolor te diam wisi nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet.

1. We read them with sensitivity to the Psalm type, original Old Testament meaning, and its location in the canon.
2. We read them (selectively) as the songs of the perfect God-fearing man-the Messiah
3. We read them for ourselves through the Mediator

Conclusion

So being sensitive to context, we can understand the Psalms as both an amazing model of prayer for us and as a giant arrow pointing to Christ. They draw us to true worship.

Additional Resources and Credits

This lesson adapted from Capitol Hill Baptist's [Core Seminars, Class 12: Psalms How Should Christians respond to imprecatory psalms?](#)
Mark Dever, [The Message of Psalms \(sermon\)](#)

Proverbs

Insight for godly living

GOSPEL GROWTH | OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY |
MAY 3 2020 – JONATHAN JARRETT

In today's class we'll consider what proverbs are and aren't, a method for interpreting this genre of Scripture, and themes that pervade the entire book. Most important we'll see that the Book of Proverbs, unlike the short quips I just mentioned, points us to something far greater than advice for living a better life today. They point us to the true Wisdom that is found only in Jesus Christ.

4 Questions to Answer

- What are proverbs?
- How do we interpret them?
- What are the main themes?
- Where is Jesus in Proverbs?

Context & Outline

Context

- Most of the Proverbs were written by King Solomon
- The first nine chapters are written by Solomon to his son
- Proverbs is wisdom from a man who has lived life, seen much of the world and now wants to pass on what he has learned.
- Redemptive-historical context: Proverbs doesn't really move the storyline of God's plan of salvation forward. It instead typifies the wisdom a king needs to rule over God's people.

Outline/Overview

Central Theme:

Wisdom is fearing the Lord, being teachable, and having skill in godly living. The source, the means, and the goal of wisdom is the Lord.

Fearing the Lord: Living life in relation to who he really is

Being teachable: Wisdom isn't just about what you know; it's about your humility in continuing to learn

Skill in godly living: Wisdom is knowledge in action

God is the source of wisdom, the means to get wisdom, and the goal of wisdom (knowing him)

A Study Outline for the Proverbs

- I. Proverbs 1-9 – Solomon's wisdom for the young man
- II. Proverbs 10-29 – Solomon's independent Proverbs
 - a. Chapters 10-24: The proverbs of Solomon
 - b. Chapters 25-29: The proverbs of Solomon, collected by Hezekiah
- III. Proverbs 30-31 – Non-Solomonic Proverbs
 - a. Chapter 30: The words of Agur
 - b. Chapter 31: The words of Lemuel's, which his mother taught him

What are the Proverbs?

Proverbs are general principles and observations seen in the created order by those who fear the Lord.

Most proverbs are generally true. Some proverbs are always true.

Don't try make generally true proverbs universally true.

How do we interpret Proverbs?

Here are a few steps to guide you in interpreting proverbs:

- 1. Determine the parallels**
In Proverbs, parallels are typically contrasts
- 2. Identify any figures of speech**
Checking multiple translations can help
- 3. Summarize what the proverb says in your own words.**
- 4. Consider how to apply this to your life**

What are the main themes?

*There are a lot of themes in the book: the fear of the Lord, the power of the tongue, what makes a godly woman, what it means to truly live life, how to get wisdom, receiving instruction, the sovereignty of God, honesty, marriage, sex, family, work, economics, generosity, friendship, and on and on. **But above all this is one central them of wisdom.***

Where is Christ in Proverbs?

The Proverbs describe the beauty of Jesus

In Matthew 12:42 Jesus said he is greater than Solomon in all his wisdom. No one understood this world like Jesus did. No one took advantage of opportunity like Jesus did. No one spoke wiser words than Jesus. No one resisted temptation like Jesus. We can read the Proverbs to study the magnificence of his wisdom.

The Proverbs show us our need for Jesus

If your self-righteousness seems especially hard-hearted, you might find the Proverbs to soften it as you see the foolishness of your own living.

“Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:20-24

Conclusion

The Proverbs are rich and full of wisdom. Read them slowly, and read them contemplatively. And by all means, strive to apply them, and so understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Parents, teach your children the Proverbs. Much of the wisdom in the first 9 chapters is prefaced with “My son, hear...,” or “My son, listen...” The book of Proverbs is sort of like a training manual for parents. The Proverbs are a great resource for you to use to shape your kids into godly men and women. Then they too will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. And as you teach them the Proverbs, teach them that Jesus is the true wisdom of God!

Additional Resources and Credits

This lesson was adapted from Capitol Hill Baptist’s Core Seminary Series, [Old Testament Survey: Proverbs](#)

[The Gospel Project: Proverbs](#)

[The Best Discoveries Begin as Problems](#)