

Sermon, June 12, 2011
“Psalms – The Songbook of God”, Colossians 3:14-17
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The Books of Poetry and Wisdom¹

- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon are regarded as books of poetry; Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes are also books of wisdom.
- Job: cosmic struggle between the Lord and angelic enemies
- Psalms: the full range of emotions
- Proverbs: a father’s and mother’s wisdom sayings to their son
- Ecclesiastes: musings about the human condition
- Song of Solomon: love song of a bride and groom

Overview of Psalms:

- 150 Psalms (songs), with 2641 verses,
- Psalm were written over many hundreds of years period from 1,400-500 bc
- From Moses in Psalm 90 through the many Psalms of David, some by Solomon, sons of Korah, sons of Asaph, Ethan, some without designated authorship
- These “songs” of prayer and praise were used in Temple worship and synagogues...
- For many years the only songs that were sung in Protestant churches were the Psalms in accapella
- **Overall Outline Job²:**
Psalms is so diverse that it is difficult to pin down a good outline. There is arguably no identifiable thematic structure neatly arranged. However a basic outline generally subdivides the Book of Psalms into five sections:
 - I. 1-41: Mankind
 - II. 42-72: Israel
 - III. 73-89 The Sanctuary
 - IV. 90-106 The Earth
 - V. 107-150 The Word of God

Major Themes of Psalms:

- The down to earth life living day to day, intertwined with the heavenly focus we are called to.
- The full range of human emotions; complaints, prayer, praise, despair, hope, hate, love, etc...
- Gives us the full relationship with God in all of life.
- The sovereignty of God and human responsibility
- Martin Luther called the Psalms a little Bible, and the summary of the Old Testament.
- The Messiah

Psalms is filled with so many lessons and sermons on various and diverse theological topics, but most important, the, the Psalms speak of Christ, the Messiah, Jesus

- **Luke 24:44** ⁴⁴ *Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*
 - The Psalms sing of the Messiah...the One who restores your relationship with God.
 - They look forward to His coming, his suffering, His glory...He is the object of worship, our King, whom we rest our confidence on, and look to Him as the embodiment of God’s wisdom.
1. **The coming Messiah, “the LORD’s anointed” starts in Psalm 1 and 2...**
- **Psalm 1:5 -6** ⁵ *Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.* ⁶ *For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*
 - There is an assembly which we stand and God will judge who stands there
 - The battle of obedience and disobedience to God...who can save us?

¹ Mears, H., “What the Bible is All About”, p.182

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- **Psalm 2:2** ² *The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.*
 - There is a savior, the messiah, the LORD’s anointed
 - Many will take their stand in life only to find there is but one stand (position, choice, lifestyle, worldview) that leads to life eternal
- **Psalm 2:6-7** ⁶ *“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”* ⁷ *I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.*
 - It is in God’s plan
 - The second person of the Trinity revealed, the son of God

2. The Messiah mission is revealed in greater detail.

- **Psalm 22:** speaks of the suffering, praise, and prosperity of the Messiah
- **Psalm 23:** portrays Messiah as Shepherd of His people
- **Psalm 24:** shows Messiah as the King of Glory

3. Jumping way ahead to Psalm 110 and the announcement of Messiah’s reign

- **Psalm 110:1** *The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”*
- The majesty of Messiah, the great High Priest and King who will judge the nations,
- Quoted in the New Testament in Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews; in Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Corinthians

4. Psalm 119 meditations on the excellencies of the Word of God...

- The largest Psalm; a section for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, 176 verses
- The entire Psalm is about the Word of God
- **Psalm 119:1-6** *How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD. ² How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart. ³ They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways. ⁴ You have ordained Your precepts, That we should keep them diligently. ⁵ Oh that my ways may be established To keep Your statutes! ⁶ Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Your commandments.*
- **Psalm 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.*
- The Word is important to know
- the Word made flesh in Messiah to come

5. Psalm 118 cries out of the salvation God provides in Psalm 118:19-29

¹⁹ *Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.*

²⁰ *This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.*

²¹ *I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.*

²² *The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.*

²³ *This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.*

²⁴ *This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

²⁵ *Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!*

²⁶ *Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.*

²⁷ *The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.*

²⁸ *You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.*

²⁹ *O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.*

Conclusion: Jesus sums up the importance of the Book of Psalms ...

Luke 24:44 ⁴⁴ *Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”*

- **God’s Songbook is indeed a book about life, life everlasting**
- ***The Psalms sing of the Messiah...the One who restores your relationship with God.***