

Overview of the Psalms

Augustine says of these divisions that, He admits that “the arrangement of the Psalms ... seems to me to contain the secret of a mighty mystery” which “hath not yet been revealed unto me.” Because his generation has “not as yet pierced with the eye of our mind the depth of their entire arrangement,”

Psalm Books 1&2

- Chapters 1-72
- The historical life of David
 - 55 of the 72 are all from David
- 72:20 says, The prayers of David son of Jesse are concluded.”

Psalm Book 3

- Chapters 73-89
- The life of the Kings from David’s line and the Exile
 - 79:1 the Temple seems to be destroyed.
 - 89:1-37 speaks of the promises made to David and God’s faithfulness, but verse 38 shifts.
 - 38-45 seems to speak of the exile having happened.
 - But verse 46 shows hope
 - How long Oh Lord.
 - Looking forward to keeping promises of David
 - Ends in praise

Psalm Book 4

- Chapters 90-106
- In Exile, Turn to the Torah, Crying to Return
 - 90 - A Recalling of Moses
 - Only two times when God is asked to relent
 - Exodus 32 - Golden Calf
 - Numbers 13-14 - Refusal to go into the Land
 - 90:13 - Return, have pity / same Hebrew word, relent.
- Return
 - 106:47 - Gather us from the nations.

Psalm Book 5

- Chapters 107-150
- Return & Prophetic Praise
 - 107:2-3 - They have returned
 - 108 - Prophetic Praise
 - David takes two psalms from his life, 57 & 60 of praise and put them together to make a new psalm
 - David uses this psalm to say that what was true of God in my life before, will be true in the ages to come.
 - 108:7-9 speaks of the retaking of land and portioning it out like a new conquest
 - This doesn't happen in the return from Babylon, so it seems there will be a day in the future David thinks that God will recapture all the land that once was his.
 - 109: Imprecatory psalm about an enemy of David, and enemy of God's anointed.
 - This could be an enemy of David personally, or it could be a prophetic psalm about an enemy that would come against the coming king in David's line.
 - Because this psalm is quoted as speaking about Judas in Acts 1.
 - 110: The Coming King
 - This is speaking about the coming King.

- Heb 5 speaks about Jesus being from the order of Melchizedek, no one else.
- 111-118: Hallel Psalms / Ushering in the New King
 - Hallel - Praise or Hallelujah
 - Calling up praise for this new King
- 118:19: Here comes the new king into the city of Jerusalem.
- 119: established the law, in the place of God and in the people of God.
- 120-135: Psalms of Accent
 - Call to focus on this king, the Lord.
- 135:14 is a quote of Deuteronomy 32:36,
 - Going to the promised land and Moses knows they are going to turn to idols and be judged and sent to exile, but assures them of this promise.
 - How will he do this?
- 136: By his covenant love.
- 137-145 are the final Davidic psalms
- 146-150 are building psalms of Praise for the Lord

The shape of the psalms is the shape of the Story of God's salvation in history past and in the coming future.

Reminds us of God's acts in history and looks forward to his acts to come.

If we know the psalms we will love what God loves and hate what God hates, we will have a biblical worldview and have deep hope in the Lord.

Psalm 110

V. 1-3: The Reign of Christ

- My Lord - Jesus, or a coming King David knew was promised.
- Right hand is a position of authority
- Enemies footstool - resurrection
 - Acts 2:34-36 & Heb 1:13 quote verse 1
- Verse 2: The LORD grants full authority to rule over enemies
 - Powers, spirits, etc.
 - Death-
 - 1 Cor 15:25-27 - For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet."
- Verse 3: Christ's people are committed to him
 - 360 Million living in persecuted areas
 - 5,898 Christians were killed for their faith last year
 - 5110 churches attacked
 - 6175 believers detained, arrested or imprisoned without trial
 - 3829 Christians abducted
- Why so committed
 - Have holy garments
 - Forgiven
 - Ps 103:11-12 - For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- "Womb of the morning / Dew of your youth"
 - The renewed strength of this king
 - The ongoing steadfastness of the king

V. 4: The Redemption of Christ

- Two offices become one / Priest and King
 - Intercedes and rules in one person
- Priest of Melchizedek

- Genesis 14:18-20
- King of Salem - which would later become Jerusalem
- And Priest of God
- Before the Levitical priests
- Name means King of righteousness / King of peace (salem)
- He is a priest without beginning and without end.
- The Lord has sworn, will not change his mind
 - Yahweh was committed to send this king priest
 - Genesis 3:15

V. 5-7: The Return of Christ

- Right Hand of God
- Acts 2:33
 - Being therefore exalted at the right hand of, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.
- Shatter Kings
 - No presidents, kings, prime ministers, czars, only Jesus
- Execute Judgment
 - All the evil that has gone on will go punished unless Jesus has taken their punishment.
- Shatter Chief - head
 - Some scholars say this could be referencing Gen 3:15
- Drink from the brook
 - Again another refrain about the renewed strength and steadfastness of this king.

Points of Application

- Our Father is committed to our salvation
 - Lord will not change his mind
- Because he saves we should serve
 - Eph 2 - Workmanship created for good works
- We have a powerful king and savior

Psalm 111

Declaration of Praise v. 1

- Whole Heart - Similar to David in 108 / Whole Being
 - Praise in the congregation
 - Purpose of congregational singing - singing over each other.

Praise for His Works & Word v. 2-9

- V. 2 Why praise? God's works
 - Studied - we need to know what God has done, will do.
 - Teach your children and grandchildren Deut 6
- V. 3 Full of splendor and Majesty, Righteous in all works
 - God is so different from man in this regard to works.
- 4-7a A Recast the Exodus
 - Works remembered - Passover
 - Provides food - Provision in the wilderness
 - Shown power of his works - red sea, exodus, provision, plagues.
 - Inheritance - promised land.
 - Remember the works of God in your life.
 - Tell them often to lots of people.
 - Works of his Hands faithful and just
- 7b-9 - The Lord's Word
 - Shift to the word of the Lord from His works.
 - Precepts - instructions
 - Trustworthy, established forever, in faithfulness and uprightness
 - He is the creator. All that he tells us corresponds to truth and reality.
 - 9- Provided redemption for his people - Jesus
 - Exodus & Exile
 - Luke 1:67 / Zechariah's vision

Praise for His Wisdom v. 10

- Fear of the Lord
 - To accurately know who you are and who God is.
 - This brings wisdom, humility, etc
- Understanding
 - Our wisdom, in so far as it ought to be deemed true and solid Wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. - Calvin
- IF we have this wisdom, we can always say, the last phrase.

Points of Application

- Look back to look forward in God's Works
 - Faithful then, faithful later
- Share God's Works with others
 - Children and grandchildren
- God's instruction is true because he is Creator
 - Corresponds to reality
- Understand who we are in light of who God is.
 - True wisdom

Bibliography

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Tony Merida, *Christ Centered Exposition, Psalms*.

Steven Lawson, Holman Old Testament Commentary, *Psalms 76-150*.

James Hamilton lecture, link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PBNJeATVI8&t=3869s>