

Psalms – The Emotions

Introduction

(Ps 119:1-8)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greetings...
2. New Series of Lessons on "Psalms – The Emotions."
 - a. Our great and awesome God created us in "His Image."
 - i. **Gn 1:27** "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."¹
 - b. Part of this is our emotional make up.
 - i. We like our Father are emotional.
 - ii. We, like our Father, are joyful, upset, angry, and happy.
 1. The difference between our emotions and God's is the ability to always keep them in check.
 - c. This is where the Psalms come in.
 - i. They teach us how to use our emotions in a proper manner.
 1. This is the avenue we will look at over a number of Sundays to come.
 - ii. They show us how to properly handle, to name a few...
 1. Joy **Ps 33**
 2. Loneliness **Ps 22**
 3. Fear **Ps 55**
 - d. Today however I wanted to make sure we have a good solid background of this most magnificent book.
3. Let us now look at this most amazing collection of psalms.

I. Psalms – The History

A. Date

1. It was compiled about the 10th century BC.
 - i. The oldest of the psalms originated from Moses from which we have three different psalms.
 - ii. His first recorded would have been around 1400 B.C.
 - a. **Ps 90**
2. The psalms, as a writing format, had their ups and downs.
 - i. In David's day they were at its peak time.
 - a. 1000 BC
 - ii. With Solomon they tapered off.
 - a. His was a time of proverbs.
 - iii. Only two other times do the psalms as a writing style make a comeback.
 - a. Under Jehoshaphat 875 BC
 - b. Under Hezekiah 725 BC

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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B. Authors

1. David:
 - i. Is the one most people think of writing all the psalms but this is not the case.
 - ii. He wrote 73 psalms which is less than half of all the psalms.
2. Asaph:
 - i. He was the music director during David's reign.
 - ii. He wrote 12 psalms.
3. The Sons of Korah:
 - i. They were Levites who served in the Temple.
 - ii. They wrote 12 psalms.
4. Solomon:
 - i. The son of David and third king of Israel.
 - ii. He has 2 psalms attributed to him.
 - a. He wrote many more though we have no way of knowing if these made it into this collection.
 1. **I Ki 4:29-32**
5. Moses:
 - i. He wrote the earliest of the recorded psalms.
 - ii. He wrote 3 psalms.
6. Heman:
 - i. He was a contemporary with David & Asaph, and known as "the singing."
 - ii. He wrote 1 psalm (**Ps 88**) that has been preserved.
7. Ethan:
 - i. A companion with Asaph and Heman in the Temple worship.
 - ii. He wrote one psalm (**Ps 89**).

C. Style

1. The psalms are Hebrew poetry or "thought rhyme."
 - i. "Also known as "**parallelism**," thought rhyme involves arranging thoughts in relation to each other. This is done without a concern as to whether certain words rhyme with each other (as found in most modern poetry)." (The Book of Psalms "Introduction To The Psalms" by Copeland, Mark)
2. There are several different types of "thought rhyme" incorporated in the book of Psalms.
 - i. Synonymous Parallelism
 - a. The thought of the first line is repeated in the second line but with different words for emphasis.
 1. **Ps 24:2** "for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers."
 - ii. Antithetical Parallelism
 - a. The truth of the first line is strengthened by contrasting statement of the second line.
 1. **Ps 1:6** "for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

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iii. Progressive Parallelism

- a. There are several variants to this, two of the are...
 1. Stair-like – Composed of several lines, each providing a complete element of the total thought.
 - i. **Ps 1:1** "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. Climatic – The thought in the first line is repeated but expanded to complete the thought.
 - i. **Ps 29:1** "Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength."

iv. Introverted Parallelism

- a. The first line is closely related to the fourth line while the second and third lines are closely related.
 1. **Ps 91:14** "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name."

D. Thus...

1. What ones finds in the Psalms is a depth and complexity that is rivaled by none; yet a simplicity as well that makes it one of the most popular of all the books of the Bible.

II. Psalms - Why Study Them

- A. It is the Christians "hymnal" to assist us in our praise to God
 1. **Ep 5:19** "addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart"
 2. **Co 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
 3. **Ja 5:13** "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms." (NKJV)
- B. It is the Christians "prayer book" where we can learn how to approach God in prayer
 1. In joy
 - i. **Ps 133**
 2. In fear
 - i. **Ps 55**
- C. It is the Christians "book of evidences" which strengthens our faith in Jesus
 1. Jesus is the Christ
 - i. **Lk 24:44** "...These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

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- ii. **Ac 2:25-28** "For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'
 - a. **Ps 16:8-11**
- 2. Jesus is the son of David
 - i. **Ps 132:11** "The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne."
- D. It is the Christian's "training guide" for living holy and righteous lives
 - 1. **Ps 5:8** "Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me."

CONCLUSION

1. Richard H. Schmidt wrote, "According to Benedict's scheme, the community reads through... the entire book of Psalms every week. The monks are therefore exposed... to all the despairing, doubtful, bitter, vindictive, jingoistic, nationalistic, and seemingly racist passages in the Psalter. It is not that every sentiment expressed by a psalmist is admirable, but that in praying the Psalms, we confront ourselves as we really are. The Psalms are a reality check to keep prayer from becoming sentimental, superficial, or detached from the real world." (<http://goo.gl/zkyzg>)
2. Question: Are you using the book of Psalms as an assist in your walk with God?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**