

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 40 Psalms

Tuesday Night Bible Study, December 29, 2009

--HEBREW POETRY...

- in Hebrew poetry, the focus is on parallel thought rather than rhyme.
- the Psalms give us a personal perspective on life in Israel; they show us the outpouring of people's hearts in a wide spectrum of life experiences.

--CLASSIFICATION OF PSALMS:

	BOOK I	BOOK II	BOOK III	BOOK IV	BOOK V
Total	41 psalms	31 psalms	17 psalms	17 psalms	44 psalms
Chapters	1-41	42-72	73-89	90-106	107-150
primary author	David	David, sons of Korah	Asaph	Anonymous	David
probable stages of collection	original collection by David	added during reign of Hezekiah and Josiah		Misc collections compiled during time of Ezra and Nehemiah	

--primary authors: David, Korah, sons of Asaph

--Asaph was a Levite who became a popular musician and was appointed by David to preside over the musicians (essentially a worship team) in the temple. Later he was seen as a prophet (2 Chronicles 29:30)

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- the sons of Korah were apparently descendants of Korah, but their exact identity is unknown.
- these may have been written during the Babylonian captivity to serve as an encouragement and comfort.

--**10 thematic categories:** historical, messianic, penitential, praise, didactic, nature, pilgrimage, imprecatory, supplication.

--**critical thinking question:** after reading through examples of these different categories of Psalms in the Bible, think about what a book of psalms from your life might look like - the full spectrum of your experiences in the journey of the Christian life...

--historical...reflecting on specific ways how God has worked in your life through the years.

--penitential... reflection on when you have poured out your heart to God in times when you stumbled and messed up in life.

--praise... spiritual high points in life where your heart is filled with sublime praise to God

--messianic... moments when you are taking up your cross and following Christ, walking in His footsteps and being a reflection of Him to others.

--didactic... reflection on lessons you've learned and could share with others.

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--nature... seeing God's glory in nature... a glorious sunset, a rainbow, any awe-inspiring scene in nature.

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--ex: **Psalm 51**: David pouring out his heart to God after his sin with Bathsheeba

--praise psalms

--ex: **Psalm 106**

--didactic psalms (instruction)

--ex: **Psalm 1**: contrast between godly and ungodly

The Godly man (1:1-3)	The Ungodly Man (1:4-6)
Description	Illustration – "like the chaff"
Illustration – "like a tree"	Explanation

--nature psalms

--ex: **Psalm 19**: general revelation about God through nature and special revelation about God through His Word.

--ex: **Psalm 8**

--pilgrimage psalms

--ex: **Psalms 120-134** were probably a group of psalms used by Jews during their pilgrimage to Jerusalem during the annual festivals, such as the Passover.

--imprecatory psalms (about God's judgement on the unsaved)

--ex: **Psalm 52**

--supplication psalms (crying out to God for personal help or to help others)

--ex: **Psalm 5**

--ex: **Psalm 6**

--ex: **Psalm 86**

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 40 Psalms

Tuesday Night Bible Study, December 29, 2009

--HEBREW POETRY...

- in Hebrew poetry, the focus is on parallel thought rather than rhyme.
- the Psalms give us a personal perspective on life in Israel; they show us the outpouring of people's hearts in a wide spectrum of life experiences.

--CLASSIFICATION OF PSALMS:

	BOOK I	BOOK II	BOOK III	BOOK IV	BOOK V
Total	41 psalms	31 psalms	17 psalms	17 psalms	44 psalms
Chapters	1-41	42-72	73-89	90-106	107-150
primary author	David	David, sons of Korah	Asaph	Anonymous	David
probable stages of collection	original collection by David	added during reign of Hezekiah and Josiah		Misc collections compiled during time of Ezra and Nehemiah	

--primary authors: David, Korah, sons of Asaph

--Asaph was a Levite who became a popular musician and was appointed by David to preside over the musicians (essentially a worship team) in the temple. Later he was seen as a prophet (2 Chronicles 29:30)

--1 Chronicles 16:4-6: "And he [David] appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel: 5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; 6 Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God."

- the sons of Korah were apparently descendants of Korah, but their exact identity is unknown.
- these may have been written during the Babylonian captivity to serve as an encouragement and comfort.

--10 thematic categories: historical, messianic, penitential, praise, didactic, nature, pilgrimage, imprecatory, supplication.

--critical thinking question: after reading through examples of these different categories of Psalms in the Bible, think about what a book of psalms from your life might look like - the full spectrum of your experiences in the journey of the Christian life...

--historical...reflecting on specific ways how God has worked in your life through the years.

--penitential... reflection on when you have poured out your heart to God in times when you stumbled and messed up in life.

--praise... spiritual high points in life where your heart is filled with sublime praise to God

--messianic... moments when you are taking up your cross and following Christ, walking in His footsteps and being a reflection of Him to others.

--didactic... reflection on lessons you've learned and could share with others.

--supplication... reflection on times when you prayed for others and for help in your own life

--nature... seeing God's glory in nature... a glorious sunset, a rainbow, any awe-inspiring scene in nature.

--pilgrimage... reflection on moments when heaven seems more real to you and you clearly see how you are on a pilgrimage to heaven – "strangers and pilgrims on the earth..." (Hebrews 11:13), "longing for a better country-a heavenly one..." (Hebrews 11:16)

--imprecatory... reflection on moments when you feel the weight of injustice in the world and cry out for the Lord's return and the day when He brings about justice

--the book of Psalms in the Bible records the perspective of just a couple people, but a book of psalms could be written for every child of God who ever lived...hundreds of millions of psalms!

--each child of God is an "epistle of Christ... written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God..." (2 Corinthians 3:3)

--historical psalms (poetic review of Israel's history)

--ex: **Psalm 105**: God's faithfulness through Israel's history

--ex: **Psalm 106**: a reflection on God's forgiveness and Israel's sinfulness throughout the period from the Egyptian captivity to the book of judges.

--messianic psalms (prophetic foreshadows of Christ)

--ex: **Psalm 2**: contrast between reign of Christ and reign of man

--ex: **Psalm 45:6-7**

--ex: **Psalm 22:16-18**: speaks of the crucifixion of Christ 500 years before crucifixion was invented – "they pierced My hands and My feet..."

--penitential psalms

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