

# Psalms 2023 Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, July 23, 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us. Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE

Last week we began an extended summer series on the Book of Psalms. In this previous session we addressed:

### 1) The Passion Believers Possess for the Book of Psalms

**NOTE 1** – Many gravitate to the psalms for their sense of artistry and beauty. Not only do the psalms offer inspired and impacting content, but they do so in a beautiful manner. These ancient works of lyric poetry exemplify artistry in that they are characterized by beauty, craftsmanship and technique. The Lord has spoken to humanity, but is there no significance that He has chosen to do so in such a majestic manner?

**NOTE 2** – Many gravitate to the psalms as they help to inform and impact the practices of prayer and worship. The Book of Psalms has always given believers of the Old and New Covenant eras rich verbiage and vocabulary which helps us to connect with God in the midst of life and living (e.g., public and private elements herein).

**NOTE 3** – Many find connection with the psalms because they connect with human emotion and experience! The psalms touch upon nigh every human emotion (e.g., elation and celebration to despair and despondency) and experience (e.g., lack, betrayal and opposition vs. provision, fidelity and breakthrough) with striking detail!

**QUOTE** – “What various and resplendent riches are contained in this treasury. I have been wont [i.e., inclined] to call this book not inappropriately, *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.” –John Calvin

### 2) The Anatomy of the Human Soul

**NOTE 1** – For homework I had you review an array of psalms that demonstrate this latter point in particular. You were to review Psalm 8, 103, 91, 77, 42, 109 and 51 which touch upon feelings of awe, praise, confidence, doubt or uncertainty, personal brokenness and despondency, wrathful anger and poverty of spirit accordingly. As your Pastor, I will happily assume that you all did the homework and were moved by the poetry of Scripture!

**NOTE 2** – To communicate and contend with such emotions and more, the inspired writers of Scripture utilized an array of types of Hebrew lyric poetry (i.e., varying types of psalms if you will). I would like to spend some time outlining the key TYPES of psalms a student of Scripture is likely to encounter in their studies. Note!

**NOTE 3** – Because I love you I will give you the seven types of psalms upfront (i.e., prior to our analysis). Note: **a)** the hymn; **b)** the lament; **c)** the psalm of thanksgiving; **d)** the psalm of remembrance; **e)** the psalm of confidence; **f)** the psalm of wisdom; and **g)** the kingship psalm. Each is unique and finds a home in the Psalter!

## TYPES OF PSALMS

### 1) The HYMN

**NOTE 1** – The hymn is easily recognizable by its exuberant praise or celebration of the Lord.

**NOTE 2** – Moreover, the hymn is easily recognizable by its consistent structure and formatting:

- a) Hymns typically begin with a call to worship
- b) Hymns identify WHY the Lord is to be worshipped
- c) Hymns culminate with a final call to celebratory praise

**NOTE 3** – Psalm 150 is a shining example of the biblical hymn. Let us consider the following in kind:

#### Psalm 150 (NIV)

1 Praise the Lord. [i.e., Hebrew: “*Hallelu Yah*”]

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens.

2 Praise him for his acts of power;

praise him for his surpassing greatness.

3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

praise him with the harp and lyre,

4 praise him with timbrel and dancing,

praise him with the strings and pipe,

5 praise him with the clash of cymbals,

praise him with resounding cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

#### Q. Can you discern the underlying three-fold outline or structure?

- a) Hymns typically begin with a call to worship (v. 1)
- b) Hymns identify WHY he is to be worshipped (vs. 2–5)
- c) Hymns culminate with a call to celebratory praise (v. 6)

### 2) The LAMENT

**NOTE 1** – Conversely, the lament is recognizable for its call upon God in a season of crisis or distress.

**NOTE 2** – Like the hymn, the lament is noted for a consistent sense of structure and formatting of thought:

- a) Laments begin with an introductory cry out to God
- b) The author will outline and/or define the crisis
- c) The author will petition the Lord for aid
- d) The author may curse his enemies
- e) The author will declare His confidence in God
- f) The author will close with a promise to praise the Lord

**NOTE 3** – Psalm 54 exemplifies the traditional lament. Let us consider:

**Psalm 54 [Of David]**

1 Save me, O God, by your name;  
vindicate me by your might.

2 Hear my prayer, O God;  
listen to the words of my mouth.

3 Arrogant foes are attacking me;  
ruthless people are trying to kill me—  
people without regard for God.

4 Surely God is my help;  
the Lord is the one who sustains me.

5 Let evil recoil on those who slander me;  
in your faithfulness destroy them.

6 I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;  
I will praise your name, Lord, for it is good.

7 You have delivered me from all my troubles,  
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

**Q. Can you detect the aforementioned outline and/or structure?**

- a) Laments begin with an introductory cry out to God (vs. 1–2)
- b) The author will outline and/or define the crisis (v. 3)
- c) The author will petition the Lord for aid (n/a)
- d) The author may curse his enemies (v. 5)
- e) The author will declare His confidence in God (vs. 4, 7)
- f) The author will offer with a promise to praise the Lord (v. 6)

**3) The Psalm of THANKSGIVING**

**NOTE 1** – The psalm of thanksgiving is similar to the hymn noted above. They will abound with praise!

**NOTE 2** – However, the psalm of thanksgiving tends to celebrate answer to a specific prayer or breakthrough.

**NOTE 3** – Let us consider a segment of Psalm 18 for illustration. Let us consider the pericope for k. information:

**Psalm 18:1–19 [Of David the servant of the Lord. He sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:]**

- 1 I love you, Lord, my strength.
- 2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;  
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- 3 I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,  
and I have been saved from my enemies.
- 4 The cords of death entangled me;  
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.
- 5 The cords of the grave coiled around me;  
the snares of death confronted me.
- 6 In my distress I called to the Lord;  
I cried to my God for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice;  
my cry came before him, into his ears.
- 7 The earth trembled and quaked,  
and the foundations of the mountains shook;  
they trembled because he was angry.
- 8 Smoke rose from his nostrils;  
consuming fire came from his mouth,  
burning coals blazed out of it.
- 9 He parted the heavens and came down;  
dark clouds were under his feet.
- 10 He mounted the cherubim and flew;  
he soared on the wings of the wind.
- 11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him—  
the dark rain clouds of the sky.
- 12 Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced,  
with hailstones and bolts of lightning.
- 13 The Lord thundered from heaven;  
the voice of the Most High resounded.
- 14 He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy,  
with great bolts of lightning he routed them.
- 15 The valleys of the sea were exposed  
and the foundations of the earth laid bare  
at your rebuke, Lord,  
at the blast of breath from your nostrils.
- 16 He reached down from on high and took hold of me;  
he drew me out of deep waters.
- 17 He rescued me from my powerful enemy,  
from my foes, who were too strong for me.
- 18 They confronted me in the day of my disaster,  
but the Lord was my support.
- 19 He brought me out into a spacious place;  
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

#### 4) The Psalm of CONFIDENCE

**NOTE 1** – Many psalms are declarations or assertions of faith in the care and capacity of the Lord...

**NOTE 2** – Feel free to review Psalm 11, 27, 62, 91 and for illustration. For now, I simply posit Psalm 121:

##### Psalm 121 [A Song of Ascents]

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord watches over you—  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

6 the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;

8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

#### 5) The Psalm of REMEMBRANCE

**NOTE 1** – Some psalms take the time to reflect upon the works of God in seasons past (i.e., for the purpose of bolstering hope-filled obedience for the present and unto the future). In particular, such psalms tend to note: **a)** the Creation; **b)** the events of the Exodus; or **c)** the promise of God to David concerning an et. kingdom. Psalms 78 and 132 touch upon these themes respectively and at great length!

**NOTE 2** – For the sake of illustration, let us note Psalm 136 at this time:

**Psalm 136 [NOTE the Participatory Element Herein]**

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

*His love endures forever.*

2 Give thanks to the God of gods.

*His love endures forever.*

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

*His love endures forever.*

4 to him who alone does great wonders,

*His love endures forever.*

5 who by his understanding made the heavens,

*His love endures forever.*

6 who spread out the earth upon the waters,

*His love endures forever.*

7 who made the great lights—

*His love endures forever.*

8 the sun to govern the day,

*His love endures forever.*

9 the moon and stars to govern the night;

*His love endures forever.*

10 to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt

*His love endures forever.*

11 and brought Israel out from among them

*His love endures forever.*

12 with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

*His love endures forever.*

13 to him who divided the Red Sea asunder

*His love endures forever.*

14 and brought Israel through the midst of it,

*His love endures forever.*

15 but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;

*His love endures forever.*

16 to him who led his people through the wilderness;

*His love endures forever.*

17 to him who struck down great kings,

*His love endures forever.*

18 and killed mighty kings—

*His love endures forever.*

19 Sihon king of the Amorites

*His love endures forever.*

20 and Og king of Bashan—

*His love endures forever.*

21 and gave their land as an inheritance,

*His love endures forever.*

22 an inheritance to his servant Israel.

*His love endures forever.*

23 He remembered us in our low estate

*His love endures forever.*

24 and freed us from our enemies.

*His love endures forever.*

25 He gives food to every creature.

*His love endures forever.*

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven.

*His love endures forever.*

**6) The Psalm of WISDOM**

**NOTE 1** – Wisdom psalms seek to instruct the people of God in some way or fashion...

**NOTE 2** – Such will often offer instruction through contrasting the righteous from the wicked!

**NOTE 3** – The opening of the Book of Psalms (i.e., Psa. 1) is likely the greatest exemplar of this type:

**Psalm 1**

- 1 Blessed is the one  
 who does not walk in step with the wicked  
 or stand in the way that sinners take  
 or sit in the company of mockers,  
 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
 and who meditates on his law day and night.  
 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of  
 water,  
 which yields its fruit in season  
 and whose leaf does not wither—  
 whatever they do prospers.  
 4 Not so the wicked!  
 They are like chaff  
 that the wind blows away.  
 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 leads to destruction.

**7) The Psalm of KINGSHIP**

**NOTE** – The final type we shall note is the kingship psalm. Such center upon the splendor and reign of the king:

**1) The Earthly King**

**Psalm 45 [For the director of music. To the tune of “Lilies.” Of the Sons of Korah. A maskil. A wedding song.]**

- 1 My heart is stirred by a noble theme  
 as I recite my verses for the king;  
 my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.  
 2 You are the most excellent of men  
 and your lips have been anointed with grace,  
 since God has blessed you forever.  
 3 Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one;  
 clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.  
 4 In your majesty ride forth victoriously  
 in the cause of truth, humility and justice;  
 let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.  
 5 Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king’s enemies;  
 let the nations fall beneath your feet.  
 6 Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
 a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.  
 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness;  
 therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
 by anointing you with the oil of joy.

8 All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia;  
 from palaces adorned with ivory  
 the music of the strings makes you glad.  
 9 Daughters of kings are among your honored women;  
 at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.

10 Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention:  
 Forget your people and your father's house.  
 11 Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;  
 honor him, for he is your lord.  
 12 The city of Tyre will come with a gift,  
 people of wealth will seek your favor.  
 13 All glorious is the princess within her chamber;  
 her gown is interwoven with gold.  
 14 In embroidered garments she is led to the king;  
 her virgin companions follow her—  
 those brought to be with her.  
 15 Led in with joy and gladness,  
 they enter the palace of the king.

16 Your sons will take the place of your fathers;  
 you will make them princes throughout the land.  
 17 I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;  
 therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

**Q. How would such impact the people?**

**A.** Fostering of obedience and prophetic expectation(s).

**2) The Heavenly King**

**Psalm 47**

1 Clap your hands, all you nations;  
 shout to God with cries of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is awesome,  
 the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdued nations under us,  
 peoples under our feet.

4 He chose our inheritance for us,  
 the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.

5 God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
 the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
 sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth;  
 sing to him a psalm of praise.

8 God reigns over the nations;  
 God is seated on his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the nations assemble  
 as the people of the God of Abraham,  
 for the kings of the earth belong to God;  
 he is greatly exalted.

**Q. How would such impact the people?**

**A.** Fostering of obedience and prophetic expectation(s).



## MATTERS OF APPLICATION

**Q1. What are we to do with this information?**

**Q2. What benefit is there in knowing about the types of psalms?**

**A1.** Those who penned the Word under the inspiration of the Spirit knew about the varying types of psalms. They tapped into a common and beloved mode of communication to both convey and contend with abiding spiritual truths that intersect with daily life and living. Why should we remain ignorant? Those who would seek the most from the psalms and avoid costly misinterpretation do well to understand genre.

**A2.** We do well to know these types so that we might utilize them in both our public and private walks w/ God. Why not utilize psalms of praise when I want to praise? Why not use psalms of lament in the midst of p. crisis? Why not revel in psalms of thanksgiving when to foster and fuel gratitude, and why not recognize the kingship of God over the whole of creation and the whole of my life (i.e., as did the great saints of old)?

**A3.** Such poetic works abound throughout the whole of Scripture. That is, these varying types of psalms are not found solely in the Book of Psalms. Rather, they permeate the whole of the Word! Thus, learning such info for your study of the Book of Psalms will yield benefit for your study of many other biblical Books!

**Q. Do you not believe me? READ:**

- A1.** Exodus 15 (The Song of Moses & Miriam)
- A2.** Deuteronomy 32:1–43 (The Closing Song of Moses)
- A3.** Judges 5 (The Song of Deborah)
- A4.** 1 Samuel 2:1–20 (The Prayer of Hannah)
- A5.** 2 Samuel 22 (David’s Closing Song of Praise)
- A6.** Isaiah 38:9–20 (The Psalm of King Hezekiah)
- A7.** Jonah 2 (The Prayer of the Prophet Jonah)
- A8.** Habakkuk 3 (The Prayer of the Prophet Habakkuk)
- A9.** Daniel 2:20–23 (The Psalm of the Prophet Daniel)
- A10.** Luke 1:46–55 (The Magnificat – The Song of Mary)
- A11.** Luke 1:67–79 (The Benedictus – The Song of Zechariah)

**KEY 1** – This is just scratching the surface of both the Old and New Testament texts!

**KEY 2** – Some thirty-percent of the whole of Scripture is ancient Hebrew poetry. Let us consider that truth!

**A4.** Finally, why not borrow from these types and compose our own songs and poetic works? Why not study the method and modes of the ancients that we might put pen to paper in the midst of our own life and living? When was the last time you wrote a song? When was the last time you wrote out a prayer? Are you joyous? Are you broken? Are you grateful? Are you faith-filled and confident? Are you contemplative re: times past? Have you the desire to express some insight or wisdom you have gleaned? Are you looking to pray for an earthly leader or revel in the kingship of the King of kings and Lord of lords? Write out your own psalm or ode!

**H.W.** – Compose your own hymn of praise using the three-fold outline noted above: **a)** call; **b)** reason; **c)** call. Those who do so can submit to me and we can read aloud next Sunday (i.e., should you desire to have it read)!

## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

**NOTE 1** – In the next session we will further delve into the unique hallmarks of Hebrew lyric poetry.

**NOTE 2** – Until then, may the Lord speak to you as you engage this timeless and timely work. Until next time...

## CONCLUSION

**NOTE 1** – Feel free to give either in person or online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org).

**NOTE 2** – Check out our website for any of our beyond Sunday ministries (MM, WM & CYC).

**NOTE 3** – Potluck Supper next Sunday following the Sunday Morning Worship Service. Note & Invite!