

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

PSALMS - PART ONE

Lesson 34

Biblical-Literacy.com

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Who Wrote Psalms?

- Lots of people
 - David, Moses, Asaph, etc
- Also many are unknown

Who Put Psalms Together?

- Psalms Span Israel's Biblical History
- Psalms Used As Hymnbook In 2d Temple
- Psalms Probably An Ongoing Work By Prophets

Why In The Canon?

- Early Decision Based On Inspiration
- DSS: “And we have written to you that you should examine the book of Moses, and the words of the Prophets, and David.”
- Jesus: “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.” Lk 24:44

How Reliable Are Our Texts?

- General Reliability
- Addition of Dead Sea Scrolls
- Multiple Translations

What of Titles and Directions?

- Titles Ancient Tradition
- Titles Not Inspired Nor Always Accurate
- Musical Directions - Meaning Lost
- Exm. *Selah*

Why Called Psalms?

- Hebrew: *Tehillim* (“Praises”)
- Greek: *Psalmoi* (“Songs”)

Psalm As Poetry

Oxford:

Poetry = “the expression of thought, imagination or feeling in a language and a form adapted to stir the imagination and emotions.”

Poetry

- Expression
 - Form To Stir Imagination
 - Form To Stir Emotions
- Thought, Imagination, or Feeling
 - Worship
 - Contemplation
 - Repentance

Poetry

- Thought, Imagination, or Feeling
 - Celebration
 - Mourning
 - Thanksgiving
 - Singing
 - Education
 - Prayer

Style

- Not Rhyme and Rhythm
- Parallelism is Key

Theological Term Du Jure

Parallelism:

A balanced thought pattern where one line of poetry is compared to a following line (or lines).

Parallelism Examples

- I love apple pie
I adore its flavor
- I love apple pie
Squash tastes awful

PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added
Meaning)

PARALLELISM

```
graph TD; A[PARALLELISM] --> B[Internal (2 Lines)]; A --> C[External (>2 Lines)]; B --> D[Synonymous (Same)];
```

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Internal - (2 Lines)

Synonymous - (The Same)

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it
The world, and all who live in it (24:1)

Day after day they pour forth speech
Night after night they display knowledge
(19:2)

PARALLELISM

```
graph TD; A[PARALLELISM] --> B[Internal (2 Lines)]; A --> C[External (>2 Lines)]; B --> D[Synonymous (Same)];
```

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

PARALLELISM

```
graph TD; A[PARALLELISM] --> B[Internal]; A --> C[External]; B --> D[Synonymous]; B --> E[Antithetic]; C --- F[>2 Lines]; D --- G[(Same)]; E --- H[(Opposite)];
```

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Internal (2 Lines) **Antithetic (Opposite)**

They are brought to their knees and fall
But we rise up and stand firm (20:8)

PARALLELISM

```
graph TD; A[PARALLELISM] --> B[Internal]; A --> C[External]; B --> D["(2 Lines)"]; C --> E["(>2 Lines)"]; D --> F["Synonymous"]; D --> G["Antithetic"]; F --> H["(Same)"]; G --> I["(Opposite)"];
```

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added
Meaning)

Internal (2 Lines) **Synthetic (Adds Meaning)**

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the
house of my God;

Than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
(84:10)

PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added
Meaning)

PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

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(Same)

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(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added
Meaning)

Psalm Content

- Worship
 - Psalm 135, the Great *Hallel* Psalm
 - *Hallel*
 - “Worship”

Psalm Content

- Contemplation – Psalm 22

Psalm Content

- Repentance – Psalm 51

Psalm Content

- Celebration – Psalm 126

Points For Home

■ 150 Psalms / 30 Days

= 5 Per Day

So, 1st – 1, 31, 61, 91, 121

On 5th – 5, 35, 65, 95, 125