

SSP Notes First 3 lessons Pastor Rafferty

1st Q 2024 - Psalms

Tuesday

January 2

A Song for Every Season

Jill mentioned psalms are hymnal of OT - in Christian believers Pakistan use it as such today.

2Sam 23:1-sweet psalmist David

Acts 1:16-Ps 49:1

Luke 20:42-Ps 110:1

Acts 2:25-Ps 16:8

Acts 2:34-Ps 110:1

Acts 2:25- Ps 2:1

Romans 4:6, 7- Ps 32:1

Romans 11:9- Ps 69:22

Hebrews 4:7-Ps 95:7

Read Psalm 3, Psalm 33:1–3, and Psalm 109:6–15. What different facets of human experience do these Psalms convey?

The Psalms make the believing community aware of the full range of human experience, and they demonstrate that

believers can worship God in every season in life. In them we see the following:

(1) Hymns that magnify God for His majesty and power in creation, His kingly rule, judgment, and faithfulness. READ PSALM 24:1-6:

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

(2) Thanksgiving Psalms that express profound gratitude for God's abundant blessings READ PSALM 107:1,2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21, 22, 31, 32:

1 O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever.

2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

8 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

15 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

16 For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

21 Oh that *men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

31 Oh that *men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

32 Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

(3) Laments that are heartfelt cries to God for deliverance from trouble - PSALM 3:3, 4:

3 But thou, O Lord, *art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.*

4 I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill.
Selah.

(4) Wisdom Psalms that provide practical guidelines for righteous living READ PSALM 1:1, 2; 32:8, 9; 33:10:

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

10 The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect

(5) Royal Psalms that point to Christ, who is the sovereign King and Deliverer of God's people. READ PSALM 116:1-6:

1 I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

4 Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

5 Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful.

6 The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

(6) Historical Psalms that recall Israel's past and highlight God's faithfulness and Israel's unfaithfulness to teach the coming generations not to repeat the mistakes of their ancestors but to trust God and remain faithful to His covenant. PSALM 105, 106:

5 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

6 O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

(7) Angry Psalms that show us how to process our anger with God. If we fail to learn how to process anger responsibly we will process anger irresponsibly - PSALM 54; 59.

HELP 1 Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength.

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

EXPLAIN 3 For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah.

4 Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.

LET GO—5 He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in thy truth.

PRAISE— 6 I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O Lord; for it is good.

7 For he hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies.

The poetry of the Psalms demonstrates distinctive power to capture the attention of readers. Though some of these poetic devices are lost in translation, we can still, in our native language, appreciate many of them.

1. *Parallelism* involves the combining of symmetrically constructed words, phrases, or thoughts. Parallelism helps in understanding the meaning of corresponding parts. For instance: “Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!” (*Ps. 103:1, NKJV*). In this parallelism, “my soul” is “all that is within me,” namely one’s whole being. **AGAIN IN PSALM 147:11- The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. THOSE “THAT FEAR HIM” IS PARALLEL TO THOSE “THAT HOPE IN HIS MERCY.”**

2. *Imagery* uses figurative language to strongly appeal to readers’ physical senses (for example, God’s refuge is depicted as “the shadow of [His] wings” (*Ps. 17:8, NKJV*).

PSALM 91-He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.

3. *Merism* expresses totality by a pair of contrasting parts. “I have cried *day and night* before thee” denotes crying without ceasing (*Ps. 88:1, emphasis supplied*).

4. *Wordplays* employ the sound of words to make a pun and highlight a spiritual message. In Psalm 96:4, 5 the Hebrew words *'elohim*, “gods,” and *'elilim*, “idols,” create a wordplay to convey the message that the gods of the nations only appear to be *'elohim*, “gods,” but are merely *'elilim*, “idols.”

5. Contrasting—Opposite thought in 2nd line:

In Ps 1:6 For the **Lord** knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

6. Synthetic Poetry - thought completed in second line:

1:4 The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Finally, the word “selah” denotes a brief interlude, either for a call to pause and reflect on the message of a particular section of the psalm or a change of musical accompaniment (*Ps. 61:4*).