

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN SEVEN SENTENCES

Psalms

The Lord is my Shepherd. Psalm 23:1

A. The Psalms Strengthen Faith

1. The Psalms connect the people of God to the story of God.

- God as Creator

Psalm 8:3-4

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place...

Psalm 104:24

How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

- The realities of sin and evil

Psalm 14:2-3

The Lord looks down from heaven... All have turned away, all have become corrupt.

Psalm 51:3-4

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned.

- The promises of God to Israel

Psalm 105:8-10

He remembers his covenant forever... the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac.

Psalm 89:3-4

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, "I will establish your line forever."'

- The coming of the Kingdom of God in the Messiah

Psalm 2:6-7

I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain... You are my son;
today I have become your father.

Psalm 110

The Lord says to my lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

² The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying,
“Rule in the midst of your enemies!”

³ Your troops will be willing
on your day of battle.

Arrayed in holy splendor,
your young men will come to you
like dew from the morning’s womb.^[b]

⁴ The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:

“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”

⁵ The Lord is at your right hand^[c];
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

⁶ He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

⁷ He will drink from a brook along the way,^[d]
and so he will lift his head high.

- The good news going to all nations

Psalm 67:3-4

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

Psalm 96:3

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all
peoples.

- The expectation of final judgement and salvation of God

Psalm 96:13

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his
faithfulness.

Psalm 98:9

Let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

2. The various types of psalms express praise to God amid various human experiences and with various emotions.

- Psalms of Praise: simple call to praise with reasons to praise given.
- Psalms of Thanksgiving: praise for what God has done
- Psalms of Lament and Protest: songs of distress crying out to God during times of suffering and pain (2/3 include lament)
- Psalms of Zion: songs about Jerusalem and the temple and Zion as God's people
- Psalms of pilgrimage: songs sung as they went to Jerusalem to worship
- Royal Psalms: Songs about the kingship of David and God as King over all the earth

3. The Psalms recognize God's reality and presence, and encourage participant to bringing one's life into the presence of God.

Psalm 16:8

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalm 73:28

But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge.

B. The Psalms Express Hope

1. The Psalms express individual hope.

Psalm 42:5

Why, my soul, are you downcast? ... Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him.

Psalm 62:5

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

2. The Psalms express universal hope.

Psalm 86:9

All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

Psalm 47:5-9

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.

C. The Psalms Shape Life

1. The Psalms warn that worship is not just about how well we sing but about how well we live.

Psalm 1:1-2

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.

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?
² The one whose walk is blameless,
who does what is righteous,

who speaks the truth from their heart;
³ whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
and casts no slur on others;
⁴ who despises a vile person
but honors those who fear the Lord;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,
and does not change their mind;
⁵ who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things
will never be shaken.

Psalm 24:3-6

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
⁴ The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.
⁵ They will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Savior.
⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob

2. The Psalms reveal that those who live in joyful obedience to God's ways are blessed and free.

Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
⁹ The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.
¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.
¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalm 119:1-16

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.
² Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—
³ they do no wrong
but follow his ways.
⁴ You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.
⁵ Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!
⁶ Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.
⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.
⁸ I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.
How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.
¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
¹² Praise be to you, Lord;
teach me your decrees.
¹³ With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.
¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.

- ¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.
¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

3. As we worship God by declaring who he is, we are challenged to become like him in his character.