

THE PSALMS

BOOK ONE

The Way of the Righteous and the Wicked
1 Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the
wicked,

nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers,
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and he ponders his commandments day and
night.

2 He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
3 In all that he does, he prospers.
4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind
drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in
the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of
the righteous;
6 for the Lord knows the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

The Reign of the Lord's Anointed
2 Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
3 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and against his
Anointed, saying,
4 "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."
5 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
6 Then he will speak in wrath;

7 "As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."
8 I will tell of the decree of the Lord;
The Lord said to me, "My witness
you are, O God, and I will not
revoke my heritage, for the nations
will be made an end of."
9 You shall break them with a rod,
and scatter them like chaff on the
day of session.

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth;
11 Serve the Lord with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry,
and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
13 Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Save Me, O My God
3 A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM
ABSALOM HIS SON.

1 O LORD, how many are my foes!
2 Many are rising against me;
3 many are saying of my soul,
"There is no salvation for him in God."
4 But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
5 Selah

495
1 I cried aloud to the Lord,
and he answered me from his holy
hill.
2 I lay down and wept,
I took up a lute and
said,
3 "I will not be angry,
for the Lord sustained me;
4 I will not be angry,
for the Lord sustained me;
5 who have set themselves against me
all around."
6 Arise, O Lord!
7 Save me, O my God!
8 For you strike all my enemies on the
cheek;
9 you break the teeth of the wicked.
10 Salvation belongs to the Lord;
11 he will break down the tower of the
strong;
12 he will bring down the high fortification;
13 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;
14 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;
15 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;
16 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;
17 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;
18 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;
19 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;
20 he will bring down the tower of the
strong;

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strong;

Answer Me When I Call
4 TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED
INSTRUMENTS. A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my
righteousness!
2 You have given me relief when I was
in distress.
3 Be gracious to me and hear my
prayer!
4 O men, how long shall my honor be
turned into shame?
5 How long will you love vain words
and seek after lies?
6 But know that the Lord has heard
the prayer of the godly for his
righteousness;
7 Selah

495
1 In peace I will both lie down
and for you alone, O Lord, make
my dwelling in safety.
2 Lead Me in Your Righteousness
5 TO THE CHOIRMASTER: FOR THE FLUTE.
A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 Give ear to my words, O Lord;
2 consider my groaning;
3 Give attention to the sound of my cry;
4 my King and my God,
5 for to you do I pray,
6 O Lord, in the morning you hear my
voice;
7 in the morning I prepare a sacrifice
to you,
8 you and watch.
9 For you are not a God who delights in
wickedness;
10 evil may not dwell with you.
11 The boastful shall not stand before
your eyes;
12 you hate all evildoers.
13 You destroy those who speak lies;
14 the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty
and deceitful man.
15 But I, through the abundance of your
steadfast love,
16 will enter your house.
17 I will bow down toward your
temple,
18 in the morning.

AN 8-WEEK STUDY ON HOW THE PSALMS FIT TOGETHER

MUSING ON GOD'S
MUSIC

PSALMS PREACHED THROUGH #77

PSALMS LEFT #73

1	7	13	19	25	31
2	8	14	20	26	32
3	9	15	21	27	33
4	10	16	22	28	34
5	11	17	23	29	35
6	12	18	24	30	36

37	43	49	55	61	67
38	44	50	56	62	68
39	45	51	57	63	69
40	46	52	58	64	70
41	47	53	59	65	71
42	48	54	60	66	72

73	79	85	91	97	103
74	80	86	92	98	104
75	81	87	93	99	105
76	82	88	94	100	106
77	83	89	95	101	107
78	84	90	96	102	108

109	115	121	127	133	139	145
110	116	122	128	134	140	146
111	117	123	129	135	141	147
112	118	124	130	136	142	148
113	119	125	131	137	143	149
114	120	126	132	138	144	150

PSALM CATEGORIES

- **Lament psalms** - express sorrow, complaint, or petition to God.
- **Praise psalms** (sometimes called Hymns of praise) - celebrate God's attributes, works, and blessings.
- **Thanksgiving psalms** (Hymns of thanksgiving) - acknowledge God's deliverance or provision and respond in thankfulness.
- **Hymns of celebrating God's Law** (Torah Psalms) – talk of the wonders of the Torah and inspire people to obey it
- **Songs of confidence** – help worshippers deepen trust through all sorts of circumstances
- **Royal psalms** - affirm God's rule or the role of the Davidic king.
- **Wisdom psalms** - teach moral principles or practical lessons.
- **Pilgrimage psalms** - reflect on the journey to Jerusalem or the temple.
- **Enthronement psalms** - proclaim God's reign over the earth.
- **Historical Psalms** – sing about lessons learned from history of God dealing with his people. Generally corporate in focus.
- **Prophetic psalms** / hymns – echo themes found in prophets, calling people to covenant faithfulness.
- Elements in these psalms such as **penitence**, claims of innocence, yearning for God, curses or **imprecatory** psalms, and **liturgical** Psalms, songs of **ascents** to Jerusalem, Egyptian **Halle Psalms**.



UNSUNG SONGS

- **Zephaniah 3:17** The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; **he will exult over you with loud singing.** (ESV)
- **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing **psalms** and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (ESV)
- **Ephesians 5:18–19** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in **psalms** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (ESV)



JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

“**Nothing** so **arouses** the **soul**, gives it wings, sets it free from earth, releases it from the prison of the body, **teaches it to love wisdom**, and to condemn all the things of this life, **as concordant melody and sacred song**”



AMBROSE OF MILAN

- “A **Psalm** is the blessing of the people, the **praise** of God, the joy of liberty, the noise of **good cheer**, and the echo of **gladness**”



JONATHAN EDWARDS

-
- “The best, most **beautiful**, and most **perfect** way that we have of **expressing** a sweet concord of mind to each other is **by music**”



MEMES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



**Command to sing
Psalms AND** hymns
and spiritual songs



Ignore Psalms,
sing only hymns and
spiritual songs

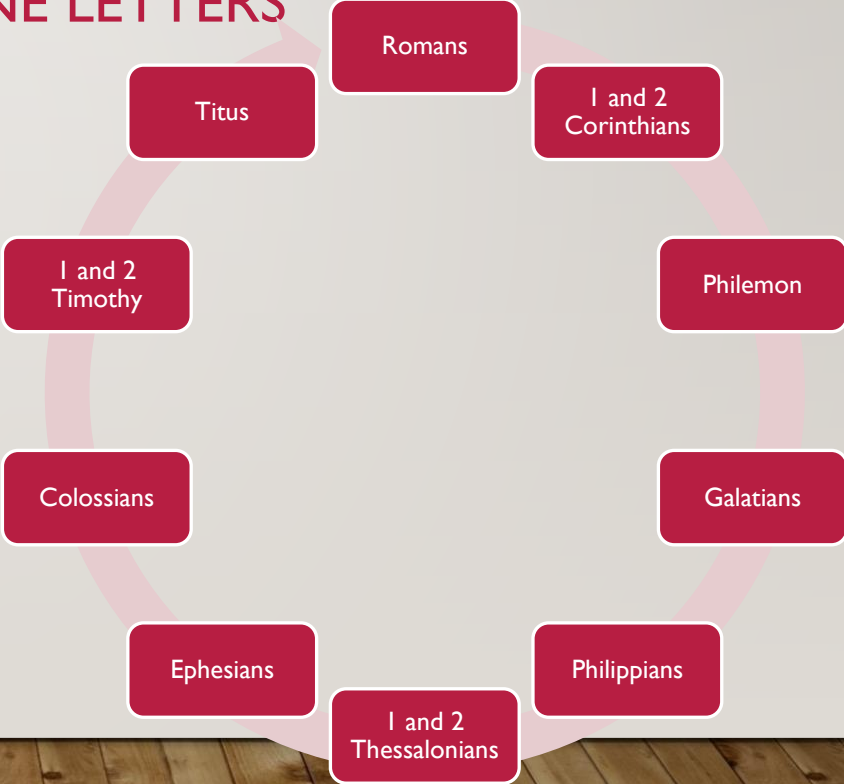
- Drake = evangelical church

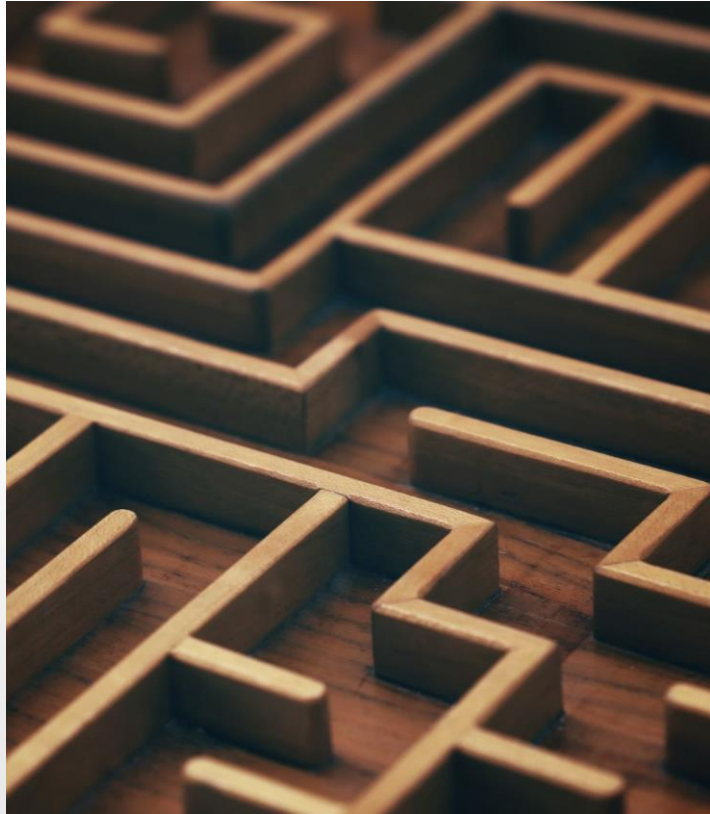
COMPARISON

PSALMS



PAULINE LETTERS





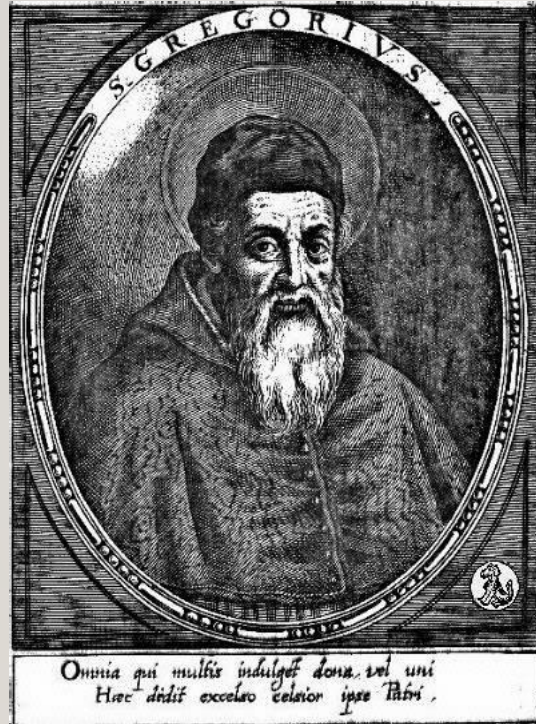
WHAT HAPPENED TO SINGING THE PSALMS?

CHRISTIAN'S OFTEN DON'T
UNDERSTAND THE "MAZE" THAT
IS THE PSALMS

STRUCTURE OF THE PSALMS

- Psalm 41:13 **Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel**, from everlasting to everlasting! **Amen and Amen!**
- Psalm 72:18-19 **Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel**, who alone does wonderous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! **Amen and Amen**
- Psalm 89:52 **Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen**
- Psalm 106:48 **Blessed be the LORD**, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, **“Amen!”** Praise the LORD
- Psalm 145:21 **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD**, and let all flesh **bless his holy name** forever and ever.

GREGORY OF NYSSA (CA. 335-394)



“First, one must understand the aim to which this writing looks. Next, one must pay attention to the progressive arrangements of the concepts in the book under discussion. These are indicated both by the order of the psalms, which has been well arranged in relation to knowledge of the aim, and by the sections of the whole book, which are defined by certain distinctive conclusions. The entire prophecy in the psalms has been divided into 5 parts... and there is a systematic arrangement and division in these sections.”

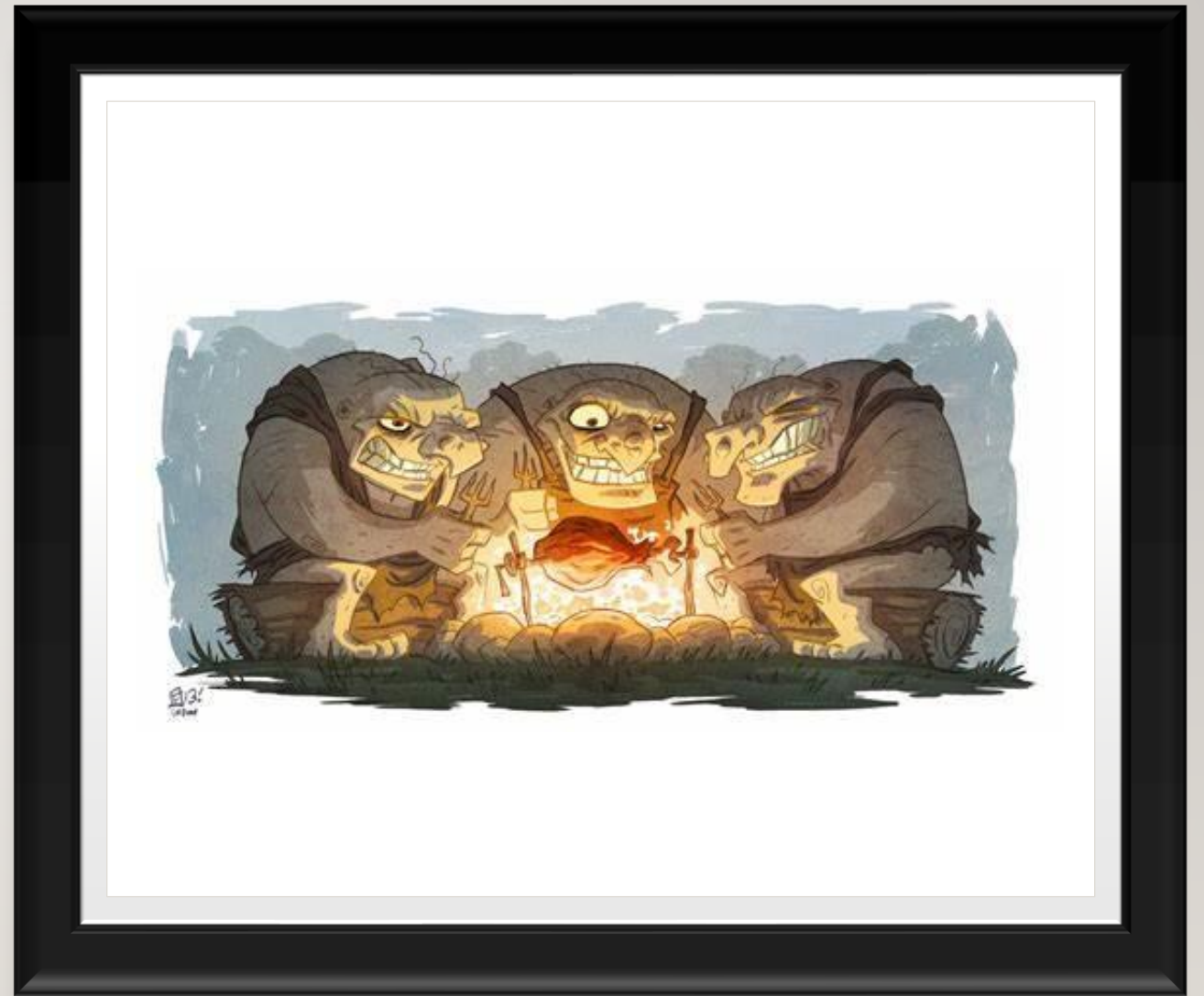
PSALMS AS A CANTATA WITH 5 MOVEMENTS

- **A cantata** is a musical composition in which a composer takes some previously composed songs, combines them with newly composed material, and weaves them together into a unified flow with logical progression.
- Handel's Messiah – 3 movements / parts
- Psalms – 5 movements / parts



FORMATION

Light and Darkness



PSALMS

- Psalm 3:1–2 [1] O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; [2] many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.” Selah
- Psalm 4:1 [1] Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- Psalm 5:1 [1] Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning.
- Psalm 6:1 [1] O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.
- Psalm 7:1–2 [1] O LORD my God, in you do I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and deliver me, [2] lest like a lion they tear my soul apart, rending it in pieces, with none to deliver.

QUOTE FROM
MICHAEL LEFEBVRE

Author: Singing the Songs of
Jesus- Revisiting the Psalms

“In the psalms, **praise** is the expected outcome, but **meditation** is the underlying activity which we undertake in Psalm singing. Unlike modern church songs which are primarily about “getting right to the point” and declaring only praise, the psalms are designed to help people who don't always feel like praising **begin** by meditating on the mess the world is in, and only through a full and robust process of meditation, **to come out with praise** “



THE POWER OF POETRY AND SONG



WALTER
BRUEGGEMANN
(AUTHOR OF
THE BOOK
PRAYING THE
PSALMS)

*“In our modernistic society, we believe that the function of language is only to report and describe what already exists, and thus we often use the Psalms to merely describe what is already in our hearts.” By contrast, he insists **“In the Psalms the use of language does not describe what it is. It evokes into being what does not exist until it has been spoken.”***



THOUGHTS OR
REFLECTIONS
