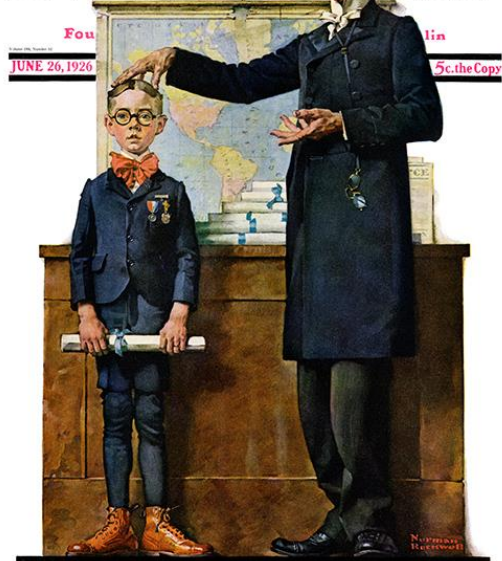


PSALM STUDY 2

The Psalms of Ascent

1

**THE SATURDAY
EVENING POST***The Psalms*

As a teacher will compose letters or little speeches for his pupils to write to their parents, so by this book he prepares both the language and the mood in which we should address the heavenly Father.

- Martin Luther

Preface to the Psalter

2

The Psalms



If we think of each Bible book as a garden with its particular fruit, the Psalter is a garden in which every kind of biblical fruit grows.

- Athanasius

3

The Psalms



(The Psalms are) an anatomy of all the parts of the soul: there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror. Or, rather, the Holy Spirit has here drawn to the life all the griefs, sorrows, fears, doubts, hopes, cares, perplexities, in short, all the distracting emotions with which the minds of men are wont to be agitated.

- John Calvin

COMMENTARY ON THE PSALMS

4

The Psalms

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Thomas Cranmer, The Book of Common Prayer

Collect for the 5th Sunday in Lent Year A

5

Psalms of Ascent

120-134

Theme of praising God

Perhaps Sung as people
went up to Jerusalem for
the major festivals



6

Psalms of Ascent

A Song of Ascents (Pss 120–134). The Mishnah records that fifteen steps led up from the Court of the Women to the Court of the Israelites ‘corresponding to the fifteen Songs of Ascents in the Psalms, and upon them the levites used to sing’. But as C. C. Keet points out, there is no record that what they sang there was these psalms, although this is possible and has often been asserted. The most likely reference of the title is to the pilgrimage up to Jerusalem, or the processional ascent of ‘the hill of the Lord’ (cf. Isa. 30:29).

Kidner, D.

7

Psalms of Ascent

29 You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept, and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the Lord, to the Rock of Israel. – Isaiah 30:29

8

Psalms of Ascent

- Travel requirement in the faith
- Pilgrim experience
- Laws for the sojourner
- Travel as a caravan neighborhood
- Accent gives you away



9

Psalms of Ascent

122

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

122 I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

² Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

³ Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together,

⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

⁵ There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

10

Psalms of Ascent

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

“May they be secure who
love you!

⁷ Peace be within your walls
and security within
your towers!”

⁸ For my brothers and companions'
sake

I will say, “Peace be within
you!”

⁹ For the sake of the house of
the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

11

Psalms of Ascent

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

124 If it had not been the LORD who
was on our side—

let Israel now say—

² if it had not been the LORD who
was on our side

when people rose up against
us,

³ then they would have swallowed
us up alive,

when their anger was kindled
against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept
us away,

the torrent would have
gone over us;

⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

12

Psalms of Ascent

⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
 who has not given us
 as prey to their teeth!
⁷ We have escaped like a bird
 from the snare of the
 fowlers;
 the snare is broken,
 and we have escaped!

⁸ Our help is in the name of
 the LORD,
 who made heaven and
 earth.

13

A Song of Ascents.

126 When the LORD restored the
 fortunes of Zion,
 we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with
 laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of
 joy;
 then they said among the nations,
 "The LORD has done great things
 for them."
³ The LORD has done great things for
 us; we are glad.

Psalms of Ascent

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like streams in the Negeb!
⁵ Those who sow in tears
 shall reap with shouts of joy!
⁶ He who goes out weeping,
 bearing the seed for sowing,
 shall come home with shouts of
 joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

14

David

Asaph 73-83 – guild of temple musicians

Korah 72 127

Solomon

Sons of Korah

Ethan the Ezrahite 89

Herman the Ezrahite 88

Moses 90