



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

UNDERSTANDING GENRE



LESSON 6

INTERPRETING POETRY AND THE PSALTER



POETRY PRINCIPLES

- Recognize when poetry is employed
- Note the assumption underlying poetry
 - Poetry makes words more memorable
 - Poetry moves the emotions



POETRY PRINCIPLES

- Be familiar with common poetic forms
 - Synonymous parallelism (Ps. 24:1)
 - Antithetical parallelism (Ps.1:6)
 - Synthetic (Ps. 42:1)
 - X, X+1 (Prov. 30:18-19)



POETRY PRINCIPLES

- Be familiar with common poetic forms
 - Rhythm of sound (Ps. 122:6)
 - Acrostic (Ps. 119)
 - Chiasm (A, B, C, c, b, a)

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INTERPRETING THE PSALMS

- A. Read the Psalms
- B. Understand the Types of Psalms
 - Lament (Ps. 3,9,12,74,94,139)
 - Praise (Ps. 106, 11-13)
 - Thanksgiving (Ps. 18,32,40)

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INTERPRETING THE PSALMS

- B. Understand the Types of Psalms
- Celebration (Ps. 2, 24, 93)
 - Wisdom (Ps. 1)
 - Penitential (Ps. 51)
 - Imprecatory (Ps. 137)

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INTERPRETING THE PSALMS

- C. Note Any Contextual Information Given (Ps. 51)
- D. Pay Attention to the Segmentation of the Psalm
- E. Recognize the Poetic Language

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INTERPRETING THE PSALMS

- F. Explore the Messianic Significance of the Psalms
- Songs *of* the Messiah
 - Songs *about* the Messiah (Ps. 2, Ps. 16-Acts 2)
 - Songs *through* the Messiah



**INTERPRETING
THE PSALMS**

- G. Pray the Psalms
- H. Memorize the Psalms

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible*
by Robert L. Plummer
- *ESV Study Bible*



Where to Start

Read Psalms 1-5 and look for the main message of the Psalm. How does the Psalm communicate that truth? What images are being used? How do the Psalms point you to Christ?



**Resources
to Get You
Started**

- *Psalms 1-72* by Derek Kidner
- *A Survey of Old Testament* by Andrew E. Hill and John H. Walton



QUESTIONS!

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