Psalms

**Keys:**
- 1440-400 BC
- Ps 1, 2, 41, 72, 89, 106, 90, 126, 150
- Praise
- Lament
- 'anointed one'
- Thanksgiving
- Penitential
- Royal
- Imprécatory
- Wisdom

**Purpose:**
Serve as the hymnal of Israel's Second Temple forward.

**Outline:**
1. Book One (1-41)
2. Book Two (42-72)
3. Book Three (73-89)
4. Book Four (90-106)
5. Book Five (107-150)

**Memory Verse:**
"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods."
**Lecture Notes:**

**Background & Authorship**

"_________________," the title taken from the LXX, and NT references (e.g. Lk 24.44), means 'to sing' or 'to pluck an instrument.'

_____ psalms are attributed to David, whose musical ability (1 Sm 16) and provision for music in temple worship (1 Chr 15-16) as King positioned him as the chief author of the Psalms.

______________, appointed by David as chief musician (1 Chr. 15.4-5), wrote 12 psalms.

The "sons of Korah" probably refer to a guide of temple singers (2 Chr 20.19) and not to Korah of Numbers 16-17. 12 psalms.

Other authors include Moses (Ps 90), Solomon (72, 127), Ethan the Ezrahite (89). 49 are anonymous.

**Titles and Dates**

The titles are usually the ____________ verse of the Hebrew and Septuagint.

They are either part of the inspired text or very early.

Habakkuk 3.1, 19 offers another example.

We've already alluded to authorship titles, but there are also ____________ (3, 18, 34, 51), ____________/______________ (6, 9, 12, 16, 60) or ____________ ____________ titles (e.g. songs of ascent 120-134).

The Psalms cover the OT period from 1440 to 400 BC from Moses (90) to post exile (126).
Different Types of Psalms

Two types predominate: praise (8, 33, 47, 148) & lament (3, 25, 39, 86, 102)

T_________ psalms (18, 66, 107, 118) are a type of praise sung when God answered a lament.

P_________ psalms (6, 38, 51) are a type of lament expressing sorrow for sin.

R_________ psalm (2, 24, 45, 48, 89, 92-92, 110, 132 [Zion]) focus praise to God for His reign and/or the Davidic king. Of these, ____________ psalms (2, 16, 22, 45, 110) focus particular attention on God's "anointed one" [messiah].

I_________ psalms (35, 69, 137) focus lament to God against his enemies of those of his people, appealing for judgment.

W_________ psalms (1, 14, 73) contrast the righteous and the wicked, the wise and foolish.

Herman Gunkel, *Intro to Psalms* [1933]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psalms of Lament</th>
<th>Psalm 6</th>
<th>Psalm 13</th>
<th>Psalm 22</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Addressing God</strong></td>
<td>O LORD, do not rebuke me…</td>
<td>How long, O LORD?</td>
<td>My God, my God…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lament</strong></td>
<td>My bones are in agony, my soul is in anguish…</td>
<td>I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart… my enemies triumph over me</td>
<td>Why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far? I am a worm… Scorned by men…</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confessing Faith</th>
<th>Because of your steadfast love…</th>
<th>But, I trust in your unfailing love…</th>
<th>Yet, you are enthroned… In you our fathers trusted… You brought me out of the womb…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petition</td>
<td>Turn, deliver, save</td>
<td>Look on me and answer… Give light to my eyes…</td>
<td>Do not be far off… Come quickly to help me. Deliver…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise</td>
<td>The LORD has heard…</td>
<td>I will sing to the LORD for he has been good</td>
<td>I will declare your name to the brethren</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Psalms of Praise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Psalm 18</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>106</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addressing God</td>
<td>I love you, O LORD, my strength</td>
<td>I will extol you, O LORD…</td>
<td>Praise the LORD! Give thanks to the LORD!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Summary</td>
<td>I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.</td>
<td>For you have drawn me up and not let my foes rejoice…</td>
<td>For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking Back on a Time of Need</td>
<td>The cords of death encompassed me… The Cords of Sheol entangles me…</td>
<td>I said in my prosperity … but you hid your face (6-7)</td>
<td>Both we and our fathers have sinned… our fathers in Egypt did not consider your wondrous works (6-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of Petition and Rescue</td>
<td>In my distress, I called upon the LORD … He heard my voice… He came down and rescued me</td>
<td>Hear, O LORD! You have turned my mourning into dancing (8-11)</td>
<td>Yet he saved them for his name’s sake… He rebuked the Red Sea… he saved them from the foe (8-11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Themes of Israel's Worship: Many Types of Songs for "All Parts of the Soul"

The Grammar of Grace in Psalms

Questions:
1. How should the book of the Psalms be understood?
2. Why is it important that the Psalms are a reflection of the whole soul?
3. What is important about the 'amen and amen' which comes at the end of each book?
4. What is the time-span which is covered by the Psalms? Why might that be important when preaching from the psalms?
5. What are the different types of psalms? How can you identify each?

(Further Reflection) What are some of the ways that the Psalms can help us to address God in prayer?
Israel's Wisdom

Job
Proverbs
Wisdom Psalms
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Introduction

Two Types of Wisdom


2. Discursive Wisdom: Prosaic, nuanced questions about meaning of life in the face of suffering or death. Generally pessimistic, suited for mature adults, questions the contrast between righteous & wicked.

⇒ Prose and Poetry: Most of the wisdom material is poetic with meter and parallelism (synonymous like Ps 19.1; Prov 9.10; antithetic like Ps 1.6; Prov 10.4; or synthetic like Eccl 11.1); figures of speech and literary devices like chiasm (Ps 8) and acrostics (Ps 119; Prov 31). But Job is framed by a narrative, with elements in Ecclesiastes & Song of Songs.

⇒ Psalms and Proverbs: Psalmic material praises the good and wise or focuses on the need and struggle to respond to God properly. Proverbial material focuses on results of choices or the need and struggle to understand.

Association with Solomon & Royal Court

1 Kings 4.32 tells us Solomon wrote thousands of proverbs (Prov 1.1; 10.1-22:16; 25.1-29.27) & psalms (Ps 72; 127).
While other collections are appended to Proverbs, Solomon stands as the fountainhead of Israelite wisdom (see also Song of Songs 1.1, 4, 12; 2.7; 3.5; Ecc. 1.1, 12, 16; 2.4-9; 8.2ff).

Ecclesiastes is anonymous, and Song 1.1 could be "for Solomon" or "about Solomon".

Wisdom in the Ancient Near East

From Babylon (1500 BC):

From Egypt (2100 BC & 1200 BC):

Israelites valued truthfulness of other wisdom traditions but put in context of "fear of the LORD" (Prov 1.7), which disallowed idolatry.
Proverbs

Intro:
- Proverbs underscores the supreme value of wisdom for all aspects of living, often contrasting "wisdom" with "folly" both in terms of life skills like diligence over against sloth but also advocating "the way of righteousness" over against "the way of the wicked".
- In Israel, wisdom is founded on reverence for God and is lauded as the basis for the created order. Wisdom is supremely moral in nature.

Instruction is set both in the home (1-9) and royal court (25-31)

Purpose:
To provide a reliable resource for teaching wisdom to young members of the royal court, and within households of Israel.

Outline:
1. A Father's Wisdom (1.1-9.18)
2. Solomon's Wisdom (10.1-22.16)
3. Anonymous Wisdom (22.17-24.34)
4. Solomon's Wisdom in Hezekiah's Court (25-29)
5. Agur's Wisdom (30)
6. Lemuel's Mother's Wisdom (31)

Memory Verse:
"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." - Proverbs 1.7

Lecture Notes:
Wisdom Psalms

A few psalms are identified with wisdom literature, most of which are

___________

like Psalm _____, _____, and _____. But Psalm _____ and _____ approach issues of ______________ wisdom.

Some have associated lament psalms with discursive wisdom literature, but the focus of lament psalms seems to be ______________, rather than unresolved questioning. One exception is Psalm 88.
Job

**Keys:**
- Ch. 28
- Suffering
- Wisdom
- Patriarchal period
- Land of Uz

**Purpose:**
To explore the limits and proper use of human wisdom in the case of a righteous individual's suffering in order to respond wisely to God and to people who suffer.

**Outline:**
1. The Prologues: Conflict Between God Satan (1.1-2.13)
2. Dialogues: Conflict Between Job & His Friends (3.1-27.33)
3. A Reflection on True Wisdom (28.1-28)
4. “Monologues”
5.
6.
7. Conflict Between Job & the LORD (29.1-42.6)
8. The Epilogue: Conflict Results in Rebuke of Friends, Blessing and Mediation of Job (42.7-17).

**Memory Verse:**
"You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?’ Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.” - Job 42.3
Lecture Notes:

Historical and Geographical Hints

Parallels to Patriarchal Period

- Simi-___________ (1.3)
- No ____________ (1.5)
- Sabean & Chaldean Raids (1.15-17)
- 140 yr life span (42.16)
- Job depicted as "great" patriarch in Land of Uz (1.1)
- Uz, son of Aram (Gen 10.23)
- "East" (Job 1.3)
- "near desert" (Job 1.9)
- Edom (cf. Lam 4.21; Jer 49.7)

Job's Author Unknown

Theological Questions and Themes

Why do the righteous suffer?


What is the character of evil & Satan?
What is the value of suffering in wisdom & faith?

How does the wise man respond to God in suffering (cf. James 5.11)? How does a wise person suffer with others?

To what extent can we depend on human wisdom and understanding? What are wisdom's limits?

Job's Deepening Wisdom

Prologue & First Conflict

1.20-22 (First Test)

Proverbial Saying, Ready Acceptance

2.9-10 (Second Test)

Proverbial Saying, Uneasy Acceptance

2.13 (Silence of Seven Days)

First Conflict: Job vs. His Friends
3-27 (Job's Lament, Searching Questions)

Assertion of Doctrine of Retribution

Second Conflict & Epilogue

Job's Retrospective and ____________ vs. ____________ ('Cursing God' --> 11; 2.5, 9; 3.1; 13.15; 23.4; 31.35-37 [40.2])

Job is _____________ as Elihu speaks (32-37).

The LORD cross-examines (38-41)

Job _____________ charge (42).