

Psalms

Construction of the Psalms

The Book of Psalms is one of the greatest collections of songs, prayers, and poetry. These Psalms express the deepest passions of humanity. In their pages, we can hear the psalmist's desperate cry, in the midst of despair. But, we also hear his emphatic praise for his Provider and Comforter. We can hear him pouring out his soul in confession, but also bubbling over with joy! The Psalms lead us through the valleys and peaks of human experiences; but in the end they guide us to the praise of our loving Creator.

We don't know who wrote all the Psalms, as many of them are unnamed. But the superscription that you have in your Bible (the introductory words found before the first verse, in most Psalms), often attribute the Psalms to King David. He is known as the "sweet psalmist of Israel." These superscriptions were probably not part of the Psalms when they were originally composed; but, were added by editors to aid in the interpretation of the Psalms. Nevertheless, there is no reason to discount these superscriptions.

The historical books of the Bible speak of David's considerable accomplishments as a musician, singer, and composer of poems. Moreover, one of David's Psalms is recorded in II Samuel 22, and reappears, with only slight variations, as Psalm 18. Parts of the medley, which David presented to Asaph in I Chronicles 16:8-36, are taken from Psalms 105, 96, and 106. Thus the connection between King David and the Psalms is well documented. However, he did not write all the Psalms. We don't know who wrote one of the "Wisdom Psalms", Psalm 119. This psalm is also known as a "Torah Psalm," because it goes into the law. Writers of other Psalms are believed to have been contemporaries of David, whom he placed in charge of worship in Jerusalem. Solomon followed in the footsteps of his father, by writing some Psalms, as well as Proverbs. Some of the earliest Psalms were written by Moses, five centuries before the time of David.

There are many others, who are believed to have contributed to the writing of the Psalms, including the priestly family of Korah, Deborah, and Hannah. Psalms were still being composed during the time of Ezra. It was in Ezra's time that the Book of Psalms as we know it was compiled.

CHARACTERISTICS

In order to appreciate the Psalms, a certain number of their characteristics should be kept in mind.

1. They were written for singing. They were intended for public worship in the temple in Israel and for us. They are not merely poems, but are lyrics. They contain musical conventions peculiar to music and worship during ancient time.
2. The poetry was written over a period of one thousand years, from the time of Moses to the time of Ezra.
3. They were collected and arranged over a long period of time.
4. Written in the language of the human spirit, they reflect the feelings of a person at a certain time, or the utterances of the soul. They are not cool, reasoned prose but

If you are new or visiting; *a special warm welcome to you.* We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

THE PLAN

Singing
Worship
Quick Break
Singing
Children to Sunday school
Structured Service

This Week

Today

- Psalms - Structured Service
- Japanese Christian Fellowship - 5pm

Monday

- Planning Meeting - 18 Garden Place

Thursday

- Murray & Ruth Salisbury - 10 Mure St at 7:30pm

Friday

- Women's Prayer Meeting - 98 Glenross St at 11:30am
- Youth Group - Meet at the corner chapel at 6:30pm

Next Week

Sunday

- Psalms - Jonathan Gauntlett

Prayer Requests

- Pray for next weeks service
- Pray for the Youth Group and their leaders

rather deeply emotional works, which use wrenching language, dramatic exaggeration, and figurative speech.

5. The Psalms were a part of the ordinary life, of the Israelites. The scriptures record a number of times when the people spontaneously responded to God with a Psalm of praise.
6. Individual Psalms were written for different purposes. Some began as works of private devotion, while others were designed for the purpose of public worship. Ultimately, they became the treasures of all the people in temple worship, for no matter what subject the Psalms addressed, they always lead the people to the worship of the Living God.
7. Written in the language of response, the Psalms record in powerful, poetic language, one individual's response to God. From a desperate cry, to an ecstatic shout of joy, each Psalm is a response to God in the middle of a particular situation.

Notes

Small Groups

Tuesday

- Ladies Home Group - see Laura Hannah 473-7954
- Mornington Home Group - see Jonathan Gauntlett 453-4195
- Central Home Group - see Steve Clark 479-2070
- Brockville Home Group - see Geoffrey Stewart 476-7888

Wednesday

- Pine Hill Home Group - see John Hannah 473-7954

Friday

- Halfway Bush Home Group - see Gideon Chang 476-7101

NOTICES

- 1) If you would like to receive **copies of the information** that is sent to the church and often finds its way to the foyer please email Zibi John to advise him you would like to receive this. zbjohn@gmail.com
- 2) The **Bible study group** at the home of Geoffrey Stewart - 98 Glenross Street - now meets on **Tuesday nights** 7:30pm instead of Thursdays. Anyone not currently in a group is very welcome to come along. Ph. Geoffrey 4767888
- 3) The Cornerstone website is now up and running - check it out at www.cornerstonecity.org.nz
- 4) Every **Friday morning** at 11:30am a few of us meet together at Bethney's home, 98 Glenross Street, to **pray for the activities of Cornerstone**, the missionaries we support and the personal needs we are aware of, as well as to give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father. We would love for more people to come and petition the Lord with us. If you would like to know more, call Mrs Bethney Stewart 4767888
- 5) **Murray & Ruth Salisbury** will share aspects of their translation work, followed by a time of prayer & supper at the Woodfields 14 Mure St, Mosgiel, on **Thursday August 10th** at 7.30pm All welcome.
- 6) I have a catalogue full of beautiful **handmade gifts, Manchester, cards, baby gear** and much more, reasonably priced and available to order. Everything is made by women in India at the Haven of Hope Handicraft Centre run by **Dr. Colleen Redit** and the Christian Missions Charitable Trust. All the products are beautifully made and perfect for Christmas, birthday or just any occasion gifts. If you would like to see the catalogue please see Mrs Bethney Stewart 4767888
- 7) **Giving by automatic payment** can be made into the following account - **Wray Street Gospel Chapel 030903 0379365 00**. Envelope numbers for donations can be obtained from Fienie or Sue.