

# OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

## PSALMS - PART ONE

### Lesson 34

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# Who Wrote Psalms?

- Lots of people
  - David, Moses, Asaph, etc
- Also many are unknown

# Who Put Psalms Together?

- Psalms Span Israel's Biblical History
- Psalms Used As Hymnbook In 2d Temple
- Psalms Probably An Ongoing Work By Prophets

# Why In The Canon?

- Early Decision Based On Inspiration
- DSS: “And we have written to you that you should examine the book of Moses, and the words of the Prophets, and David.”
- Jesus: “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.” Lk 24:44

# How Reliable Are Our Texts?

- General Reliability
- Addition of Dead Sea Scrolls
- Multiple Translations

# What of Titles and Directions?

- Titles Ancient Tradition
- Titles Not Inspired Nor Always Accurate
- Musical Directions - Meaning Lost
- Exm. *Selah*

# Why Called Psalms?

- Hebrew: *Tehillim* (“Praises”)
- Greek: *Psalmoi* (“Songs”)

# Psalm As Poetry

Oxford:

Poetry = “the expression of thought, imagination or feeling in a language and a form adapted to stir the imagination and emotions.”



# Poetry

- Expression
  - Form To Stir Imagination
  - Form To Stir Emotions
- Thought, Imagination, or Feeling
  - Worship
  - Contemplation
  - Repentance

# Poetry

- Thought, Imagination, or Feeling
  - Celebration
  - Mourning
  - Thanksgiving
  - Singing
  - Education
  - Prayer

# Style

- Not Rhyme and Rhythm
- Parallelism is Key

# Theological Term Du Jure

Parallelism:

A balanced thought pattern where one line of poetry is compared to a following line (or lines).

# Parallelism Examples

- I love apple pie  
I adore its flavor
- I love apple pie  
Squash tastes awful

# PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added  
Meaning)

# PARALLELISM

```
graph TD; A[PARALLELISM] --> B[Internal (2 Lines)]; A --> C[External (>2 Lines)]; B --> D[Synonymous (Same)];
```

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

# Internal - (2 Lines)

## **Synonymous - (The Same)**

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it  
The world, and all who live in it (24:1)

Day after day they pour forth speech  
Night after night they display knowledge  
(19:2)



# PARALLELISM

```
graph TD; A[PARALLELISM] --> B[Internal (2 Lines)]; A --> C[External (>2 Lines)]; B --> D[Synonymous (Same)];
```

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

# PARALLELISM

```
graph TD; A[PARALLELISM] --> B[Internal]; A --> C[External]; B --> D["(2 Lines)"]; D --> E["Synonymous"]; D --> F["Antithetic"]; E --> G["(Same)"]; F --> H["(Opposite)"]; C --> I["(>2 Lines)"];
```

Internal

(2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

External

(>2 Lines)

# Internal (2 Lines) **Antithetic (Opposite)**

They are brought to their knees and fall  
But we rise up and stand firm (20:8)

# PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

# PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added  
Meaning)

# Internal (2 Lines) **Synthetic (Adds Meaning)**

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the  
house of my God;

Than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

(84:10)

# PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added  
Meaning)

# PARALLELISM

Internal

(2 Lines)

External

(>2 Lines)

Synonymous

(Same)

Antithetic

(Opposite)

Synthetic

(Added  
Meaning)



# Psalm Content

- Worship
  - Psalm 135, the Great *Hallel* Psalm
  - *Hallel*
  - “Worship”

# Psalm Content

- Contemplation – Psalm 22

# Psalm Content

- Repentance – Psalm 51

# Psalm Content

- Celebration – Psalm 126

# Points For Home

■ 150 Psalms / 30 Days

= 5 Per Day

So, 1<sup>st</sup> – 1, 31, 61, 91, 121

On 5<sup>th</sup> – 5, 35, 65, 95, 125