

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at
the Old Testament

Bethlehem Baptist Church, fall 2013–spring 2014
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The Psalms at a Glance

Book 1	Ps 1	Walking with the Messiah (Kingdom Wisdom)	Intro
	Ps 2	Waiting in the Messiah (Kingdom Eschatology)	
	Pss 3–41	Almost all Davidic [Doxology: 41:13]	Body
Book 2	Pss 42–72	Almost all Davidic [Doxology: 72:18–19]	
Book 3	Pss 73–89	Almost no Davidic [Doxology: 89:52]	
Book 4	Pss 90–106	Almost no Davidic [Doxology: 106:48]	
Book 5	Pss 107–145	Higher number of Davidic	
	Pss 146–150	Worshipping on account the Messiah (Kingdom Praise)	Concl

Different Types of Psalms

- ❖ The psalmists used various literary forms as templates for communicating with God.
- ❖ Examples:

Lament Psalms

Penitential Psalms (L)

Imprecatory Psalms (L)

Thanksgiving Psalms

Praise Psalms

Kingship of Yahweh Psalms (P)

Zion Psalms (P)

Wisdom Psalms

Trust Psalms

Royal Psalms

Torah Psalms

Liturgy Psalms

❖ **Lament > Thanksgiving > Praise**

- ❖ **Lament:** Cry for help >
- ❖ **Thanksgiving:** Gratitude for deliverance >
- ❖ **Praise:** Celebration for who God is and what he has done

❖ Psalms of Lament (APTRAP)

- ❖ Address to God in 1st person
- ❖ Petitions, usually for being heard
- ❖ Trouble described
- ❖ Reason why God should answer
- ❖ Assurance declared (confidence or trust)
- ❖ Praise or promise of sacrifice

Lament Psalm

Psalm 6

¹O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger....

Address to God

²Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.

Petitions with Rationale

⁴Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

Petition with Rationale

⁶I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears.... ⁷My eye ... grows weak because of all my foes.

Trouble described

⁹The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer. ¹⁰All my enemies shall be ashamed....

Assurance declared

❖ **Psalms of Thanksgiving (IMART)**

- ❖ **Introduction of praise, addressed to God**
- ❖ **Misery or trouble reported**
- ❖ **Appeal for others to praise God**
- ❖ **Rescue announced**
- ❖ **Testimony of vow or praise**

Thanksgiving Psalm

Psalm 30

¹I will extol you, O LORD,

**Introduction of praise,
addressed to God**

for you have drawn me up and have not
let my foes rejoice over me.

Misery reported

⁴Sing praises to the LORD, O you his
saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

**Appeal for others to praise
God**

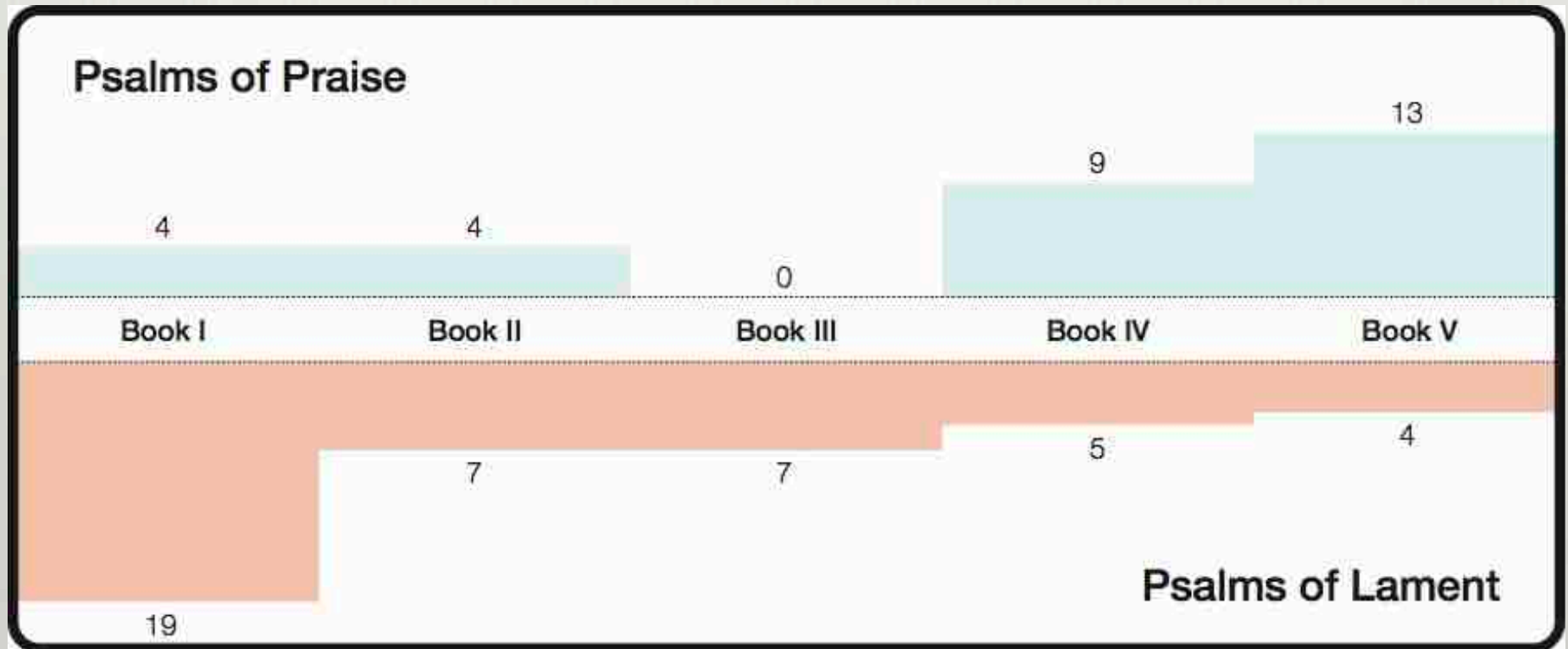
¹¹You have turned for me my mourning
into dancing; you have loosed my
sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
¹²that my glory may sing your praise
and not be silent.

Rescue announced

O LORD, I will give thanks to you
forever!

**Testimony of vow or
praise**

Movement from Lament to Praise



Prepared by Jason S. DeRouchie and John C. Crutchfield; adapted from C. Hassell Bullock, *Encountering the Book of Psalms* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001), 125, 139.

❖ **Psalms of Praise (SRS)**

- ❖ **Summons to praise**
- ❖ **Reason for praise**
- ❖ **Summons to praise repeated**

Praise Psalm

Psalm 117

¹Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

Summons to praise

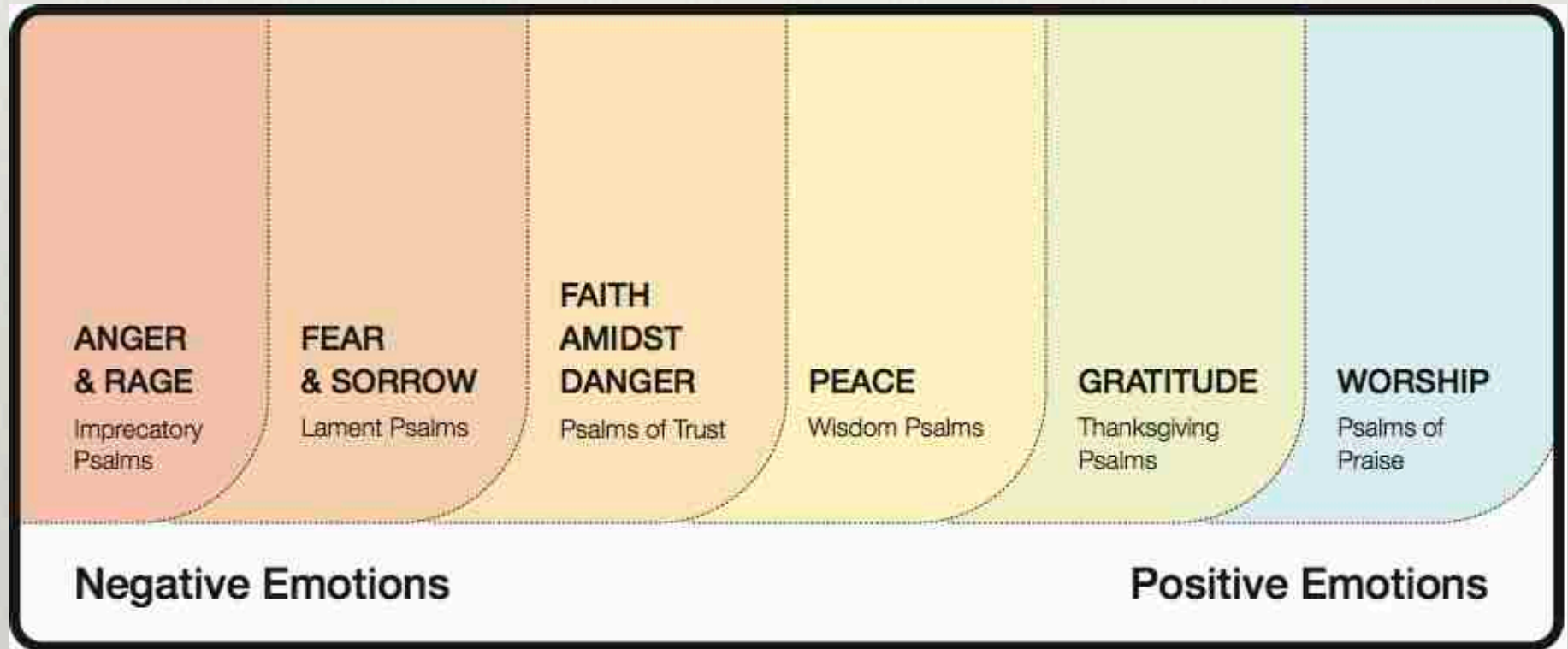
²For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Reason for praise

Praise the LORD!

Summons to praise repeated

Interpreting Emotion in Psalms



❖ Rage in the Psalms of Imprecation

❖ Samples:

- ❖ Ps 35:4. Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life!
- ❖ Ps 55:15. Let death steal over them.
- ❖ Ps 62:23. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually.
- ❖ Ps 69:27. Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.
- ❖ Ps 137:8–9. O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us! Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!

❖ **Things to remember:**

❖ **These emotions are in response to real wrong and injustice and often rise after sustained acts of love have been rejected.**

❖ **Ps 35:12–13**. But I, when they were sick—I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting; I prayed with head bowed on my chest. ¹⁴ I went about as though I grieved for my friend or brother; as one who laments his mother, I bowed down in mourning.

❖ **Ps 109:4–5**. In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer. 5 So they reward me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

- ❖ **Often the writers are explicitly concerned about God and his name, not just personal vindication. The psalmist even requests that God punish his enemies *so that* their hearts may be turned toward him.**
- ❖ **Ps 83:16–18. Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek your name, O LORD. ¹⁷ Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace, ¹⁸ that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.**
- ❖ **Remember that these emotions are expressed in prayer, not in a call to arms or to an angry mob.**

- ❖ **Anger cast toward God and not people is the first step toward healing and love of neighbor.**
- ❖ **Psalm 69 is an imprecatory psalm: Ps 69:9, 24, 27.** The reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me....²⁴ Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them....²⁷ Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.

❖ **Paul cites this psalm in Rom 15, stressing both its importance for Christians and it serves to move us toward love:**

❖ **Rom 15:3–6**. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

❖ **Trusting God to bring justice tomorrow enables us to love our enemies today.**

❖ **Rom 12:18–19**. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

❖ Confidence in the Psalms of Trust

- ❖ Laments focus on the problem, psalms of trust focus on the answer, but both are cries from the midst of pain.

Trust Psalm

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Certainty and rest in
God's provision**

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Certainty and rest in
God's protection**

Trust Psalm

Psalm 62

¹ For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. ² He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

Confidence in God's goodness, provision, protection

³ How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? ⁴ They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. *Selah*

The reality of opposition from outside

⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

Confidence in God's goodness, provision, protection

❖ Internal dialogue or self-talk

❖ Samples:

- ❖ **Self-talk in lament. Ps 13:2.** How long must I take counsel in my soul?
- ❖ **Self-talk in lament. Ps 42:5–6.** Why are you downcast, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation ⁶ and my God.
- ❖ **Self-talk in thanksgiving. Ps 116:7.** Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
- ❖ **Self-talk in praise. Ps 103:1–2.** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

“Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself.... Now this man’s treatment [in Ps 42:5, 11] was this; instead of allowing this self to talk to him, he starts to talking to himself. ‘Why art thou cast down, O my soul?’ he asks. His soul had been depressing him, crushing him. So he stands up and says: ‘Self, listen for a moment, I will speak to you.’”

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones