

“It doesn’t matter where you start. It matters where you finish.”

***– Mickey Lione
Assistant Football Coach
New Canaan High School***

“The Psalms give us a theology written in intimate relationship with God and in close touch with life.”

***- Tremper Longman III
How to Read the Psalms***

**The Psalms are a sign, pointing us
toward Biblical Worship.**

Biblical Worship (A Definition):

- 1) Prioritizes God.**
- 2) Integrates worship and life.**
- 3) Ultimately points to Jesus Christ.**

The Genres of the Psalms:

Psalms of Remembrance ... teach us to remember God's redemptive acts, His covenant promises, and His faithfulness (Psalms 89 and 77).

The Genres of the Psalms:

Psalms of Wisdom... teach us to seek His wisdom and His ways and not those of the world (Psalms 1 and 119).

The Genres of the Psalms:

Psalms of Confidence ... teach us to rest in God's presence, rely on God's protection, remember God's promises, and ultimately to find our confidence in Jesus Christ (Psalms 91 and 23).

The Genres of the Psalms:

Psalms of Lament ... are an invitation to ordered, congregational authenticity in the face of our sorrows, whereby we see Jesus in our suffering (Psalms 22 and 88).

The Genres of the Psalms:

Psalms of Praise ... teach us that biblical worship is not a feeling we chase, but a discipline we embrace (Psalms 19 and 150).

The Structure of the Psalms – Five Books:

Book 1: Psalms 1-41

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!**

Amen and Amen.

Psalms 41:13

The Structure of the Psalms – Five Books:

Book 2: Psalms 42-72

**¹⁸Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

**¹⁹Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his
glory! Amen and Amen!**

Psalms 72:18-19

**The Structure of the Psalms – Five Books:
Book 3: Psalms 73-89
Blessed be the Lord forever!
Amen and Amen.**

Psalms 89:52

**The Structure of the Psalms – Five Books:
Book 4: Psalms 90-106
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting! And let all
the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!**

Psalms 106:48

The Structure of the Psalms – Five Books:

Book 5: Psalms 107-150

146-150 (The “Hallelujah” Psalms)

Hallelujah = “Praise the Lord!”

“We have now reached the last summit of the mountain chain of Psalms. It rises high into the clear azure, and its brow is bathed in the sunlight of the eternal world of worship. It is a rapture. The poet-prophet is full of inspiration and enthusiasm.

**He says not to argue, to teach, to explain,
but cries with burning words, 'Praise Him,
Praise Him, Praise ye the Lord.'"**

**- Charles Haddon Spurgeon
*The Treasury of David; 2:335***

Psalms of Praise – Three Dominant Features:

- 1. Call to worship**
- 2. Reasons to worship**
- 3. Call to continue worshipping**

1. Call to Worship (150:1)

The WHAT and WHO of Worship

Praise = “to shine forth light, to boast in something or someone”

13x in Psalm 150

“In the Bible ... idolatry is looking to your own wisdom and competence, or to some other created thing, to provide the power, approval, comfort, and security that only God can provide ... If we look to some created thing to give us meaning, hope, and happiness that only God himself can give, it will eventually fail to deliver and break our hearts.” - Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

1. Call to Worship (150:1)

2. Reasons to Worship (150:2)

The WHY of Worship

**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be
praised, and his greatness is
unsearchable.**

Psalms 145:3

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, for
his name alone is exalted; his majesty is
above earth and heaven.**

Psalms 148:13

1. Call to Worship (150:1)

2. Reasons to Worship (150:2)

3. Call to Continue Worshipping (150:3-6)

The HOW and WHEN of Worship

²⁰Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. ²¹And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

Exodus 15:20-21

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2:7

“God gave humans the breath with which they praise Him. Indeed, there is no more important use of that breath than to worship God.”

–Tremper Longman III, Psalms

“In worship, we give back to Him what He has given us.”

***- Bill Price, Choral Ministry Director
Williamsburg Community Chapel***

- 1. Call to Worship (150:1)**
- 2. Reasons to Worship (150:2)**
- 3. Call to Continue Worshipping (150:3-6)**

We should be worshipping all the time.

¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:14-16

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

Revelation 19:6-8

Psalm 150 is our ultimate call to continue worshipping.

The question now is: Will we respond to the call?

More appropriately: Will we continue joining it?