

A SUMMER IN THE PSALMS



Introduction

WHY STUDY POETRY ?

- Volume
- Worship Elements
- Theology
- Anthropology
- Devotional



WHY STUDY POETRY?

- Volume – aside from narrative poetry makes up the second most literary form in the Bible.
 - It is primarily in the Psalter
 - It is also in wisdom books
 - Poetry is prevalent in the books of prophecy.



WHY STUDY POETRY?

- Worship Elements
- Liturgy (preachers and teachers)
 - Reading in liturgical context
 - Funerals
 - Pastoral Care



WHY STUDY POETRY?

Theology

1. God is sovereign.
2. He is transcendent.
3. God is immanent.
4. God is covenantal.



WHY STUDY POETRY?

Devotionally

- * Use in your own quiet time
- * Use it in your prayer time. Pray the Psalms back to God

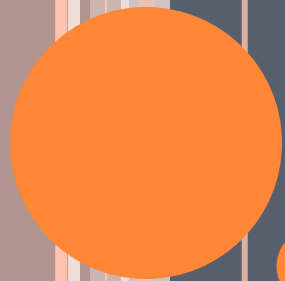
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WHY STUDY POETRY AND PSALMS?

- Anthropology (study of man)
 - We see a theology of man (psalm 8)
 - In the psalms, we see man in living color.
 - We see man at his highest points (Praise)
 - We see man at his lowest (Lament)

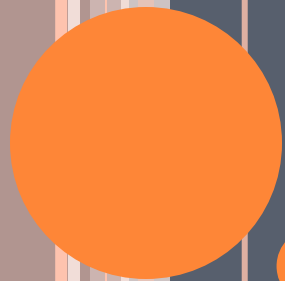




THE PSALMS

The substance and the structure





THE PSALTER/BOOK OF PSALMS

THE PSALTER

150 psalms divided into five books(Sounds familiar)

- Book 1 – 1- 41 (psalm 1,2)
- Book 2 – 42-72
- Book 3 – 73-89
- Book 4 – 90-106
- Book 5 - 107-150

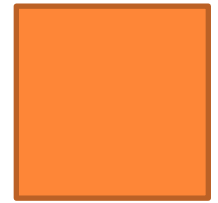
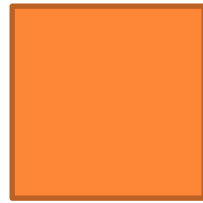


THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Lament



Praise



**Book
One**

**Book
Two**

**Book
three**

**Book
four**

**Book
Five**



THE PSALMS

- Structure – the way the psalms are written vary, but there are some consistent structural elements.

Titles or Superscriptions. These are “editorial notes that describe the poem”

The Types of psalms



THE TITLES OR SUPERSCRPTIONS.

- These are “editorial notes that describe the poem”
- They are blocks of material that precede the actual poem or music and contain 6 types of information
 - Music conductor’s notes
 - Composer, author, writer, written for, dedicated to, belonging to, regarding etc.



THE TITLES OR SUPERSCRPTIONS.

- Can you discern the information
- Turn to Psalm 80
- Turn to Psalm 54

Authorship ?

Occasion ?

Accompaniments – ?

The type ?



PSALM TYPES

- Psalms are categorized according to their theme function or emphasis. They can be individual or community.
- Psalms that have similar characteristics are often categorized similarly.



TYPES OF PSALMS

Two things we need to do in regard to Psalm types in order to discern them:

- 1. We need to Define them.**
- 2. We need to Describe them.**



TYPES OF PSALMS

- Hymn/ Praise
- Lament
- Thanksgiving (Todah)
- Wisdom Psalms
- Royal /Messianic
- Miscellaneous or Mixed Type



TYPES OF PSALMS - PRAISE

Define – A psalm that celebrates God. Declarative or Descriptive. Often used in temple worship

Describe – 3 structural elements: Opening Invitation, a Central Delineation and a Concluding Affirmation.

Examples – Psalm 8, 34, 145



TYPES OF PSALMS LAMENT

Define – a psalm of disorientation, a sad song. It contains the poet's strategy for mastering a crisis.

Describe – Five elements: *Invocation, Complaint, Petitions, Statement of confidence* and *Vow of Praise*.

○ **Example** – Psalm 6, 41, 130.



TYPES - THANKSGIVING

Define – simply a psalm of thanks, use of *Todah*, which is the same word used for the thank offering in the O.T.

Describe – Use of thankful language.

Details - can be individual or community.

- Example – Psalm 30, 32, 100



TYPES - WISDOM PSALMS

Define – A psalm of Divine instruction. God invites us to make decisions that lead to a blessed life.

Describe – contains wisdom themes or language. (wise, foolish, torah, commandments)

Examples – Psalm 1, 78, 119



TYPES - ROYAL /MESSIANIC

Define – Focus on the Davidic king who rules the nation of Israel; used in court festivals and often read before kings and dignitaries.

Describe – No distinct structure. The consistent element is God being King.

Examples Psalm 18, 47, 93, 97,99 &95)



THE MIXED TYPE

Define – psalms that seem not to fit in any of the categories.

Describe – May contain elements of different psalms within the psalm.

Example - Psalms, 9, 10, 123.



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SUBSTANCE OF THE PSALMS

FIGURES OF SPEECH

Imagery

SUBSTANCE OF THE PSALMS

Imagery – the use of words to create a picture in the mind.

Figures of speech - a word or phrase used in a non-literal sense for rhetorical or vivid effect



IMAGERY

- Ignites imagination
- Invitation to experience
- Abstract to Concrete

Psalm 69:3

“ I am weary with crying out, my throat is parched, My eyes grow dim with waiting for God”



FIGURES OF SPEECH

- **Metaphor** – A comparison between two objects *without* using like or as. *Ps 45:2 – my tongue is a pen of a ready writer*
- **Similes** – Comparison using the word “like” or “as” *Ps 42:1 – as a deer pants after the water brooks, so does my soul pants for you.*



FIGURES OF SPEECH - METAPHOR

- The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly (Ps 84:11).



FIGURES OF SPEECH - SIMILE

- Keep me as the apple of the eye (Ps 17:8).
- I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert (Ps 102:6).
- Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child (Ps 131:2)
- Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves (Matt 10:16).



FIGURES OF SPEECH

- **Personification** – the representation of an object or concept as if it were a person. *Ps. 98:8 – Let the floods clap their hands*
- **Anthropomorphism** - ascribes human traits, ambitions, emotions, or entire behaviors to God. Exodus 3:20 – *“I will stretch out my hand...”*



FIGURES OF SPEECH

- “Synecdoche” and “metonymy” are figures of speech in which one thing is substituted for another. In both, the original term and the substitute are closely identified or associated with each other.



FIGURES OF SPEECH

○ **Synecdoche**- The part is used to represent the whole or vice versa.

All hands on deck – “hands”
represents people

- *New wheels*—refers to a new car
- *Ask for her hand*—refers to asking a woman to marry



FIGURES OF SPEECH

- **Metonymy** - the substituted word is not a part of the original but something associated with it.

“The White House has spoken” – the president or executive branch

“Restaurant Dish” – represents an entire plate of food

“Hollywood” – represents cinema



FIGURES OF SPEECH - METONYMY

- Example: Step on the gas.
 - We substitute the fuel for the accelerator.
 - We do not mean to stand on gasoline at all.
 - We replace accelerator with what it controls.



METONYMY

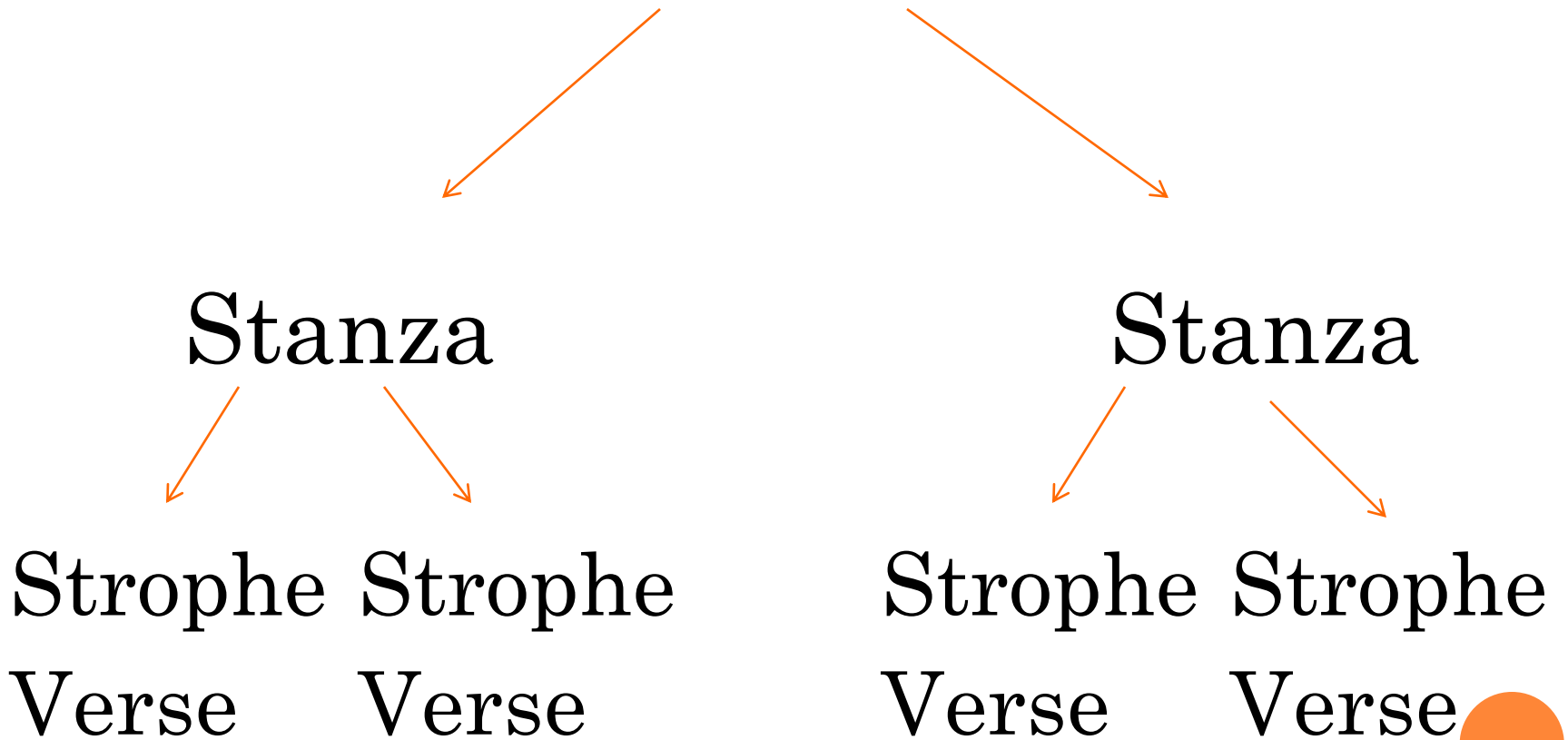
- Example: He really used his head.
 - We substitute the location for the brain itself.
 - We do not mean he banged his skull at all.
 - We replace brain with where it is found.



THE STRUCTURE OF THE PSALMS

OPTION 1

Psalm (Poem)





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Fullerlifemc@gmail.com

Phone 817 851 4931

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