

A Christian reading of the Psalms, the seven types of Psalms
(Part 2 of Psalms study)

I.A Christian Reading of the Psalms – Luke 24:44

A. Quoted in the New Testament: (not a comprehensive list!)

1. By Jesus:
 - a) John 2:17 – Psalm 69:9
 - b) John 13:18 – Psalm 41:9
 - c) Matt. 27:46 – Psalm 22:1
2. By Paul:
 - a) Romans 3:10-18 – Psalm 51:4, 14:1-3, 53:1, 5:9, 140:3, 10:7, 36:1
 - b) Romans 4:6-8 – Psalm 32:1-2
 - c) Romans 11:9-10 – Psalm 69:22-23
 - d) Acts 13:33-35 – Psalms 2:7, 16:10
 - e) Romans 15:1-4 – Psalms 69:9

B. What to learn from the Psalms:

1. Praising the Savior:
 - a) Heb. 1:8-12 – Psalm 102:25-27 – Jesus is God
 - b) Luke 1:31-33 – Psalm 89:3-4 – Jesus is the Son of David
2. Jesus sings praises with us!
 - a) Hebrews 2:12 – Psalm 22:22
3. The Seven types of Psalms...and the seven ways to acknowledge God's power and authority
 - a) The Hymn: See Psalm 103, 92 (v.1, 4), 96 (v.1, 5), 19, 98
 - (1) Hymns are easily recognized by their exuberant praise of the Lord, as the Psalmist is very conscious of God's presence. Most hymns share a basic structure:
 - (a) A call to worship
 - (b) Expand on reasons why God should be praised
 - (c) Include, and often conclude, with further calls to praise
 - b) The Lament: See Psalm 22, 12, 17
 - (1) The Lament is the psalmist's cry. When in great distress, he has nowhere to turn except to God. There are mainly three reasons for laments:
 - (a) The psalmist may be troubled by his own thoughts and actions (42:5, 11, 43:5)
 - (b) The psalmist may be troubled by the actions of others against him (42:3)
 - (c) The psalmist may be troubled by something God has/has not done. (42:9)
 - (2) There are also these basic elements that can be found (not in any order, and not all in one) in laments:
 - (a) Invocation (calling upon God)
 - (b) Pleas to God for help
 - (c) Explanation for why the psalmist is troubled
 - (d) Confession of sin or assertion of innocence
 - (e) Curse of enemies
 - (f) Confidence in God's response
 - (g) Hymn or blessing
 - c) Psalm of Thanksgiving: See Psalm 34, 32, 30, 18
 - (1) A Thanksgiving psalm is a song of thanks for an answered prayer or lament.
 - d) Psalm of Confidence: See Psalm 11, 23, 16, 27, 62, 91, 121, 125, 131

- (1) In psalms of Confidence, the psalmist asserts his trust in God, even though sometimes enemies or some other malady is present.
 - e) Psalm of Remembrance: See Psalm 78, 105, 106, 135, 136
 - (1) Remembrance psalms frequently recall great redemptive acts by God in the past, for the purpose of reminding Israel why God is worthy to be praised. Two acts are most commonly referenced:
 - (a) The Exodus – the “salvation event” of the Old Testament, See Psalm 77:16
 - (b) The establishment of David’s kingship over Israel, See Psalm 89, 132
 - f) Wisdom Psalms: See Psalm 1, 19, 119, 73
 - (1) The wisdom psalms emphasize a contrast in ways of living which bring about different consequences.
 - g) Kingship Psalms: Psalm 20, 21, 45, 47, 98
 - (1) Psalms that focus on the king. There are two types:
 - (a) Psalms which focus on the human king of Israel – See Psalm 20, 21, 45
 - (b) Psalms which focus on God as King – See Psalm 47, 98
4. How does understanding these “types” of psalms help us in our worship?
- a) **The Hymn:** We should always seek to offer up praise to our God – Hebrews 13:15
 - b) **The Lament:** We should always turn to God for help in time of need – Hebrews 4:16
 - c) **Psalm of Thanksgiving:** We should always seek to give God thanks when he answers our prayers. We should also be aware of the great blessings He gives us – Col. 3:17; Phil. 4:6
 - d) **Psalm of Confidence:** We should always be aware of what God can and will do for us – II Timothy 1:12
 - e) **Psalm of Remembrance:** We should always remember what wonderful things God has done for us, such as sending His Son to die – I Cor. 11:24-25, II Tim. 2:8
 - f) **Wisdom Psalms:** We should always be considering the greatness of God’s wisdom, and exalting His word which teaches us how to be wise – Romans 11:33, II Peter 1:3-4
 - g) **Kingship Psalms:** We should always be mindful of who our King is, and why we serve Him – I Tim. 6:15

C. Next: The Messianic Psalms