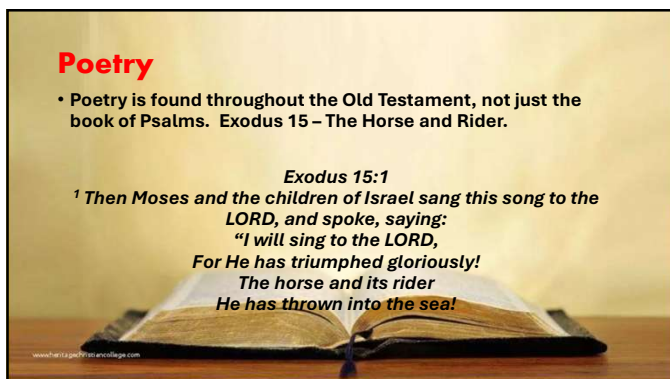


1



2



3

Poetry

- Lamentations is a poetry.

Lamentations 1:1
¹ How lonely sits the city
That was full of people!
How like a widow is she,
Who was great among the nations!
The princess among the provinces
Has become a slave!

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4

Poetry

- The prophets often wrote in poetic form.

Isaiah 53:4-5
⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.

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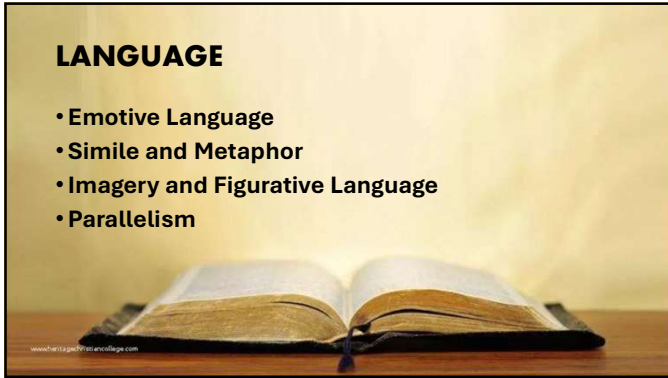
LANGUAGE

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6

LANGUAGE

- Emotive Language
- Simile and Metaphor
- Imagery and Figurative Language
- Parallelism



7

EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

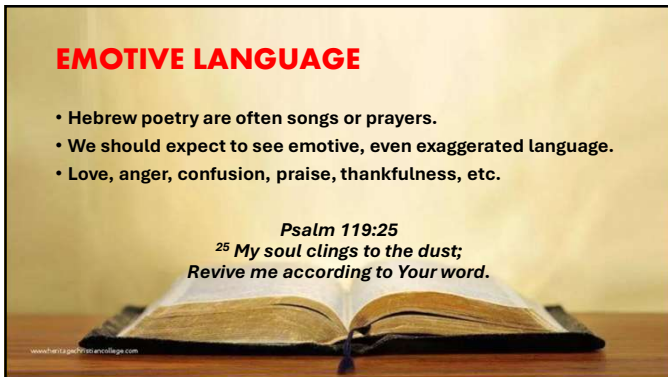


8

EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

- Hebrew poetry are often songs or prayers.
- We should expect to see emotive, even exaggerated language.
- Love, anger, confusion, praise, thankfulness, etc.

Psalm 119:25
²⁵ My soul clings to the dust;
Revive me according to Your word.



9

EMOTIVE LANGUAGE

- They are several types of psalms used for different occasions.
- They can be either corporate or individual.
- Each types brings with it its own emotions that will be expressed in the psalm.

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10

IMAGERY and FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

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11

IMAGERY and FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- Hebrew poetry is also known for its use of imagery and figurative language.

Psalm 23:4 (LSB)

*⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

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12

IMAGERY and FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- Most of the Bible contains imagery and figurative language.
- Language that is designed to create a scene or create a mood.
- Personification
- Hyperbole and exaggeration
- Irony
- Figures of speech



13

IMAGERY and FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- Imagery and figurative language are not meant to be taken literally.
- They are designed to capture the imagination.
- The reader is meant to go beyond the words on the page to the spiritual truths behind them.
- What does it make us think? Feel? Want to do? Or be?



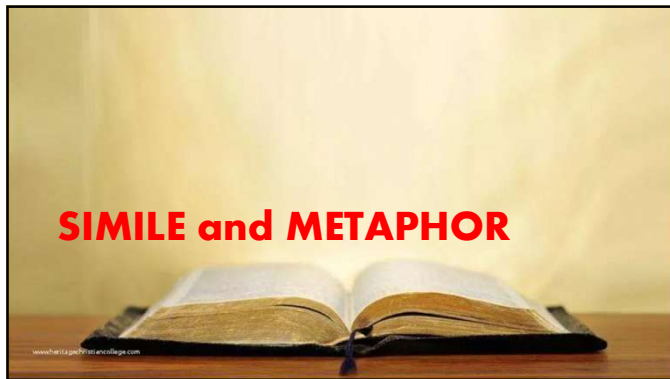
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IMAGERY and FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

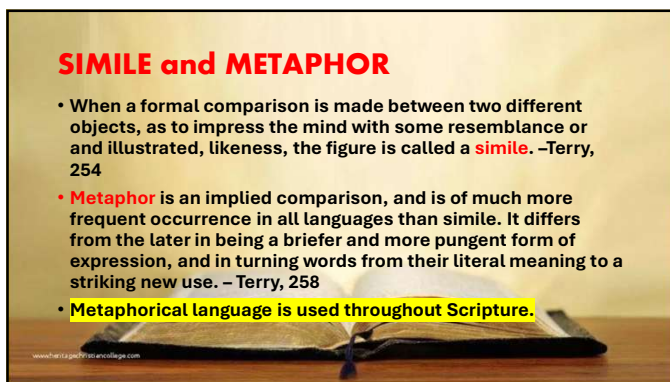
- The use of figurative or picturesque language means the reader may not always be sure what the author means. A precise meaning may be difficult to determine
- What are the “green pastures” that the psalmist lies down in?
- The psalmist does not tell us specifically.



15



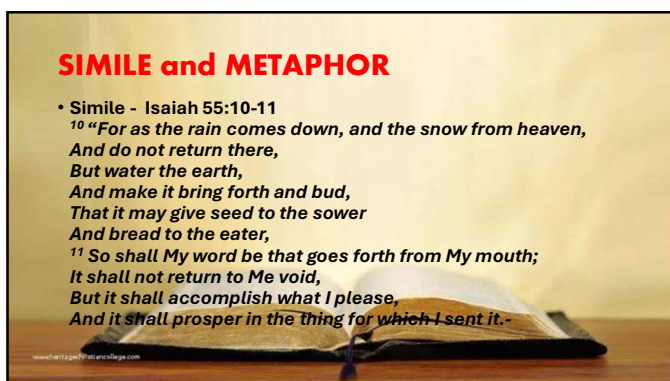
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17

SIMILE and METAPHOR

- When a formal comparison is made between two different objects, as to impress the mind with some resemblance or and illustrated, likeness, the figure is called a **simile**. –Terry, 254
- **Metaphor** is an implied comparison, and is of much more frequent occurrence in all languages than simile. It differs from the later in being a briefer and more pungent form of expression, and in turning words from their literal meaning to a striking new use. – Terry, 258
- **Metaphorical language is used throughout Scripture.**



18

SIMILE and METAPHOR

- Simile - Isaiah 55:10-11
¹⁰ *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
 And do not return there,
 But water the earth,
 And make it bring forth and bud,
 That it may give seed to the sower
 And bread to the eater,
¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
 It shall not return to Me void,
 But it shall accomplish what I please,
 And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*

SIMILE and METAPHOR

- Metaphor - Jeremiah 2:13

¹³ *"For My people have committed two evils:
They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,
And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold
no water.*



19

SIMILE and METAPHOR

- Sometimes Hebrew metaphors and figurative language make no sense because we are not part of their culture. This makes them sometimes hard to translate.

Psalm 119:69-70
⁶⁹ *The arrogant have forged a lie against me;
With all my heart I will observe Your precepts.*
⁷⁰ *Their heart is covered with fat,
But I delight in Your law.*



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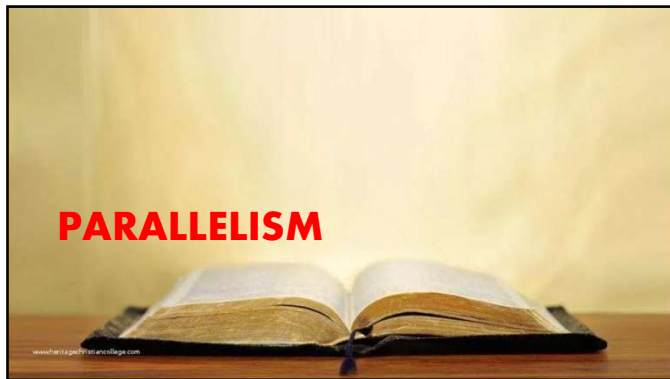
SIMILE and METAPHOR

Psalm 119:69-70
⁷⁰ *Their heart is covered with fat,*

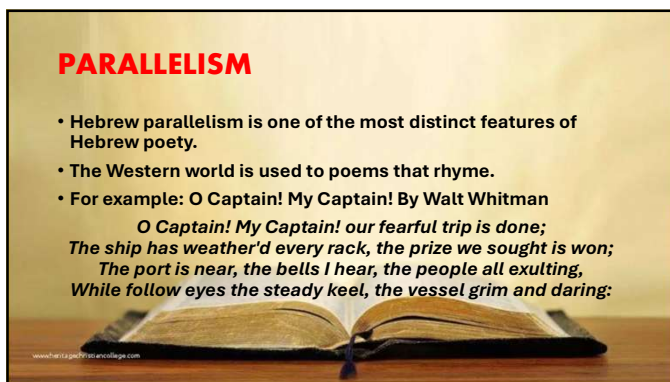
- What does the heart being covered with fat mean?
- *"they are full of the world, and the wealth and pleasures of it; and this makes them, (1.) Senseless, secure, and stupid; they are past feeling:" – Matthew Henry*



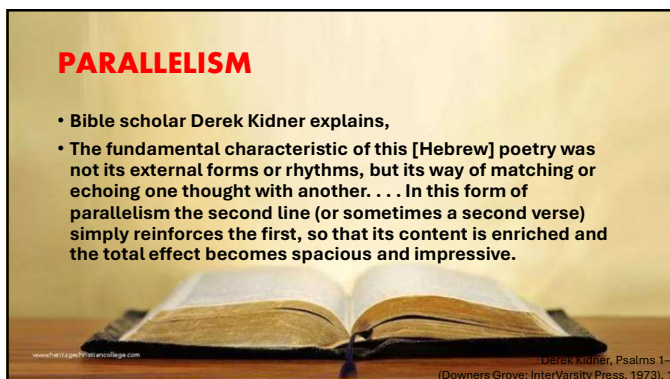
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23



24

PARALLELISM

- Hebrew poetry does not rhyme words, it rhymes thoughts and ideas.

Psalm 1:1
¹ Blessed is the man
 Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
 Nor stands in the path of sinners,
 Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

25

PARALLELISM

Psalm 19:1
¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;
 And the firmament shows His handiwork.

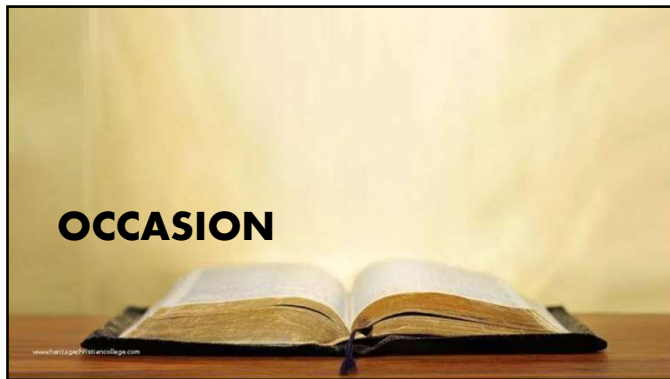
Psalm 51:2
² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 And cleanse me from my sin.

26

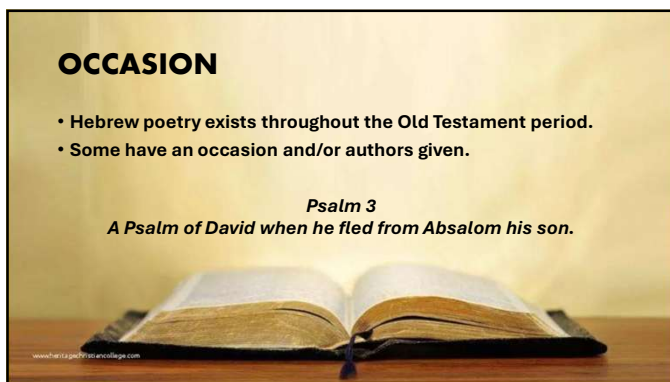
PARALLELISM

- Each line saying something similar but from a different perspective or using synonymous words.
- The parallels are a poetic device to create emphasis.
- While the second line is an echo of the first, they are not to be seen as mere repeats but complimentary pairs with the second line bringing something new.
- Think of them as building blocks.

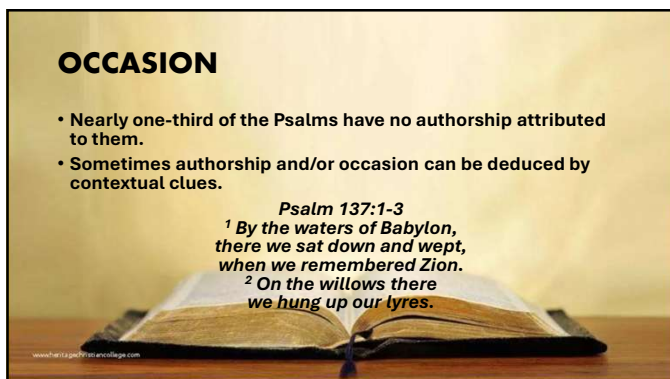
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30

OCCASION

- *but none of them appears so plainly to be of a late date as this, which was penned when the people of God were captives in Babylon, and there insulted over by these proud oppressors; probably it was towards the latter end of their captivity; - Matthew Henry*

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31

OUTSIDE

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32

OUTSIDE

- New Testament quotations and usage of the Psalms.
- Psalm 110 is the most widely quoted psalm in the New Testament.

*Psalm 110:1
 1 The LORD said to my Lord,
 "Sit at My right hand,
 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

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33


OUTSIDE

Matthew 22:43-44

43 He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying:

44 ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?”

• See also Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42, 43; Acts 2:34, 35; Heb. 1:13



34


OUTSIDE

Recommended commentaries:

Charles Spurgeon – The Treasury of David


William Plumer – Studies in the Book of Psalms (available on Monergism)

Charles Bridges- Psalms 119

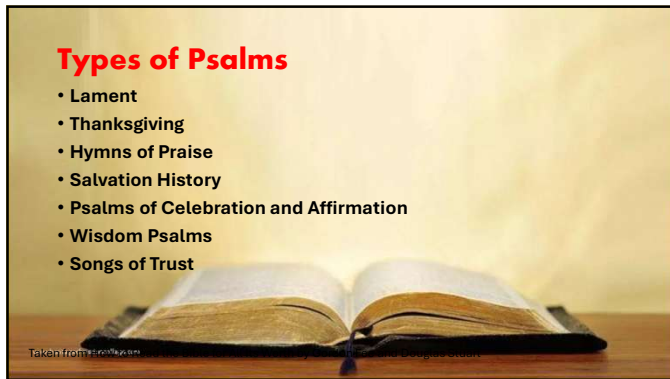


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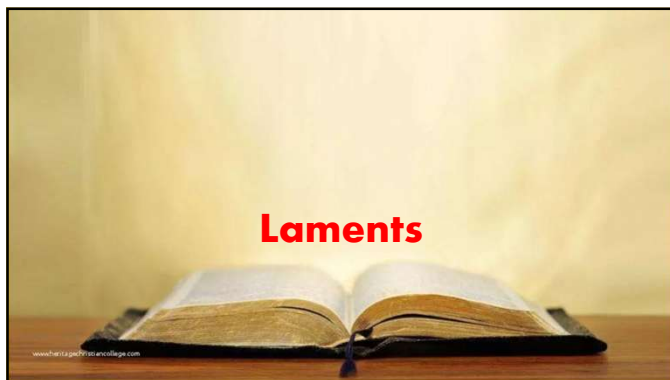
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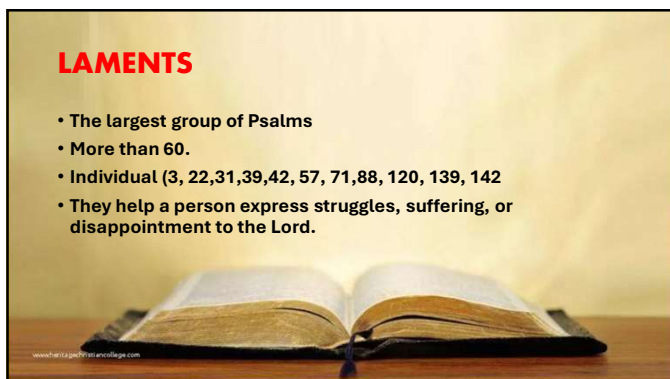
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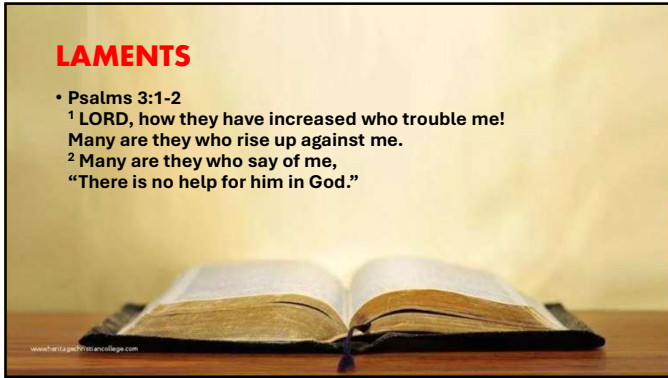
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LAMENTS

- Psalms 3:1-2

¹ LORD, how they have increased who trouble me!
Many are they who rise up against me.

² Many are they who say of me,
"There is no help for him in God."



40

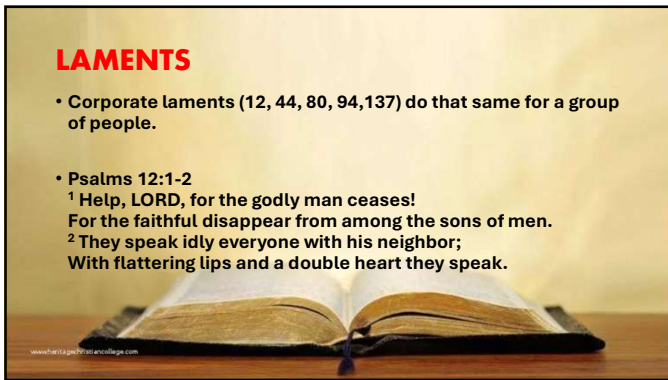
LAMENTS

- Corporate laments (12, 44, 80, 94, 137) do that same for a group of people.

- Psalms 12:1-2

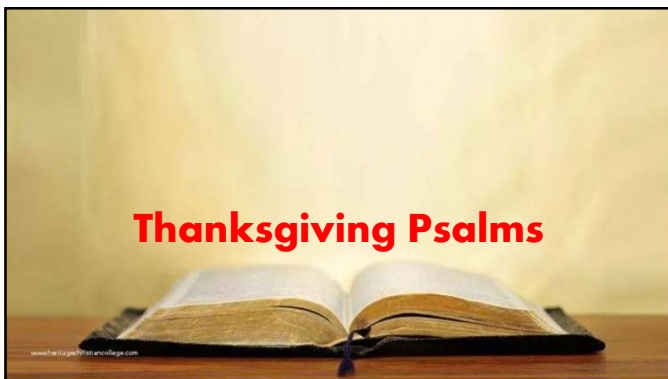
¹ Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases!
For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

² They speak idly everyone with his neighbor;
With flattering lips and a double heart they speak.



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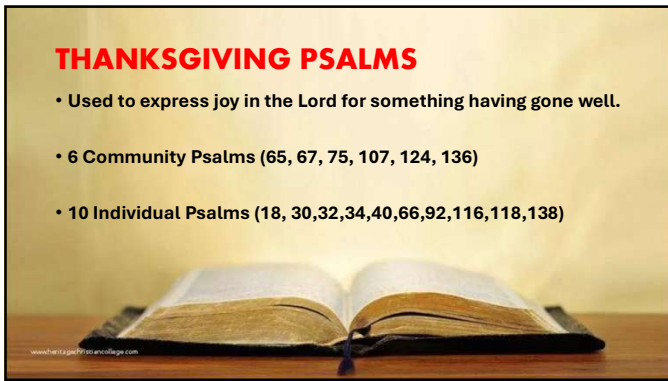
Thanksgiving Psalms



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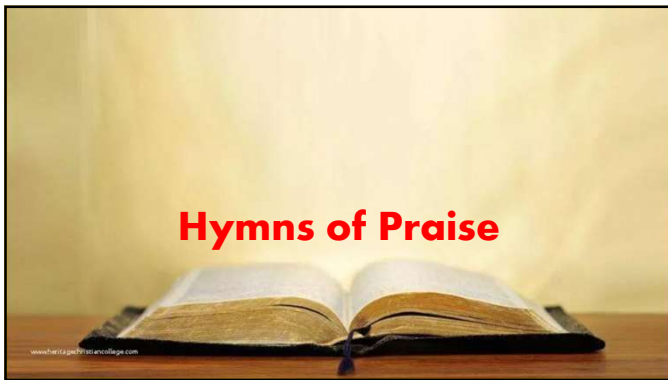
THANKSGIVING PSALMS

- Used to express joy in the Lord for something having gone well.
- 6 Community Psalms (65, 67, 75, 107, 124, 136)
- 10 Individual Psalms (18, 30, 32, 34, 40, 66, 92, 116, 118, 138)



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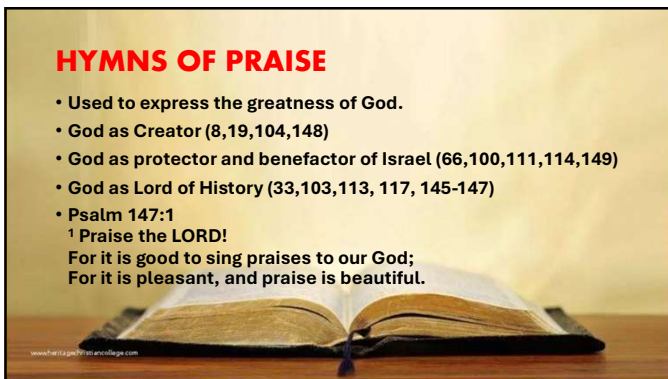
Hymns of Praise



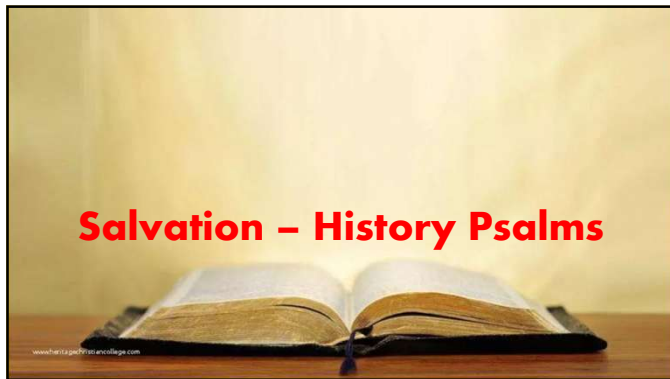
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HYMNS OF PRAISE

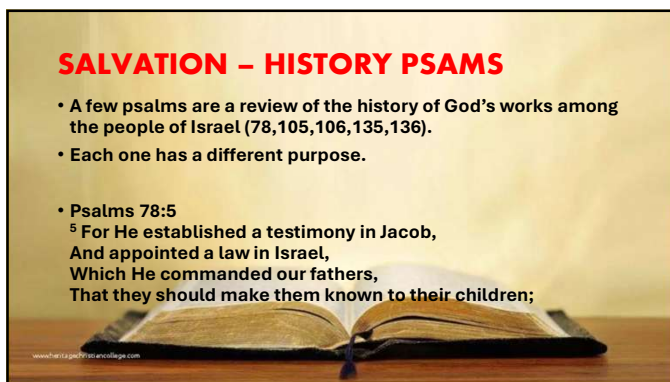
- Used to express the greatness of God.
- God as Creator (8, 19, 104, 148)
- God as protector and benefactor of Israel (66, 100, 111, 114, 149)
- God as Lord of History (33, 103, 113, 117, 145-147)
- Psalm 147:1
¹ Praise the LORD!
 For it is good to sing praises to our God;
 For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.



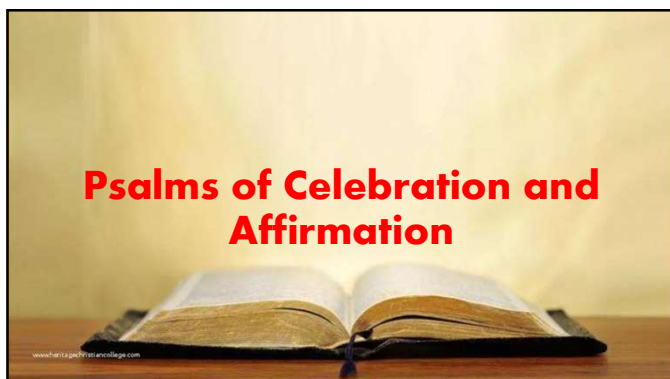
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48


Celebration and Affirmation

- Covenant Renewal liturgy (50, 81)
- Davidic Covenant psalm (89, 132) praise the importance of God’s choice of the Davidic Line
- Kingship/Royal Psalms (2,18,20,21,45,72,101,110,144)
- Enthronement Psalms (24,29,47,93,95-99) where used when a new king took the throne.
- Songs of Zion (46,48,76,84,87,122) praise for the Holy City.



49


Wisdom Psalms



50

Wisdom Psalms

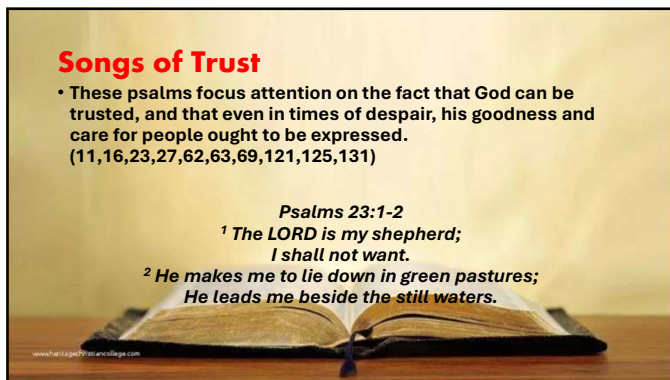
- 8 Wisdom Psalms (36, 37,49,73,112,127,128,133)



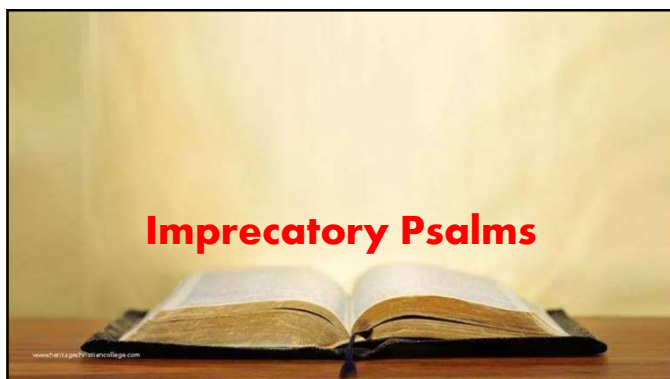
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54

Imprecatory Psalms

Psalms 137:7-9

⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
The day of Jerusalem,
Who said, "Raze it, raze it,
To its very foundation!"
⁸ O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed,
Happy the one who repays you as you have served us!
⁹ Happy the one who takes and dashes
Your little ones against the rock!

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55

Imprecatory Psalms

- What are we do with psalms like this (parts of 12,35,58,59,69,70,83,137,140)?
- These psalms guide or channel our anger to and through God verbally rather than to or at anyone else – verbally or physically.
- These are in line with covenant curses like those found in Deuteronomy 28.

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56



King of Kings



Reformed Church

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57
