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October 22, 20
OT 742.NA
Dr. Robertson

Psalms Midterm

Part One: Define or describe all of the following in three sentences.

1. **Alliteration:** It is the repetition of consonant sounds usually at the beginning of words.
Given that we read English translations, we miss the alliteration unless we read it in the original Hebrew text. An example can be seen in Psalm 122:6-7 with the ש “sh” sound.
2. **Assonance:** Unlike alliteration, assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds usually at the end of a word. This allows for rhyming as well as emphasizing a section. This can be seen in Psalm 113:8 with the עֵם “eem” sound.
3. **Inclusio:** An inclusio is the bread that sandwiches a poem as it repeats the opening or the closing of the poem. The repetition sets the tone and also creates a sense of closure. An example is seen in Psalm 8 as it opens and closes with יהוה אֱלֹהֵינוּ “O LORD, our Lord.”
4. **Lament:** Laments are the most common type of psalm, including individual and community laments. It expresses turmoil and strong emotions caused by suffering from either self, enemies, nature, or God. Yet in the suffering, laments also express trust in the Lord.
5. **Thanksgiving psalm:** Thanksgiving psalms like many of the other types of psalms mention a crisis, but it’s set apart because it mentions the passing of the crisis and deliverance from it. There is a clear declaration that the crisis has passed. An example is seen in Psalm 30:1 where it states the Lord lifted and helped the psalmist.

6. **Ellipsis:** A characteristic of poetry often used in Psalms where part of a line is missing but assumed. In parallelism, there are two lines or parts that complete each other. An ellipsis unifies the two parts as there is an understanding for the reader to read the omitted part.
7. **Asaph:** Asaph psalms include the first 11 chapters that open up Book 3 as well as Psalm 50, in Book 2. Asaph psalms speak of Israel's enemies and how God will address the wicked. Asaph was the chief of Levites assigned to the ark of the Lord in 1 Chronicles.
8. **Korah:** Written by the sons of Korah, these psalms include Psalm 42-49 (Book 2) and Psalm 84-85, 87-88 (Book 3). The sons of Korah were the temple gatekeepers assigned by King David. These psalms speak of God's great power.
9. **Hymn:** Hymns are a type of Psalm that praises the greatness and glory of the Lord. It's revealed in nature or history. Hymns include a call to worship, usually in the Hebrew imperative form, as well as a motive for praise.
10. **Imprecation:** Imprecatory psalms are written from strong emotions of anger. These psalms call for judgment on the psalmists' enemies. An example is a Davidic Psalm in Psalm 35.
11. **Davidic psalm:** Nearly half of the psalms are attributed to David, traditionally believed to be 73, but according to Acts 4:25, Paul claims Psalm 2 is also included making it 74/150. How these psalms are attributed vary from David being the author, the psalm being commissioned on behalf of David, the psalm being written on behalf of a Davidic king, or simply that David sponsored it. The uncertainty lies in the translation of the Hebrew preposition לְ which can mean of, by, for, on, and to.

- 12. Parallelism:** A characteristic that repeats an idea within 2 lines or parts of a psalm. The idea is stated in the first line and repeated in various ways. There are 7 types of parallelism seen in the psalms.
- 13. Antithetical parallelism:** Antithetical parallelism repeats an idea in a way where the second line or part contrasts the first. This can be seen in blessings and curses. Psalm 1:6 is an example as the Lord watches the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to death.
- 14. Community lament:** Community laments are made by the people collectively. They differ from individual laments in that it only has five components: address, lament, confession of trust, petition, and vow of praise. Community laments lack the assurance of being heard, wish for God's intervention, and praise to God when their wish is heard.
- 15. Merismus:** A merism is a characteristic of poetry and it expresses totality as it uses two contrasting words. The contrast of the words creates a whole picture. An example can be seen in Psalm 95:4 the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains.

Part Two: Answer all of the following questions in 100 words or more

1. What is a hymn? List the major components of a hymn in the Psalter. Select one of the hymns of the Psalter and outline its sections.

Hymns are Psalms full of praise for what God has done. While the Psalms in its entirety is full of praise, which can be seen in the Hebrew title "tehillim," hymns call for worship both individually and collectively. The call to worship is often seen as "hallelu" Hebrew for praise in its imperative form with the occasional inclusion of "yah," short for YHWH. Psalm 146 begins with a call to worship the Lord collectively. Verses 3-7 speak of commands and blessings.

Verses 8-9 state all that the Lord has done and why they are to praise Him. This psalm then ends with another command to worship the Lord.

2. Outline the Psalter. In this outline mention the divisions of the Psalter and the number of psalms in each division. Mention special features such as the royal, torah and thanksgiving themes.

The Psalter is without a doubt a book of praise that covers the entirety of the Old Testament history. It is divided into 5 books (1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; 107-150) which mirrors the Torah's 5 books of law. Each book ends with "hallelu yah!" praising God with the noted difference of the final book ending with 5 chapters in praise. There are many types of psalms, the most common being laments. Royal psalms were written for the coronation of one of Israel's kings. Torah psalms focus on God's laws and thanksgiving psalms declare of how God has delivered the psalmist from a crisis.

3. What is parallelism? List at least 3 types of parallelism and define how it works. Provide an example of each type of parallelism.

Parallelism is a poetic device that repeats an idea divided into two lines. Synonymous parallelism is the most frequently occurring and recognizable within the psalms. An idea is introduced in the first line and restated in similar words focusing on the same idea in the second line. Antithetic parallelism states two contrasting lines to emphasize an idea. With synthetic parallelism, the second line completes or adds to the thought of the first line. Emblematic parallelism uses analogies. Repetitive parallelism repeats certain phrases into the next line building a "staircase." Pivot pattern uses ellipsis to connect two lines with a phrase. Chiasms when drawn out show 4 ideas creating an "X" pattern.

Part Three: Choose the correct answer

1. According to Johnston, the following are causes of stress in the Psalms:

- a. God
- b. Enemies
- c. Self
- d. All of the above**
- e. None of the above

2. According to Johnston, distress is one of the most common features of the Psalms.

True (x) ; False ()

3. The lament of the individual is the only form of a lament in the Psalter

True () ; **False (x)**

4. According to Gunkel, the components of a lament are the following:

- a. address and introductory petition
- b. Lament
- c. confession of trust
- d. Petition
- e. vow of praise
- f. Prayer for enemies
- g. All of the above

h. A,B,C,D and E

5. According to Longman, the book of Deuteronomy is the most frequently quoted book in the New Testament.

True () ; **False (x)**

6. According to Longman, one of the two errors connected with the interpretation of the book of Psalms is to neglect the original setting of the Psalms.

True (x) ; False ()

7. According to Bullock, the most frequently occurring type of psalm is **laments**.

8. One of the challenges of laments is the identification of the **enemies/evildoers** in the Psalm.

9. According to Johnston, one of the causes of distress in the Psalms is the person himself/herself.

True (x) ; False ()

10. The 2 types of laments are **individual** and **community**.

11. Psalms of Trust are psalms that express thanks for deliverance that YHWH has provided.

True () ; **False (x)**

12. There are **six** components or parts that comprise both individual and community psalms of trust.

13. The declaration of trouble is the first and most important part of a psalm of trust.

True () ; **False (x)**

14. Psalm **23** is the psalm of trust par excellence.

15. According to Longman, the idea of covenant is a main idea of the Psalms.

True () ; **False (x)**

16. The typical Near Eastern treaty contained the following parts.

- a. Identification of the parties making the treaty.
- b. Historical prologue
- c. Law

- d. Blessing and curses
- e. Witnesses
- f. Deposit of treaty text
- g. All of the above**
- h. None of the above

17. Blesses and curses like the ones found in Deuteronomy 27 and 28 are not related to the theology of the Psalms.

True () ; **False (x)**

18. The major theme of the Wisdom Psalms is the presence of contrasting between the ways of the wicked and righteous.

19. Two criteria for the determination of Wisdom Psalms are wisdom literary themes like ones found in Wisdom literature of the Old Testament and formal wisdom literary characteristics.

True () ; **False (x)**

20. Torah Psalms focus on the law.