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OT 742.NA
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Final Examination

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

1. **acrostic:** A common mnemonic form that's now often associated with wisdom psalms. Psalm 119 is a well known acrostic poem as it goes through the entire Hebrew alphabet. By using the acrostic structure, the Psalmist is able to describe the importance and meaning of the Torah.
2. **Hallel Psalm:** These are the last five psalms of the Psalter. Each chapter starts and ends with the Hebrew word, "hallelujah," which means Praise the Lord. The Hallel psalms are centered around praise and there are others that are similar in form (Psalm 111, 112, 113, 117).
3. **synthetic parallelism:** A form of parallelism where the second line completes or adds to the thought of the first line. Psalm 2:6 is an example where the second line speaks to specifically where "the King" is set.
4. **Selah:** Traditionally understood to mean "always" or "everlasting." This word is seen 71 times in the Psalter and is included at the end of a psalm or stanza. Unlike the traditional view, selah is believed to be an indicator for the Levites to respond with "Give thanks for the Lord for he is good, for his mercy endures forever" while the Israelites would bow before the Lord.
5. **Pesher:** Seen within the interpretation of the prophecies mentioned in the Psalter. This method was used when the past prophecies were being seen to pass. The apostles often used this in Jesus' life as they witnessed the prophecies in the Psalms being fulfilled.
6. **colon:** The Latin word for the unit of a line within a psalm. A colon contains full thoughts and ideas composed of a phrase.

7. **bicolon**: A bicolon is a compound colon which is composed of two lines. Bicolons are often seen in parallelism to emphasize a point either synonymously or antithetically.

8. **Hallelujah Psalms**: Hallelujah Psalms make up the last collection of the Psalter. They're also seen in Psalm 104-106, 111-117, and 135. These psalms include "hallel" in its imperative form commanding the listeners to praise the Lord.

9. **Imprecatory Psalms**: A psalm of curses, evil, or wrath as the psalmist would seek that their enemies would receive judgment. Praying for judgment on enemies raises questions and some interpret it as messianic, or as a prediction, or that the psalms are spoken over entire nations rather than targeting specific people. Imprecatory psalms remind us that we can be honest with God in regards to our emotions, and it's important to note that the psalmist submits to God.

10. **Songs of ascent**: Songs of ascents were purely vocal, whereas psalms were accompanied by an instrument. These songs were often sung collectively as a nation on special pilgrimages to Jerusalem.

11. **YHWH mlk**: The Hebrew phrase which means "The Lord reigns" or "The Lord has become King." This phrase is seen in the Psalms to declare God as the reigning king which brings comfort to His people.

12. **typology**: Biblical interpretation that looks at a person or event in Scripture as a representation of a future person or event. S.B. Frost believes typology exists between things that have an objective and historical relationship. An example can be seen in Psalm 45 as King Solomon is a type of Christ in his marriage referring to Christ's marriage to the Church.

13. **Thank offering**: An offering given by someone in worship who experienced a crisis. Psalm 107 mentions 4 reasons to give a thanks offering: safe return from a voyage, safe return from a desert journey, physical recovery, and release from prison.

14. **Wisdom Psalms:** Psalms that offer practical wisdom in faith like Proverbs. Characteristics of these psalms include proverbs, wisdom admonitions, similes, the “blessed” formula, addressing children, and the use of “better” sayings.

15. **synonymous parallelism:** A form of parallelism where a same thought is repeatedly expressed with synonyms. It is the most common form of parallelism seen in the Psalter. Psalm 2:1-3 is an example as it describes kings experiencing rebellion.

Part Two: Answer the all of the following essay questions.

1. List and define the components of a royal psalm. Give an example of a royal psalm from the Psalm and outline its components.

The three main components of a royal psalm include a reference to the “king” either heavenly or earthly, acknowledging the “anointed,” and/or reference to David. There are tones of authority and power of the king, ultimately pointing to the Lord Himself who is the source of said sovereignty and victory. These psalms also point to the king as one who rules with justice and righteousness. Psalm 89 includes all of the main components mentioning the king in verses 18 and 27. The psalmist also speaks of David who is the anointed one (verse 20) as well as His people that are anointed (verses 38, 51).

2. List and define the components of a Torah Psalm. Give an example of each and outline the Psalm.

Toral Psalms can also be broken into three main components: God’s ways, God’s works, and God’s words. God’s ways include things God has done as well as His laws. By looking at God’s track record of how He acted and responded, we are able to understand His character. As we obey God’s laws, we not only understand what is important to Him but we live according to His

ways. God's works are a continued revelation of God's character as it's exhibited through His justice, righteousness, and truth. We see God's heard to know and be made known to us through His words. As we discover more of God, we experience the same joy the psalmist speaks of. In Psalm 119, each acrostic portion emphasizes obeying God's statutes. The psalmist weaves God's righteousness throughout this psalm as it leads to life and the desire to praise the Lord. God's words reveal His faithfulness and grace as well as his justice.

3. What are the major issues of interpretation for the imprecatory psalms? How would one handle issues Psalm 137?

The major issues of interpreting the imprecatory psalms lie in the disconnect of living God's command to love our enemies while also praying for God to curse them. The psalmist of Psalm 137 prays for God to destroy Babylon. As poetry, it can be argued that hyperboles are often used and that not every line is to be taken literally, but rather figuratively. It can also be interpreted as teaching God's justice and how His laws hold every individual responsible for their actions. Others can argue that the beauty of psalms is the full expression of all human feelings in all sorts of circumstances. The psalmist is crying out from a place of genuine hopelessness and anger, and seeks not to avenge justice with their own hands but trusting God to rule justly.

Part Three: Provide the correct answer for the following.

1. According to Bullock the cry to Yahweh is the major component of a thanksgiving psalm. True () ; **False (x)**
2. The two components of a thanksgiving psalm are the report of a crisis and **thank offering**.

3. Thanksgiving Psalms are the most frequently occurring psalms in the Psalter.
True (); **False (x)**
4. Two other components that a thanksgiving Psalm may contain are:
- a. () Merismus and parallelism
 - b. () An introduction and conclusion
 - c. () Synthetic parallelism and metaphor
 - d. (x) None of the above**
5. One can easily determine the life setting of an individual thanksgiving psalm.
True (x); False ()
6. For Bullock, in the Psalter there is a shared humanness that appeals to the strongest and the weakest of us.
True (x); False ()
7. For Bullock the Psalms are Pre-incarnational revelation of Jesus Christ.
True (x); False ()
8. The copies of the Psalms were found in 1947 in [the Dead Sea Scrolls](#).
9. The gospels and the Book of Acts quotes widely from the Book of Psalms
True (x); False ()
10. Jesus quoted Psalm 23 in John's gospel.
True (); **False (x)**
11. Individual psalms of trust contains some of the following components:
- a. () Declaration of trust
 - b. () Basis for trust
 - c. () Vow to praise

d. All of the above

e. None of the above

12. Psalms of trust (community and individual) are the most frequently occurring psalms in the Psalter.

True ; False

13. Royal psalms contain the following components:

a. A complaint by a king or ruler

b. Mention of the “anointed” one either by use of the verb or the noun

c. Refer to David by name

d. Refer to the king

e. All of the above

f. Answers B, C and D

14. Royal psalms can refer both to earthly kings and to Yahweh as king of the Universe.

True ; False

15. Wisdom motifs or themes are the most important feature of wisdom poetry.

True ; False

16. The Psalter is the only book of the Old Testament that presents the entire history of the Old Testament.

True ; False

17. A hymn contains the following elements:

a. An introduction or call to worship

b. Lament of a present crisis

c. A main section or motive for praise

d. A recapitulation or a renewed summons to praise

e. None of the above

f. **Answers A, C and D**

18. Psalm 1 is a classic example of a hymn.

True ; **False**

19. Psalms 1, 19 and 119 can be classified as Torah Psalms.

True ; False

20. Psalm 51 is one of the six Penitential Psalms

True ; False