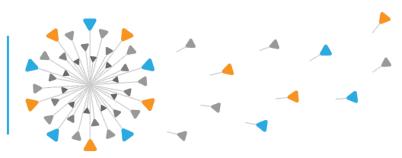
# Cornhill Scotland



## Book in 2 Days

# PSALMS

## James Hely Hutchinson

## Timetable:

- 09:00-09:30 Registration & Refreshments
- 09:30-10:45 Session 1
- 10:45-11:15 Refreshments
- 11:15-12:30 Session 2
- 12:30-13:45 Lunch
- 13:45-15:00 Session 3
- 15:00-15:20 Refreshments
- 15:20-16:30 Session 4

Cornhill Scotland 31 Bath Street 17<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 'Psalms in two days'

## Preaching and Teaching the Psalms

I. Introduction

Importance of Psalter

Psalter's 'recovery'

### II. Approaches to interpretation

Model 1: Form Criticism

*Gattung* or literary form

Sitz im Leben or sociological setting

Evaluation:

#### Model 2: Subjective and Selective Allegorisation

Allegorisation

Subjectivism

Random nature of collection

Evaluation:

#### Model 3: Subjective and Christ-centred Allegorisation

As for model 2, although...

Evaluation:

#### Model 4: Historical Exegesis with Typological Scope (and Application)

Historical context

Christological value via typology

Gregory K. Beale, Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation.
Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012, pp. 13-25.
Paul M. Hoskins, That Scripture might be Fulfilled. Typology and the Death of Christ. s.l.: Xulon Press, 2009.
Michael Lawrence, Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church. A Guide for Ministry. Wheaton [Illinois]: Crossway, 2010, pp. 75-80.

Evaluation:

#### Model 5: Canonical Exegesis

'In what way does the final editing of the Psalter testify as to how the collectors understood the canonical material to function for the community of faith?'<sup>1</sup>

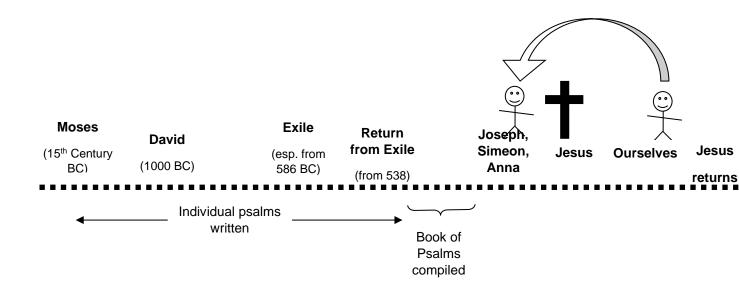
What dating for Psalter?

What original recipients?

Gerald H. Wilson, 'The Shape of the Book of Psalms', Interpretation 46, 1992, pp. 129-142.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT	PSALM	PSALTER
David's era	$\checkmark$	
Joseph's era	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Calvin's era (our era)	✓	$\checkmark$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Brevard S. Childs, Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979, pp. 512-513.



**Evaluation**:

## III. Hierarchy<sup>2</sup> of Key Indicators of Psalter Shape/Shaping

Compare Psalm 40:13-17 with Psalm 70. What is striking regarding (a) content and (b) placement within the Book of Psalms?

Compare and contrast the flourish of praise (or "doxology") at the end of Book I with the flourish of praise at the end of Book II. Ps 41:13 and Ps 72:18-19.

And now: what about the end of Book III?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The hierarchy proper applies to the first fifteen indicators; thereafter I simply follow psalter order. Cf. our *Answering the Psalmist's Perplexity: New-Covenant Newness in the Book of Psalms* (NSBT 62; London/Downers Grove: Apollos/IVP, 2023), Appendix 1, p. 189-190.

What clear links do you discern between Psalms 134, 135 and 136? Start by comparing Psalms 134 and 135, then compare Psalms 135 and 136.

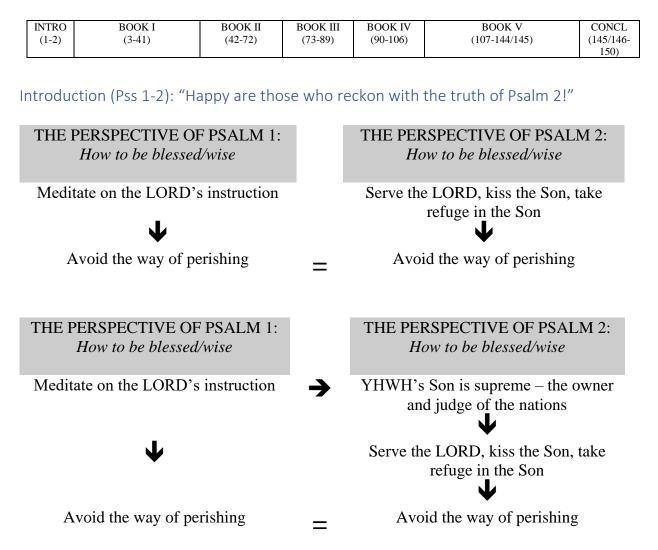
Given Ps 72:20, how should we understand the title of Psalm 86?

How does Psalm 108 relate to Psalms 57 and 60?

- 1. Ps. 72:20 (explanatory note)
- 2. Ps. 89:53 (closing doxology necessarily more tied to Book 3 than to the psalm)
- 3. The five-book division
- 4. Pss 146-150 ('Final Hallel')
- 5. Pss 120-134 (Songs of Ascents)
- 6. Chain linking ('concatenation') across Psalms 134, 135 and 136
- 7. Pss 105-106 ('twins')
- 8. Pss 103-107
- 9. Pss 96-99
- 10. Pss 93-100
- 11. Pss 25; 34 (acrostics whose irregularities are similar)
- 12. Pss 111-112 ('twin' acrostics)
- 13. Pss 9-10; 32-33
- 14. Entire first book explicitly Davidic (once links in 13 assumed)
- 15. Pss 1-2 as introduction
- 16. Pss 42-43; 70-71 (which links imply an absence of 'orphan<sup>3</sup> psalms' in Book 2)
- 17. Predominance of the historical David in Book 2
- 18. Book 1 republications in Book 2: Pss 14 and 53; Pss 40:14-18 and 70
- 19. Extremities of Book 3: the theme of crisis
  - Turnaround in Ps. 73 mirrored by turnaround in Ps. 89
  - Complementary perspectives of psalms adjacent to extremities (74 and 88)
  - The role of the Babylonian exile in giving rise to the crisis
- 20. The same anguished questioning in the middle of Book 3
- 21. The rhetorical effect of the end of Ps. 89
- 22. The change of tone in the last two books
- 23. Book 4 as 'Moses book'
- 24. The sin-wrath-intercession frame of Book 4, and the links between Pss 90 and 103
- 25. The structure of Book 5 (several groupings)
- 26. Composite psalms in Book 5 (notably 108, 144)
- 27. The conclusion of Ps. 144 (double 'Amen', cf. Pss 1-2)

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$  = without a title.

## IV. Big Picture of the Psalter<sup>4</sup>



#### Book I (Pss 3-41): "David is a *reverse* type of the king!"

Pss 3-14: the problem of enemies Pss 15-24: the exemplary and victorious king Pss 25-34: the king pardoned and delivered Pss 35-41: the problems of enemies, sin and sickness

Pss 3-14	ENEMIES		_
Pss 25-34	ENEMIES	SIN	
Pss 35-41	ENEMIES	SIN	SICKNESS

Start of Book (Ps 3): .....

End of Book (Ps 41): ....

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://www.e-n.org.uk/2015/09/features/new-light-on-the-psalms/</u>

- ➢ Sufferings ⇒ victory
- ➢ Sufferings≒sin

Book II (Pss 42-72): "Bring on Solomon!"

Recapitulation of Book I?

BUT

(1) wider gap between David and Ps 2

(2) Eyes now on Solomon

(3) .....

Book III (Pss 73-89): "Exile means crisis!"

Crisis (individual and national – Exile) Frame of Book

More of that anguished pleading Pss 76:7; 77:7-9; 79:5; 80:4; 85:5-6

Clues as to why the Exile has occurred Pss 78:5-10; 81:8-16

#### Some shafts of light

Temple (Ps 84), land (Ps 85), king (Ps 86), city (Ps 87)

Book IV (Pss 90-106): "Meditate on the Law of Moses!" (or: 'Get your biblical theology sorted out!')

#### Sin-wrath problem of Genesis 3... and of Exodus 32

Ps 89:47-49 cf. Ps 90; Ps 90:13 cf. Ps 89:47,50-52 Ps 90:2 cf. Gen 2:4; Ps 90:3 cf. Gen 3:19; Ps 90:8 cf. Gen 3:9-10,17; Ps 90:8-9 cf. Gen 3:19,22,24-25; Ps 90:10b cf. Gen 3:16-19 Ps 90:13 and Ps 106:23 cf. Ex 32:12-13 (Golden Calf) Mediation that appeals to .....

Covenant faithfulness of Ps 90:14 cf. Gn 12ff; also Pss 105-106)

Prayer at the end uttered by ..... (Ps 106:47)

Question 1: but isn't the exile the last straw?

Lev 26:42-45, Deut 4:25-31, Deut 30:1-10

#### Question 2: but what about the covenant with David?

Question 3: but is God really powerful enough?

Pss 93-100

#### Question 4: but don't we need a solution to the problem of sin?

Ps 101 blameless king Ps 102 afflicted one Ps 103 answer to Ps 90 prayer

Book V (Pss 107-144/145<sup>5</sup>): "His covenant loyalty endures for ever!"

1 0 7	108-110	111-118	119	120-136 <sup>6</sup>	(137) <sup>7</sup> 138- 144	1 4 5	146- 150
P 1	DAVID	P2 <b>→</b> <i>P1</i>		ascents → <b>P1</b>	DAVID	8	P2

Praise the LORD! (**Praise the name of the LORD!**)<sup>9</sup> [P2]

'Oh give thanks to the LORD,

for he is good,

for his covenant commitment endures for ever.' [P1: refrain]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This psalm is transitional between Book V and the group of psalms that form the conclusion to the Psalter. <sup>6</sup> To see why Psalms 135-136 have been tacked on to the Songs of Ascents, compare 134:1 with 135:1-2 and

<sup>135:8-12</sup> with 136:10-22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Psalm 137 is transitional: it is not a psalm of David, but it serves as a fitting opening to this David sequence. <sup>8</sup> Ps 145 is also a psalm of David, concluding the preceding group and introducing the flourish of praise with which the Psalter closes. Remarkably, it is the only psalm which is designated as (literally) 'praise'...and yet the traditional title of the whole Psalter in Hebrew is 'Book of Praises'. What do you make of this discrepancy? <sup>9</sup> For this part, see Pss 113:1; 135:1; 148:5, 13.

#### Ps 106:47 prayer answered in Ps 107:1-3

Glorious motifs for return from exile

#### Ps 110: supreme king and permanent mediator

Ps 118: rejected stone ( $\rightarrow$  key foundation stone), comes in name of the LORD

Ps 132: 'horn' for David

*Ps 144: servant David who wins blessings for the people; no further Exile* 

'David': recapitulation

Ps 119 (plus 'Ascents'): persecution, but sufficient sustenance

Waiting for the Glorious, Righteous Davidic King-Priest-Servant...

#### Conclusion (Pss 145/146-150): "Praise the LORD"! Ps 148:14!

'Psalms', in NIV Proclamation Bible. Correctly Handling the Word of Truth (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2013), 577-579.

'The Psalter as a Book', in Andrew G. Shead, ed., *Stirred by a Noble Theme. The Book of Psalms in the Life of the Church* (Nottingham: Apollos, 2013), 23-45.

https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/series/5132/ (accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023; Overview of Psalter in several talks)

https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/56740/ (accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023; Overview of Psalter in 25 minutes)

And you might find this interesting: « Psalms », video produced by the Bible Project, <u>https://thebibleproject.com/explore/psalms/</u> (accessed 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018).

Steffen Jenkins, 'The Antiquity of Psalter Shape Efforts', *Tyndale Bulletin* 71, 2020, 161-180, <u>https://tyndalebulletin.org/article/27742-the-antiquity-of-psalter-shape-efforts</u> (accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023).

This is more stretching and for those interested in the interplay between Psalter structure and covenant relationships: JHH, *Answering the Psalmist's Perplexity: New-Covenant Newness in the Book of Psalms*; NSBT 62; London/Downers Grove: Apollos/IVP, 2023.

## V. Transition: Your Experience in terms of Preaching Christ from Individual Psalms?

## VI. New-Testament Use of the Psalms

How do we typically use the psalms in evangelical circles?

<sup>©</sup> What proportion of quotations/allusions found in the NT are drawn from the Book of Psalms?

\*New-Testament quotations of the Psalms are *not* evenly spread across the Psalter. Wherein lies the bias? What might this be telling us?

The what main ways/contexts/connections are the psalms quoted in the New Testament? What is surprising or instructive here?

EXERCISE Having noted Jn 13:18, read Ps 41 carefully. How does the typology work?

*And, if you have time,* ... Similarly, having noted Heb 10:5-9, explain how the typology in Ps 40 is working.

## VII. Preaching Christ from Individual Psalms<sup>10</sup>

#### A variety of dangers

(1) The danger of overvaluing the role of specific New-Testament controls

EXERCISE
How do these quotations function?
Ps 24:1 in 1 Cor 10:26
Ps 32:1-2 in Rom 4:7-8
Ps 104:4 in Heb 1:7
Ps 109:8b in Acts 1:20
Ps 110 in Mk 12:36; Heb 5:6

- (2) The danger of overplaying either the continuity or the discontinuity between the two Testaments
- (3) The danger of undervaluing the *range* of routes from the Psalms to Christ

#### EXERCISE

What are the two major ways of making the transition between the OT and Christ, according to Romans 3:19-21 ?

#### A variety of woods: our need of Christ

(a) Law → gospel (old covenant → new covenant) Question posed by Ps 15/Ps 24 – who is fit for God?

Non-Jews too (Rom 1-2; Rom 5:12-21; 1 Cor 15:22)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> I have been influenced by Sidney Greidanus's books and Justin Mote (orally) for some of the material in this section.

New Israel and Last Adam

Conditionality of the Sinaitic covenant (Ps 81)

Element of conditionality in the Davidic covenant (Ps 132)

#### (b) Inadequate structures $\rightarrow$ sufficient sacrifice/mediation

Ps 40:6 (cf. Heb 10:1-5): sacrifice

Ps 106: partial and temporary removal of God's wrath

#### A variety of irons: Christ as gospel solution

#### (a) **Type** $\rightarrow$ antitype

David in Books I-II

Exodus in Ps 77

Book V, the antitype presented more directly

#### (b) Reverse type (/contrast) $\rightarrow$ antitype

Pss 38-41

Ps 49:7

Ps 80:12-16 (cf. Jn 15!)

Ps 106:32

#### (c) Analogy $\rightarrow$ fulfilment

Jesus' use of Pss 42-43 language<sup>11</sup> in the Garden of Gethsemane

#### (d) **Hyperbole** $\rightarrow$ reality

Ps 45:6

Ps 72:11,17

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Greek translation of Ps 42:5 is strikingly similar to Mk 14:34.

#### (e) Salvation-historical flow $\rightarrow$ consummation in Christ

Ps 78 (Egypt to David)

Pss 105-106 (Abraham to the Exile)

#### (f) Thematic progressive revelation $\rightarrow$ fulfilment in Christ

Temple in Pss 84, 134

City in Pss 87, 137 (in Ps 87, for example, the accent falls on the fact that Gentiles are found to have their origin in Zion)

(g) Oracular psalms

Pss 2, 110

Discussion over coffee

What about Psalm 16? Study Ps 16:10 in its context, and see how Peter (Acts 2) and Paul (Acts 13) comment on this psalm.

And let us not lose sight of ...

For further reading:

\*Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Cambridge: Eerdmans, 1999.

\*Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Psalms: Foundations for Expository Sermons in the Christian Year*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

\*Richard P. Belcher, Jr., *The Messiah and the Psalms*. *Preaching Christ from all the Psalms*. Fearn [Ross-shire]: Christian Focus, 2006.

For Christ-centred expositions of a variety of psalms (audio):

Ps 22 (psalm of lament and praise): https://www.proctrust.org.uk/resources/ (under James's name)

Ps 27 (psalm of confidence in the face of enemies): <u>https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/series/5166/</u> or <u>http://www.grosvenorbaptist.org/resources/sermons/</u> (scroll down to sermon given on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017)

Ps 32 (psalm of confession): <u>https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/series/5166/</u> or http://www.grosvenorbaptist.org/sermon/three-watchwords-joyful-relationship-god/

Ps 45 (royal psalm): <u>http://media.lyonsdown.org/houseparty2010/2010-07-</u>03%20James%20Hely%20Hutchinson,%20Psalm%2045,%20A%20Royal%20Psalm,%20Houseparty%202010. <u>mp3</u>

Ps 49 (wisdom psalm): <u>http://media.lyonsdown.org/houseparty2010/2010-07-</u>03%20James%20Hely%20Hutchinson,%20Psalm%2049,%20A%20Wisdom%20Psalm,%20Houseparty%20201 0.mp3

Ps 78 (salvation-history psalm): <u>http://media.lyonsdown.org/houseparty2010/2010-07-03%20James%20Hely%20Hutchinson,%20Psalm%2078,%20A%20Salvation%20History%20Psalm,%20Houseparty%202010.mp3</u>

Ps 87 (Zion psalm): <u>http://media.lyonsdown.org/houseparty2010/2010-07-</u>04%20James%20Hely%20Hutchinson,%20Psalm%2087,%20A%20Zion%20Psalm,%20Houseparty%202010.m p3

Also

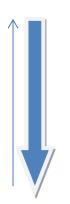
(Ps 1:1-2): <u>https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/series/5166/</u> or <u>http://www.grosvenorbaptist.org/sermon/the-key-to-happiness/</u>

(Ps 16) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3RildcmHN4 (starts at around 30 mins)

(Ps 73): <u>https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/series/5166/</u> or https://blogfinch.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/sermon-2012-09-02.mp3

(Ps 103) https://www.protestants-bruxelles.be/predication/soupirer-apres-dieu/

### VIII. Hermeneutic of Subjective Appropriation of Psalms



#### DISCUSSION

- (0) For an individual psalm,
- (1) we (new-covenant believers) should take on to our lips,
- (2) in song/prayer,
- (3) in Christ (and consciously not in any direct way indeed, we need to eschew dishonesty),
- (4) the words of the psalm which are the words that Christ prayed during his earthly ministry
- (5) and that he still prays today
- (6) and/or that he speaks to us today,
- (7) as we join Christ's church,
- (8) led by our choirmaster, Christ

DISCUSSION Is the 'man' of Ps 1 Jesus Christ?

Is there sometimes licence is to broaden out the psalmist's experience to believers in general?

Wherein lies the licence to take psalmists' words on to our lips?

(1) Rom 8:35-37; 2 Tim 4:17; Heb 13:6<sup>12</sup>

(2) Psalmist as ....., e.g. David in Psalm 19 (note the echo of Psalm 1 in verse 14) or in Psalm 32 (cf. Rom 4:4-8)

(3) Importance of ...... in Scripture in general, and what believers ...... reflects what they believe (cf. 2 Cor 4:13)...

(4) Metaphor of '.....' (1 Sam 1:15; Ps 42:4; Ps 62:8; Lam 2:19; cf. Ps 102 title; Ps 142:2)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Two of these are mentioned by Allan M. Harman, *Commentary on the Psalms* (Mentor; Fearn [Ross-shire]: Christian Focus, 1998), p. 62-63; I owe the third reference to David Gibbs.

(5) Our ...... (Rom 8:17; Phil 3:10; Col 1:24) which are anticipated in shadow form by those of David (e.g. Jn 15:25 draws on Ps 35:19 and Ps 69:4)<sup>13</sup>

(6) Vagueness of ...... (often)<sup>14</sup>

## IX. Pastoral Application of Psalms

*Use of psalms in relation to particular circumstances (draw up your* own *list!*):-Satisfaction in God: Pss 27; 63; 84 Proximity to God (including in the face of difficult circumstances): Pss 23; 27 In the face of depression: Pss 42-43; 88 In the face of major sin: Ps 51

In the face of day-to-day sins (importance of transparency and confession to God for maintaining a healthy relationship): Ps 32

In the face of injustice<sup>15</sup>: Ps 35

Questions of money and death: Ps 49

In the face of the temptation to be jealous of unbelieving folk who "succeed" whereas we (believers) suffer: Ps 73

Marvelling at God's grace: Pss 78; 103; 136 Joy in the forgiveness of sins: Ps 32 Fear of God as a healthy reaction to the forgiveness of sins: Ps 130

Assurance that God knows the details of our circumstances: Ps 139

Dependence on God (prayer): Ps 127:1-2

Zeal in the missionary enterprise of taking the gospel to the nations: Ps 67

Marvelling at God's creation: Pss 8; 19; (24)

Strengthening in the faith: Ps 16

Protection: Pss 91; 121

Aspiration to humility: Ps 131

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> I owe this insight to Dominique Angers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> I owe this insight to Jamie Grant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> But with particular transpositions needing to be taken into account in such "imprecatory" psalms.

#### Dangers:

## X. Recommended Practices for Study of Individual Psalms

Essentials to register Read, read, read

Pray, pray, pray

Benefit from the "hermeneutical spiral"

#### Sensitivities to develop

Parallelism: what's the new "spin on the ball" or the new "camera angle" in the second line

Imagery: what's the cutting edge? (danger of importing foreign concepts)

Genre, mood, emotion

Speaker, addressee

Axis: vertical and horizontal

Warning re tense

Warning re historical context

#### Steps to take

- 1. Find the right environment
- 2. Pray
- 3. Access the text of a formal-equivalence translation
- [4 to 6 more or less concurrently]
- 4. Consider the tone/mood
- 5. Consider indicators of historical context
- 6. Consider questions of speaker/addressee and axis (vertical/horizontal)
- [7 to 12 more or less concurrently]

- 7. Work on flow/structure where are the structural breaks?
- 8. Look for key words/repetition
- 9. Note key ideas
- 10. Dwell on the parallelism
- 11. Savour the imagery
- 12. Look for surprises and sweat over difficulties
- 13. Draw up a one-sentence summary (refine it)
- 14. Factor in the biblical-theological transposition
- 15. Appropriate/pray/thank/praise/marvel
- 16. Learn by heart?

C. Hassell Bullock, *Encountering the Book of Psalms*. A Literary and Theological Introduction. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001. Mark D. Futato, *Interpreting the Psalms*. An Exegetical Handbook. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.

## XI. Putting It All Together for a Single Verse: Meditating on Ps 27:4

#### 1. Psalms as Christian prayers?

NO:

- we're not David
- Book of Psalms is not Jesus' answer to the request 'Lord, teach us to pray' (Lk 11:1)

YES:

- often appropriately our words to God
- "sweetness" (cf. 2 Sam 23:1)

#### 2. Initial Reading of Ps 27:4: David's One Desire

'One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.' (Ps 27:4, ESV)

3. Psalm 27 as a Whole: David's One Desire Understood in Context

How does the rest of Psalm 27 contribute to our understanding of verse 4?

4. .....One Desire?

Mk 14:36 (cf. Jn 12:27-28); Heb 12:2; Matt 26:53; Heb 5:7; Mk 15:34 (Ps 22:1)

5. ....One Desire

Rom 11:33; Eph 3:18; Rom 5:2; Heb 10:19; Ecc 1-3; Rom 8:20; 1 Cor 15:26; 2 Cor 5:2; Rev 22:4; Rev 20:14; 1 Cor 15:49; Heb 12:1-4

6. Taking Stock

## XII. Putting It All Together for a Whole Psalm: Preparing to Preach on Ps 32

Exegetical observations

Exercise: structure and headings

Biblical-theological transposition

Aim sentence

Pastoral challenges

Homiletical challenges

Sidney Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Psalms: Foundations for Expository Sermons in the Christian Year*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

### XIII. Putting It All Together for a Whole Psalm: Residual Difficulties

What's different and/or more difficult in \*Ps 59?

\*Ps 127?

How can we appropriately transition to the new covenant in these cases?

### XIV. Commentaries

#### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Delitzsch, Franz, *Biblical Commentary on the Psalms* (three volumes). London: Hodder, 1889/1894 (translation of fourth German edition, 1883). An outstanding technical commentary.

Eveson, Philip, *Psalms: From Suffering to Glory*. Vol. 1: Psalms 1-72 (*The Servant King*). Darlington: EP Books, 2014. AND Vol. 2: Psalms 73-150 (*God's Manual of Spirituality*). Welwyn: EP Books, 2015. A terrific commentary in almost every department – thoroughly edifying! [See review in *Evangelicals Now*, September 2015.]

Kidner, Derek, *Psalms 1-72. An Introduction and Commentary on Books I and II of the Psalms.* Tyndale Old Testament Commentary; Leicester: IVP, 1973. AND *Psalms 73-150. A commentary on Books III-V of the Psalms.* TOTC; Leicester: IVP, 1975. Probably still the best commentary available: combines outstanding scholarship (especially at the level of detail) with accessibility to non-specialist readers, succinctness and sensitivity to reading the Psalms through NT spectacles.

#### RECOMMENDED

Harman, Allan, *Commentary on the Psalms*. Mentor; Fearn: Christian Focus, 1998. Not quite in Kidner's league, but more sensitive than Kidner to the big picture of the Psalter. Brief, accessible.

Wilcock, Michael, *The Message of the Psalms* (two volumes). Bible Speaks Today; Leicester, IVP, 2001. Certainly not in Kidner's league, but edifying and aims to grapple with the big picture of the Psalter.

Grogan, Geoffrey, *Prayer, Praise & Prophecy: A Theology of the Psalms*. Mentor; Fearn: Christian Focus, 2001. Not a commentary as such but a comprehensive handbook that is accessible to non-specialist readers, evangelical in outlook and sensitive to the big picture of the Psalter.

Grogan, Geoffrey, *Psalms*. Two Horizons; Grand Rapids/Cambridge: Eerdmans, 2008. Accessible and takes account of others' insights in a helpful way.

Robertson, O. Palmer, *The Flow of the Psalms: Discovering their Structure and Theology*. Phillipsburg [New Jersey]: P & R Publishing, 2015. Insights – not all of which are convincingly argued – regarding the shape of the Book of Psalms from a conservative scholar.

#### ALSO WORTH CONSULTING (/BUYING, DEPENDING ON BUDGET!)

Ash (PT vol. 2, notwithstanding hermeneutical reservations; major three-volume stand-alone commentary on the way)

Boice (expositions in 3 vols.)

Calvin (available on line)

Craigie (WBC; Pss 1-50)

Hamilton (EBTC; heart-warming and highly sensitive to big picture of Psalter)

Kirkpatrick (19th-century; good technical commentary)

Longman (new TOTC)

Ross (Kregel – 3 large vols.)

VanGemeren (EBC)

Wilson (NIVAC; Pss 1-72)

Tucker and Grant (NIVAC; Pss 73-150)

And see www.bestcommentaries.com

Bibliographies available on request in the areas of \*Canonical shape of Psalter \*NT use of Psalms \*Subjective/community/pastoral use of Psalms \*Imprecatory psalms

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OTHER EVENTS COMING UP:

HIS WORD IN MY HANDS – EPISTLES

Glasgow – Saturday 2nd March 2024

The Borders (Selkirk) – Saturday 27th April 2024

BOOK IN A DAY – HEBREWS

Glasgow – Tuesday 7th May 2024

CORNHILL SUMMER SCHOOL

Glasgow – Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

EXPOSITORY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Glasgow Tuesday 25th – Thursday 27th June 2024

Book at cornhill.scot/conferences

