

A Few Famous Psalms

Psalm 1

This is a Psalm of conduct, teaching about the ways of two opposite lifestyles.

This is a Psalm of extremes, teaching about the pious as well as the seditious.

This is not a Psalm of the moral unregenerate, nor of the carnal believer.

I. The characteristics of the blessed man

* Note * The whole Psalter is built from this point. The *blessed* man is the man who is devoted to understanding and obeying the Law better and better, as well as practicing an exclusive and reverential worship of Yahweh. He is a happy man.

1. It is a happy man who does not “walk in the counsel of the wicked”
 - * He doesn’t follow the advice or opinions of the sinful in his life.
 - Ill: If someone suggests a bank robbery to make money, you ignore them.
2. It is a happy man who does not “stand in the way of sinners”
 - * He doesn’t stay in an environment of disobedience.
 - Ill: If you show up to a party and it isn’t what you expected, you don’t stay.
3. It is a happy man who does not “sit in the seat of scoffers”
 - * He doesn’t establish himself in the location of those who mock because they are fools.
 - Ill: If you find that the people around you exhibit their idiocy by harassment, making fun, or base imitation, you don’t become like them.
4. It is a happy man who “delights in, and meditates on, the Law of the Lord.”
 - * He finds deep satisfaction and pleasure in studying and living God’s Word.
5. The happy man is... (vs. 3)
 - * He is alive, thriving, and productive.

II. The reality of the ungodly man

* Note * The *wicked* man is the antithesis of the blessed man. He lives apart from God, aloof to the Law, and selfish. He is a man living his life in acute rebellion. He is a doomed man.

1. It is a doomed man who is likened to “chaff that the wind drives away”
 - * His life is dry, dead, and of no human or communal value.
 - Ill: The thief, drug dealer, or prostitute has no life, and is of no help to us.
2. It is a doomed man who “will not stand in the judgment”
 - * His eternal destiny is sure, and he cannot avoid it.
3. It is a doomed man who “will not stand in the congregation of the righteous”
 - * His eternal destiny is separate from those belonging to God.

Conclusion: God sees, knows, and relates to the way of the happy man, but the way of the wicked is certain condemnation.