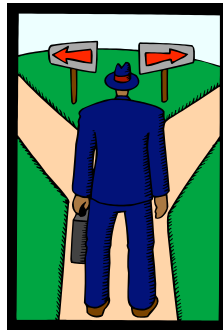


Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

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by
William D. Barrick, Th.D.
Professor of OT, The Master's Seminary

Psalm 1 — Two Ways



- 1.0 **The preamble to the Psalter.** It serves to introduce the entire Book of Psalms.
 - 1.1 “Law” or *Torah* is equally used for the Pentateuch.
 - 1.2 The Psalter is divided into 5 parts like the Pentateuch.
 - Book I: Psalms 1-41
 - Book II: Psalms 42-72
 - Book III: Psalms 73-89
 - Book IV: Psalms 90-106
 - Book V: Psalms 107-150
 - 1.3 The parallel themes of the wicked and the righteous are characteristic of Psalms.
 - 1.4 Cf. the “preamble” to the Historical Books of the Old Testament – Joshua 1:8.

2.0 The Beatitude Introducing Psalm 1 and the Book of Psalms

2.1 There are 25 beatitudes in Psalms:

1:1; 2:12; 32:1, 2; 33:12; 34:8; 40:4; 41:1; 65:4; 84:4, 5, 12; 89:15;
94:12; 106:3; 112:1; 119:1, 2; 127:5; 128:1; 137:8, 9; 144:15 (2x);
146:5

2.2 Note how Psalm 1 begins with a blessing and Psalm 2 concludes with one (2:12).

2.3 Acts 13:33 – “second(?) psalm”

3.0 Reading Psalm 1 (NKJV)

1:1 Blessed *is* the man **Introduction**
1st Way

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

1:3

He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Tree

1:4

The ungodly <i>are</i> not so, But <i>are</i> like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Chaff

1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, **2nd Way**
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

1:6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, **Conclusion**
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

4.0 The Tree: The Metaphor of Psalm 1



4.1 Jeremiah 17:7,8

4.2 Egyptian Influence on Psalms

- *Teaching of Amenemope*, 12th century B.C.

- If the author of Psalm 1 borrowed here, the borrowing was free and creative.
- “Egyptian jewels, as at the Exodus, have been re-set to their advantage by Israelite workmen and put to finer use.” (Derek Kidner, *Proverbs*, 24)
- (But) the truly silent man holds himself apart.
He is like a tree growing in a *garden*.
It flourishes and doubles its yield;
It (stands) before its lord.
Its fruit is sweet; its shade is pleasant;
And its end is reached in the garden....

— *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*, 422

4.3 Rooted in the *Torah*

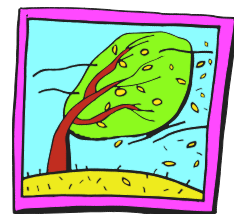
5.0 The Ways

5.1 Two different stands and associations

5.2 Two different views of the *Torah*

5.3 Two different life results

5.4 Two different relationships to God



6.0 Praying Psalm 1

- Lord, keep me in the path of the godly and the righteous instead of the path of sinners (v. 1).
- Make Your Word my delight by day and by night (v. 2).
- Father, establish me and ground me in You and Your Word (v. 3).
- O God, bring the unrighteous to justice in Your time and Your way (vv. 4-5).
- Thank You, Lord, for knowing about me, understanding my life, and caring for me (v. 6).