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
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.

1:4 The ungodly are not so,
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

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

1:6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
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).