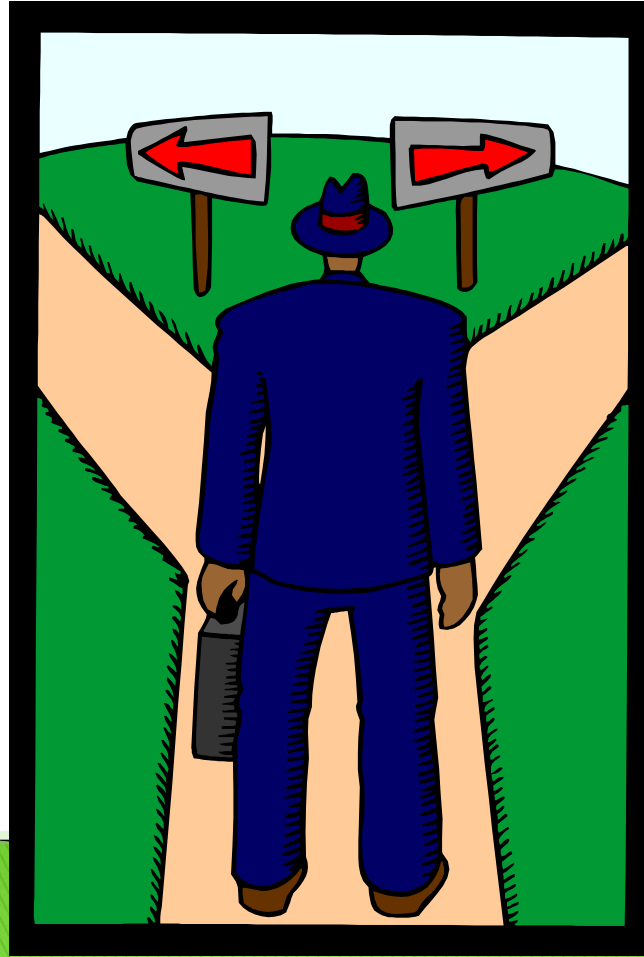


PSALM 1



TWO WAYS

Introducing Psalm 1


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- ▶ Cf. the “preamble” to the Historical Books of the Old Testament – Joshua 1:8

Joshua 1:8


This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.




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 - ▶ Acts 13:33—the “second(?) psalm.”
 - ▶ **The parallel themes of the wicked and the righteous are characteristic of Psalms.**
- 

Praying Psalm 1

Father, . . .
keep me free of sinful
associations.



Praying Psalm 1

Father, ...

**keep me free of sinful
associations.**

**make Your Word my
constant delight, so that
I am rooted in the
Scriptures.**



Praying Psalm 1

Father, ...


**keep me free of sinful
associations.**

**make Your Word my
constant delight, so that
I am rooted in the
Scriptures.**

**thanks for watching over
Your righteous ones.**



Understanding Psalm 1

- I. Introduction (v. 1a)**
 - II. The Way of the Righteous (vv. 1b–2)**
 - III. The Figure of the Tree (v. 3)**
 - IV. The Figure of the Chaff (v. 4)**
 - v. The Way of the Wicked (v. 5)**
 - VI. Conclusion (v. 6)**
- 

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

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

3 He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

Understanding Psalm 1

- v. 1** “How blessed”: *Bem-aventurado o homem*
- ▶ **Psalm 1 begins with a blessing and Psalm 2 concludes with one (2:12).**

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- ▶ **First three words begin with first letter of the Hebrew alphabet (*'aleph*)—alliteration.**


Understanding Psalm 1

v. 1 Chiasm

- A** who does not walk: que não anda segundo
- B** in the counsel of the wicked,
o conselho dos ímpios
- B'** in the path of sinners,
no caminho dos pecadores
- A'** Nor stand: nem se detém
- B''** in the seat of scoffers!
na roda dos escarnecedores
- A''** Nor sit: nem se assenta

Understanding Psalm 1

v. 1 Triplet

- ▶ Three separate and distinct actions in a specific order of progression?
 - ▶ Three representative actions referring to a way of living? (merism)
- 

Understanding Psalm 1

v. 2 “the law of the LORD”: lei do SENHOR

- ▶ “law” = “Torah”
- ▶ Potential meanings:
 - the Pentateuch
 - the legal content of the Pentateuch
 - “instruction” generally

Understanding Psalm 1

v. 2 “meditates”: medita

- ▶ **Hebrew word can mean to murmur or roar or mutter.**
- ▶ **Vocal meditation.**

Understanding Psalm 1

v. 3 “like a tree”: como a árvore

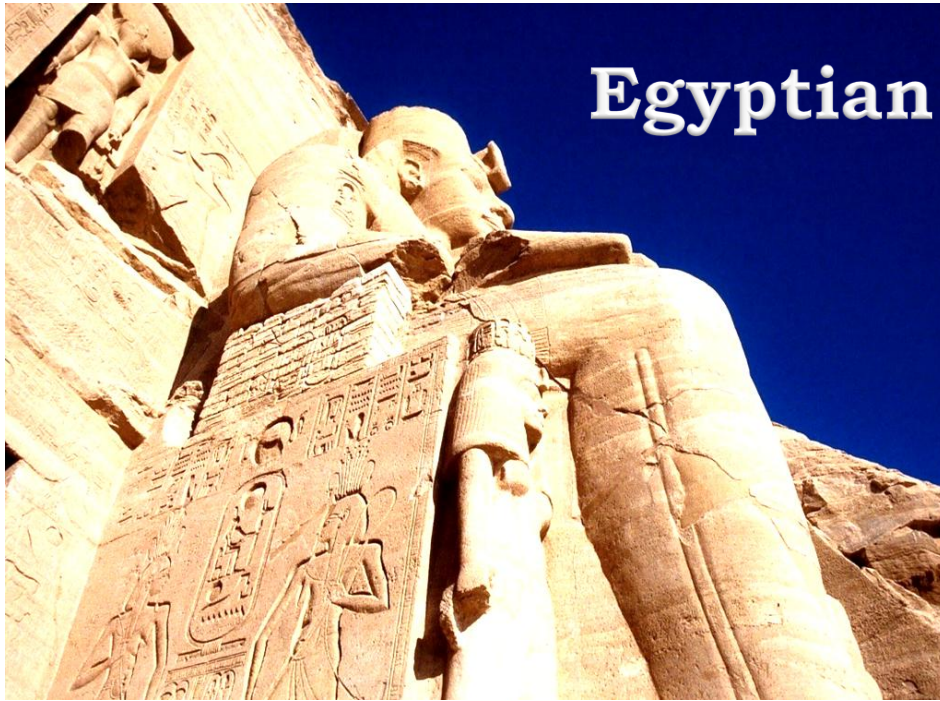
- ▶ See Jeremiah 17:7, 8



Jeremiah 17:7–8

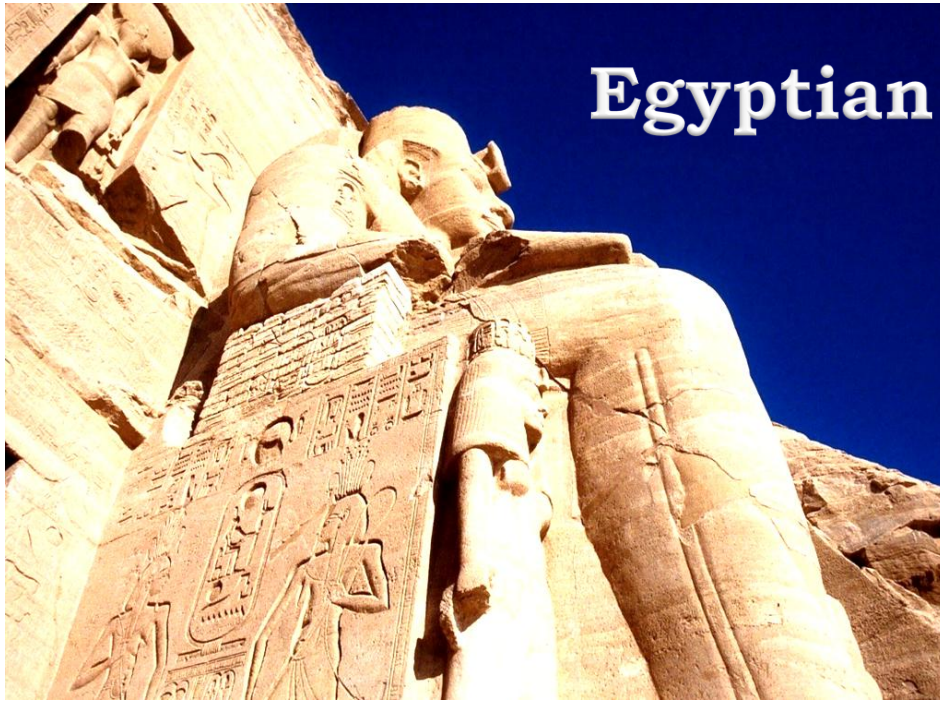
Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
And whose trust is the LORD.

For he shall be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream,
And will not fear when the heat comes;
But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit.



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 Influence on Psalms

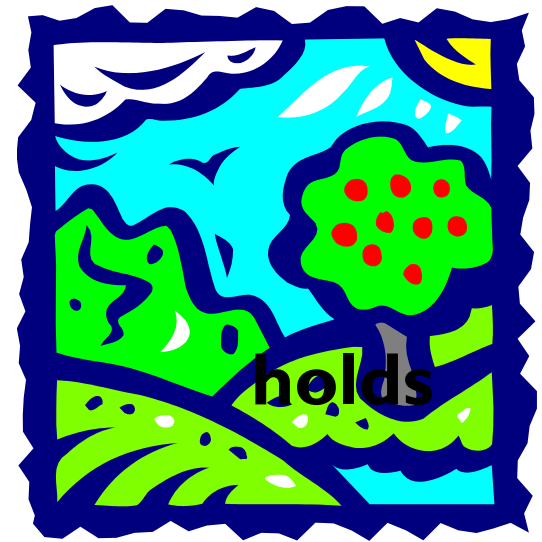
- ***Teaching of Amenemope***
- **12th century B.C.**

- **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

Amenemope of Egypt

**(But) the truly silent man
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

Understanding Psalm 1

v. 3 “like a tree”: como a árvore

- ▶ See Jeremiah 17:7, 8
- ▶ Rooted in the Torah.

Understanding Psalm 1

v. 4 “like chaff”: como a moinha [palha]

▶ **Psalm 35:5**

Let them be **like chaff before the wind**,
With the angel of the LORD driving *them* on.

▶ **Isaiah 29:5**

But the multitude of your enemies will become like fine dust, And the multitude of the ruthless ones **like the chaff which blows away**; And it will happen instantly, suddenly.



Understanding Psalm 1

v. 6 The Two Ways

- ▶ Different stands and associations.
- ▶ Different views of the Torah.
- ▶ Different life results.
- ▶ Different relationships to God.



Understanding Psalm 1

v. 6 The Two Ways

▶ Matthew 7:13–14

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* **the way** that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. **14** Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* **the way** which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”



Preaching/Teaching

Psalm 1

- ▶ **We experience happiness and God's blessing in direct proportion to our obedience to His Word.**
 - ▶ **God knows the ways of both the righteous and the wicked and rewards them accordingly.**
 - ▶ **Which way will you choose?**
- 