

Leadership Development Group
Lisbon, Portugal
October 2012
Psalms Research Papers — Due November 30, 2012

Two papers are required of each student taking the course for full credit. Each paper must be typed, double-spaced, 8–15 pages including cover sheet, outline, footnotes (or endnotes), and bibliography. **Submit the papers to Ken Lowe via email.**

Paper #1: Interpretation of Psalm 40:6–10

- The paper must be the student's interpretation of these verses with the help of any resources available.
 - Research should be conducted in available commentaries, special studies, and translations. Online electronic materials are acceptable.
- The interpretation is to be supported from the context and from parallel passages in any other pertinent portions of the Bible, including the New Testament.
- Any interpretative problems should be discussed clearly.
 - Identify the interpretative problem.
 - Give alternative interpretations.
 - Discuss the pros and cons for each interpretation.
 - Identify which interpretation you arrive at and defend it.

Writing Procedure:

1. Identify context—look for any background information provided by the psalm heading(s) or by the psalm itself.
2. Look for literary devices (e.g., repetition, inclusio, refrain, chiasm, etc.).
3. Study key words (no more than four—do not study every word).
 - Use a concordance to find the uses of key words in the passage.
 - Find other biblical references using the same words or having the same thought.
 - Give any information from commentaries or other sources that help you to identify the use and meaning of the key words.
4. Identify the main thought of the passage in your own words.
5. Discuss interpretative problems and offer solutions (giving pros and cons).
 - Be certain you have presented adequate reasons for your chosen interpretation.
6. Suggest specific application(s) to life.
7. Include all resources you used in a bibliography at the end of your paper.

Paper #2: Preaching or Teaching a Psalm of Your Choice

- The paper must be the student's choice of text with the help of any resources available.
 - Research should be conducted in available commentaries, special studies, and translations. Online electronic materials are acceptable.
- The paper will proceed to produce either a sermon or a Bible lesson for the chosen psalm.
- The sermon/lesson should include:
 - Brief introduction to the psalm.
 - An outline for the psalm.
 - An orderly treatment of the psalm's text.
 - Clear identification of the psalm's implications for practical, devotional, and theological application.
 - Several illustrations that will help your hearers to understand the psalm and its applications.

Writing Procedure:

1. Identify context—look for any background information provided by the psalm heading(s) or by the psalm itself.
2. Look for any large key literary devices (e.g., repetition, inclusio, refrain, chiasm, etc.).
3. Study two key words—choose only the most important two words.
4. Identify the main thought of the passage in your own words.
5. Give a clear interpretation or exposition of the passage.
 - Be certain you have presented adequate reasons for your chosen interpretation.
6. Suggest specific application(s) to life.
7. Include all resources you used in a bibliography at the end of your paper.