

CSI Winter Elective “Loving the Lord”

Romance of Worship

Experiencing the Presence of God Through Selected Psalms

Let us then Praise Him!

Read Psalm 145 and share its experience of genuine, vocal, and public declaration of the exceeding excellence of our incomparable God. As you read through the Psalm see how many words for praise you can find. Also what concepts of praise are found? As you read, ask yourselves, what is said in praise of God for who He is (Descriptive Praise). Also ask, what is said in praise of God for what He does (Declarative Praise).

How did we get the Psalms?

Since the psalms are a part of the Bible then it follows that the psalms come from God.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (NASB).

- 2 Pet. 1:20-21

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God” (NASB).

2 Tim. demonstrates the ultimate source of scripture, the “Out-breathing” of God. The second text speaks of the human role or agent, not the initiator, in the inspiration process. The writers were blown upon by the breath of God.

In a nutshell, Scripture has a dual authorship. It is both the product of God and man. NOTE: Being dual does not mean God and man collaborated. God is the sole author using man as the instrument to write it.

- Prophets were Yahweh's spokesmen. As such they served as the primary agents for the revelation of God and His will. Jeremiah 1:4-9 illustrates this.
 - God touched the mouth or put words in the mouth of the prophet.
 - The words were Gods and the mouth was the prophet's. God out-breathed the words and Jeremiah spoke them; God moved the man by the Holy spirit; Jeremiah spoke from God.
- The origin of God assures us of the integrity of the message. The use of the man allows for the creative shaping of the words of God in literature utilizing the man's native gifts and personality.
- The transmission through the mouth of man allowed for the creative shaping of the words of God in literature.

The Pentateuch of Praise

Why some scholars have arranged the Psalms into five divisions is unknown, but some believe there to be a thematic arrangement wherein the Psalms of certain books relate to certain of the first five books attributed to Moses. Others find this arrangement to be problematic because they don't all fit nicely into that theory. So, they believe that perhaps the reason for the division is simply that the Psalms are the language of response to the prophetic word.

Each of the books contained within the Psalms ends with a doxology and can be divided as such:

- 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

Again, it has been said that praise is a matter of life and breath. Seemingly, therefore, Psalm 1 seems to have been composed specifically to introduce the collection of Psalms and Psalm 150 was written specifically to conclude the collection of Psalms 1-150.

Psalms were being written from the time of Moses (Israel's youth) to the time of restoration under the leadership of Ezra. The praise hymns and lament songs were written in response to the words of God in a hostile world.

Psalms composers were comprised of men, women, kings and commoners:

- David is attributed with writing 73 of the Psalms with two others attributed to be his writings by NT authors
- Some were written by professional guild musicians specifically for temple worship
- Some were composed by wise men in the instruction of their charges
- Some were set to poetry at the express direction of the oracle of the Spirit (as some are prophetic and revelational in the strictest sense).
- Many were collected into groups for the good of the community in its worship to God.
- Many of the Psalms were collected over time to comprise what we have today.

Now hear them sing! (Praise is a matter of life and breath)

Listen first to Psalm 63:1-5. Let the poetry of praise do its wonderwork in you. Read the Psalm aloud.

- What type of Praise Psalm is the Psalm?
- What is the vocabulary of praise?
- How does the Psalm work in you?
- Are you ready to act out the praise the Psalm presents?

Read Psalm 146:1-10 prayerfully.

- How much is taught and enjoyed concerning the God of all praise?

Praise is what life is about! The Psalms of Israel do not speak of a life of faith where there is no praise to God!