

How to Read the Psalms: Psalm 1



Colonial Baptist Church
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How to Read the Psalms

- Approaching the Psalms from Outside
 - The Five Books of the Psalter
 - Superscriptions
 - Psalm Forms
- Approaching the Psalms from Inside
 - Hebrew Poetry
 - Theological Distinctions

How to Read the Psalms

Putting It Into Practice: How do I read Psalm 1 this way?

- Position yourself in the book of Psalms.
- Read the title (as available) for authorship and historical context.
- Skim the psalm looking for features or key terms to identify the psalm type.
- Read carefully with sensitivity to the Hebrew poetry.
- Make notes on the theological emphases.
- Allow the psalmist to lead you into worship and prayer to the Lord.

How to Read the Psalms

Putting It Into Practice: How do I read *Psalm 1* this way?

- Position yourself in the book of Psalms.
 - Psalm 1 is an introduction to Book 1 of the Psalter.
- Read the title (as available) for authorship and historical context.
 - No superscription here. Why?

How to Read the Psalms

Putting It Into Practice: How do I read Psalms this way?

- Skim the psalm looking for features or key terms to identify the psalm type.
 - Wisdom terms: *Blessed, walk, counsel, wicked, righteous, scoffers, Law, way*. “Law” appears twice. It appears to be a wisdom psalm instructing us in the ways of wise and successful living.
- Read carefully with sensitivity to the Hebrew poetry.

Psalm 1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor dwells in the abode of scoffers.

² Rather, in the Law of the Lord is his delight,
and in his law he rehearses day and night.

³ He will be as a tree transplanted by streams of water
which produces its fruit in season
and its leaf does not wither.
He will flourish in whatever he does.

Psalm 1

⁴ Not so the wicked.

Rather, they are as the chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore, the wicked will not stand in 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.

How to Read the Psalms

Putting It Into Practice: How do I read Psalms this way?

- Make notes on the theological emphases.
 - The righteous delight in God's Word. (God's Word is good).
 - Living in light of God's commands leads to a consistent and enduring life. (Only those who obey will stand in the judgment—Christ!).
- Allow the psalmist to lead you into worship and prayer to the Lord.