

Pastor Sean Kelly

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Developing a Heart for God
"The Heights and Depths of Prayer"
The Book of Psalms

"Reading Psalms is like reading somebody's personal spiritual journal... it is uncensored, unfiltered, raw expressions of the heart."

Understanding the Psalms

What it is not.... a "**happy**" little **devotional** book.

What it is... some of the most **encouraging** and **uplifting** words ever penned – while at the same time, the most **honest** and **tearful** prayers ever offered.

Hebrew Poetry

Hebrew poetry is not characterized by **rhyme** or **meter**; rather it is identified by **parallelism**.

Three types of parallelism:

- 1) **Synonymous** parallelism: (Psalm 103:1)
- 2) **Synthetic** parallelism: (Psalm 103: 2-5)
- 3) **Antithetical** parallelism: (Proverbs 12:15)

Psalms of Praise

Our experience with God will never be complete until we express the **praise**, **wonder** and **adoration** that is in our hearts.

Psalms of praise have two basic parts:

- 1) A call to **worship**
- 2) List and expound **reasons** why God is **worthy** of praise.

Psalms of Lament

A lament psalm is a **complaint**; it is an honest and heartfelt expression of **pain**, **sadness** and **brokenness**.

Four primary topics addressed in laments:

- 1) Fear of **enemies**
- 2) Battles with **illness**
- 3) Reality of **death**
- 4) Anxiety of being **trapped**

READING PLAN:

Complete Track

Monday - 2 Kings 14-15; Psalm 67
Tuesday - 2 Kings 16-17
Wednesday - 2 Kings 18; Psalm 68
Thursday - 2 Kings 19
Friday - 2 Kings 20-22; Psalm 69
Weekend - 2 Kings 23-25

Fast Track

1st Reading - Psalm 42; 103; 137
2nd Reading - Psalm 33-35
3rd Reading - Psalm 58; 100; 117