

CYCLE OF LIFE: summary

Thoughts:

1. The Psalms are poetry

This is what makes the Psalms the Psalms!

2. The Psalms are **Biblical / Hebrew Poetry** – from the ANE

Form is the meaning

3. The Psalms are image-rich / image-saturated

4. The Psalms incorporate (use) images from human experience & the ANE

Psalm 13:1-2

How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever?

How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily?

How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, So panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Psalm 18:1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. Psalm 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: So shall I be saved from mine enemies.

5. The poetry & the images take time

The beauty of a great song is that you can't really get all the song is saying after a single listening

Thoughts:

- Psalms take a sanctified imagination → good sensibilities
- Psalms take imagining

Oreo Double Stuffed:	Polvoron:

6. The Psalms are meant to be experienced

Psalm 37:3-11

Trust in the LORD, and do good; **So** shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thyself also in the LORD; **And** he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the LORD;

Trust also in him; **and** he shall bring it to pass.

And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light,

And thy judgment as the noonday.

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him:

Fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, Because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath:

Fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

For evildoers shall be cut off: **But** those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: Yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

But the meek shall inherit the earth; **And** shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalm 16:5 The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: Thou maintainest my lot. **Psalm 16:6** The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; Yea, I have a goodly heritage.

Psalm 73:1-14

[Truly God is good to Israel, Even to such as are of a clean heart.]

But as for me, my feet were almost gone; My steps had well nigh slipped.
For I was envious at the foolish, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
For there are no bands in their death: But their strength is firm.
They are not in trouble as other men; Neither are they plagued like other men.
Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; Violence covereth them as a garment.
Their eyes stand out with fatness: They have more than heart could wish.
They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: They speak loftily.
They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walketh through the earth.
Therefore his people return hither: And waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.
And they say, How doth God know? And is there knowledge in the most High?
Behold, these are the ungodly, Who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.
Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocency.
For all the day long have I been plagued, And chastened every morning.

Psalm 150:1-6

Praise ye the LORD.
Praise God in his sanctuary:
Praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts:
Praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:
Praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
Praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
Praise him upon the loud cymbals:
Praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.
Praise ye the LORD.

Concluding thoughts:

- **Read the Psalms**
- **Read the whole Psalm (except for a few)**

- **Read the Psalm as a Psalm**

- **Read the Psalms in different translations**
- **Read the Psalms at different speeds**
- **Read the Psalms at different places & times**
- **Don't just read the Psalms → experience the Psalms!**