

Asking for the Nations

Psalm 2

Arrangement of Book of Psalms

'Teillim' - Praises

Introduction

Psalm 1: Blessing based on delight of God's Law

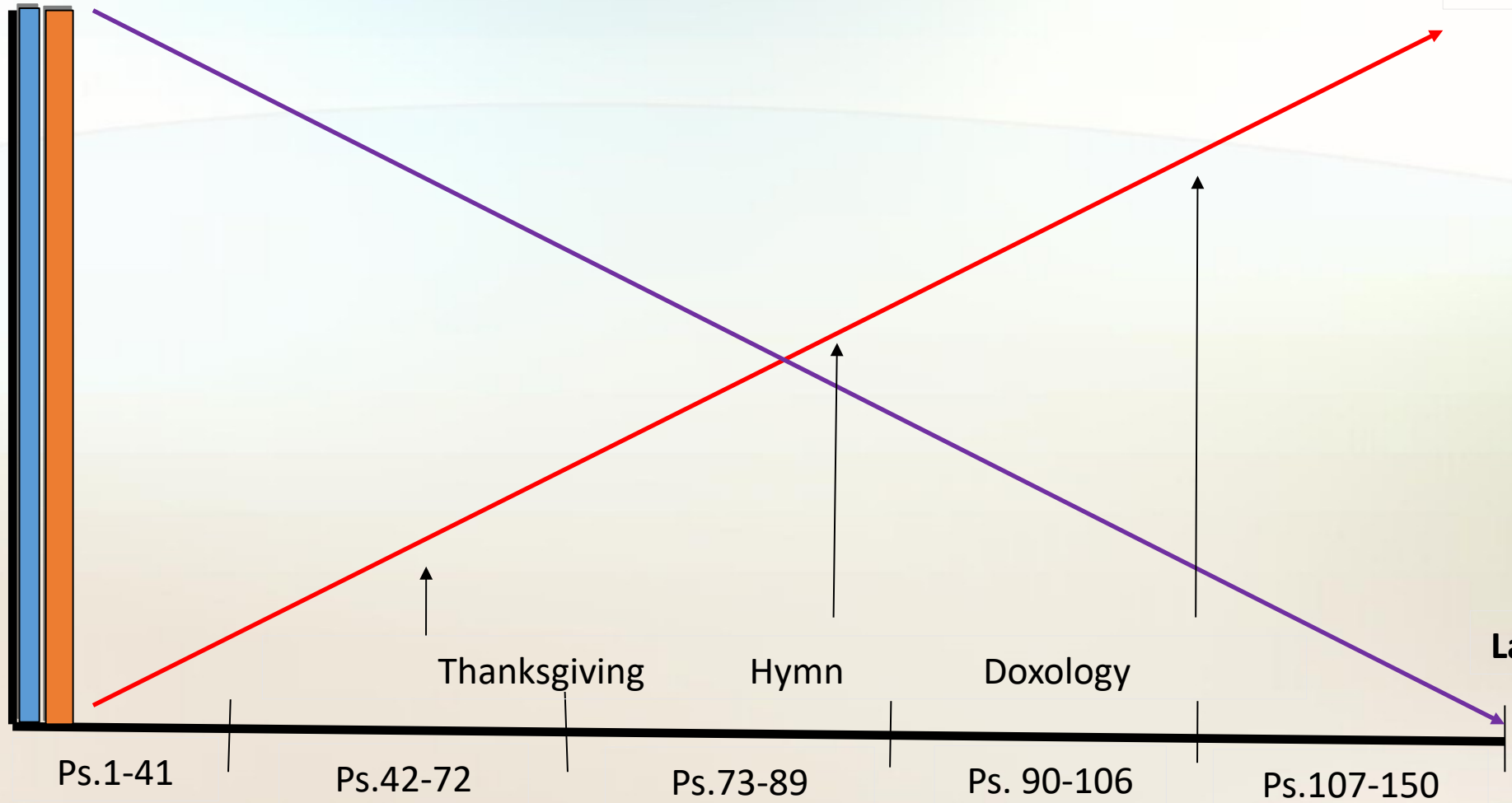
Psalm 2: Blessing based on delight of Messiah

Praise

Lament

Lament

Adapted from -
Patterns for Life:
Structure, Genre and
Theology in Psalms
Dennis Bratcher



Seasons of life for psalmist writers and readers

EU Quiz

1/. EU Parliament - Strasbourg



2/. Peter Breughel's 'Tower of Babel'



3/. What is their relationship?

EU Media – ‘Many tongues, one voice’



EU Message – Four freedoms: Goods, Service, Capital & People



Babel Message

‘They said to each other... come let us build the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves’. Genesis 11:4

God's Message to Abram

'Leave your country... people... father's household, and go...

I will make you into a great nation...

And I will bless you...

And I will make your name great...'

Genesis 12:1-3

Message Comparison

EU / Babel Message

*Collectively as nation-states, we can determine our own future, prosperity & reputation, i.e. make a name for ourselves' => **forces at work**: humanism, pride, God complacency/rebellion*

God's Message to Abram

*· 'I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, I will determine your prosperity/reputation => **forces at work**: God's sovereignty, my humility, faith & trust in God*

Psalm 2 - Summary

In Psalm 2 we have the gathering together of kings, rulers and nations against the Lord and His Anointed – the Messiah – with one purpose in mind: to rebel against the rule, reign, kingdom of the Lord, and His Messiah.

Psalm 1 & 2: A literary 'inclusio' unit

Psalm 1: Opening blessing formula

- V.1, 'Blessed is the man who does not walk in... nor stand in... nor sit in... but his delight is in the law of the Lord.'
- Also v.6, 'For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish'.

Psalm 2: Closing blessings formula

- V.12, '...Blessed are all who take refuge in Him'
- Also v.12, 'Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in the way...'

Psalm 2 – Main Truth (and three scenes)

(1) When the rulers and the nations conspire

met with overwhelming responses, (3) but motivated by grace are urged to chose wisely

vv. 1-3, Scene 1

Lord and against His Anointed

T

vv.4 – 9, Scene 2

The overwhelming responses of the Lord and
His Anointed

vv.4 – 9, Scene 2

v.4, Response #1 – Laughter...

Loud, raucous, scoffing, mocking...

vv.4 – 9, Scene 2

vv.5-9, Response #2 – Terror

Through the use of one word, '*then...*' the whole mood of the Psalm turns...

v.5, 'Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying...'

vv.4 – 9, Scene 2

*v.7b, ‘...He said to Me, you are My Son, today I
have become Your Father / begotten You’*

vv.4 – 9, Scene 2

- NT uses – Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5, 5:5, Always used in context of Christ' resurrection, ascension and exaltation
- Point: Son was begotten (became Son) as He rose from the dead and ascended to right hand of Father

'...and who through the Spirit of Holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God' (Ro 1:4)

vv.4 – 9, Scene 2

The hub/centre of Psalm 2:

response to the wayward nations.

vv.4 – 9, Scene 2

*v.8, 'Ask of Me, and I will make the nations
Your inheritance, the ends of the earth Your
possession*

**Prayer is the means which God gave us to do His
work**

vv.10-12, Scene 3

The rulers and nations – motivated by grace –
are urged to chose wisely

vv.10-12, Scene 3

v.12, 'Kiss the Son...'

OR

your way...'

- Surrender with submissive, reverent worship and service.

- At the very least, your plans and strategy to prosper apart from the Lord will come to ruin
- Psalm 1:6: 'For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.'

A combustible situation: '...for His wrath can flare up /be kindled in a moment!

vv.10-12, Psalm 2, Scene 3

Grace is unreasonable... because...

Grace is getting what we do not deserve

vv.10-12, Scene 3

*blessed person who takes
refuge in the Lord'* look like?

'Psalm 1:3, 'Blessed is the man... He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.