Keywords

Psalms, Structure, Benediction, Book recommendation, Psalm 14, Charles Spurgeon, Treasury of David, Mongrel Dog, Song 53, choir master, public worship, lament, Confrontation, Human History, redemption

Summary

Resources for Studying Psalms

- Charles Spurgeon's Treasury of David is recommended for studying psalms.

- It includes Spurgeon's commentary and contributions from other theologians.

- The speaker plans to read through the psalms throughout the year using this resource.

Book recommendation for Psalm 14

- A book recommended by a seminary professor for understanding Psalm 14.

- The book is titled 'Slogging Along in the Paths of Righteousness' by Dale Ralph Davis.

- It is written in an anecdotal and down-to-earth style, making it easy to follow.

Understanding the Psalms

- Discussing the importance of reading the Psalms as a whole, not just as individual collections.

- Recommended resources for further study, including 'The Flow of the Psalms' by O Palmer Roberts.

- Exploring the reasons for choosing Psalm 14 for analysis.

Understanding Psalm 14

- Psalm 14 is not easily categorized as a praise, lament, or wisdom psalm.

- It is compared to a mongrel dog for its diverse characteristics.

- Psalm 14 is referenced in Romans 3 and Psalm 53.

Comparison of Psalm 14 and Psalm 53

- Psalm 14 and Psalm 53 are almost identical, with only a few extra words in Psalm 53.

- Both psalms have titles, with Psalm 14 addressed to the choir master of David and Psalm 53 addressed to the choir master, but with additional details about the accompanying tune and type of psalm.

- The speaker is intrigued by the similarities between the two psalms and wonders why they both exist.

Exploring the Origin of Psalm 14

- Questioning the inclusion of a rough draft of Psalm 14 in the scriptures.

- Using Psalm 14 to explore the topic.

- Exploring the concept of 'rabbit holes' in the context of the discussion.

Singing Psalms in Public Worship

- Discussion about the nature of psalms and their significance in public worship.

- Psalms can express a range of emotions, including lament, and are still relevant today.

- The speaker reflects on the importance of singing psalms to the Lord.

Psalms as a collection of temple's best hits

- Cassettes were used in the past to compile the top 30 Christian hits of the year.

- The Psalms should not be considered a collection of the temple's best hits.

- Commentators suggest that the Psalms have an orderly structure arranged intentionally by an editor.

Understanding the Structure of Psalms

- The psalms are not just a collection of random pieces, but rather a unified whole with a literary shape and a message that flows intentionally.

- Scholars have identified a flow to the psalms, with a specific message and structure.

- The psalms are divided into 5 books, with headings indicating the book number.

Structure of Psalms

- The last psalm of each book in the Bible contains a benediction.

- This pattern is evident in Psalms 41, 72, 89, 106, and at the end of Book 5.

- Further analysis of this structure may require the assistance of a biblical scholar.

Flow of the Psalms

- The flow of the Psalms tells a story of redemption, starting with David and anticipating the coming of God himself.

- Each psalm is captivating on its own, but together they form a greater narrative.

- The flow of the Psalms moves from confrontation to consummation.

God's Plan for Redemption

- God's sovereignty is challenged by the mystery of iniquity, but He has committed to redeem an innumerable host from every tribe, kindred, language, and people.

- This redemption will be accomplished through a singular saving hero who will enter into mortal conflict with Satan.

- The flow of human history is characterized by this confrontation with sin until the consummation, where we see the glory of the coming king.

Confrontation in Human History

- Discussion on the nature of human history and the role of confrontation.

- Comment: Mark suggests that history is a series of confrontations, while the speaker considers God's perspective.

- The belief in the divine authorship of scriptures implies a divine plan for these confrontations.

Structure and Themes in the Book of Psalms

- The Book of Psalms is divided into five books, each with distinct themes.

- Book 1 focuses on David's confrontation with Saul, Book 2 emphasizes communication with other nations, Book 3 explores themes of devastation and exile, Book 4 showcases the process of maturation, and Book 5 concludes with praises for the everlasting Kingdom.

- The author provides detailed analysis of these themes and other patterns within the Psalms, suggesting a thoughtful arrangement of the book.

Poetic Pyramids in Psalms

- The concept of poetic pyramids in psalms, where groups of songs form a pyramid with a central psalm as the pinnacle.

- Psalm 22 serves as an example, with depictions of the kingship of the Messiah and Yahweh on either side.

- Hallelujah songs from psalms 111 to 117 exhibit a similar pattern, with Hallelujah appearing at the beginning or end of the psalms.

- Psalm 114 sits at the pinnacle remembering God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt.

- Robertson's book is recommended for those interested in the topic.

- Comment: Historically, the history of the church involves ordered worship, unlike contemporary churches where the pastor decides the order of service.

Understanding the Psalms

- The arrangement of the psalms is intentional and not random.

- It provides a better context for understanding the psalms as a whole.

- The divine authorship and personal nature of each psalm are not diminished by this arrangement.

Psalms: A Path to Christ

- Singing psalms connects emotions with Christ.

- Psalms, though part of the Old Testament, point to Christ.

- Reading, praying, and singing psalms should be desired by believers.

Understanding the Significance of Psalms

- Psalms are not just a collection of popular songs, but part of a larger context.

- Seeking a satisfactory explanation for the presence of two similar psalms.

- Robertson's theory suggests different parts of the flow in Book 1 and Book 2.

God's references in Psalms 14 and 53

- In Psalm 14, God is referred to as the Lord, Yahweh, while in Psalm 53, the term Elohim is used.

- If the theme of Book 2 is indeed to communicate God's kingship to other nations, it would explain the shift to the term Elohim, as opposed to the personal name, Yahweh, used by Israel.

- The psalter tells the story of redemption for both Jews and Gentiles.

Understanding the Significance of Psalms in Romans 3

- The importance of the story and revelation in Psalms is emphasized, necessitating its inclusion twice, once for Jews and again for Gentiles.

- Different audiences may be addressed, as seen in Paul's application of these psalms in Romans 3.

- The psalm highlights the universal depravity of humanity while acknowledging the deliverance of certain individuals.

Understanding the concept of 'fool' in Psalm 14:1

- Psalm 14:1 introduces the concept of a 'fool' who denies the existence of God.

- The psalmist describes the fool's corrupt actions and the absence of good deeds.

- The speaker raises a question about the true nature of a fool, inviting listeners to reflect on their own understanding of the term.

Understanding the concept of 'fool' in the context of atheism

- The term 'fool' in the context of atheism is often misunderstood.

- The Hebrew word used for 'fool' implies aggressive ungodliness, not intellectual ignorance.

The Story of Nabal

- The Hebrew word 'nabal' is used here for ‘fool’ and is found in the Old Testament in a couple places.

- In Isaiah 32:6, it refers to someone who speaks folly and engages in ungodliness.

- In 1 Samuel, the word is used in the context of David’s interaction with a man named Nabal while fleeing from Saul.

David's Men Seek Food and Drink

- David's men seek food and drink from a wealthy man named Nabal.

- Nabal questions David's identity and refuses to provide sustenance.

- But was Nabal ignorant, or should he have known better?

- Nabal's wife, Abigail, later provides food and drink to David and his men.

Saul's Anger Towards Jonathan

- In 1 Samuel 20, Saul was angry with Jonathan for protecting David.

- Saul accused Jonathan of choosing David over him and his kingdom.

- Saul knew that David was the rightful king of Israel.

David's Recognition and Nabal's Disregard

- In 1 Samuel 21, David flees from Saul and encounters the king of Gath.

- The king and his servants recognize David as the king of Israel.

- So both the king of Israel and king of foreign nations recognize David, the son of Jesse, as the true king of Israel

- Yet, a few chapters later, Nabal scoffs at David’s rightful role as king and refuses to help him.

Abigail's Plea to David

- Abigail, wife of Nabal, seeks to prevent David from taking revenge on her husband.

- She acknowledges Nabal's foolishness and asks David to forgive him.

- The passage highlights that the term 'fool' in scripture does not refer to ignorance but rather to purposeful ungodliness.

The Existence of God

- The idea that people can claim ignorance of God's existence is invalid.

- Creation and the law within our hearts point to the existence of God.

- Claiming there's no God is foolish as everyone inherently knows the truth.

The Concept of Foolishness

- Foolishness is not the same as ignorance or naivety.

- Foolish people know better but still make unwise choices.

- The example of a friend making tea for the first time. Throwing a sugar packet in water instead of ripping it open, because that’s what was done for the tea bag.

Understanding Psalm 14 in David's Life

- So who is the fool David refers to in Psalm 14?

- Is it the same Nabal we see in 1 Samuel? No!

- The psalm discusses the corrupt actions of a group of fools, not just a single individual.

Religious Beliefs in the Past

- Comment: In the past, people believed in gods and didn't question their existence.

- Comment: Abigail invoked Yahweh to explain David's behavior, assuming he rejected Yahweh.

- Comment: People in the temple considered those who didn't believe in Yahweh as ignorant and misguided.

Atheists' Claim of Non-Belief

- Atheists claim they don't believe in God, but it's actually God who doesn't believe in atheists.

- Comment: Humans reject the true God due to arrogance, not ignorance.

- God's image is imprinted on all humans, making it impossible for anyone to claim they don't know Him.

Discussion on the existence of God

- The speaker discusses the concept of God and the attributes commonly associated with Him.

- The speaker emphasizes the importance of taking scripture seriously and not dismissing the idea of a higher power.

- The speaker shares an example of an atheist who, despite their beliefs, acknowledges the existence of something greater.

Discussion on the concept of God and human nature

- Comment: Denying the existence of God is also a form of faith.

- Comment: Humans have a natural tendency to believe in something, even if it's irrational.

- The crisis mentioned in the text is a collective crisis of humanity, not of a single individual.

Atheism and Practical Atheism

- Atheism and practical atheism discussed.

- The fool says in his heart that there is no God.

- Practical atheism refers to believers who do not live in accordance with their beliefs.

Trusting in God

- Discussing the significance of faith and trust in God.

- Questioning the reliance on worldly possessions and relationships instead of divine promises.

- Emphasizing the importance of obedience to God's law and acknowledging His constant presence.

Crisis of Neglecting God

- The text discusses the crisis of neglecting God.

- God carefully inspects the children of man to see if any understand and seek Him.

- The sinful condition of humanity is corrupt and despairing without God's intervention.

The Crisis of Human Goodness

- Psalm 14 and Romans 3 discuss the lack of human goodness.

- King David, known as a man after God's heart, acknowledges this crisis.

- The psalm and Bible emphasize the need to recognize this crisis to understand its significance.

Bible Reading Approach

- Sharing an approach to reading the Psalms from the Bible.

- The approach involves identifying and highlighting the subject of each section.

- This method can be useful for additional studies or general Bible reading.

Meditation on the Fool

- The text discusses the concept of meditation on the 'fool' in a particular context.

- The fool is described as someone who denies the existence of God, does no good, and is no good.

- We are all fools.

Promoting Thoughtful Reading

- Encouraging a deliberate and mindful approach to reading.

- Slowing down the reading pace enhances contemplation and meditation on the content.

- This method aims to extract greater depth and richness from reading material.

Reflecting on Sinfulness and Seeking God's Grace

- Reflect on one's sinful state and appreciate God's grace.

- Consider the state of one's heart and repent of unbelief.

- Pray for increased love and thankfulness towards God.