

On Reading the book of Psalms

Kinds of Psalms

Orientation, Disorientation, New Orientation

Lament and Praise

It is perhaps better to talk about characteristics of psalms, rather than categories.

David in the Psalms

David, son of Jesse

David as “everyman”

David as messianic king

What about the Book?

An overall movement from lament to praise

The importance of David at key junctures

Psalm 2

Psalm 72

Psalm 89

Psalm 132

Reconsidering the introduction (Psalm 1–2) and conclusion (Psalms 146–150)

Reading the Parts in Light of the Whole

Expectations and Reality

Reading psalms in light of their neighbors

For further reflection: what light is shed on Psalm 23 by reading it together with Psalms 22 and 24?

See also Bonhoeffer’s *Psalms: The Prayerbook of the Bible*, and Athanasius’s *Letter to Marcellinus*