

The Psalms

INSTRUCTOR: Lee Campbell

EMAIL: campbell@xenos.org

TEXT: Other than a copy of the Bible, no text is required.
Handouts will be distributed weekly.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to provide a guided study through the book of Psalms. We will examine issues of authorship, principles of Hebrew poetry, poetic genres as well as detailed analyses of representative examples of each genre.

Instructional Goals

When you successfully complete this course you will be able to articulate the following:

- ⇒ the structure of the book of Psalms
- ⇒ the types of Psalms found in the book
- ⇒ features of God's character revealed in the Psalms
- ⇒ features of human character revealed in the Psalms
- ⇒ the basic characteristics of Hebrew poetic writing

Additionally, successful completion of this course will lead to an increased willingness to be honest with God while staying loyal to Him and thus, if you are willing, to a deeper commitment to his service.

Instructional Procedures and Requirements

Course content will be communicated through lecture and discussion. I will assess your progress toward the course goals through homework performance.

Homework: At the end of the first four classes you will be given a homework assignment which will be collected and evaluated. The assignments have two purposes: 1. To reinforce what you learned during that session and 2. To help prepare you for the next class session. Do not turn in hand written responses. 75% of your final grade will be based on this assessment method.

Attendance: Those who show up learn more than those who do not. Therefore, attendance will be taken each week. 25% of your final grade will be based on this assessment method.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 - Introduction to the book, Hebrew poetry and literary genres

Week 2 - Psalms of Lament

Week 3 - Psalms of Gratitude

Week 4 - Wisdom Psalms

Week 5 - Psalms of Praise