

Psalm 1

1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Introduction notes:

1. Psalms 1 & 2 are an inclusio. Ps. 1:1 starts with “Blessed” and Ps. 2:12 ends with “Blessed.”
2. Since Ps. 2 is attributed to David in Acts 4:25 – therefore it can be said that Pss. 1&2 are Davidic Psalms.
 - a) Ps. 1 represents the LAW; Ps. 2 represents the PROPHECY. (cf. Matt. 22:40).
 - b) Ps. 1 begins with a blessing and ends with a curse. Ps. 2 begins with a curse and ends with a blessing.
 - c) Ps. 1 – the meditation of the Blessed Man; Ps. 2 – the thoughts of Ungodly men.
 - d) Ps. 1 is emotional; Ps. 2 is intellectual.
3. This Psalm is called “the Preface Psalm” as it begins the entire Book of Psalms and is an excellent summary of it by demonstrating the blessednesses of the godly man vs. the ruination of the ungodly man and in v.6 the basis or ground or reason thereto.
4. A good title for this Psalm is found in v. 1 – “Blessed is the Man” Psalm. – or the “Blessed Man” Psalm.
5. Pss. 1, 2, 10, & 33 are BOOK 1 Psalm collections that are “untitled.” And it is considered a “*wisdom psalm*” along with Pss. 32, 34, 49 in BOOK 1).
6. The First Psalm structure is symmetric. The first line (vv.1-2) deals with the character of the Blessed Man, and the second line (v.3) his happiness. The third line (v.4-5) deals with the character and destruction of the Ungodly man, and the fourth line (v.6) reveals the way of the Lord.
7. Psalm 1 is the natural outcome of a way of life which has been chosen.

Outline:

- I. The Way of the Blessed Man (vv.1-3)
- II. The Way of the Ungodly Man (vv.4-5)
- III. The Way of the LORD (v.6)

Observations:

1. “Blessed” in the Hebrew is plural (“*Blessednesses*”) – bec. God’s blessings are always in the plural!
2. He walks not, stands not, and sits not – the progressive move towards the final state of sinfulness. (Prov. 1:22; Rom. 1:21-25)
3. The word “not” in the Hebrew is “lo” which suggests permanent prohibition vs. “la” for temporal prohibition.
4. The Blessed Man delights and meditates in the law of the LORD. This is his private life.
 - a) Delight – pleasure, desire
 - b) Meditate – to ponder, to mutter
 - c) Law of the LORD – One of the names of God’s Word in Psalms.
5. Metaphor of a planted tree (vs. a wild tree):
 - a) The Planter/Caretaker/Gardner
 - b) The Plenteous Supply
 - c) Permanence and stability
 - d) Plenty of fruit in season
 - e) Protection and security
6. “And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” – God will cause the Blessed Man’s doings to advance – this is a “natural effect” prosperity not a reward.
7. Not so with the Ungodly Man who is likened unto “chaff” (Matt. 3:12). They will not stand or endure God’s judgment (Mal. 3:2; Rev. 20:11-15).
8. (v.6) The Way of the LORD is that He knows both ways (of the Blessed Man and the Ungodly Man).
 - a) The way of the righteous (shall not perish).
 - b) (For the LORD knoweth) the way of the ungodly shall perish.
9. Lesson: Follow the way of the Blessed Man. (cf. Ps. 32:2; 34:8; 65:4; 84:5, 12; 94:12; 112:2; Pro. 8:34; James 1:12).

Psalm 2

2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Introduction notes:

1. This is a prophetic Psalm that has not yet been fulfilled. This is concerning Christ's reign during the Millennial Kingdom and the rebellion of man thereunto.
2. Remember – the kings of the earth already demonstrated that the Lord Jesus Christ is “not essential.” (e.g., the COVID response)

Outline:

- I. The Rage of the Heathen (vv. 1-3) – Opposition
- II. The Laugh of the LORD (vv.4-6) – Derision
- III. The Decree of the LORD (vv.7-9) – Declaration
- IV. The Reign of the Son (vv.10-12) – Instruction

Observations:

1. Rebellion is human nature (Isa. 1:3).
2. Rebels always seek their own autonomy apart from God. (Ps. 14:1) They refuse to call upon Him (14:4).
3. This rebellion will occur at the end of Millennial Kingdom when Satan is released and will deceive the multitudes in the final revolt (Rev. 20:7-9). Mankind foreshadows this rebellion personally every day.
4. God is sitting (sovereignty) and laughing (deriding) at the nations.
5. God will severely rebuke the rebels. (Every man will give account, literally, say a word – Rom. 14:12 as His words will be the final judgment, see Jn. 12:48; Rev. 20:12-13).
6. (v.7) – “This day have I begotten thee” – The LORD had said unto me – Jehovah is repeating what Jehovah said to Him. The King who is set upon the holy hill of Zion is Jesus Christ – the Eternally Begotten Son of God the Father. “This day” refers to the temporal ramifications (at the Incarnation and Resurrection, Acts 13:33; Rom. 1:3-4; Heb. 1:5; 5:5).
7. The “heathen for thine inheritance” not only includes Shem's descendants through Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3) but all of Adam's descendants (Rom. 5:12-21; 11:24). The whole world will be given to the Son at the Millennium (Rev. 19:15) and the Son will turn over the kingdom to the Father (I Cor. 15:24).
8. The kings of the earth are commanded to do five things which demonstrate their allegiance to the Lord Jesus:
 - a) Be wise (about the Son)
 - b) Be instructed (by the Son)
 - c) Serve the LORD with fear
 - d) Rejoice with trembling (in the Son)
 - e) Kiss the Son (submit and honor – intensively or repeatedly).
9. Lesson: Put your trust in the Son of God. (1 Jn. 5:12).