

PSALM 1

THE TWO ROADS

A BIBLE STUDY AT FAITH LUTHERAN

The first psalm in the book serves with Psalm 2 as an introduction to the this book of Wisdom. In its encouragement to consider the two roads, the psalmist points God's people to the wisdom of following the Lord and the folly of serving sin. This psalm plays an important role for us today when it reminds us that there aren't a multitude of paths through this life—there are merely two: the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked.

Watch the Robert Frost video...

THE PSALM

Author

King David? There is no author attributed, but along with Psalm 2, it serves as an introduction for the Psalter. Psalm 2 is ascribed to David by Peter and John in Acts 4:25.

Terms

Blessed: the condition of those who trust God

Threshing: beating the kernels from the stalks

Chaff: the inedible husk around a kernel

Winnowing: the removal of the chaff from the kernel

Dates

c. 900 BC

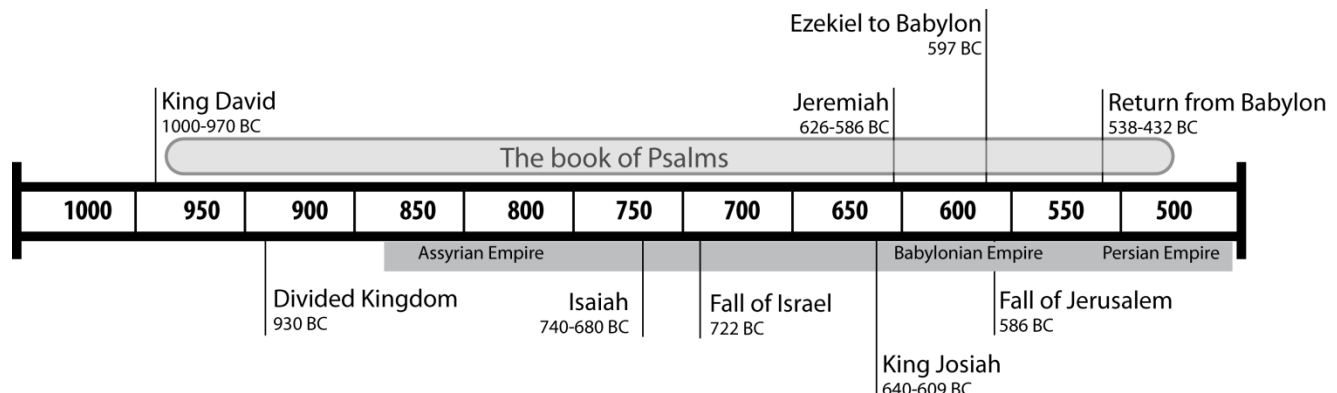
THE POETRY

As we have noted, Hebrew poetry works with parallelism, rather than rhyming verse. Note in verse 1, the ascensive nature of the parallelism.

Note, also, the vibrant pictures used: a well watered tree; dry chaff blowing away in the wind. God paints a vivid picture for us of the results of walking on either of the two roads.

THE BOOK

The Psalter, or book of Psalms, is a collection of the songs of the people of Israel written over a period of centuries, from the time of Moses until after the return from Babylon. There are 150 psalms in the book that cover nearly every aspect of Christian life and worship. This book is especially suited for use in your personal devotional life.



Introduction

Notes

1. Watch the Robert Frost introduction.
2. What emotions does that poem evoke for you? What was the author trying to convey? If you read this poem to your children, what would be your purpose?
3. Share a “Road not taken” decision.
4. God’s contention: there are only two roads. Consider them well.

Read verses 1-2

5. What does it mean blessed? How does your definition of blessed compare to God’s? (Lk 11:28; Mt 5)
6. What does each of the ascending terms mean in verse 1 (walk, stand, sit)?
7. What does walking in the counsel of the wicked look like when it comes to raising your kids? Dealing with your spouse? Conducting your job or business?
8. What does standing in the way of sinners mean for teenagers? Adults?
9. Give examples of sitting in the seat of mockers.
10. Why is this a progression?
11. Cf. Screen for modern day example:
12. “But...his delight...” What does that look like? How do we show it? How do we grow it?
13. Meditate day and night: put that into your own words.
14. What’s the hardest part about a daily devotional habit for you? What has helped?

Read verses 3-4

15. What is the point of this picture of a tree? What’s the point of a tree? What does that mean about Christians?
16. Why do our faith require constant nourishment to produce fruits?
17. What ever he does prospers. What do you think God is talking about: material, physical, spiritual?
18. What’s the point of verse 4? Why is it hard to believe? Why is this such an important part of the two road discussion?

Read verses 5-6

19. How is verse 5 both Law and Gospel?
20. How verse 6 help keep us from Robert Frost moments?