General Introduction to The Psalter Bi-109

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SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Music and singing in the life if Israel and the Church have always been vital to the expression of our faith and worship. This is *A Seven Week Course* designed to focus on the Psalter as the inspired hymn book of God’s people. Our plan is to examine the Psalms from a literary perspective, giving consideration to their characteristics, types, major themes and historical background.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Our purpose is to not only acquaint the student with the Psalter but instill a loving appreciation for it. In this course, we will be *Required To Read Through All The Psalms*, (see attached schedule) giving attention to the various forms and their function within the historical experience of Israel.

COURSE DATE AND TIME: Classes meet seven Tuesday evenings beginning March 31st, 2015 and ending May 12th, 2015. The sessions are in the fellowship hall from 7:00 - 8:00 PM.

CLASS TEXTBOOKS: (a) *BIBLE*: It is recommended that the student have a copy of a good study-Bible, (i.e., KJV, NKJV, NASV, NIV or ESV). (b) While no textbook is required for this course, it is highly recommended that the student purchase for their library some of the great books included in the brief attached Bibliography.

COURSE COSTS: All our Bible Institute classes are FREE, but if the student would like to work toward a *Ministry Enrichment Certificate,* you must turn in a *completed registration form* and attend the lectures to receive credit for a course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Ministry enrichment certificates are given at the completion of TEN credit hours of class work. You will receive a card signed by an authorizing instructor for each course completed. There are four levels of certification at this time: Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced, and Graduate.

COURSE GRADING: Attendance, note taking, reading the Psalter and class participation will all be factored into your pass/fail grade toward one credit hour.

 CLASS SCHEDULE:

 1. The Christian and Music Week One: 03/31/2015

 2. The Nature of Hebrew Poetry Week Two: 04/07/2015

 3. Composition of the Psalter Week Three: 04/14/2015

 4. Types of Psalms Week Four: 04/21/2015

 5. Imagery and Interpretive Approaches Week Five: 04/28/2015

 6. What About the Psalm Titles? Week Six: 05/05/2015

 7. Imprecatory Psalms Week Seven: 05/12/2015

Suggested Bibliography: (\*Especially recommended for your library.)

 Alden, Robert. Psalms, (3 vols.); Chicago: Moody Press, (Everyman’s Bible Commentary; 1979.

 Alexander, Joseph A. The Psalms, Translated and Explained, (2 vols.); New York: Scribner, 1873.

 \*Archer, Gleason L. A Survey of Old Testament Introduction; Chicago: Moody Press, 1973.

 Briscoe, Stuart. What Works When Life Doesn’t. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1976.

 \*Bullinger, E.W. Figures of Speech Used in the Bible. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

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 \*Kidner, Derek. Psalms, (2 vols); Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973.

 \*Kirkpatrick, A. F. The Book of Psalms. Cambridge: University Press; n.d.

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 Gibson); Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.

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 Meyer, F. B. Gems From The Psalms, (2 vols); Westchester, IL: Good News Publishers, n.d.

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 Tenney); Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House; 1972.

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 Sampey, John Richard. “Book of Psalms,” International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, (vol.4, ed.

 James Orr); Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1939.

 \*Spurgeon, Charles H. The Treasury of David, (3 vols.); Mclean, VA: MacDonald Publishers, n.d.

 Stedman, Ray C. Folk Psalms of Faith, Glendale, CA: Regal Books, 1973.

 Thirtle, J.W. The Titles of the Psalms. Publisher unknown, 1904.

 VanGemeren, William A. “The Psalms,” (vol.5) The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, (ed. Frank E.

 Gaebelein); Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.

 \*Waltke, Bruce K. The Psalms As Christian Worship, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.

 \*Waltke, Bruce K. The Psalms As Christian Lament, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015.

 Wiersbe, Warren W. Meet Yourself In The Psalms, Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983.

 Wyrtzen, Don. A Musician Looks at the Psalms. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.