

Psalms 1,2

Psalms 1:3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper

The first two Psalms are anonymous but Scroggie theorizes that they are by the same author. The first Psalm begins with blessing and the second ends with the same. The appeal in the first is based upon the law and in the second it is based upon prophecy. This, he says, sums up the Old Testament which is concerned with law and prophecy.

Psalms 1: The first half of the Psalm describes the righteous who are blessed and the second half the ungodly who perish.

The Righteous are described in both negative (what they do not do) and positive (what they do) terms, and then the nature and extent of their blessing is portrayed. The negative is presented in three sets of three. Matching the elements will get us walk, stand, sit; counsel, path, seat: and ungodly, sinners, scornful. The poetic device here is synonymous parallelism where the same thought is repeated using different words. The point is that the righteous understand that there is opposition to their way of life and in fact, they are vulnerable to the influence of those who are described here as ungodly, sinners, and scornful. We live in a world where there is

war between good and evil, God and the devil, and between moral and amoral interpretations of our existence. If you live in the enemies' camp you will likely begin to think like the enemy for the enemy will seek to make you like himself either by persuasion or by coercion. Positively, the righteous delight in the law and meditate on it both day and night. So the contrast is not between the influence of good or bad people but between bad people and the good Word. People will inevitably disappoint but the Word is a reliable and inspirational guide that you can always count on.

The blessings of the righteous are compared to a tree, planted by the rivers of water... Scroggie writes, "such an one will be characterized by vitality, "a tree"; security, "planted"; capacity, "by the rivers of water"; fertility, "that bringeth forth its fruit"; propriety, "in its season"; perpetuity, "its leaf also shall not wither"; and prosperity, "and whatever he doeth shall prosper".

Not so, the ungodly. The contrast is stark. Compare a tree to chaff and the permanence of the healthy tree to the wind driven dead pieces of plant that represent the ungodly. There is nothing lasting or substantive to be seen in them. Where the righteous are blessed, they perish, nothing is left of their lives.

Psalms 2: You could say that this Psalm expands the characterization of the wicked which is only briefly described in the 1st

Psalm. The presumption is that the nations, people kings and rulers take counsel together against the Lord who rules according to the Word. They foresee themselves breaking free of these restrictions but they deceive themselves. We do not have any power in the face of God. He derides a humanity that believes themselves capable of upsetting His plans. In fact, His plans are set. "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

This prophetic Word declares the reality of the world we live in. This is God's world and He will do as He sees fit. To be ok, we must be in right relationship with Him. Rejecting God only puts us in jeopardy. Living in harmony with God is the path of blessing. Believing in another path to blessing or fulfilment is an indulgence in a fantasy. The advice of verses 11 and 12 is sound, "Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are those who put their trust in Him.

Of Psalms 1; "This Psalm... begins where we all hope to end... it discovers the quicksands where the wicked sink down to perdition, and firm ground on which the saints tread to glory." *Scroggie*