



Psalm Of Ascent

Introduction

The Value Of The Psalms

- God used various genres to deliver His truth
- **Hebrews 1:1** - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:9-11**
- **2 Timothy 2:15** - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Value Of The Psalms

- Is it enough to know God is our Father, but to not trust Him as a Father?
- The psalms are designed to touch the imagination rather than form a logical argument
- This is why many find the Psalms extremely comforting
- Prophets represented God to man - but typically, the poets representing man to God

The Psalms Of Ascent

- Title given to 15 of the Psalms (120-134) that begin with the ascription “Shir Hama’aloth”; i.e. “A Song of Ascents”
- Four of them (122, 124, 131 and 133) are credited to David, one (127) to Solomon, the rest being anonymous
- Those by David and Solomon would have been written before the Babylonian Captivity in 6th century B.C.
- The anonymous ones were likely written after the return (126)

The Psalms Of Ascent

- Sometimes referred to as “Pilgrim Songs”, they would have been sung by people traveling up to Jerusalem to attend the festivals
- If so, likely in conjunction with other pilgrimage and “Zion” psalms such as 15, 24, 48, 84, 87, 118
- Pilgrims (Psalms 42:4; 55:14; Luke 2:44; Matthew 21:8-11; Acts 2:5-10) sang on the way to Jerusalem (Isaiah 30:29)
- They may have been sung by the priests as they ascended the 15 steps leading up from the women’s court to the Israelite’s court, particularly during the Feast of Tabernacles (cp. Psalm 122:2)

The Heart Of A Pilgrim

- **Psalm 84**
- **Hebrews 11:13-16** - ¹³These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Do You Have A
Pilgrim's Heart?