

Planted by streams of water:
An Exposition of Psalm 1
Part One: Orientation

Pearls from the Writings of St. John Chrysostom

Reading is not enough. We must also study what we read. Otherwise we shall have no advantage from the reading. For a treasure buried in the earth does not exhibit its contents on being merely walked over. People must first dig the place open, and go deep down, and in this way secure the whole. So, likewise, in the case of the Scriptures, the bare reading suffices not for bringing to light all the treasure of good stored up in them, unless you follow deep your searching after it. If the reading were enough, Philip would not have said to the Eunuch, 'Understand thou what thou readest?' If the reading were enough, Christ would not have said to the Jews, 'Search the Scriptures.' He that *searches* does not stay his work at the surface. Homily on I. Cor. i. I

Ancient Jewish Tripartite O.T.

Sirach Prologue; Lk. 24:44

Later Christian Breakdown of O.T.

<p><u>The Law</u> Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy</p>	<p><u>The Writings</u> Psalms Proverbs Job Song of Solomon Ruth Lamentations Ecclesiastes</p>	<p><u>The Pentateuch</u> Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy</p>	<p><u>The Wisdom Books/Poetry</u> Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon</p>
<p><u>The Prophets</u> The Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel Kings The Latter Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel The Twelve (=Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)</p>	<p>Esther Daniel Ezra-Nehemiah Chronicles</p> <p><i>The Deuterocanonical / Apocryphal books fit in this category, though not accepted as Scripture within the Jewish tradition.</i></p> <p><i>The Septuagint Translation as a whole fits here!</i></p>	<p><u>The Historical Books</u> Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther</p> <p><i>In the Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions, the Deuterocanonical / Apocryphal books are interspersed throughout the OT</i></p>	<p><u>The Prophetic Books</u> The Major Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel</p> <p>The Minor Prophets Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi</p>

The Tehillim (Psalter/Psalms) in Five Parts

Book I: (Pss 1-41)

Psalm 1 and 2 (Intro to entire Psalter)

41:13: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

Book II: (Pss 42-72)

72:20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

Book III: (Pss 73-89)

Psalm 89:52: Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

Book IV: (Pss 90-106)

Psalm 106:48: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!

Book V: (Pss 107-150)

150:1-6: Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! ² Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! ³ Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! ⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! ⁵ Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 2:1

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 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 burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. ⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶ "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." ⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Blessed** are all who take refuge in him.

God's Word/Scripture as central - 1

Ezekiel was a priest whose ministry to his fellow exiles extended from 591 to around 563 B.C.

Ezekiel 2:7 - 3:4 ⁷ And you shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house. ⁸ "But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." ⁹ And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰ And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe. 3:1 And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. ⁴ And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them."

God's Word/Scripture as central - 2

Jerimiah born or began his ministry 627 BC. He peached against Judah and Jerusalem. He died sometime after 587 BC in Egypt

Jeremiah 36:1-4 In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² "Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. ³ It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the disaster that I intend to do to them, so that every one may turn from his evil way, and that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin." ⁴ Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD that he had spoken to him.

God's Word/Scripture as central - 3

Joshua 1:1-8

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ...⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸ **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night,** so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

God's Word/Scripture as central - 4

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

¹⁴ "When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' ¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose . . . ¹⁶ Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold. ¹⁸ "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

God's Word/Scripture as central - 5

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And **God said**, "Let there be light," **and there was** light.