

## INTRODUCTION

### THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE PSALTER

Book 1: 1–41      Book 2: 42–72      Book 3: 73–89      Book 4: 90–106      Book 5: 107–150

Why was the psalter divided into five books?

### PSALMS 1–2 IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE PSALTER

### READING THE PSALTER FROM AN OLD TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE

#### THE LAND COVENANT AS BACKGROUND TO PSALM 1

Deuteronomy 30 within the Land Covenant. The Link with the Land Covenant

#### PSALM 1:1–3

##### **Blessed (by the Lord) believers reject ungodly sinful scoffing counsel (1)**

Walk, stand, sit

Ungodly, sinners, scoffers

##### **Blessed (by the Lord) believers delight in God's word throughout the day (2)**

The word law is *tôrâ* (*torah*)

1. *Tôrâ* can (in certain contexts) refer to the Law code
2. It can = Moses' five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (cf. Luke 24:44)  
Jewish *Tanakh* (T for *Tôrâ* (Law); N for *Nəḇi'im* (Prophets); *Kəṭûḇim* (Writings))
3. Here, it refers to Scripture (in general)

Day and night means regularly: "I studied day and night for that exam."

##### **The blessed (by the Lord) believer is like a tree transplanted by irrigation channels, producing (seed-bearing) fruit in season & have full foliage (in season) (3)**

The planting of the tree here is actually transplanted: *shātal* = to transplant

Importance of the tree being a transplanted seedling, rather than a planted seed

Who plants seeds?

Who transplants seedlings?

Seeds that are not planted intentionally by a farmer **may lack** H<sub>2</sub>O

Seeds a farmer plants intentionally in non-irrigated orchards **may also lack** H<sub>2</sub>O

Transplanted seedlings in irrigated orchards **will not lack** H<sub>2</sub>O

It will bear fruit in season                      (but what is inside of the fruit?)

Its leaf will not wither (in season), because it is nourished by the water (of the word)

### **PSALM 1:4–5**

**Unlike the blessed believer who delights in Scripture, ungodly believers do not enjoy long-term blessing, but have as little value as chaff at threshing time (4)**

Believers who delight in the Word resemble nurtured & protected fruit trees, but believers who have little time for the word are as worthless as chaff.

**Ungodly believers will not leave the judgment seat standing and nor have standing in the congregation of the righteous (5)**

They will emerge from the judgment seat broken. The judgment seat passages for both church-age and for Israel paint the same picture.

The Judgment Seat (of Christ): 2 Corinthians 5:10

The Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30

They will not stand in the congregation of the righteous

Exclusion from such functions as the Lamb's Marriage Supper (Matthew 22:2–14)

### **PSALM 1:6**

**The Lord prospers the way of righteous believers, but the way of ungodly believers will be cursed (6)**

The way of the righteous contrasts with the transitory way of the wicked. The Lord blesses the way of the righteous believer both now, in the judgment, and in terms of rewards bestowed for following evaluation.

The word perish in verse 6 does look at people perishing, but of their way perishing. Believers can choose blessing or they can choose cursing.

### **CONCLUSION**

Believers face two choices in life. Will we delight in the Word, so that it directs them toward the Lord? If so, we will bear fruit (and seed) in life and will be rewarded. However, if we delight in that which takes us away from the Lord and His word, we will be as worthless as chaff in this life, we will be broken down at the judgment seat, and will be without reward in the Kingdom.