

ZMTI 126 Exploring the Psalms

Learning Outcomes:

- Participants will learn to greater appreciate the poetry, parallelism and pictures used in Psalms.
- Participants will learn the historical context of the Psalms and theological themes of the psalter.
- To understand and explain the characteristics of various categories found in the psalter.
- Participants will learn the spiritual implications of the psalms and how they should assist in a closer walk with God.

Text for the course, *Interpreting the Psalms, An Exegetical Handbook* by Mark D. Futato.

Course Requirements:

- Attendance. Participants must attend a minimum of 80% of classes to receive a passing grade.
- Participation in Class Discussions
- The author of the text lists 5 categories of Psalms; Hymns, Laments, Thanksgiving, Songs of Confidence, Divine Kingship Songs. Participants will pick one of these categories and write a 3 page double spaced paper which includes a general description of the chosen category of Psalms. Participants will choose a Psalm that fits into their chosen category and write about the main theme(s), context and personal application. Due week 7 of class. **(Plagiarism is cheating.)**

Class Schedule:

Week 1- Intro of Syllabus; Appreciating the Poetry (Chapter 1)

Week 2- Continue discussion on chapter 1; The Purpose and Message of the Psalms (Ch. 2 p. 57-94)

Week 3- The Main Themes of Psalms (Ch. 2 p. 95-116)

Week 4- Preparing for Interpretation (Ch. 3 p.117-138)

Week 5- Interpreting the Categories (Ch. 4 p. 139-182)

Week 6- Continue discussion from chapter 4; Proclaiming the Psalms (Ch. 5 p. 183-208)

Week 7- Proclaiming the Psalms (Continued); Practicing the Principles (Ch. 6 p. 209-219) **Paper is Due.**

Week 8- Practicing the Principles- Shaping & Reflecting (Ch. 6 p. 220-230). If time remains, class should read and reflect on Psalm 23 or Psalm 51 using the lens of what has been learned in this course.

Grades will be based on the following:

Class Discussion Participation	20%
Assigned Readings	20%
Psalm Category Paper	60%
Total	100%

Additional Resources (Not Required): Psalms by James L. Mays; John Knox Press, 1989. Psalms 73-150 by Richard J. Clifford; AOTC, 2003. Transformed by Praise: The Purpose and Message of Psalms by Mark D. Futato; P&R Publishing; 2002.