

ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

PSALMS BOOK 5 (107-150)

THE DEUTERONOMY OF THE PSALMS

Few bother to do an analysis of what lies within the margins of any one of the books of the psalms which first appeared to western scholarship in the Septuagint and is today reflected in our English Bible. Each of the five volumes concludes with a doxology.

In my opinion the arrangement of psalms into tranches may have been as early as the early days of the “Second Temple”. Some evidence for this view can be rallied in the form of Psalm 89 which found its way into Book 5 and comes from the hand of a learned writer who as a young man probably was trained by Ezra.

The Fifth Book offers a valuable range of teaching materials for the expositor besides presenting as a praise volume.

ANALYSIS OF VOLUME FIVE OF THE PSALMS

THE EARLY PSALMS IN THIS SECTION (PART I)

107

The song of the exiles

108-9-10

A trilogy of David’s songs on the rule passion & resurrection of Christ

111-12-13

A trio of Hallelujah songs

(a) A comprehensive Alphabetical on “knowing God”

(b) A full dossier on the believer’s blessings

(c) A Paeon to the LORD of all nations who lifts the poor

114-15

(a) Egypt to Canaan (b) A vignette for priests (2nd temple era?)

116-17-18 a Christological trio

(a) Passover & the cup (b) Gods covenant is a “warrior”(c) Christ the rejected stone

THE COMPREHENSIVE ALPHABETICAL ON THE WORD OF GOD (PART II)

119

A spiritual check-up

In house purity

The Lord our counsellor

A Spiritual Journal

The word and doctrine

The word and outreach

The word and prayer

The word and security

Lives woven by the word

God’s word and God’s hand

The word and discipline

The word prods us to go forward

The word as refreshment

Prophetic oracles from the word

The word as support

The word and vision

The word as daily bread

The word drawing us nigh

The word in devotion

Dividing the word aright

The word and peace with God

THE SONGS OF ASCENT (PART III)

This third section of the FIFTH BOOK renders a base for biblical teaching on the believer's pilgrimage. These songs were sung by pilgrims travelling to the City of God. We are also travelling home on the way the fathers trod and we need to learn from the biblical experiences here recorded.

Songs 120-135

The pilgrim can expect danger along the way. "He that will live godly will be persecuted
God's watch-care –an unchanging principle
To the Jew first: the pilgrim must regard both covenants
Endurance is called for in the pilgrim then and now
Liberty is precious to the pilgrim-as won by another
The city in prospect is heavenly.
The pilgrim shall put the world & idols behind-"my little children flee from idols"
The pilgrims looked to growth as does the church
The pilgrim must not be surprised if he or she should be "caught up" into glory
The pilgrim's best friend was wounded on his behalf
The pilgrim will be greeted on arrival-we look to meeting Christ
The pilgrim catches a glimpse of Jerusalem the golden-we see the New Jerusalem
The pilgrim remembers David's afflictions as we remember Christ's sufferings
The pilgrim stands in awe in the presence of the great high priest-we look to ours
The pilgrim studies (Levites) at work. We engage our own priesthood.

PSALMS 135-150 (PART IV)

This section is made up of 3 fine introductory songs followed by 8 classics of David and five concluding Hallelujah songs

PSALMS 135-6-7

(a) Revival (b) The everlasting mercy (c) By the rivers of Babylon

DAVID'S CLASSICS 138-145

Redemption
Resurrection
Vengeance is Gods
Guarding the Heart
Strength in weakness
Grace and Righteousness
Escape from Philistine living
David on Gods love

I believe preachers will benefit from looking again at this book of the psalms which I consider has been little used to encourage God's people. There is much that could be used in close conjunction with New Testament material in teaching the church.

I trust there will also be a store of devotion and biblical truth for the regular reader. I commend the Fifth book to the reader.

Bob Coffey

To the glory of the Lord (L'shuvkha Marya)

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