19.

PSALMS

Psalms exist in the middle of the Bible as songs emitting from the heart of the Bible. Psalms are the largest and widely used book in the Bible. Psalms touch almost every area of man's practical and personal experiences. It is a collection of poems and prayers intended to be sung by the people of Israel in praise, thanksgiving, lament, and petition to God.

Psalms were were written for various reasons. Some are praises of God's mighty works; some are prayers and pleas for His help and deliverance; some are reflections of God's wisdom and faithfulness to His people; some are songs of confidence and victory. The Psalms, in fact, mirror the joys and sorrows of God's people.

Author: The Psalms are a collection of songs, poems, and prayers written by various people including David, Asaph, the Sons of Korah, Moses, Solomon, and others.

Date and place of writing: the writing of Psalms took centuries to complete. It was probably put into its final form around the third century B.C. The Psalms were written in and around Israel.

Key person: David

Key Place: The Temple of God.

Summary:

The Book of Psalms is not a running story, a letter, or a prophecy. They constitute the hymnbook of the Old Testament people of God.

Jesus expressed His pain and joy by often citing the Psalms (Luke.

24:44; Matthew 27:46 c.f. Psalms 22:1). Indeed, every Psalm may be used as a prayer to Jesus, but is true thatcertain Psalms are more pointed than others in their anticipation of the Messiah (Psalms 2; 16; 22; 69; 110).

The Psalms have no overall structure. Once completed, the book was divided into 5 separate sections, perhaps imitating the five books of Moses.

Book I: Psalms 1-41

Book II: Psalms 42-72

Book III: Psalms 73-89

Book IV: Psalms 90-106

Book V: Psalms 107-150

Also we can identify three major and four minor types of Psalms:

Major

Hymns -Psalm 98

Laments -Psalm 77

Thanksgivings- Psalm 30

Minor

Psalms of Confidence-23

Psalms of Remembrance-78

Wisdom

Psalms-1

Kingship

Psalms-2

In Psalms, Christ is foreshadowed as Ruler over all