

TEACHER TRAINING

INTRODUCTION TO OT POETRY PT. 2



“What various and resplendent riches are contained in this treasury...I have been accustomed to call this book ‘an anatomy of all parts of the soul’; for there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror.”

–John Calvin

Old Testament Poetry

Interpreting Poetry

Terseness

— poetry uses a minimum number of words

Structure

— structured around poetic lines of verse rather than around sentences and paragraphs

Figurative Imagery

— Poets are conveying real thoughts, events, and emotions to us—that is, literal truth, but they express this truth figuratively.

Old Testament Poetry/ Psalms

Interpreting Poetry

Structure

I. **Parallelism** – Two lines of OT poetry are grouped together to express one thought.

- a. Synonymous
- b. Synthetic/Developmental
- c. Illustrative
- d. Contrastive or Antithetical
- e. Formal

Old Testament Poetry/ Psalms

Interpreting Poetry

Figurative Imagery

I. Figures of Speech Involving Analogy

- a. Simile
- b. Metaphor
- c. Indirect analogy
- d. Hyperbole
- e. Personification/anthropomorphism/zoomorphism

Biblical Figures of Speech			
Figure of Speech	Definition	Biblical Examples	Additional Examples
Simile	A comparative figure of speech in which one thing resembles another through the use of “like or “as.”	Psalms 1:4: The wicked are not so, but are <u>like chaff</u> that the wind drives away.	Psalms 22:14 Isaiah 40:22 Micah 1:4
Metaphor	A comparative figure of speech in which resemblance is communicated by a form of the “to be” verb.	Psalms 31:3: For you <u>are my rock and my fortress</u> ; and for your name’s sake you lead me and guide me;	Psalms 22:6 Isaiah 46:7,11 Isaiah 40:6–8
Hypocastastasis	A comparative figure of speech in which resemblance is communicated through direct naming.	Psalms 22:12–16: <u>Many bulls encompass me</u> ; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they <u>open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion</u> .	Job 13:25 Amos 4:2 John 21:15–17
Metonymy	The substitution of one word for another (inferring some point of comparison or relationship).	Proverbs 12:18b: ...but the <u>tongue</u> of the wise brings healing.	Song of Songs 2:15 Jeremiah 2:15

Biblical Figures of Speech			
Figure of Speech	Definition	Biblical Examples	Additional Examples
Synecdoche	The Substituion of a part for the whole	Proverbs 1:15–16: my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, for their <u>feet run</u> to evil...	Romans 16:4 1 Corinthians 1:17
Personification	Ascribing human characteristics to inanimate objects or animals.	Isaiah 55:12: “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the <u>mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing</u> , and all <u>the trees of the field shall clap their hands</u> .”	Job 38:8–11 Psalm 98:8 Hosea 10:8
Anthropomorphism	Ascribing human characteristics to God.	Psalms 8:3: When I look at your heavens, <u>the work of your fingers</u> , the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,	Job 36:32–33 Isaiah 64:8

Biblical Figures of Speech			
Figure of Speech	Definition	Biblical Examples	Additional Examples
Zoomorphism	Ascribing animal characteristics to God	Psalms 91:4: He will cover you with his <u>pinions</u> , and under his <u>wings</u> you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.	Hosea 5:14-15 Hosea 11:10
Euphemism	The Substitution of an inoffensive word for a more offensive one.	Luke 8:52: And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but <u>sleeping</u> ."	Genesis 4:1 1 Thessalonians 4:13-15
Hyperbole	A comparative figure of speech in which resemblance is communicated through direct naming.	Matthew 18:9a: And if your eye causes you to sin, <u>tear it out and throw it away</u> .	Isaiah 34:8-10 Jeremiah 17:3-4
Sarcasm	The substitution of one word for another (inferring some point of comparison or relationship).	Job 12:1-2: Then Job answered and said: " <u>No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you.</u> "	Job 13:1-5 Job 38:5 Amos 4:1-5

Biblical Figures of Speech			
Figure of Speech	Definition	Biblical Examples	Additional Examples
Rhetorical Question	The use of a question to make a statement (where a response is never intended).	Job 38:2: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”	Job 6:5–6 Job 15:2–3 Galatians 1:10

Old Testament Poetry/ Psalms

Interpreting Poetry

Figurative Imagery

II. Figures of Speech Involving Substitution

- a. Effect & Causes (Metonymy)
- b. Representation (Synecdoche)
- c. Apostrophe
- d. Irony
- e. Word Plays

Method: **Literal Interpretation**

Interpreting Poetry in the “Plain Sense”

Principles:

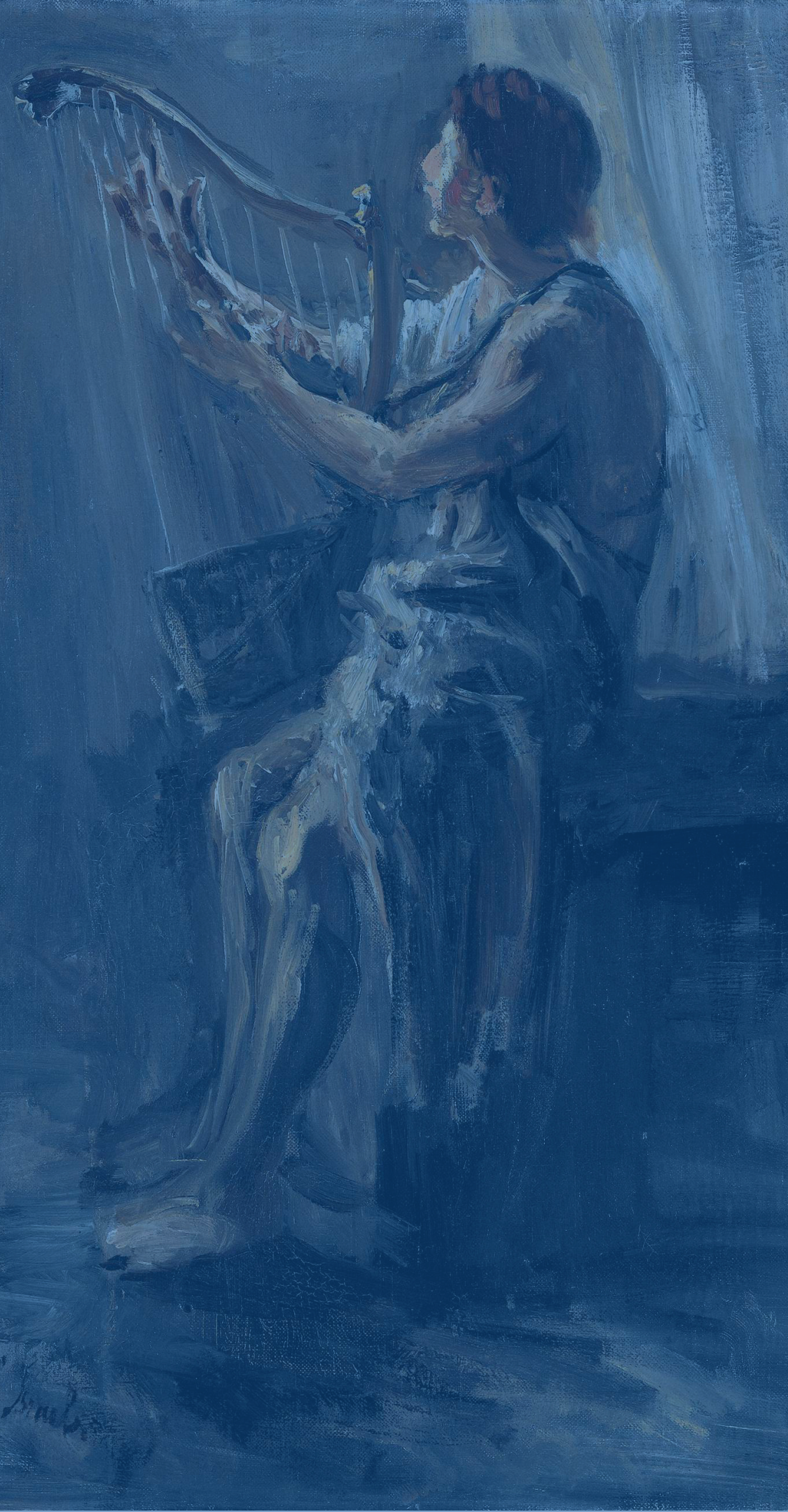
1. Consistent Interpretation
2. Passage Priority
3. Progressive Revelation (or, according to the divine storyline of the Bible)



Introduction to the Psalms

Types of Psalms

- a. Laments
- b. Thanksgiving Psalms
- c. Hymns of Praise & Adoration
- d. Salvation-History Psalms
- e. Royal Psalms/ Enthronement Psalms
- f. Wisdom Psalms
- e. Songs of Trust



Psalm 42-43

Big Idea: A healthy believer possesses a passionate longing for communion with God in the corporate gathering of His people, and applies hope as the remedy for the depressed soul.

Outline

- I. The Longing Soul (42:1-5)
- II. The Depressed (Downcast) Soul (42:6-11)
- III. The Hopeful Soul (43:1-5)

Old Testament Poetry/ Psalms

Interpreting Poetry

Terseness

— poetry uses a minimum number of words

Structure

— structured around poetic lines of verse rather than around sentences and paragraphs

Figurative Imagery

— Poets are conveying real thoughts, events, and emotions to us—that is, literal truth, but they express this truth figuratively.

Before Next Class...

Required Reading:

- Psalms 63
- Vlach, chapters 3–4