

# *Psalms*

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## *Introduction*

1. A bit about myself
  - ❖ Family; role at NU; role at MC4S
  - ❖ Why I care about teaching the Bible

## *Interpreting the Psalms*

1. *Reading the Psalms*: What are they? Where do they come from?
  - ❖ **Genre**: ancient Israelite prayer-poems
    - Hebrew parallelism (Psalm 1)
    - Metaphor & Symbolism: solid rocks and tottering mountains (Psalm 46)
  - ❖ **Origins**: Davidic authorship?
    - Psalms as ‘anthology’ more than ‘book’; ancient attitudes of authorship; “of David,” inherently ambiguous; obvious anachronisms
    - Yet, superscriptions as canonical guide; David as skilled musician and composer; New Testament witness to Psalms as Davidic
2. *Praying the Psalms*: What are they for? How do they function as Scripture?
  - ❖ **Sub-genres**: psalms of orientation, disorientation, and reorientation; a.k.a. preais, lament, thanksgiving, etc.
    - A Psalm of Orientation: Psalm 1
    - A Psalm of Disorientation: Psalm 13
    - A Psalm of Reorientation: Psalm 30
  - ❖ **Function**: Liturgical guide and resource
    - Psalms as “anatomy of the soul” (John Calvin)
    - Psalms as devotional resource (Ellen Davis)
    - Psalms as theological resource, guide to prayer (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)
3. *Examples*: Reading Psalms 8 and 82 together