

Lecture 10 – The Psalms, IV

*Every word of God is flawless;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Do not add to his words,
Or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. Proverbs 30:5-6*

Key Terms

Titles & superscriptions, compilation, use, authorship

Lecture Objectives

- *Describe the place and function of superscription in our understanding of psalms.
- *Describe various criticisms of the trustworthiness of the superscriptions and articulate responses.

Preliminary Questions

- *Many of the psalms have explanatory sentences attached which we generally ignore. What is gained by actually focusing on these superscriptions? What is lost by ignoring them?

Dr. Long comments on purposeful marking of the Bible, and FCF (fallen condition focus).

The Psalms, IV

I. The Psalms

A. Introduction

B. Classification schemes (continued)

1. Introductory comments
2. Classification by book division or superscription
3. Classification by theme, content or referent
4. Classification by form
- *5. Longman, Chapter 2—Debriefing
 - a. Titles/superscriptions
 - 1) Longman's conclusion:
 - b. How were the psalms brought together?
 - 1) Groupings?
 - 2) Occurrences of divine names - why?
 - 3) Craigie's solution:
 - 4) Peter Craigie, *Word Biblical Commentary*, Psalms 1-50
 - 5) James L. Mays' solution:
 - 6) Cathedral image of psalter
 - c. How were the psalms used?
 - 1) Public or private

Which use is emphasized in your life/church today? Does that emphasis need to be modified at all?

C. Psalm titles?

1. Introduction
2. Davidic authorship:
 - a. How reliable are the superscriptions?
 - b. Arguments against
 - c. Response to arguments (Derek Kidner)
 - 1) Francis Scott Key illustration

- 2) Ps. 3 example
- 3) Ps. 54 example
3. Conclusions regarding psalm titles
 - a. Dr. Long - "Just don't overlook them"

What is your view of the titles of psalms? Are they canonical or not? Should they be used in explicating a psalm? If so, what is their role?