

Let the Psalm Soak into ~ your very soul ~

1 / Write Out Your Psalm

No, this is not busy work, its a way to see and hear what is there so you can have greater success in your study.

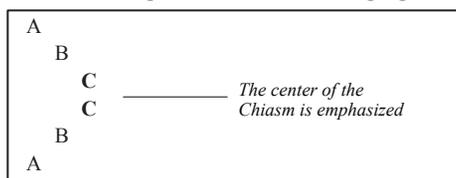
2 / Take an Emotional Walkthrough

- What does this psalm **make you feel**?
- What is your **initial emotional reaction**?
- Highlight highly emotional **words** of **phrases**
- Highlight **imagery** that is intended to paint pictures in your mind
- Highlight words that **evoke description** for the senses / seeing / smelling / hearing / tasting / feeling

3a / Consider the Structure

Determine the structure using Bible helps so that you can see the structure visually. Use this to better organize the next step below.

If your structure is **chiastic**, consider the center section of the psalm with a bit more thought. Why is this center emphasized? What is the purpose?



3b / Take a Thematic Walkthrough

For each strophe or paragraph take some time to read it and think through and assign a **subject** (*what is it about*) and a **complement** (*what does it say about the subject*) for each; this will help you see the overall flow of the Psalm as a whole unit. These should be fairly brief.

Example / Psalm 3:1-2

Subject: (many) Foes...
Complement: ...rise against and condemn me

4 / Take a Relational Walkthrough

- What does this psalm tell us about our **relationship** with God or God's relationship with us?
- How does the psalmist relate to God?
- What does he do **to** relate to God.
- What are some things to emulate? Avoid?
- What are crucial things described?

5 / Take a Theological Walkthrough

- While the Psalms are **not theological treatises** they do often help us understand who God is, who we are, and the reality of what is.
- What does this psalm say about the **God**? What does it say about **humankind**?
- What does this psalm say about being right with God? Salvation? Sin?

• Consider in particular the person of **Messiah** (the anointed (Christ), the coming Son of God, Son of David, the King eternal) is both displayed and foretold in the pages of the Psalms.

* The Psalms are not only periodically about Messiah, they are steeped in the concept of Messiah by their very structure.

6 / Take a Applicational Walkthrough

- Consider the message of the psalmist, and apply what he intends you to do with your thoughts and your behavior in response.

~ Some Further Attributes of Psalms ~

The Psalms are Hebrew poetry. Our poetry rests in meter and rhyme, theirs emphasize structure and parallelism. We have discussed structure a bit.

Parallelism is the art of saying parallel thoughts in succession. There are different types displayed and each type has many potential alterations.

- **Synonymous Parallelism** / in two or more lines saying the same thing in a slightly different manner.
- **Antithetical Parallelism** / in two or more lines saying contrasting things about a topic or an idea.
- **Synthetic Parallelism** / in two or more lines building on one idea with more similar ideas obviously adding more information.

Inclusio / Another structural technique to look out for are called **inclusios**. When **the beginning + the end** seem like bookends separating out portions of text.