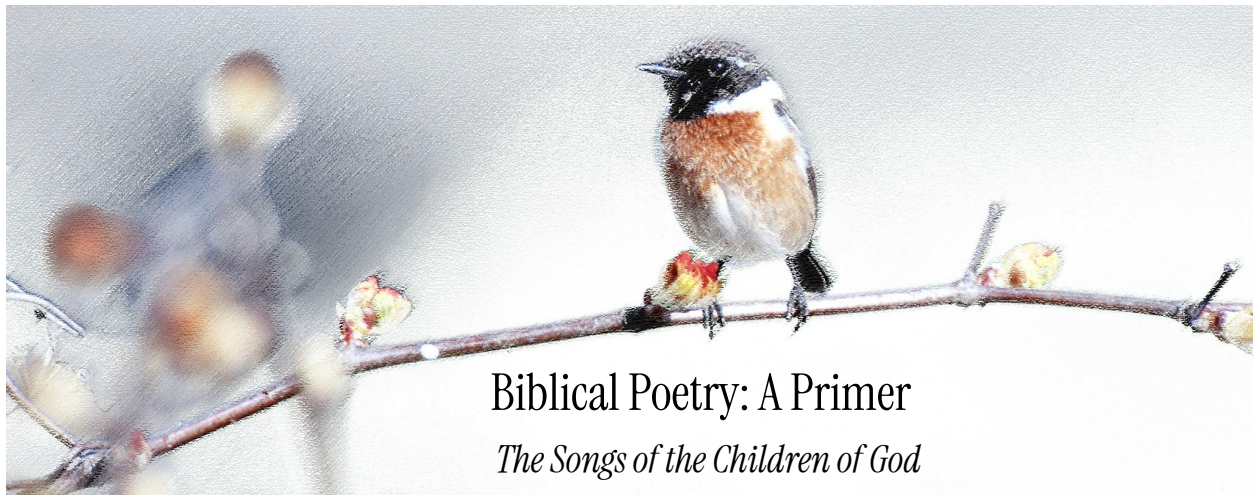




August 23, 2026

The Psalms: an arranged collection of collections of song/poems into 5 books

Hebrew Title: *Tehilim* which means “praises”

Bringing the gamut of human experience into conversation to God

Walter Brueggemann: “orientation, disorientation, reorientation”

One thing all psalms hold in common: they are poetry

Poetry in the Bible: **74%** books/**43%** chapters/**35%** total

Good practice is to interpret Biblical texts congruent with their genres

A Poetry Primer: what is it, and how it functions

Characteristics: density, pattern, holistic appeal, and figurative webbing

“Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him”

--Psalm 34:8

Figurative language is a portal that invites us imaginatively into the text

Poetry as “sacramental bridge”: connecting spiritual and physical

Poetry as “expansive bridge”: connecting finite and infinite

Poetry as “discovery learning bridge”: connecting idea and experience

The Songs of the Children of God sermon series

Methodology: the portal of the figurative, entering into experience to engage God

Pieces: devotional prep, Highland testimony, weekly Watts Psalter, Alter version

Goal: get “inside” so we can “see out” with baptized imaginations

NOTES:

Psalms Quick Stats:

Total: 150

Collections: Davidic Psalms (3-41, 51-70, 138-145), Asaph Psalms (73-83), Sons of Korah Psalms (42-49, 84-88), Songs of Ascents (120-134), Egyptian Hallel Collection (113-118), Hallel Psalms (146-150)

Five books (1-41, 42-72, 73-89, 90-106, 107-150) each ending with a similar phrase

Authors: David, Solomon, Asaph, Sons of Korah, Moses, Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman the Ezrahite, musical director/choir director

Kinds: a response of the covenant people to their God: in praise, thanksgiving, petition, lament, ceremony, liturgical use

Poetry in the Bible: overview stats:

According to my own survey, 74% percent of all the books in the Bible (49 out of 66) contain poetic language somewhere within the book. 43% of all the chapters in the Bible contain within them some instance of poetic language (510 out of 1183). J.P. Fokkelman in his Reading Biblical Poetry puts his estimate at 35% of the Hebrew Bible as poetry.

Bible Genres: narrative, story, history, memoir, prayer, official records, poems, songs, wisdom, prophetic, liturgical, gospel, epistolary, apocalyptic,

"Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him"

--Psalm 34:8

Density: the topic of the Lord's goodness is vast, that it can be personally experienced, the path toward blessedness is trusting in God: **powder in bulletin**

Pattern: parallelism: the second phrase enriches the first: **amplification**

Holistic: appeals to experience, challenges the will: **shotgun width**

In general welcomes emotions, in this way like music, invites us into the moment and is wired to charge our imaginations

Figurative: to "taste a person", "taking refuge": **the vehicle, that carries**

To know things by relation to another. Our minds do not “translate metaphors, we think in them, often when don’t know we are doing so:

- Take the word “up”: a positional word, higher plane, or level
- We are traveling up to Bellingham (north as up is a metaphor)
- Everybody was feeling up after the victory
- I am not up for the task
- Is Bob asleep? No, he is up.
- Can you turn the radio up?
- Clean up your room..

“Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him”

--Psalm 34:8

Illustration of Expansive:

Taste the Lord:

How do I get close enough to taste
What tastes are included in the Lord
How can I know goodness when I taste it
Can this taste be satiated?
How much is needed for a tasteable sample?
Do I have to be clear of other tastes first?
Will one taste leave me hungry for more?
Can I taste at will, or must I be invited
How do I get invited?
Will the Lord taste like something analogous in my world
Jesus as sacrifice for us