

The Theology of the Psalms

Resource: The Message of the Psalms, Walter Bruggeman

- Psalms of Orientation
 - Season of well-being
 - Psalms that articulate joy, delight, goodness; reliance on God and God's creation
 - Structure:
 - Call to praise
 - Motivation for praise
 - Repeat call to praise

Examples: Psalm 8, 24, 33, 104, 133, 145

- Psalms of Disorientation
 - Anguished seasons of hurt, alienation or suffering
 - Psalms of lament use language to express rage, resentment, challenge and question
 - Structure:
 - Address to God
 - Description of suffering
 - Cursing of party responsible
 - Claiming one's innocence
 - Petition for divine assistance
 - Faith in God's hearing the prayer
 - Anticipation of God's response
 - Song of thanksgiving for deliverance

Examples: Psalm 13, 35, 74, 86, 95, 137

- Psalms of New Orientation
 - Seasons of surprise
 - Psalms that use the language of thanksgiving to speak boldly about the new thing God has done
 - Structure:
 - Recall of plea for help
 - Restatement of problem
 - God's deliverance
 - Statement of thanksgiving or praise

Examples: Psalm 29, 47, 93, 97, 98, 99, 114, 148, 150