

Learning from the Petition-Lament Psalms

Review

Usual Form / Components

- *Direct Address
- *Lament/Complaint
- *Confidence
- *Petition
- *Conclusion

Sample: **Psalm 54**

Address (with introductory petition)

- 1 O God, save me by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.
- 2 O God, hear my prayer;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

Lament

- 3 For strangers have risen against me;
ruthless men seek my life;
they do not set God before themselves. Selah

Confidence

- 4 Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

Petition

- 5 He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

Praise

- 6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.
- 7 For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

***Psalm 13** – Survey Exposition

*Superscript: A Psalm of David.

*Direct Address & Lament

- 1 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

*Petition *3-4

- 3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
- 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

*Confidence *5

- 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

*Vow to Praise *6

- 6 I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

*Postscript: To the choirmaster.

Some General Observations on the Lament Psalms

1. Lament & Praise
2. Lament & Faith
3. Lament & Prayer
4. Laments & Christ