

Laments and Wisdom Psalms



The Laments and Wisdom Psalms deal with those sentiments of the people of Israel to God's silence and seeming absence during individual or group crisis, and the conduct of ordinary life, concerned with the problem of retribution etc.



Since the Psalms are prayers through which the Jews expressed their deepest feelings about their relationship with God, they include the heartfelt cries (laments) of suffering individuals or groups experiencing a crisis. The typical elements of the lament Psalms included a plea for God to deliver an individual or group from a problem situation with an affirmation of trust in God and a vow to praise Him when the problem is over.

The Wisdom Psalms comment on the issues like the destiny of just and unjust people, between the righteous and wicked and practical advice on the conduct of ordinary life. Many of these Psalms are not even addressed to God.

They generally start with an introduction like “Happy the one who” or “Blessed is the man who” and contain proverbial statements like “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”.

What sort of fear are the wisdom writers referring to? Certainly not the fear that paralyses us or makes us tremble before the Lord, on the contrary it is divine fear arising out of the respect and reverence for the one God so big and majestic and yet so near to humans.

The Psalms are no ordinary hymns or popular poetry, but have deep religious significance for both Jews and Christians. They refer to meaningful events of a religious heritage, which must be recalled to give true meaning to our lives today.



Word of God

Psalm 15: 1 – 5

Lord, who may enter your Temple? Who may worship on Zion, your sacred hill? Those who obey God in everything and always do what is right, whose words are true and sincere, and who do not slander others.

They do no wrong to their friends nor spread rumors about their neighbors. They despise those whom God rejects, but honor those who obey the Lord. They always do what they promise, no matter how much it may cost. They make loans without charging interest and cannot be bribed to testify against the innocent. Whoever does these things will always be secure.

Insight



Rev. Nehemiah Goreh, Sanskrit Scholar

Rev. Neelkanthshastri Nehemiah Goreh (1825-1895) was a Sanskrit scholar converted to Christianity. He was born near Jhansi and learnt Sanskrit in Banaras. As a theologian, he wrote on various religious subjects. He played an important role in conversion of Pandita Ramabai to Christianity. As an Anglican priest, he worked in Mumbai, Pune and other places in Maharashtra.

Notes

Know Now

QUOTE: “The grace of the Holy

Ghost hath so ordered it, that the Psalms of David should be recited and sung night and day. In the Church’s vigils—in the morning—at funeral solemnities—the first, the midst, and the last is David. In private houses, where virgins spin—in the monasteries—in the deserts, where men converse with God—the first, the midst, and the last is David. In the night, when men sleep, he wakes them up to sing; and collecting the servants of God into angelic troops, turns earth into heaven, and of men makes angels, chanting David’s Psalms.” Saint John Chrysostom

my TASK this week

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To Do



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Listen to this Lamentations Song based on the scripture Lamentations 3:22-32 (MSG). <https://bit.ly/3bvIHSa>

For the full story behind the writing of this song, visit writer’s blog at <https://bit.ly/2RYj1oy>