

Approach the study of an individual psalm through a consideration of its setting, its meaning, and its significance.

Setting

1. Original

Pre-temple, First Temple, or Second Temple Period

2. Compositional

Instruments, tunes, and other musical directions

3. Anthological

Place within Psalter as a whole, five Books, smaller collections

4. Ritual/Occasional

Liturgical use: festivals, offerings, Sabbaths, coronations, weddings

Meaning

1. Form and structure

Classification by form, its typical elements; variations of theme; actual structure by stanzas

2. Poetry

Use of parallelism, words, images to evoke emotion, engage psyche; deeper studies of Hebrew words

Significance

...for Jesus and the Church

The reading and explanation of the psalm by Jesus as well as the early and late Church