

Psalm 27

1. Observation and exposition of Psalm 27

Getting to know the Psalms

1. How is the psalter arranged?
 - a. The Psalms are divided or arranged into five books. Why?
2. Who wrote the Psalms?
 - a. David (73 psalms are attributed to or mention his name)
 - b. Moses (Psalm 90)
 - c. Solomon (Psalms 72 and 127)
 - d. The sons of Korah (temple musicians)
 - e. Asaph (choirmaster)
 - f. Jeduthun

Observation and exposition of Psalm 27

1. **Psalm 27**
2. General observations
 - a. The mood or tone is confidence in (1-6), and lament in (7-14)
 - b. God spoken of in third person in (1-6) and addressed directly (mainly) in (7-14)
 - c. Objective truths and affirmation in (1-6) and prayers in (7-14)
 - d. Some (liberal) scholars think Psalm 27 is actually two psalms that were combined at some point in history because of those differences.
 - e. What are some reasons for accepting this as one psalm?
 - i. Human experience - moments of confidence and moments of lament = life can be an emotional roller coaster.
 - ii. The psalm begins and ends in confidence in Yahweh.
 - iii. The arrangement of themes
 1. Confidence in God **(1-3)**
 - a. Desire for God, "to gaze upon the beauty of Yahweh" **(4)**
 - b. Desire for God, "Your face, Yahweh, do I seek." **(8)**
 2. Confidence in God **(13-14)**
3. Imagery in **verse 1** - Yahweh is David's light, salvation, stronghold
 - a. Light
 - i. The only place in the Old Testament where God is called "light."
 - ii. What do we do with this? What did David mean? Here are some clues:
 1. **1 Timothy 6:16**

2. **Psalm 104:1-2**

3. **Psalm 18:28**

4. **John 1:1-9**

- a. “understanding” = through Jesus we understand God the father

5. **1 John 1:5**

- a. “purity” or “sinlessness”

6. “The psalmist is affirming that even in the darkness of the terrible threat of war, he has no fear, for God is the light that can dispel such fearful darkness.” Craigie

b. Salvation

- i. “Deliverance” from enemies in the immediate context

ii. **Luke 2:25-32**

c. Stronghold

- i. “Refuge”

ii. **Proverbs 18:10**

d. Because Yahweh is these things to David, he will not fear

- i. Compare with **Romans 8:31-39**

e. “Light speaks of spiritual understanding. Salvation points to the greatest of all deliverances, namely, deliverance from sin by the death of Jesus Christ. Stronghold refers to that spiritual refuge from the pains and buffetings of life which God himself is for his people. For us this is a well-rounded statement of God’s manifold spiritual blessings.

4. “One thing have I asked of Yahweh...that I may dwell in the house of Yahweh...to gaze upon the beauty of Yahweh...” (4)

a. At the time that David wrote this psalm, where or what was the “house of Yahweh?”

- i. The tabernacle (tent) (**2 Samuel 6:17**)

b. What do we make of this?

- i. See the quote from Boice, page 241

5. David’s prayer in **7-12**

a. What is David asking Yahweh for?

b. Is he confident that Yahweh will grant his prayers? Yes, see **verses 13 and 14**

6. David returns to his confidence in Yahweh (**13-14**)

a. He believes Yahweh will answer his prayers, BUT he is prepared to WAIT for Yahweh and his timing!

Resources

1. *ESV Study Bible*
2. *Psalms, The Expositor's Bible Commentary (Volume 5)*, Willem A. VanGemeren
3. *Psalms: An Expositional Commentary, Volume 1*, James Montgomery Boice