

those items in the text which may indicate an historical background. Examples may be seen in Psalms 2 and 81, for example. Watch for references to national events in Israel's social history.. a reference to the temple, for example, as in Psalm 73. These may not locate an exact year or place but they will put the psalm in an historical framework that will be helpful.

4. The lack of historical connexions will not keep us from understanding the psalm but the presence of them will help us and especially help us in the application.

C. The Personal/Corporate Character of the Psalm

The challenge is to determine if the writer is speaking just for oneself or for the nation or another group of persons. For general guidelines I suggest the following:

1. The editorial "I" for "we" is not a common feature of the Psalms. (You need to stop and think how this is used in sermons, etc.)
2. The personal experiences of the psalms are the enriching factors. Thus when one speaks personally in them it is most like one speaks for oneself.
3. Corporate passages are common in the psalms and are identified with "we" "us" "our", etc.
4. Personal and corporate features are woven together in a psalm for the point of its total teaching but should not be substituted for one another.

This may not be clear..the more I try to write it in a clear way the worse it gets! But we will look at Psalm 37 and some aspects of these things in that..maybe it will help. See what makes the study of the psalms a challenge? Anyhow, we can give some thought to it.

D. Watch for notes of a dispensational character

I will elaborate more on this in class. It must be tied with the concept of personal notes and generalized observations. These are very common in Proverbs but are also seen frequently in the Psalms.