

A. Defining the field

1. By "pastoral" we mean those psalms that develop the relationship between the Lord and the worshipper on a more personal level. In a way, every psalm is "pastoral" and no psalm is without some personal touch as to the Lord and His people. But our consideration is for those psalms where this seemw to be the dominant theme. As I have already noted, there is a certain arbitrariness to this and we cannot view it as a completed or final subject.

2. Enumeration:

As I view it, right now, (mind is always subject to developed changes) these psalms are:

--in Book I (1-41): 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 23, 24, 25, 34, 37, 40 (?).

--in Book II (42-72): 42, 46, 55, 62, 71.

--in Book III (73-89): 75, 77, 84, 86

--in Book IV (90-106): 90, 91, 101, 103

--in Book V (107-150): 111, 116, 138, 139

3. As the dividing principle does not allow exclusivism, some psalms might occur in two lists but in this course we will try to keep them separate just for this study, not as a matter of absolute fact. That so many are pastoral is not contrived but seems to reflect the major ideas in the psalm writings of devotion and appreciation of the Lord.

B. The Character of our work in this part of our material

Our work is in four main areas and we will continue this way without further notes on it.

1. A reading of the psalms
2. A discussion of content
3. A development of the study instrument (we will not do this consistently..it is what you are actually doing in much of the homework)
4. A teaching application (likewise to figure 3)