

Thematic Learning Experience

Suffering in the Psalms

Context: Team

Focus: Christ, Character

This is a team assignment.

Please find 6 psalms that deal with the following kinds of suffering (1 psalm per kind):

Kinds of suffering:

- Judgment from God on the lost.
- Chastisement from God for the righteous (the consequences of one's own sin).
- The righteous suffer along with the wicked. E.g. in the destruction of Jerusalem the righteous also went into captivity in Babylon.
- The righteous suffer when they see injustice. E.g. Ps 73 – observing the prosperity of the wicked.
- The dealings and testings of God (without any sin on one's part). Suffering for no apparent reason. E.g. Job.
- Persecution for one's faith.

Please compose a brief written report on each of your 6 psalms. Your reports should each consist of three parts:

1. Title – give the psalm a title that summarizes its contents.
2. Summary – give a brief, two or three paragraph summary of the entire psalm. This should include an explanation of how the psalm fits its appointed “kind of suffering.” In this summary, please cite other Scriptures that reference the same kind of suffering.
3. Verse-by-verse exposition – give a brief explanation of each verse. Show how the writer progresses through his thoughts to any conclusion he might come to. One or two lines per verse will usually be sufficient.

You may use any resources (e.g., commentaries, books on suffering) that you wish.

Every member of the team should give some input regarding *each* psalm. Please do not “individualize” this assignment by team members merely doing one psalm each. You may find the psalms individually but please work through each of them together as a team.

Once you have finished your 6 written reports, please do one final 500 word team-reflection paper:

“What We Have Learned about Suffering from the Psalms.”

Please submit all papers.