

# PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are significant differences between volume one and two for this commentary on Psalms. Volume One was essentially Professor Tesh's work. Although he had originally worked with the King James Version, I edited the volume (covering Psalms 1-72), changing the comments to match the New International Version for this series. But the volume remained the style and viewpoint of the late professor. Professor Tesh did not finish volume two, but did have handwritten notes and a few pages typed for the volume (which the family graciously shared with me).

Volume Two is an entirely new work with a slightly different approach to the introductions of each psalm. The introductions add more comments on structure, canonical placement, and dating of each psalm. An attempt has been made to refer to the most recent commentaries and to deal with modern issues concerning psalm studies. Less application is perhaps made in volume two. It is my opinion that readers should make their own application at the end of each psalm's study. Each student's life circumstances will bring out different aspects of the psalm's teaching and thus a different application or emphasis will be needed. Because the needs of readers are constantly changing, I gave only hints sometimes as to how a psalm should be applied.

One will notice more Hebrew in the text than in volume one. This was an attempt to enhance the study of preachers and teachers in the churches who desire to know the original behind the English translation. It reveals the complexity of the text as well as its clarity on occasion. Those who do not know the Hebrew language may pay less attention to these notes and simply study the commentary itself. Footnotes are designed to give full credit to the works I used and will help the teacher (even scholar) find the sources of new or fresh ideas presented in the commentary.

The Introduction to volume two is designed to help the reader understand why this volume pays attention to canonical placement

of psalms in the Psalter and its theology as a result. Some attention is given to the relationship of psalms to one another in immediate context, though this is not systematically done.

Volume one has an outline “imposed” upon Prof. Tesh’s work. Dr. James Smith’s outline of Psalms was used for Books 1 & 2 (volume one). This worked remarkably well but was not necessary. Volume two will not have such an outline. Rather, the three books and the cluster of certain psalms make an adequate outline.

Finally, an appendix gives the genres for each of the psalms in volume two (Psalms 73–150). This is for easy access by the reader, even though each psalm’s introduction has the same information. (This was suggested by a reader and student of volume one.)

Prof. Tesh had a unique style in his introductions to each psalm, and I have sought to mimic his style. I have used one of Prof. Tesh’s excursions (“Theodicy”) and have given him credit for it. This is a small attempt to honor the Tesh family and their desire to see the second volume completed. Indeed, it is a joy to see it to a conclusion. Constant work on volume two has made the words of the “Teacher” of Ecclesiastes so relevant: “Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body” (Eccl 12:12b).

Always “blessed to be a blessing,” (Gen 12:3)

Walter D. Zorn, Ph.D.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As this second volume of Psalms is completed, there are many people I need to thank. Because of a sabbatical granted to me in the Spring of 2003 by the trustees and administration of Lincoln Christian College & Seminary, I was able to devote full-time to the effort. I thank the school for its support and for encouraging the faculty to do more publishing than we have ever done in the past.

I must also thank the Tesh family for their encouragement and desire to see volume two completed. Not only have they given me encouraging words, but they shared with me all of Prof. Tesh’s notes for volume two. I have utilized some of his “introductions” and one “excursus” in volume two. Prof. and Mrs. S. Edward Tesh are now with the Lord, together again. I am grateful for the way they allowed me to be part of the precious final moments of their lives in regard to this project. The Tesh family can be proud of their parents. I am

reminded of Prof. Tesh's legacy every time I teach a language course in the seminary, for his painted portrait hangs on the wall, forever observing my work.

My thanks also to Dr. Gary Hall and Dr. Mark Mangano, my Old Testament companions at Lincoln Christian College & Seminary, for the conscientious way they have been second and third readers for this project. Dr. Hall has already published a great volume on Deuteronomy while Dr. Mangano has published Daniel and Esther in this same series. Their expertise greatly improved the final product of volume two.

I might add that the rest of our faculty and staff have been most encouraging also. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Nancy Olson and her library staff. Any research help I needed, such as obscure journal articles, or an out-of-print book, or a book we didn't have in the library, was cheerfully and confidently provided. Lincoln Christian College & Seminary is blessed to have such hard-working staff who are true servants to our two institutions.

Finally, I thank my wife Carolyn for her patience and endurance through the entire journey. She has read a good portion of the volume, making helpful suggestions. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful wife who cares for my every need. She is my "most prized treasure."

My final thanks go to the staff at College Press and their hard work to see this volume reach publication. God bless you all!

"Let all breath praise Yahweh. Praise Yah! (*Hallelujah!*)" (Psalm 150:6—my translation).

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## DEDICATION

This volume is dedicated to Robert (Bob) and Pat Wade, my spiritual parents who introduced me to the Lord. Retired from full-time ministry, the Wades continue to serve the church in Gainesville, Florida, where they live.