

Like a Tree Transplanted by Irrigation Waters: Psalm 1

Grace Chapel

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INTRODUCTION

THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE PSALTER

Book 1: 1–41

Book 2: 42–72

Book 3: 73–89

Book 4: 90–106

Book 5: 107–150

Why was the psalter divided into five books?

PSALMS 1–2 IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE PSALTER

READING THE PSALTER FROM AN OLD TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE

THE LAND COVENANT AS BACKGROUND TO PSALM 1

Deuteronomy 30 within the Land Covenant

The Importance of Not Bypassing the Link with the Land Covenant

PSALM 1:1–3**Blessed (by the Lord) believers reject ungodly sinful scoffing counsel (1)**

Walk, stand, sit

Ungodly, sinners, scoffers

Blessed (by the Lord) believers delight in God’s word throughout the day (2)Law is *tôrâ* (*torah*)*Tôrâ* can (in certain contexts) refer to the Law codeIn certain contexts it refers to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus,
Numbers, and DeuteronomyHere, I would argue that it refers to *instruction*
(the word of the Lord *teaching* or *instructing*
the believer)
In other words, it refers to Scripture (not limited to Moses’ books)*Day and night* means *regularly*: “I studied day and night for that exam.”

the blessed (by the Lord) believer will be like a tree transplanted by irrigation channels that will bear seed in season and will have full foliage (in season) (3)

The planting of the tree here is actually transplanted: *shāṭal* = *to transplant*

Importance of the tree being a transplanted seedling, rather than a planted seed

1. Who plants seeds?

Who transplants seedlings?

Seeds that are not planted intentionally by a farmer **may lack** H₂O

Seeds planted intentionally by a farmer in a non-irrigated orchard **may also lack** H₂O

Transplanted seedlings in an irrigated orchard **will receive** H₂O

It will bear fruit in season

(but what is inside of the fruit?)

Its leaf will not wither (in season), because it is nourished by the water (of the word)

PSALM 1:4–5

Unlike the blessed believer who delights in Scripture, ungodly believers do not enjoy long-term blessing, but have as little value as chaff at threshing time (4)

Believers who delight in the Word resemble nurtured & protected fruit trees, but believers who have little time for the word are as worthless as chaff

Ungodly believers will not emerge from the judgment seat standing and they will have no standing in the congregation of the righteous (5)

They will emerge from the judgment seat broken

The judgment seat passages for both church-age and for Israel paint the same picture.

The Judgment Seat (of Christ): 2 Corinthians 5:10

The Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14–30

They will not stand in the congregation of the righteous
Exclusion from such functions as the Lamb's Marriage Supper
(Matthew 22:2–14)

PSALM 1:6

The Lord prospers the way of righteous believers, but the way of ungodly believers will be cursed (6)

The Lord knows the way of the righteous is in contrast with the transitory status of the way of the wicked. I take the word *know* as being defined in context: the Lord blesses the way of the righteous believer both now, in the judgment, and in terms of rewards bestowed for following the judgment.

Although the word perish is used in verse 6, it does not speak of the people perishing, but rather their way perishes. The long and short of it is that believers can choose blessing or they can choose cursing.

CONCLUSION

Believers face two choices in life. Will we delight in the Word, so that it directs them toward the Lord? If so, we will bear fruit (and seed) in life and will be rewarded. On the other hand, if we delight in that which takes us away from the Lord and His word, we will be as worthless as chaff in this life, we will be broken down at the judgment seat, and will be without reward in the Kingdom