MAPPING THE PSALMS

Lesson 10:
Selections from THE LEVITICUS BOOK, Part One
1. The third book of Moses and the third book of Psalms focus on the ___________, the holy place where God meets his people.
2. How many Psalms by David are in Book 3?
3. What are the two parts in Book 3?
4. In Ps 73:3, why was the psalmist envious of the foolish?
5. In Ps 73:22, he realized that the REAL fool was ________.
6. In Ps 74:2, what does the Psalmist ask God to remember?
7. In Ps 74:18, what does the Psalmist ask God to remember?
8. Ps 78 is written to the ____ generation so they will not be like the _____ generation.
9. Psalm 78 shows that even though God did ________ in Egypt, in the wilderness and in the Promised Land, the people of God ________ him through their unbelief, and brought upon themselves God’s _________. (a) Wrath (b) Wonders (c) Provoked
10. In Ps 81:13-16, what are two things that God CANNOT do for his people when they disobey?
The third book of Moses, called Leviticus, and the third book of Psalms focus on the Sanctuary, the holy place where God meets with his people.
The sanctuary in Jerusalem was a place for the priest of Israel to be alone with God. All the noise and confusion of the outside world was shut out.
As Christians, we do not meet God in a temple made with hands. The Holy Spirit dwells in the sanctuary of our heart. But still we must enter into this place of communion.
Outside the sanctuary, we are harassed by our enemies and by our doubt and fear.

Inside the sanctuary, eternal truth outshines our temporal situation.
These truths come to light in this section of the Psalms.
Psalms 73 to 89

1 by David, 11 by Asaph, 3 by the sons of Korah,
1 by Heman the Ezrahite, 1 by Ethan the Ezrahite
Book 3 (Ps 73-89): LEVITICUS

The Temporal Sanctuary In Israel
Ps 73-83

The Eternal Sanctuary in Glory
Ps 84 to 89

Book Three divides into these two parts.
Book 3 (Ps 73-89): LEVITICUS

The Temporal Sanctuary in Israel
Ps 73-83

Part One has an A-B-C-D, A-B-C-D structure:

[A] The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary 73

[B] The Enemy in the Sanctuary 74

[C] God’s Anointed in the Sanctuary 75

[D] Destruction of the Enemies of the Sanctuary 76

[A] The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary 77-78

[B] The Enemy in the Sanctuary 79

[C] God in the Sanctuary 80-82

[D] Destruction of the Enemies of the Sanctuary 83
The Temporal Sanctuary in Israel
Ps 73-83

We will look at four psalms from this section:

[A] The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary 73

[B] The Enemy in the Sanctuary 74

[C] God’s Anointed in the Sanctuary 75

[D] Destruction of the Enemies of the Sanctuary 76

[A] The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary 77-78

[B] The Enemy in the Sanctuary 79

[C] God in the Sanctuary 80-82

[D] Destruction of the Enemies of the Sanctuary 83
The Temporal Sanctuary In Israel
Ps 73-83

The first psalm of each book introduces and summarizes the entire book.
In Psalm 73, we see that it is not our circumstances that determine our joy; it is our state of mind.

[A] The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary 77-78
[B] The Enemy in the Sanctuary 79
[C] God in the Sanctuary 80-82
[D] Destruction of the Enemies of the Sanctuary 83
Ps 73: The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 73:1
1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.
Psalm 73:2-3

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.
3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
Ps 73: The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary

In verses 4 to 12, the psalmist fantasizes about the life of the super rich.
Psalm 73:4-12

4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.
5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.
6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain;
   violence covereth them as a garment.
7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.
8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.
9 They set their mouth against the heavens,
   and their tongue walketh through the earth.
10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.
11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?
12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.
Psalm 73:4-12

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11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?
12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

But envy is always fueled by foolish imagination.
Ps 73: The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 73:13-16

13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.
14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.
15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.
16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

He decided that his struggle to live a holy life has been a waste of time.
Ps 73: The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 73:17-20

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.
19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.
20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

But inside the sanctuary, he remembered that things do not end well for the wicked.
Psalm 73:21-22

21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.
22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Ps 73: The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary

In the Sanctuary
Envious of fools
Imaginings
Discontent
In the Sanctuary
I am the fool
Reawakening
Thanksgiving
Psalm 73:23-25

23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.
Ps 73: The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 73:26-28

26 My flesh and my heart faileth:
    but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish:
    thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God:
    I have put my trust in the Lord GOD,
    that I may declare all thy works.
Outside the Sanctuary, he was envious of the foolish.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
Ps 73: The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary

Outside the Sanctuary, he was envious of the foolish.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Inside the Sanctuary, he realized HE was the fool.

22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.
The second psalm of each book looks at the enemies of righteousness.

[A] The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary 73
[B] The Enemy in the Sanctuary 74
[C] God’s Anointed in the Sanctuary 75
[D] Destruction of the Enemies of the Sanctuary 76

[A] The Effect of being Outside the Sanctuary 77-78
[B] The Enemy in the Sanctuary 79
[C] God in the Sanctuary 80-82
[D] Destruction of the Enemies of the Sanctuary 83
Psalm 74 remembers the destruction of Solomon’s temple by the Babylonians.
Psalm 74 includes two prayers asking God to remember his people in their time of trouble.
Psalm 74:1-2

1 O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture?
2 Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.
Psalm 74:3-8

3 Lift up thy feet unto the perpetual desolations; even all that the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary.
4 Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations; they set up their ensigns for signs.
5 A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees.
6 But now they break down the carved work thereof at once with axes and hammers.
7 They have cast fire into thy sanctuary, they have defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground.
8 They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land.
Psalm 74:9-11

9 We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.
10 O God, how long shall the adversary reproach? shall the enemy blaspheme thy name for ever?
11 Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosom.
Ps 73: The Enemy in the Sanctuary

He remembers the wonderful ways of God.
Ps 73: The Enemy in the Sanctuary

Psalm 74:12-17

12 For God is my King of old,
    working salvation in the midst of the earth.
13 Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength:
    thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.
14 Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces,
    and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.
15 Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood:
    thou driedst up mighty rivers.
16 The day is thine, the night also is thine:
    thou hast prepared the light and the sun.
17 Thou hast set all the borders of the earth:
    thou hast made summer and winter.

Prayer (1-11)

Remember 2

The Enemy 3-8

How long? 10-11

My King of old (12-17)

Prayer (18-23)

Remember 18-21

Arise 22-23
Ps 73: The Enemy in the Sanctuary

Now, the second prayer.
Psalm 74:18-21

18 Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name.
19 O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked: forget not the congregation of thy poor for ever.
20 Have respect unto the covenant: for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.
21 O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name.
Psalm 74:22-23

22 Arise, O God, plead thine own cause:
   remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.
23 Forget not the voice of thine enemies:
   the tumult of those that rise up against thee increaseth continually.
Psalm 78 is one of two historical songs (also 105).
Psalm 78 speaks of the time from the giving of the Law to the anointing of King David.
Ps 78: Outside the Sanctuary

| The Law 1-8 |
| Provocation 9-11 |
| Wonders in Egypt 12 |
| Wonders in the Wilderness 13-16 |
| Provocation 17-20 |
| Wrath in the Wilderness 21-39 |
| Provocation 40-42 |
| Wonders in Egypt 43-51 |
| Wonders in the Wilderness 52-55 |
| Provocation 56-58 |
| Wrath in the Land 59-64 |
| The Temple and Monarchy 65-72 |

It is written to **the younger generation** in hope that they “might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation”.
Ps 78: Outside the Sanctuary

The older generation **provoked God** with their unbelief...

To “provoke” is to willfully offend or make angry. “Provocation” is the thing that stirs up anger. It is the act of provoking.
Ps 78: Outside the Sanctuary

...even after God showed them amazing wonders.
This brought God’s wrath upon them.
Psalm 78:1-4

1 Give ear, O my people, to my law:
   incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 I will open my mouth in a parable:
   I will utter dark sayings of old:
3 Which we have heard and known,
   and our fathers have told us.
4 We will not hide them from their children,
   shewing to the generation to come the praises of
   the LORD, and his strength,
   and his wonderful works that he hath done.
Ps 78: Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 78:5-8

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.
Psalm 78:9-11

9 The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.

10 They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;

11 And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.
Psalm 78:12

12 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
Psalm 78:13-16
13 He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.
14 In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.
15 He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths.
16 He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.
Psalm 78:17-20

17 And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.
18 And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.
19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?
20 Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?
Psalm 78:21-24

21 Therefore the LORD heard this, and was wroth: so a fire was kindled against Jacob, and anger also came up against Israel;

22 Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:

23 Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,

24 And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.
Ps 78: Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 78:25-28

25 Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.
26 He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind.
27 He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea:
28 And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations.
29 So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire;
30 They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths,
31 The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.
Psalm 78:32-35

32 For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.
33 Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble.
34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God.
35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.
Psalm 78:36-39
36 Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.
37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.
38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.
39 For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.
Psalm 78:40-42

40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!
41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.
42 They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.
Psalm 78:43-48

43 How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

44 And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink.

45 He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them.

46 He gave also their increase unto the caterpiller, and their labour unto the locust.

47 He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycomore trees with frost.

48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts.
Psalm 78:49-51

49 He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.

50 He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

51 And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham:
Ps 78: Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 78:52-55
52 But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.
53 And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.
54 And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased.
55 He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.
yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: 
but turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.
Psalm 78:59-64

59 When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel:

60 So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men;

61 And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.

62 He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.

63 The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage.

64 Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation.
Psalm 78:65-69
65 Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.
66 And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach.
67 Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim:
68 But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.
69 And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever.
Ps 78: Outside the Sanctuary

Psalm 78:70-72

70 He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:
71 From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.
72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.
In Psalm 81 we see that the disobedience of God’s people frustrates his desire to bless and protect them.
Psalm 81:1-3

1 Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.
2 Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery.
3 Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.
Psalm 81:4-7

4 For this **was** a statute for Israel, 
   and a law of the God of Jacob.
5 This he ordained in Joseph **for** a testimony, 
   when he went out through the land of Egypt: 
   where I heard a language **that** I understood not.
6 I removed his shoulder from the burden: 
   his hands were delivered from the pots.
7 Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; 
   I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: 
   I proved thee at the waters of Meribah. 
   Selah.
Ps 81: God in the Sanctuary

Psalm 81:8-9

8 Hear, O my people, and I will testify unto thee: O Israel, if thou wilt hearken unto me;
9 There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god.
Psalm 81:10

10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.
Psalm 81:11-12

11 But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.
12 So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.
Psalm 81:13-16

13 Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!
14 I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries.
15 The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever.
16 He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

When the people refuse to hear and obey God, they keep themselves from God’s blessings. This is painful to God.
Book 3 (Ps 73-89): LEVITICUS

The Temporal Sanctuary In Israel
Ps 73-83

UP NEXT

The Eternal Sanctuary in Glory
Ps 84 to 89
Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

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10. In Ps 81:13-16, what are two things that God CANNOT do for his people when they disobey?

Each question is worth 20 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.