

## A Different Kind of Text

Prose and Poetry

Reading With the Heart

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## Hebrew Grammar School

Parallelism

Psalm 19:1

הַשָּׁמַיִם | מְסַפְּרִים | כְּבוֹד-אֱלֹהִים  
The heavens | declare | the glory of God

וּמַעֲשֵׂה יָדָיו | מְגִיד | הַרְקִיעַ:  
(and) the Firmament | proclaims | his handiwork

Unit: A word on which stress is placed

Stich: A Hebrew poetic line made up of at least 2  
and usually not more than 3 units

Distich: Two lines of Hebrew poetry

**A Poetic Narrative**

The Five Books of David

The Catalogue of Psalms

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**The Function of the Psalter**

The Problem of the Name of the Book

The Life of the Christian and the Psalms

"I knew that following Jesus could never develop into a 'long obedience' without a deepening life of prayer and that the Psalms had always been the primary means by which Christians learned to pray everything they lived, and live everything they prayed over the long haul."

-Eugene Peterson

The Cyclic Christian Journey

## Dealing with the “Problem Psalms”

### Psalms of Sadness and/or Need

Psalm 10

“Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.”

-Psalm 10:12

### Psalms of Anger and Vengeance

Psalm 58 and Psalm 137

“O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us – he who seizes your infants and dashes them upon the rocks.”

-Psalm 137:8-9

## A Small Word of Caution