

Petition-Lament Psalms: A Closer Look

Review

General Description & Terminology

Identifying Marks

Direct Address
Lament/Complaint
Confidence
Petition
Conclusion / Praise

Sample: *Psalm 13

*Superscript: A Psalm of David.

*Direct Address & Lament

1 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
2 How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

*Petition *3-4

3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

*Confidence *5

5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

*Vow to Praise *6

6 I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

*Postscript: To the choirmaster.

A Closer Look

Direct Address "O LORD" / "O God"

Lament "How long?" / "Why, O LORD, do you stand far away?"

Confidence "But you, O LORD, are my shield"

Petition "Answer me when I call!" "Save me!"

Conclusion / Praise "The LORD has heard me ... I will praise."

A Prayer Model?

Psalm 13 (again)