

## **Psalms Genre** [Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible. By Thomas Long; p43- ]

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### **Psalms are widely popular**

Many statements in public repertoire originate from them  
Ps 50 let everything that has breath praise the Lord  
Ps 23 The Lord is my shepherd...

### **There is a reluctance** to employ one literary form intended for another purpose

Some psalms are songs to be sung not sermons to be preach- it is said.  
Others say you can preach in such a way so as to respect the unique literary form

### **Psalms** are Hebrew poems and therefore follow the rules of poetry...

FEE/ STUART p207 "addresses the mind through the heart"  
Songs and prayers  
Liturgical prayers- chanted- recited repeatedly  
Used in worship of faith community both JEWISH and CHRISTIAN

### **Poetry Purpose**

It is not to soothe, relax  
But to arouse, awake... to disrupt customary ways in which we use language

### **Laurence Perrine**

it is more condensed- concentrated- carries higher voltage  
Potent impact ... *more power per word*  
Impacts:        Emotions  
                  Affections  
                  Imagination

### **Walter Brueggemann** suggests three-fold usage

Liturgical [This is its primary purpose-Thom Long]  
Devotional  
Pastoral

### **Warm association**

Well known through countless repetition-exposure creates powerful impact [p46]  
Ps 23 deep grooves in the soul  
But it is still fresh- familiar- a message to today

### **Linguistic Strategies** [Long p47]

Parallelism  
Stanzas  
Alliteration: Golden Alphabet