



TOPIC STUDY

Happiness Study

ABSTRACT

Does God want us to be happy? Is our happiness God's greatest priority? Are we designed for Happiness? These are some of the questions that we will be looking into scripture to answer.

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Gathering Together

INTRODUCTION AND SCRIPTURE

KEYS TO CONSIDER

One of the primary scriptures for this topic is Psalms 1. While we have not directly discussed this make up and study of this scripture type as it relates to Psalms we have when we discussed Proverbs.

As we have spoken about before each portion of scripture must be looked at based on the following:

- Literary Type of Scripture
- Context
 - Who wrote it?
 - Who was it written to?
 - Purpose or reason for writing

BACKGROUND ON PSALMS IN GENERAL

Author: All of the Psalms were not written by the same Author, although 73 of the 150 Psalms were written by King David that is not the case for all. 49 of the Psalms have an unknown author.

Literary Type: Wisdom / Poetry

When reading poetry in scripture it is important to understand how Hebrew poetry is comprised. In the Poetry you will find Parallelism, Similes, metaphors, and hyperbole.

Who was it written to / Purpose: These are Poems, written to be set to music. Psalms is generally considered to be the first Hymnal.

BASIC PROCESS TO GUIDE YOU

1. Read each scripture at through on its own.
2. Read the scriptures before and after to ensure you have the context.
3. Write down or highlight key words in each scripture
4. Look up each of the words you highlighted and write down their meaning.
5. Look up each cross reference.
6. Write out in your own words the meaning of each verse
7. Write out questions or thoughts that come to your mind as you are looking at each scripture.
8. Be sure to write it all out. You will be surprised at what you write. This gets it out of our heads (which can be a scary place if your mind is anything like mine).

SCRIPTURES

Please remember that while I am giving you a starting point, please do not feel that you need to stay with this list of scripture they are to just help you get started. I have also given you a screen shot of how the psalm is broken into sections below. You can use this to become familiar with reading poetry in scripture.

Psalms 37:4

- Author: King David
- Literary Type: Poetry/Wisdom

Philippians 3:1

- Literary Type: Epistle
- Author: Paul
- Written to: church of Philippi
- Purpose: Express appreciation and affection for them
 - Philippians 3 Subject: Press on Toward the Goal of Winning

1 Thessalonians 5:16

- Literary Type: Epistle
- Author: Paul
- Written to: church of Thessalonica
- Purpose: Encouragement – church was faced with false teachings
 - 1 Thessalonians 5 Subject: Stay Sober & Watchful

Psalms 1

What other scriptures did you find?

REMEMBER DON'T ASSUME YOU KNOW THE DEFINITION LOOK IT UP

VERSE	WORD	DEFINITION

OBSERVATION / ANALYSIS

FOR PSALMS CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

1. Determine where the thought unit starts and ends
2. Is the thought referencing an action for you to take or not take or is it a benefit of taking or not taking and action? Does the thought include both?
3. Evaluate the lines that make up the thought – Highlight in different colors what you see, underline, circle, whatever will help you see these things. You can also copy and paste from online Bible and use Find function to help.
 - a. **Synonymous:** Same idea with different by equal words
 1. Static: no progression of intensity, Same idea with different by equal words
 2. Dynamic Development: intensification in the second line
 - b. **Inclusio:** repetition of significant phrase or word at the beginning
 - c. **Merismus:** two extremes side by side
 - d. **Chiasm:** each line is a point in time one at the beginning and one at the end
 - e. **Antithetical:** Contrast with each other
 - f. **Synthetical:** Adds additional information
 - g. **Stair Step:** part of the first is repeated in the second
4. Focus on the imagery
 - a. **Simile:** compares two objects using Like
 - b. **Metaphor:** compares or likens two objects that are in no way alike more forcefully
 - c. **Emblematic:** Metaphor followed by more literal

SCREEN SHOT OF BREAKDOWN FOR PSALM 1

Psalm 1 [Hebrew](#) [Parallelism](#) [Structure](#)

A – The righteous man stands not with the wicked

¹ // (a) Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow (b) the advice of the wicked,
(a) or stand around with (b) sinners,
(a) or join in with (b) mockers.

B – The blessed man chooses God's law

² // (a) But (b) they delight in the law of the LORD,
(b) meditating (a) on it day and night.

C – Green tree illustrates righteous man

³ They // (a) are like trees planted along the riverbank,
(b) bearing fruit each season.
(b) Their leaves never wither,
(c) and they prosper in all they do.

C – Brown chaff illustrates wicked man

⁴ // (a) But not the wicked!
They are (b) like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

A – The wicked man stands not with the righteous

⁵ They will be condemned at the time of judgment.
Sinners will have no place among the godly.

B – God chooses the righteous man

⁶ // (a) For the LORD watches over (b) the path of the godly,
(b) but the path of the wicked (c) leads to destruction.

Here you can see:

- Each line, or each line in each strophe, begins with a different letter of the alphabet. These are the simplest structures to identify.
- Topical/thematic units are introduced in sequence up to a central pinnacle, sometimes called a pivot or fulcrum. The sequence is then revisited in reverse order, creating a round-trip from a starting point to an emphasis point and back again. In this notation, corresponding units are labeled with a corresponding letter of the alphabet: The "A" unit at the beginning corresponds to another "A" unit at the end.
- All items in this Psalm are Synonymous — equivalence of meaning between lines.
 - With the exception of those with C which are Synthetic — development of meaning from one line to the next.

COMPARE ITEMS

What are the comparison items that you see in the text? Such as Wise men do this, fools do this? Include the outcomes as well. Create lists of Actions or descriptions in the text.

TAKE TIME TO WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHT ON EACH VERSE

Verse	What does it say?	What does it mean?

CROSS REFERENCES

Verse	Cross reference/where else is it explained	Thoughts/notes

QUESTIONS? DEFINITIONS?

Example questions you may want to think about. What is the meaning of _____? What is the significance of _____? Why is this important?

PERSONAL APPLICATION/THOUGHTS

What are your thoughts on the passage? What are some things that you need to consider in your day-to-day life? What are some things you hadn't thought of before?

APPLICATION:

- Is, Personal.
- Is, the act of putting to use or putting into operation especially for some practical purpose.
- Begins with belief and results in being and doing.
- Motivates you to respond and make changes.
- Is, making a relevant truth a personal truth, and involves developing a strategy and action plan to live your life.

It is not:

- Accumulation of knowledge. While this helps us discover and understand, it does not help us change. The Goal is not simply to understand, there are many who understand but do not believe or change.
- Application is not just illustration. Illustration only tells us how someone else handled a similar situation. While we may empathize with that person, we still have little direction for our personal situation.
- Application is not just making a passage "relevant." Making the Bible relevant only helps us to see that the same lessons that were true in Bible times are true today; it does not show us how to apply them to the problems and pressures of our individual lives.

GOALS

You can't communicate something you have never experienced in your own life.

- Putting the truth, you have discovered into use in you daily life.
- Documenting for yourself and others how the scriptures applied to your life at a point in time.
- Responding in faith to what God has shown and revealed to you.
- Transforming your Life.
- Being able to explain to someone if they ask why, you believe what you do.

