

PSALMS IN PROPHECY III – AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR - DEC 1997

THE THIRD RECORDING ON THE PSALMS BY Dr. MARTIN

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Ezra organized the Old Testament into 22 books, one for each of the letters in the Hebrew Alphabet.

The Psalms are arranged with wonderful themes. David organized the first two sections of 72 psalms, (3x24) the other Psalms were added later.

This third section, 73-89 has its basis in God's Calendar with an agricultural theme, which is an elaboration of the Holy Days.

Passover was about redemption, the Firstfruit, singular, Christ.
Pentecost was about the Firstfruits – plural, Holy Spirit and Christianity.

The Psalms were put into the Bible as the basis of a liturgical system, and were sung and performed much like operas on the Feast days.

Passover – The Song of Solomon, God's love song to Israel.

Pentecost – the early fruit Ruth was performed.

Yom Kippur The 10th of Ab Atonement - Lamentations was performed on the anniversary of the day of the destruction of the Temple in both Nebuchanezzar's time and also the same calendar day when the Herodian Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.

Tabernacles – Ecclesiastes was performed, a time of abundance.

Feast of Purim, held in the end of Winter, picturing darkness, the last harvest, the Great Throne Judgement.

Purim celebrates Hebrew Esther's victory over anti-Semitic Haman. The Jews today emphasise that it is NOT a Holy Day or a Sabbath!

Part of this liturgy was the Megilloth, sung and performed in the part of the Temple which was allocated to women. Five books were read in this area.

All males were commanded to attend the Temple on the Holy Days.

#1 Genesis, Psalms 1-41, From Genesis to 21, then Psalm 22 which marks the beginning of the Ecclesia (Church) being established by Christ. No accident that it is number 22.

Then Psalm 23, most learned when young, brings the message of God's love, protection and salvation to us.

#2 Exodus, Psalms 42-72. David is still emphasised, but primarily directed to Israel and the Church. First 72 ordained for use in the Temple liturgy.

Psalm 50

Then Psalm 51 when David had gone into Bathsheba, here is redemption individually and collectively describing what the early church went through.

#3 Leviticus, 73-89 The destruction of the Temple, the whole division is about the Levitical Priesthood being brought to an end.

Side B

The third division the centre of five division of the Megilloth.

Purim was in the dark cold hours of winter when Lamentations was performed. When these were written back then, one would think of the destruction of Nebuchadnezzar (who incidentally the scriptures say was God's servant) but in 80-90 A.D. one would look back on the Roman destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. which happened on the same day of the year, as they would be reading Lamentations and the 3rd division of Psalms.

What does this day signify? The destruction of God's society. The Jews were scattered in 70 A.D. but in our era they are going back to Israel now.

Psalm 73 and 12 in this section are all about the destruction of the Temple. When we understand that, it will mean a lot more to us because this is all going to happen again after the Temple has been rebuilt in the 'last days'! The theme is desolation.

Psalm 74 is a Psalm of Asaph which is pertinent to our generation.

74:1 Asaph is talking about the future, the thick trees are for the building of the Temple v. 4 Ensigns, flags.

75:3 The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved.

76: Salem, Jerusalem is spoiled.

77:7 Will we be cast off for ever?