
Sermon Text Discussion 7/23/17

The Book of Psalms and Psalm 86 by Phil Owen

Overview

The Psalms (and the Proverbs) are often assumed to be a collection of stand-alone items that lack any overall context. There is evidence, however, that the Psalms have been deliberately arranged in the order we have them.

The general outline of the Books of Psalms:

- Book 1: Largely deals with David's assuming the kingship to which God had appointed him, but through much adversity.
- Book 2: Appears to get us from David's reign to that of Solomon.
- Book 3: Can be viewed as addressing the deep emotions and searching questions that arose from Israel's destruction as a nation.
- Book 4: Largely looks to the past as providing perspective and hope for the present and future.
- Book 5: Looks to the future with hope.

Psalm 86 is prominent because it seems out of place. It appears to have been lifted out of the collected Psalms of David and placed in Book 3 of the Psalter.

Understanding & Application

- 1) In your own reading, you will find individual psalms and little groups of psalms that may or may not seem to fit the outline provided above. It is important to ask not only, what does this psalm mean? but also, why is it located here? Why is it in this sub-book? Why does it follow the psalm before it? Why does it precede the psalm after it?
- 2) Explain the "reversal of roles" that David is requesting in Psalm 86? Discuss how Jesus is the ultimate example of this reversal of roles.
- 3) What would Psalm 86 have said to a Jew wrestling with doubt and confusion over Israel's exile? What is God saying to us now through Psalm 86?
- 4) For those of us who already in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, Psalm 86 assures us that our gracious master will intervene in our day of trouble. What does Psalm 86 say about the nature of our trouble and the nature of our deliverance?
- 5) Psalm 86 provides a model for coming to God to seek deliverance from the troubles that threaten us. Interact with the outline that Psalm 86 provides:
 - a. Evaluate yourself, repent as needed, and recommit yourself as God's faithful servant.
 - b. Remind yourself of God's goodness, and dwell on it.
 - c. Remind yourself of the big picture. Worship God as the sovereign king over all the world whose gracious purposes will be fulfilled.
 - d. Ask first for your spiritual needs. Ask God's intervention to make you a better servant and keep you faithful.
 - e. Ask God's intervention in your temporal situation. Ask this in the context of his goodness and his making your life an example for others.