

# The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” – Psalm 119:105

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## *Dealing with Babes*

Greg Gwin

He rudely gulps down his food, pausing only long enough for a conspicuous burp along the way. In his haste some of his dinner dribbles down his chin and onto his already soiled shirt. When he is finished, he offers no thanks, and without considering the concerns or needs of others he settles down for a nap. When he wakes, chances are he will begin immediately to make demands on those around him for some additional attention or some service to insure his own comfort.

How can we tolerate such a thoughtless and ungrateful individual? Easily – he is a baby!!! We expect this type of conduct from infants – it’s normal. But slowly, gradually, we teach them. In time they learn to think of others, to express appreciation, to offer help. If this progress does not happen, we begin to look for reasons why. Is there some failure in the child's learning ability; some lack in parenting skills? We must find the answer.

Consider the spiritual parallel: a particular Christian frequently sins. He manifests a real lack of Bible knowledge. He often offends his brethren by words and deeds that are not befitting of a child of God. He is truly spiritually weak. How can we tolerate such a person? Because he is a babe in Christ! He has not matured in his spiritual life.

But this situation can not go on indefinitely. He must be taught, and in time he must more fully learn his duty to God, his brethren, and all men. He grows; and as he does he sins less frequently. If this progress does not happen, then we ought to be looking for reasons why. What is lacking? Is there something wrong with his personal commitment? Are we failing him in the matter of teaching and encouraging him? We must find the answer! That’s what you do when “babes” don’t grow.



*“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil” (Hebrews 5:12-14).*

# *The Psalms of Israel*

Earl Kimbrough

*“Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk, for to You I lift up my soul” (Psalm 143:8).*

Poetry is the second most common literary form in the Bible. It is next in prevalence to the narrative or story form. Most books of the Bible contain some poetry, especially in the Old Testament. In newer translations, the poetry is distinguished by italics, spaces, indentations, and capitalized lines. It is arranged in poetic form. Some Biblical books are almost entirely poetic. These include the Books of Poetry and the Books of Prophecy. But poetry also graces the sacred pages throughout the Bible. “The song of Deborah antedates the odes of Pindar, and David sang two centuries almost before Homer” (C. L. Loos). David especially is remembered as *“the sweet psalmist of Israel”* (2 Sam 23:1) His psalms comprise a large portion of the Book of Psalms.

Why was so much of the Bible written in poetic form? Three reasons are readily apparent. (1) Poetry is easier to remember than prose. “The Bible teaches me how to live each day” does not cling to the mind like, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (Psalm 119:105). (2) Poetry encourages meditation. The deeper meaning of the message unfolds as the remembered words are pondered. God wants us to meditate in His word “day and night” (Psalm 1:2). (3) Poetry strikes an emotional response that helps motivate the will to action in applying God’s word. For example, *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”* (1 Pet 3:12). What honest soul could read these lines without seeing God’s care for his own and being moved thereby to pray more earnestly in time of special need?

One of the first portions of Scripture that we learn as children is the delightful twenty-third Psalm. Its words of comfort abide with us through life and encourage us in facing death. How often in times of discouragement, distress, and despair have its beautiful words warmed the soul with its asseverations of assurance, peace, and hope. Millions have found consolation in seasons of inexpressible sorrow and heart-breaking disappointment by reading or recalling this and other inspired poetry penned by God’s faithful servants of old, especially the Psalms of Israel.

Perhaps no people on earth were so intensely religious as the ancient Israelites, or at least many of them. Their trust in God is expressed in their songs. Fragments of earlier psalms of God’s people are scattered through the Books of Moses. The words of “the sweet psalmist of Israel” and other

# News and Notes

We still need someone to sign up on the sheet in the back hallway to prepare the trays for November.

## Members:

- \* Mary Burnett is staying in bed nearly all the time now.
- \* Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- \* Sarah Neighbours has a mass of infection under her arm. She is going back to the doctor about it this week.
- \* Fran Pickens has multiple problems right now.
- \* Nancy Reed had a cancer removed from her arm last Friday.
- \* Pat Richards fell at work last Tuesday and broke her right foot. She has it in a cast and is going back to the doctor tomorrow.

Absent: Robert and Candy Jenkins (NC).

New Reports: Ron Chaffin (South Africa), Chad Lynn (WV).

Spirit-guided poets are collected in the marvelous Book of **Psalms**. But the psalms of Israel did not pass away with the old law. Psalms, along with hymns and spiritual songs (**Eph. 5:19**), are for Christians, too. The singing of psalms attends the gathering of the saints in the present age. What would our worship services be without them? We should read, sing, and meditate on the psalms of Israel today, but the realms of eternal glory undoubtedly will echo with the voices of the redeemed singing “*the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the son of the Lamb*” (**Rev. 15:3**).

“(The Book of Psalms) brings us into the sanctuary, draws us off from converse with men, with the philosophers or disputers of this world, and directs us into communion with God.” (Adam Clarke)



*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever.” – Psalm 111:10*