**Slide 1**

"Lament Psalms: Asking God the Hard Questions"

1st Baptist Church – Regina, SK          L4L Fall 2021
Instructor: Kelvin Friebel

"By the Rivers of Babylon We Sat and Wept" (1938) by Moshe Rynecki          https://rynecki.org/wp-content/themes/rynecki/images/npi1938nr32-e1418056288987.jpg]
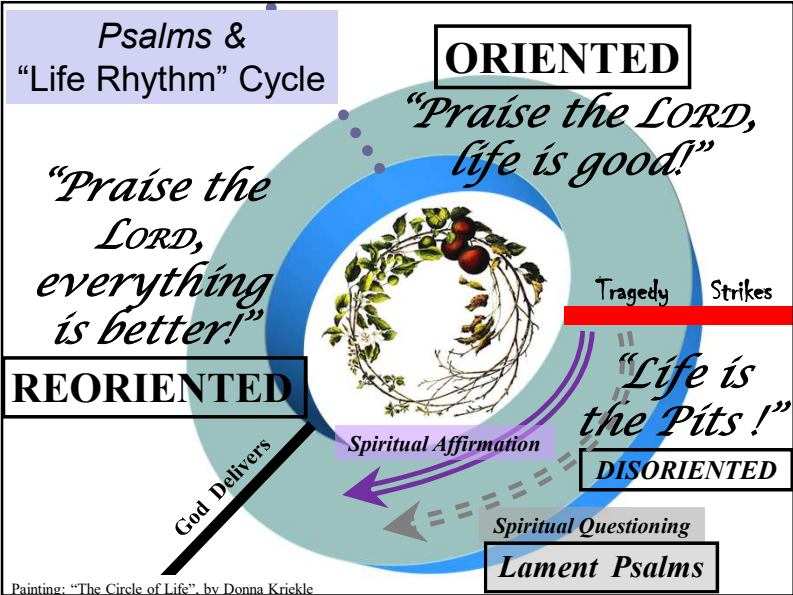
**Slide 2**

I remember casually scanning the congregation as I played the guitar in a recent worship service. We had just finished our third song, one extolling the wonders of God and our joy for all God has done. As we started the fourth song with the same spirit of energetic celebration, I caught a glimpse of an unexpected visitor sitting in the back—a good friend of mine who had informed me only a few days earlier that his wife had cheated on him and wanted a divorce. At that moment the lyrics kicked in, and we started singing our joyful thanks for God's abundant blessings. The words I was singing suddenly felt forced, false, and even mocking. I had to spend the rest of the song looking away from my friend, who stood with his mouth shut, staring out the window.

After the worship service I approached him and said, "I was thinking about you the entire service; it must have been painful sitting through the songs we were singing." He responded, "Yeah, it was rough. I'm not sure this is a good time for me to attend church. It is very painful to observe the celebration and not be able to join—it accentuates my loneliness." I remember leaving that worship service thinking there was something very wrong with this situation.

Shane Hipps. *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, The Gospel, and Church.* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005) pp. 159-60.

**Slide 3**

"The Circle of Life"

Donna Kriekle

**Slide 4**

Psalms & "Life Rhythm" Cycle

ORIENTED
"Praise the LORD, life is good!"

"Praise the LORD, everything is better!"

REORIENTED

Tragedy   Strikes

"Life is the Pits !"

DISORIENTED

Spiritual Affirmation

God Delivers

Spiritual Questioning

Lament Psalms

Painting: "The Circle of Life", by Donna Kriekle

**ORIENTED**

*"Praise the LORD, life is good!"*

**Psalm 121** (NIV)

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
  where does my help come from?
2 My help comes from the Lord,
  the Maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot slip—
  he who watches over you will not slumber;
5 The Lord watches over you—
  the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
6 the sun will not harm you by day,
  nor the moon by night.
7a The Lord will keep you from all harm—



| Psalms of Confidence / Trust | Content is entirely an expression of confidence that God will help in time of trouble |
| --- | --- |

(a) Individual
  Psalms  11,16,
    23, 27,
    52, 56,
    62, 63,
    71,
    91,
    121,
    131

(b) Community
  Psalms  68,
    115,
    129

Tragedy    Strikes

*"Life is the Pits ! But I trust God anyway."*

Spiritual Affirmation

**DISORIENTED**

**Psalms of Trust / Confidence in God**



**Psalm 27** (NIV)
¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation—
    whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
    of whom shall I be afraid?
² When the wicked advance against me to devour me,
  it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.
³ Though an army besiege me,
  my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
  even then I will be confident.

Tragedy    Strikes

*"Life is the Pits ! But I trust God anyway."*

Spiritual Affirmation

**DISORIENTED**

**Psalms of Trust / Confidence in God**



| Psalms of Lament | Voice the feelings that God has abandoned or is not hearing the psalmist, who cries out to God over the situation; but with a sense of confidence at the end of the psalm that God will make things better |
| --- | --- |

(a) Individual
  Psalms  3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
    10, 13, 17,
    22, 26, 28,
    31, 35, 36, 39,
    41, 42, 43,
    54, 55, 57, 58, 59,
    61, 64, 69,
    70, 77,
    86, 88,
    94,
    102, 109,
    120,
    140, 141, 142

(b) Community
  Psalms  12,
    44,
    60,
    74, 75, 79,
    80, 82, 83, 85, 89,
    90,
    106, 108,
    123,
    137

Subcategory: Penitential (Penance, Forgiveness)
  Psalms 25,
    38,
    51,
    130,
    143

Tragedy    Strikes

*"Life is the Pits ! Why, O Lord?"*

Spiritual Questioning

**DISORIENTED**

**Lament Psalms**