

Lament Psalms

Asking God the Hard Questions

**Psalm 6: “Why should I pray
in the Midst of Distress?
(Lament Psalms Produce Change)
Session 6 – 24 October 2021**

1st Baptist Church – Regina, SK

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<https://i.ytimg.com/vi/434X6-xek-o/maxresdefault.jpg>

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Psalm 6 (KGF)

Petition

1 [H 2] Yahweh, do not, in your anger, rebuke me;
and do not, in your wrath, chastise me.

2 [H 3] Deal-favorably with me, Yahweh,

for feeble am I.

Complaint (“I”)

Heal me, Yahweh,

for terrified are my bones;

Complaint
 (“I”)

3 [H 4] and my soul is greatly terrified.

And (as-for) you, Yahweh –how long?

(“You”)

4 [H 5] Turn, Yahweh, rescue my soul;

Save me

for-the-sake-of your loving-loyalty

5 [H 6] For there is not in death,

Complaint

(declared-) remembrance of you;

in Sheol, who will give thanks to you?

Genre: Individual Lament

Complaint (“I”)

6 [H 7] I am weary in my sighing;

I make-to-swim, every night, my bed;

with my tears, my couch, I make-(it)-dissolve .

7 [H 8] Wasted-away with grief is my eye;

it has grown-weak

because of all my adversaries.

Petition

8 [H 9] Turn-away from me, all workers-of-iniquity,

Confidence (Yahweh has heard & will answer)

For Yahweh has heard the voice of my weeping.

9 [H 10] Yahweh has heard my supplication-for-favor;

Yahweh will receive my prayer.

10 [H 11] Ashamed and greatly terrified will be

all my enemies;

they shall turn and be ashamed in a moment.

Psalm 6:1-5

► Dominated by Petitions to Yahweh (7 petitions & Yahweh's name 5x)

1: Yahweh, do not . . . rebuke me;
and do not . . . chastise me.

2a α : Deal-favorably with me, Yahweh

2b α : Heal me, Yahweh

4a α : Turn, Yahweh
rescue my soul

4b α : Save me

► Reasons / Motivations behind Petitions

(1) Dire circumstances of the Psalmist

2a β : for feeble am I

2b β : for terrified are my bones

3a: and my soul is greatly terrified

(2) Potential nature of Psalmist's Relationship with Yahweh in Death

5: For there is not in death, (declared-) remembrance of you;
in Sheol, who will give thanks to you?

(3) Character of Yahweh

4b β : or-the-sake-of your loving-loyalty (*hesed*)

Complaint

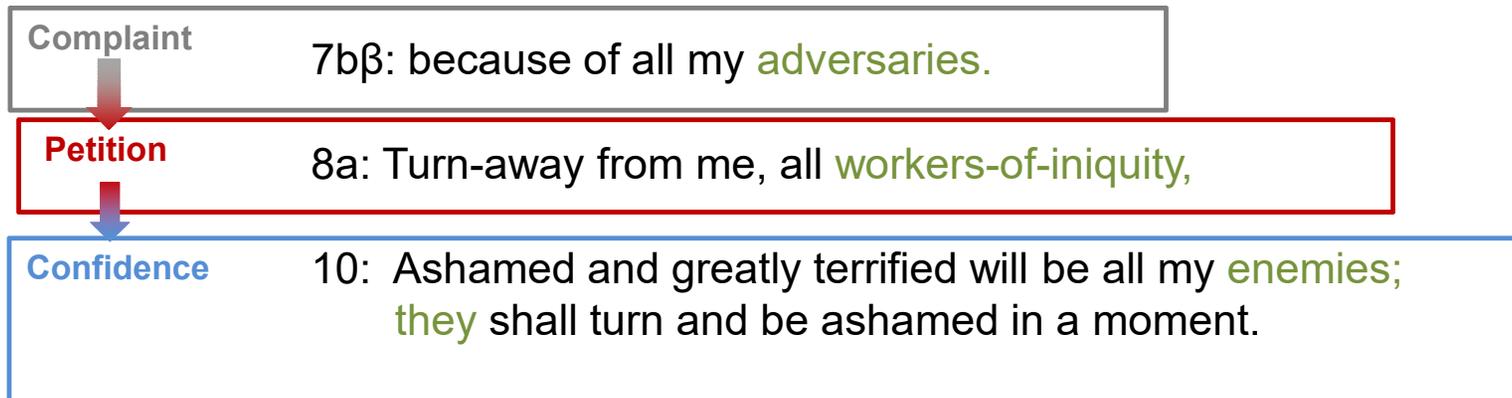
Psalm 6:6-10

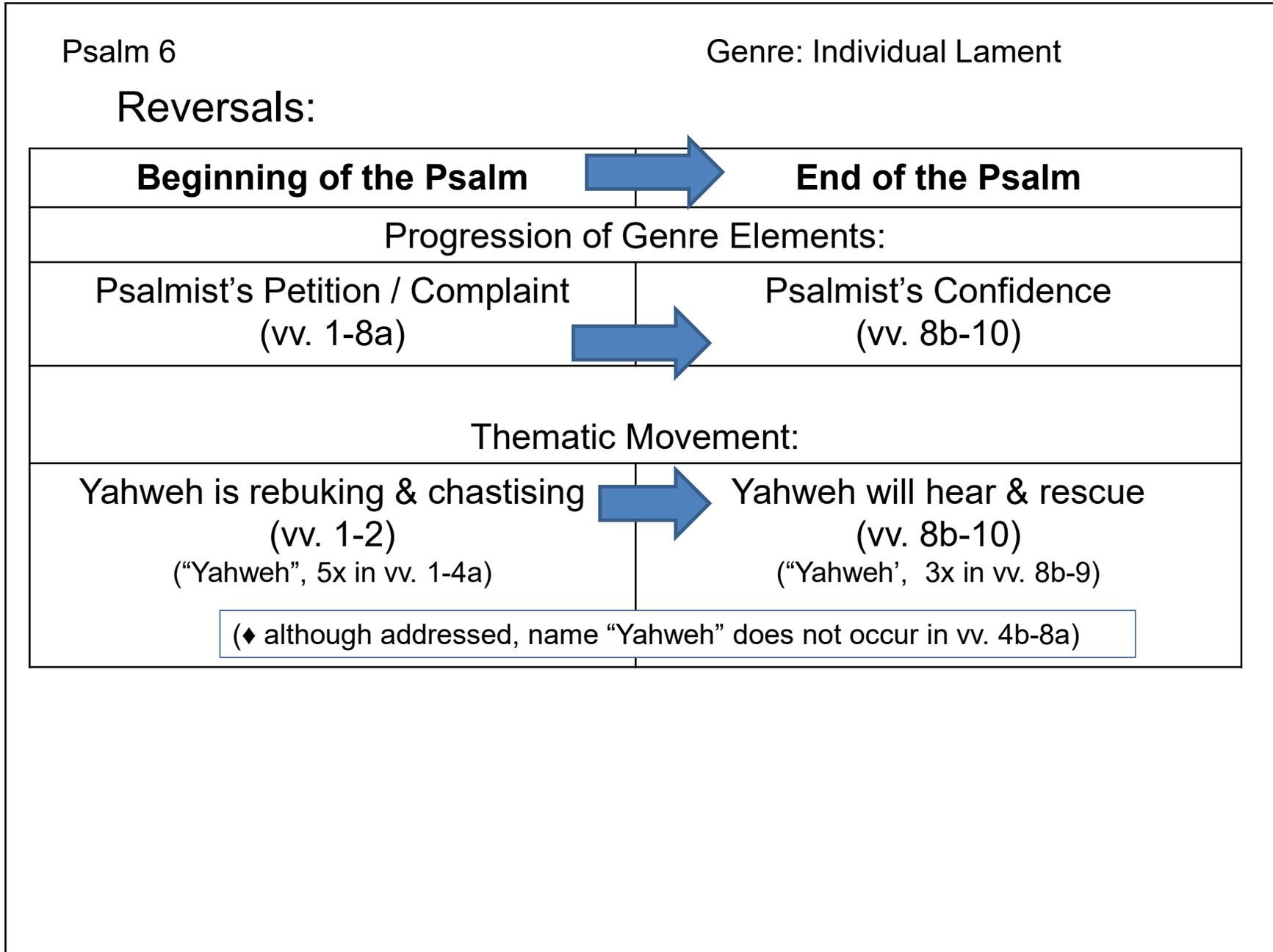
► Movement of Complaint → Petition → Confidence

- initial Complaint (vv. 6-7) continues the emotional distress (as in vv. 1-5)

6-7b α : I am weary in my sighing;
I make my bed to swim, every night;
with tears, I dissolve my couch.
Wasted-away is my eye with grief”
it has grown-weak

- then shifts in v. 7b β to the “Adversaries / Enemies” which creates the movement in vv. 7b-10





Psalm 6

Genre: Individual Lament

Reversals are Literarily highlighted:

Petition/ Complaint	Confidence
<p>Psalmist Prays to Yahweh for “Favor” v. 2a: Deal-favorably with me</p>	<p>Yahweh has Heard the Request for “Favor” v. 9: Yahweh has heard my supplication-for-favor; Yahweh will receive my prayer</p>
<p>Psalmist is “Weeping” in Distress v. 6: I am weary in my sighing; I make-to-swim, every night, my bed; with tears, my couch, I make-(it)-dissolve. v. 7: Wasted-away with grief is my eye; it has grown weak . . .</p>	<p>Yahweh Hears the “Weeping” v. 8b” Yahweh has heard the voice of my weeping.</p>
<p>Psalmist is “greatly terrified” v. 2bβ-3a: for terrified are my bones; and my soul is greatly terrified.</p>	<p>Enemies will be “greatly terrified” v. 10a: Ashamed and greatly terrified will be my enemies;</p>
<p>Psalmist’s “All”-Encompassing Distress v. 6b: I make my bed to swim, all (=every) night v. 7b: it [my eye] has grown-weak because of all my adversaries.</p>	<p>Relief from “All” his Enemies v. 8a: Turn-away from me, all workers-of-iniquity, v/ 10a: Ashamed and greatly terrified will be all my enemies;</p>
<p>Yahweh’s “turning [toward the psalmist]” v. 4a: Turn, Yahweh, rescue my soul”</p>	<p>Enemies “turning [away from the psalmist]” v. 8a: Turn-away from me, all workers-of-iniquity” v. 10b: “they shall turn and be ashamed”</p>

1 Kings 8:28-53 Expectation of Prayer (NASB)

²⁸ Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God,
to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today;

²⁹ that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day,
toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,'
to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place.

³⁰ Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel,

when they pray toward this place;

hear in heaven Your dwelling place;
hear

and forgive.

► vv. 31-53 cites 7 different Scenarios of the people praying

- Scenarios 1-3 & 7, are explicit of when the person/people have sinned & need pray for forgiveness & restoration (i.e., penitential prayer)
- Scenarios 4-6: the various situations may not necessarily involve punishment for sin

► All the Scenarios have the patterned Prayer Expectation:

When the people Pray

Yahweh Hear in heaven

Yahweh Answer appropriately

1 Kings 8:28-53 Expectation of Prayer (NASB)

Scenario 4 (vv. 37-40)	Scenario 5 (vv. 41-43)	Scenario 6 (vv. 44-45)
<p>³⁷ If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight <i>or</i> mildew, locust <i>or</i> grasshopper, if their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness <i>there is</i>,</p>		<p>^{44a} When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way You shall send them,</p>
<p>³⁸ whatever prayer or supplication is made by any person <i>or</i> by all Your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house;</p>	<p>⁴¹ Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your name's sake ⁴² (for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house,</p>	<p>^{44b} and they pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name,</p>
<p>^{39a} then hear in heaven Your dwelling place,</p>	<p>^{43a} hear in heaven Your dwelling place,</p>	<p>^{45a} then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication,</p>
<p>^{39b} and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,</p>	<p>^{43b} and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You,</p>	<p>^{45b} and maintain their cause.</p>
<p>⁴⁰ that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You have given to our fathers.</p>	<p>^{43b} in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear You, as <i>do</i> Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name.</p>	