



## From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,  
I came across the following article from Ligonier Ministries and wanted to share it with you. For everyone who has struggled to read the Old Testament, especially when it communicates through poetry, here are some good pointers on not only what to expect with Hebrew poetry, but how to appreciate it.  
Blessings to you in Christ,  
Pastor Aaron

### How to Read Hebrew Poetry

-by Matthew H. Patton, Ligonier Ministries *(used by permission)*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge once defined poetry as “the best words in the best order.” In a time when most people ridicule and ignore poetry, we as Christians need to recover a love for it, especially since one third of the Old Testament is poetry.

But reading poetry is often difficult. Poetry stretches the boundaries of language and makes great demands on readers to fill in the gaps. But if God thought it best to reveal so much of Scripture in poetry, we need to become good readers of it. Here are four tips for reading Old Testament poetry well.

#### **1. Embrace the nuances of parallelism.**

English poetry often uses rhyme, aligning common sounds at the end of lines. Hebrew poetry joins lines together using parallelism. Two kinds of parallelism

are most commonly seen. The first is synonymous parallelism, where the two lines mean something very similar, and the second is contrastive parallelism, where the two lines juxtapose opposite perspectives (e.g., [Ps. 1:6](#) and many Proverbs, such as [Prov. 10:1](#)). One common misunderstanding about synonymous parallelism is that the two lines just say the same thing twice. But this is never the case. The second line

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always adds something new. For example: Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ([Ps. 2:10](#))

In the second line, the poet extends his address beyond kings to all rulers of the earth, including lower magistrates. He also explains what it means to be wise: to take warning from God's appointment of His son as High King ([Ps. 2:5-9](#)).

*From the Pastor... Continued*

Be prepared for all kinds of parallelism. Some sets of parallel lines introduce a comparison (Ps. 103:11), some tell a two-part story (Ps. 3:4), and some simply complete the sentence begun in the first line (Ps. 111:6). The question we always ask is, how does the second line complete or enhance the first?

## 2. Revel in metaphors.

Metaphors are the lifeblood of poetry. (Note the metaphor.) Metaphors provide powerful ways of seeing reality. Consider [Jeremiah 2:13](#):

My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

To understand the metaphors, we need to picture the images. A fountain is a spring where water naturally bubbles up out of the ground. Clear, fresh water for free. Such is the overflowing goodness of God. In contrast, a cistern is a pit with a small opening that needs to be hewn out of the rock and then plastered to avoid leakage (hard work). Even when cisterns hold water, the water stagnates and putrefies. Idols are like broken cisterns: they don't even hold water; all that is left is sludge. The tragedy of sin is that we trade the fountain of living water for broken cisterns. A good Bible dictionary or study Bible can help you understand ancient Near Eastern imagery better.

Another thing to notice is that metaphors often come in families. In [Psalm 1:3](#), we read:

[The godly one] is like a tree planted by streams of water That yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

In this metaphor, the godly Israelite is a tree. But other metaphors are also present: the Lord is the farmer who planted the tree in such a prosperous place, and the fruit of the tree is the good works of the saint. How encouraging to see the Lord as the One who tends us. When you encounter a metaphor, let it sink in. Ask the question, what other metaphors does the lead metaphor imply?

## 3. Discern who is speaking.

Sometimes we are confused by Old Testament poetry because we neglect to ask an important question: Who is speaking? The Old Testament poets often dramatize dialogue between the Lord and His people, and sometimes the shift of speaker happens without being announced. A striking example is [Jeremiah 8:18–20](#), where the speaker shifts three times. Here is the text, with the speakers annotated:

[Jeremiah] My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me. Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land:

[The people] “Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?”

[The LORD] “Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images and with their foreign idols?”

[The people] The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

In each case, we can discern the speaker based on context and clues in the speeches themselves. Learning to ask who is speaking helps unlock confusing texts.

## 4. Delight in God's highly crafted words.

God did not give so much of Scripture in poetry so that we would be deliberately confused. He gave us poetry so that we would delight in His Word to the uttermost. Surround yourself with other Christians who can help you appreciate the Bible's poetry. Read good poetry in English. Soon you will find yourself enjoying the Bible's poetry more and more.

## **MISSION MEMO**

Last June, Linda, Noreen and Kathy from our Missions Committee attended an open house introducing **Tater Tots Pediatric Therapy** to our community. We were so impressed by the work and mission of this organization that we voted to include Tater Tots as a designated mission project in 2023.

For those of you who haven't heard about Tater Tots, let me share their "Who are we?" statement:

Tater Tots was founded by two homegrown kids after returning to the Basin to raise their family. The Board of Directors is comprised of community members with a passion for supporting children and finding solutions to the challenges our community faces. Our mission is to provide high quality, evidence-based, family-centered therapy services to underserved children and families of Klamath County and the surrounding rural communities, as well as serve as a community resource that can provide preventive services, educational opportunities, and community events for families.

That's quite a mission statement! And it works hand in glove with much of what we are already doing through our support of local schools and mentoring programs.

How can we help Tater Tots? First off, we've budgeted \$500 financial support for them. Secondly, we'll be able to "get the word out" about the great work they do. Thirdly, we'll be able to lend support as they might request, be it helping out at other "open house" type events and, of course, praying for them.

## **Small Groups Are Back Again!**

Our second quarter of small groups is starting up this month! Below is the list of small groups, their time and location and if you were not able to participate in one last quarter, I strongly encourage you to connect this time around.

One of the most common barriers to joining a small group is stress. When various crisis hit, our instinct is to pull back- circle the wagons and dig in. Unfortunately, pulling back heightens a sense of isolation and while that may be exactly what a person is seeking, isolation is the worst place to be in dealing with crisis. A Christian small group is ideally formed to provide the perfect combination of focus on Jesus, and support from one another to strongly minister to us when we are in crisis. And if you do not find yourself in crisis-our small groups need you! A listening ear, and prayerful heart and a focus on Jesus and His Word is what small groups are all about.

I always encourage folks to prioritize Small Groups- change your schedule so you can be connected in this critical way to the Body of Christ and the life of the Church. But if our groups are not manageable for you, please let me know and I will see if we can work something out.

May the Lord bless us through our small groups this quarter! May that blessing draw us closer to Him and closer to each other.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Aaron

### **Sermon-Based Small Groups Quarter 2**

Women's Group:	Mondays starting 1/9/23, 10:00-12:00, Church Fireside Room
Goode's Group:	Tuesdays starting 1/10/23, 3:00-5:00, Stephen and Sharron Goode's home
King's Group:	Tuesdays starting 1/10/23, 3:00-5:00, Paul and Joyce King's home
Men's Group:	Wednesdays starting 1/11/23, 11:30-1:30, Waffle Hut

*February Birthdays**February Anniversaries**1<sup>st</sup> Laura Brassler**6<sup>th</sup> Paul King**14<sup>th</sup> Barbara Roufs-Massey**23<sup>rd</sup> Hallie Beaty**27<sup>th</sup> Roger Vercruysse***Stewardship & Finance Committee****December 2022**

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$19,461.00
Operating Expenses:.....	<u>\$11,802.24</u>
Monthly Net:.....	\$ 7,658.76
YTD /Net:.....	(\$ 1,293.30)
Checking 12/31/22:.....	\$62,373.79
Money Market 12/31/22:.....	\$64,155.50

Expenses in December beyond regular operations were: yearly website fees \$287.88, yearly QuickBooks payroll fee \$500.00, software for projector computer \$75.94, projector computer & laptop camera \$320.98, LED bulbs \$175.00, discretionary fund \$250.00, piano maint. \$805.00.

All of the totals for 2022 year end were included in the Annual Report that was handed out to the congregation and received at the Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023.

Blessings to all in this coming new year!!

*Kathy Todd*



## **“SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY” FOOD DRIVE**

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER, BUT WINTER, AND PEOPLE STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET, GOES ON.**

Would you and your congregation be willing to help us keep the shelves stocked through the rest of winter? It would mean so much to so many. It's so easy.

- Pick a week to begin. Collect food each Sunday through February 12. Pile it in a corner where everyone can see it, or
- We'll deliver nicely decorated barrel(s) to your church, along with a nice flyer letting parishioners know how their help makes the difference in our community. **A COUPLE OF CANS, A COUPLE OF DOLLARS. IT ALL ADDS UP.**
- We can also include a nicely decorated coin box, securely locked with a chain to attach in a good place for those who forget a food donation.

**EACH DOLLAR ACCESSES 7-10 POUNDS OF FOOD!!  
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SMALL DONATION,  
IF EVERYBODY GIVES ONE!**

When the drive is over, just call the office and we'll pick up all the food. If it's not boxed or barreled, we'll bring boxes to load it all up. We'll weigh it, count the coin box \$ amount, and send a nice letter to your congregation thanking everyone for the help.

**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR ANY SUPPORT YOU CAN LEND WITH THIS FOOD DRIVE!!!**

Forever Grateful,

Niki Sampson,  
Executive Director



## Sunday Bible Class

### The Inheritance of Israel

#### *King Solomon and the Golden Age*

1 Kings

Sundays

9:00-10:00 AM

Church Fireside Room

Join Pastor Aaron as we continue the journey through the Old Testament as God develops the nation of Israel into her inherited covenant promises. Last quarter finished up the reign of King David from 2 Samuel and now we pick up with David's son Solomon as he takes the throne and heralds in the golden age of Israel as recounted in 1 Kings.

Our discussion guide will be emailed out to the congregation the previous week. If you are NOT on our email mailing list and would like to receive the discussion guide, please text or email pastor Aaron at (208) 949-5431, or [pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com](mailto:pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com)

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

**4<sup>TH</sup> Wednesday of the month @ 12:30 in the Fireside Room**



The Women's Missionary Group has settled on "His Last Words" what Jesus taught and prayed in His last hours, by Kim Erickson. It impacts the importance of Jesus's last words of eternal life, powerful and full of love. If you've been longing for more intimacy in your relationship with God, more meaning in your life and more boldness in your witness, "His Last Words" will draw you into what you need: The Word of God. Ladies, if you are interested, join our Ladies Bible Study on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

*Aileen Rhoades*



## Bible Discovery

*Women's Bible Study*

Every other Thursday 1:30

@ Laura Brasser's House

(Call the Church office for details and location (541) 884-5057)

# February 2023

February 2023							March 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
26	27	28											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1 11:30am Men's Group (Waffle Hut & Eatery (106 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601)) 2:30pm Peace Ringers practice	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 Communion	6 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside ; Rm)	7 3:00pm Goode's Group (Goode's Home) 3:00pm King's Group (King's Home)	8 11:30am Men's Group (Waffle Hut & Eatery (106 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601)) 2:30pm Peace Ringers practice	9 10:30am Missions & Outreach 1:30pm Laura Brasser's Bible Study (Laura Brasser's Home)	10 Office Closed	11
12 10:30am Worship	13 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside ; Rm) 1:00pm Session	14 10:30am PMWVG Board Mtg 3:00pm Goode's Group (Goode's Home) 3:00pm King's Group (King's Home)	15 10:00am Crafts Fellowship 11:30am Men's Group (Waffle Hut & Eatery (106 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601)) 2:30pm Peace Ringers practice	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons	20 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside ; Rm) 4:00pm Stewardship/Finance	21 3:00pm Goode's Group (Goode's Home) 3:00pm King's Group (King's Home)	22 Articles due to the office for Newsletter 11:30am Men's Group (Waffle Hut & Eatery (106 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601)) 12:30pm PMWVG 2:30pm Peace Ringers	23 1:30pm Laura Brasser's Bible Study (Laura Brasser's Home)	24 Office Closed	25
26 10:30am Worship	27 10:00am Women's Group (Fireside ; Rm) 1:30pm Building & Grounds	28 3:00pm Goode's Group (Goode's Home) 3:00pm King's Group (King's Home)	Mar 1	2	3	4



Peace Memorial  
Presbyterian (EPC)

4431 South 6th St.  
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Phone: 541-884-5057

E-mail: [office@peacepres.org](mailto:office@peacepres.org)

Pastor: [pastoraaronep@yahoo.com](mailto:pastoraaronep@yahoo.com)

We're on the web!

[www.peaceEPC.com](http://www.peaceEPC.com)

"like" us on Facebook

"Give thanks in every  
circumstance, for this  
is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus."

-1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Sermons for February:**

2/5 - *The Nature of Scripture*  
2 Timothy 3:10-17

2/12 - *Preach the Word*  
2 Timothy 4:1-8

2/19 - *Hope When Things go Crazy*  
2 Timothy 4:9-22

2/23 - ASH WEDNESDAY  
*How Lonely Sits the City*  
Lamentations 1:1-22

2/26 - Lent I  
*The Lord Has Destroyed*  
Lamentations 2:1-22



**DEACONS**

- Vicki Zeller
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Susan Orton
- Bertra Bratton
- Paul King
- Marjorie Divine

**SESSION/ELDERS**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor Aaron Beaty- | Moderator             |
| Noreen Rhoades-     | Clerk/ Discipleship   |
| Kathy Todd-         | Finance & Stewardship |
| Bob Wincentsen-     | Discipleship          |
| Geri Coker-         | Mission and Outreach  |
| Jim Zeller-         | Building and Grounds  |
| Betty Shaw-         | Worship               |
| Stephen Goode-      | Building and Grounds  |

**TRUSTEES**

- Sharron Goode
- Sharon Haddock
- Stephen Goode
- Harold Heaton

*The Deacons meet the third  
Sunday of each month  
following worship.*

*The Session meets the 2nd Monday of  
each month from 1-3PM*