

PREACHING BIBLICAL POETRY: THE DRAMA OF THE IMAGINATION

Description: when preaching on biblical poetry, preachers often rely upon explanation. They take the vivid images of the poetry and the variety of experiences it offers and reduce them to a teaching to be proclaimed. What would happen if preachers approached biblical poetry as something to be experienced in the sermon rather than merely explained?

This sectional will examine a case study of preaching on a psalm. Participants will explore what it means to read and to preach biblical poetry as a spiritually formative drama of the imagination.

I. The Challenges of Preaching Biblical Poetry:

II. Case Study: Evoking the Drama of the Imagination

A. Meditating on the Text: Psalm 29

Patterning

Imagination

B. Preaching the Text: Psalm 29

29 A PSALM OF DAVID.

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,

and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!