

37), and this psalm can only refer to the Messiah and cannot possibly refer to a mere human being (cf. vs. 10b). Thus, this psalm is a Messianic psalm.

IV. A list of Messianic psalms

The following psalms are Messianic : Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 72, 89, 102, 109, 110, and 118.

Note: (a). This list is based on the criteria for identifying Messianic psalms given above.

(b). Not everyone agrees with this list, e.g. C Hassell Bullock, in his book entitled *An Introduction To The Old Testament Poetic Books*, divides the messianic psalms into two subdivisions: 1. Those that refer to the King and his rule (Pss. 2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 61, 72, 89, 110, 132, and 142: and 2. Those that treat man and his life generally (Pss. 8, 16, 22, 35, 40, 41, 55, 69, 102, and 109).

V. Problems posed by the Messianic psalms

A. The subject of three of the Messianic psalms seems to be guilty of sin.

1. The subject of Psalm 40 (cf. vs. 12, vs. 13 in the Hebrew text)

Note: When the subject of the psalm says, “Mine iniquities have taken hold upon me,” He means he is bearing the punishment for the iniquities of others. Since he had assumed that punishment, he speaks of it as though it were his very own.

2. The subject of Psalm 69 (cf. vs. 5, vs. 6 in the Hebrew text)

Note: When the subject of the psalm says God knows his foolishness and sins, he means God knows the foolishness and sins attributed to him by his enemies, and not the foolishness and sins of which he himself is guilty.

3. The subject of Psalm 41 (cf. vs. 4-vs. 5 in the Hebrew text)

B. Some Messianic psalms don't seem to be Messianic, e.g. Pss. 8 and 102.

C. Several of the Messianic psalms are imprecatory psalms, that is, psalms, where the subject of the psalm calls down evil upon his enemies (e.g. Ps. 69—cf. vss. 22-28).

VI. Procedure for exegeting Messianic psalms

A. Exegete the psalm in its entirety.