Consider God

1. The Names of God
2. The Attributes of God
3. The Actions of God

Consider Man/Creation/Enemies:

1. The Attitude of Man
2. The Actions of Man
3. The Attacks of the Enemy

Psalm:				
God			Man/Creation/Enemies	
Names	*Attributes*	*Actions*	*Attitudes*	*Actions*
Notes:				

Psalm:				
God			Man/Creation/Enemies	
Names	*Attributes*	*Actions*	*Attitudes*	*Actions*
Notes:				

Psalm:				
God			Man/Creation/Enemies	
Names	*Attributes*	*Actions*	*Attitudes*	*Actions*
Notes:				

Using the scheme suggested above with in a few Psalms should be enough for the skill to become intuitive and instinctive. However, if you find it helpful to continue to use it, duplicate it and use it as you wish.

Pondering & Praying the Psalms

Denis J Bagot: March 7, 2003

The Psalms is the Hymn Book and the Prayer Book of the People of God. It is one of the richest devotional portions of Scriptures. It is also the best loved section of Scripture. No other place do we see God more clearly. No other place do we see ourselves more clearly. We see the entire compass of human experiences. We see man at his best, but we also see him at his worst. It is beneficial when you are glad, sad, mad and bad. Read the Psalm to see God, yourself and others. No other Book in the Bible has a greater potential to put a spark in and help you to Worship and Pray more effectively. You can start with Ps 95-100 & 145-150. Develop some skills and work yourself through the rest to find rest and refreshment.

Hebrew Poetry and Parallelism:

Hebrew poetry has rhymes and rhythm. It is not that of words but of thoughts.

Three Common Types of Parallelism: *(There are others)*

1. Synonymous Parallelism: the lines are conveying the same basic idea – Comparison cf. Ps 59:1; Ps 104:1
2. Antithetical Parallelism: the lines are conveying contrasting ideas – Contrast cf. Ps 1:6
3. Synthetic Parallelism: the lines build on each other to convey the thought – Complementing - Compilation or Connection cf. Ps 55:6

Clearest Revelation of God:

1. We see God in the highest heaven, in glory and splendour - Beauty
2. We see Him among his people in their troubles - grace, mercy, love and peace - Shalom
3. We see Him in the battlefield with His people - Victory
4. We see Him in His holiness, justice, righteousness, anger, wrath, and vengeance - Holy

Richest Experiences of Man:

1. We see man at his best and we see him at his worst. - The word of God is the mirror of the human soul
2. We see him in the highest heavens. We see him in the deepest pit
3. We see him in greatest pain, deepest joy
4. We see his noblest human qualities. We see the vilest manifestations of his depravity. The dark side of our humanity

What to do with the Psalms:

1. Read it
2. Meditate upon it
3. Study it
4. Memorize it
5. Apply it

Psalm:				
God			Man/Creation/Enemies	
Names	*Attributes*	*Actions*	*Attitudes*	*Actions*
Notes:				

Psalm:				
God			Man/Creation/Enemies	
Names	*Attributes*	*Actions*	*Attitudes*	*Actions*
Notes:				