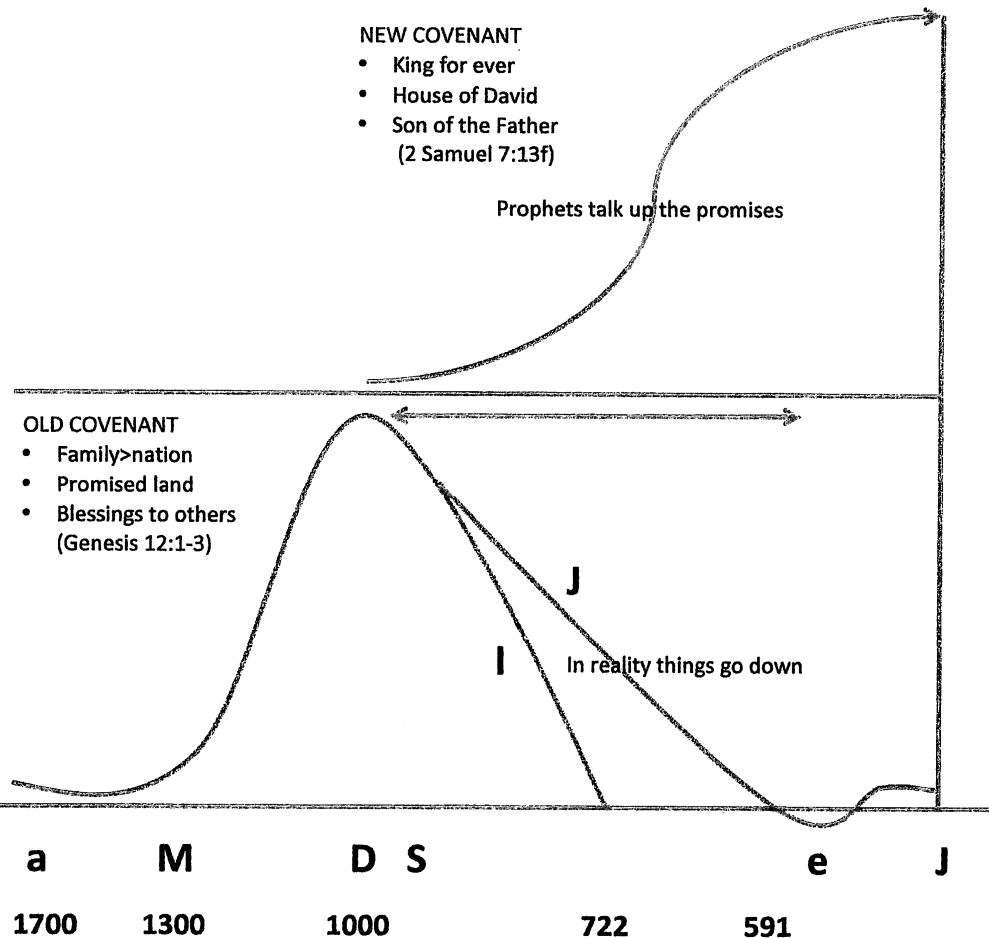


## Home Group Notes 4

### The Big Picture

## Understanding the context of Psalms

On the diagram below, to which part of the chart does the context of most psalms relate?



## Understanding the context of Psalms

1. When you see an introductory bit of text before a psalm, what do you tend to do? a) not even read it; b) read it and ignore it; c) read it & note any obvious context to help you with the message
2. Many of the psalms make their context clear. Between members of the group, look up these psalms for their context: **3, 8, 24, 45, 50, 52, 57, 72, 73, 88, 90, 92, 102, 120, 127, 137, 142**
3. Sometimes the first line claims a connection to a famous Old Testament leader such as Moses, David, Solomon (or the exiles). Does this influence your understanding of the psalm's message? if so, how? And how does it help us apply them to today?
4. Sometimes the context is even more specific, describing an event eg Psalms **18, 30, 34, 51, 59, 63** Is it important that we are told the detail of the context? If so, why?
5. Sometimes the first line is an instruction to, or authorship by, a less well known figure eg Heman the Ezrahite **88**, Ethan the Ezrahite **89**, Jeduthun **39, 77**, Korah **42, 46, 84, 85**, and Asaph **50, 74, 76**, are all likely to be Levites or others involved in leading the singing and music in tabernacle/temple worship from David's time onwards. The 'sons' of Korah and Asaph would have continued the work in succeeding generations eg psalms 74, 79. Like our hymnbook, these books of psalms will have been built up over several centuries. Which of these psalms do you find helpful for your worship? Or our worship in church?
6. Some things are different for us as New Covenant people eg church buildings are definitely not temples, there is a *new* Jerusalem now, the sacrificial system and priesthood are now defunct. How does Jesus give us a new way of seeing these things? and so how is the message of the psalms different for God's New Covenant people?

### Prayer Points

Pray for the C of E, that we may regain our love and use of the psalms

Pray for those doing the church membership course

Pray for the work of our singers and musicians in leading our worship