

Psalms – “Book of Praises”

From Whom: The Psalms are Songs and Poetry of all kinds written to God. They were written by multiple authors, and over the span of almost 850 years (Beginning with Moses 1407 B.C. on through the captivity in 586 B.C.). The general theory is that Ezra gathered or compiled the Psalms into 5 Books, but no one knows for sure.

To Whom: The Psalms are directed to God, and they help us all to express our joy, thanksgivings, blessings, and even laments. The Psalms are Israel’s ancient, God-breathed “hymnbook,” which defined the proper spirit and content of worship.

What/ Theme: The title in Hebrew means Praises or Book of Praises. The title in the Greek “psalmos” suggests the idea of an instrumental accompaniment, literally the plucking or twanging of strings. The Messiah is prominent throughout the Book of Psalms.

“Now He said to them, ‘**These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**’” (Luke 24:44 -NASB).

The Psalms show the acts of God in creation and history; the sinful acts of man; heavenly worship; and the basic theme – living real life in the real world.

Where/ Notable People: Scholars differ on the exact quantity of Psalms written by Solomon (2 or 3), the Sons of Korah (9, 10 or 11), and David (73 or 75), even the Anonymous (39 or 51). Some contribute 10 to Hezekiah, but they appear to agree on the rest: Asaph 12, with Ethan, Heman, and Moses each contributing 1.

Reminder: “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 -NASB)

Outline: (This outline attempts to combine different popular Theme’s)

I. Genesis section, Psalms 1-41 (Book I)

Man in a state of blessedness, fall, and recovery (Man in View)

Psalm 1: Perfect Man (*last Adam*)

Psalm 2: Rebellious man

Psalm 3: Perfect Man rejected

Psalm 4: Conflict between Seed of woman and serpent

Psalm 5: Perfect Man in midst of enemies

Psalm 6: Perfect Man in midst of chastisement (bruising heel)

Psalm 7: Perfect Man in midst of false witnesses

Psalm 8: Repair of man comes through Man (Jesus' bruising head)

Psalms 9-15: Enemy and Antichrist conflict; final deliverance

Psalms 16-41: Christ in midst of His people, sanctifying them to God

II. Exodus section, Psalms 42-72 (Book II)

Ruin and Redemption (Israel in View)

Psalms 42-49: Israel's ruin

Psalms 50-60: Israel's Redeemer

Psalms 61-72: Israel's redemption

III. Leviticus section, Psalms 73-89 (Book III)

Darkness and Dawn (Sanctuary in View)

Psalms 73-83: "Asaph psalms" (2 Chronicles 29:30)

Psalms 84-89: Looking to the future

IV. Numbers section, Psalms 90-106 (Book IV)

Peril and Protection of Pilgrims (Earth in View)

Psalms 90-93: Our Fortress, the Most High, Worthy (*Moses Prays v90, Deut. 33*)

Psalms 94-100: Kingdom songs (*celebrating the Messiah's reign*)

Psalms 101-106: Praise to the King

V. Deuteronomy section, Psalms 107-150 (Book V)

Perfection and Praise of the Word of God

Psalms 107-112: Redeemed, Security, Justice, Messianic (v109-v110)

Psalms 113-118: Hallel psalms (*Hebrew hallēl: praise*)

Psalms 120-134: Pilgrim psalms

Psalms 135-145: David sings praise, Love endures, Rescuer, Refuge, Unfailing love

Psalms 146-150: Hallelujah psalms

Note: **Psalm 119**, an acrostic in the heart of this section, refers to the **Word of God** in almost every verse. It is the longest chapter in the entire Bible and each of the 22 verses starts with the letter from the Hebrew alphabet, in order, Alpha to Omega.

PSALMS AT A GLANCE					
Book	Book I (1–41)	Book II (42–72)	Book III (73–89)	Book IV (90–106)	Book V (107–150)
Chief Author	David	David And Korah	Asaph	Anonymous	David And Anonymous
Number Of Psalms	41	31	17	17	44
Basic Content	Songs Of Worship	Hymns Of National Interest		Anthems Of Praise	
Topical Likeness To Pentateuch	Genesis: Man And Creation	Exodus: Deliverance And Redemption	Leviticus: Worship And Sanctuary	Numbers: Wilderness And Wandering	Deuteronomy: Scripture And Praise
Closing Doxology	41:13	72:18, 19	89:52	106:48	150:1–6
Possible Compiler	David	Hezekiah Or Josiah		Ezra Or Nehemiah	
Possible Dates Of Compilation	c. 1020–970 B.C.	c. 970–610 B.C.		Until c. 430 B.C.	
Span Of Authorship	About 1,000 Years (c. 1410–430 B.C.)				

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Messianic Psalms

Psalm	Portrayal	Fulfilled
2:7	The Son of God	Matthew 3:17
8:2	Praised by children	Matthew 21:15, 16
8:6	Ruler of all	Hebrews 2:8
16:10	Rises from death	Matthew 28:7
22:1	Forsaken by God	Matthew 27:46
22:7, 8	Derided by enemies	Luke 23:35
22:16	Hands and feet pierced	John 20:27
22:18	Lots cast for clothes	Matthew 27:35, 36
34:20	Bones unbroken	John 19:32, 33, 36
35:11	Accused by false witnesses	Mark 14:57
35:19	Hated without cause	John 15:25
40:7, 8	Delights in God's will	Hebrews 10:7
41:9	Betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47
45:6	The eternal King	Hebrews 1:8
68:18	Ascends to heaven	Acts 1:9-11
69:9	Zealous for God's house	John 2:17
69:21	Given vinegar and gall	Matthew 27:34
109:4	Prays for enemies	Luke 23:34
109:8	His betrayer replaced	Acts 1:20
110:1	Rules over His enemies	Matthew 22:44
110:4	A priest forever	Hebrews 5:6
118:22	The chief stone of God's building	Matthew 21:42
118:26	Comes in the name of the Lord	Matthew 21:9

Psalms Timeline		
Year	Description	Chapter
1407 BC	Psalm of Moses	Psalm 90
1013 BC	David's Psalm of Deliverance (1Sa 20)	Psalm 59
1012 BC	David's Psalm Fleeing Saul (1Sa 21)	Psalm 52
1012 BC	David's Psalm Before Ahimelech (1Sa 21)	Psalm 34
1011 BC	David's Psalm at Gath (1Sa 21)	Psalm 56
1011 BC	David's Psalms in the Cave (1Sa 22)	Psalms 57, 142
1011 BC	David's Psalm at Keilah (1Sa 23)	Psalm 54
998 BC	David's Psalm of Victory (2Sa 8)	Psalm 60
998 BC	David's Psalm of Zion	Psalm 15
998 BC	David's Psalm of Glory to God	Psalm 24
998 BC	Psalms of Praise (1Ch 16)	Psalms 96, 105, 106
991 BC	David's Psalm of Repentance (2Sa 12)	Psalm 51
979 BC	Psalms of David	Psalms 2-145 (Assorted)
979 BC	Psalms of Korah	Psalms 42-44, 84, 85, 87, 88
979 BC	Psalms of Asaph	Psalm 50, 73, 75-78, 80 - 83, 89
979 BC	Psalms of Unknown Authors	Psalms 1-150 (Assorted)
972 BC	David's Psalm of Thirst for God (2Sa 16)	Psalm 63
972 BC	David Psalms of Deliverance (2Sa 17)	Psalms 41, 55
970 BC	David's Psalm of Steadfastness (2Sa 23)	Psalm 108
970 BC	David's Psalm of Salvation (1Ki 2)	Psalm 37
967 BC	Psalm for Solomon (2Ch 1)	Psalm 72
967 BC	Psalm of Korah (1Ki 3)	Psalm 45
959 BC	Psalms of Solomon (2Ch 7)	Psalms 135, 136
950 BC	Solomon Psalm of Blessing	Psalm 127
701 BC	Korah's Psalms of Refuge (2Ch 32)	Psalms 46-48
586 BC	Psalms of Desolation (Jer. 52)	Psalms 74, 79