

Outline of
Psalms



Introduction

Title

The title in Hebrew means Praises or Book of Praises. The title in the Greek suggests the idea of an instrumental accompaniment. Our title comes from the Greek psalmos.

Writers

Many writers contributed one or more psalms. They are as follows: David, 73; Moses, 1 (90th); Solomon, 2; Sons of Korah, 11; Asaph, 12; Heman, 1 (88th); Ethan, 1 (89th); Hezekiah, 10; “Orphanic,” 39.

David, “the sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1), has 73 psalms assigned to him (Psalm 2 is ascribed to him in Acts 4:25; Psalm 95 in Hebrews 4:7). Also, he could be the author of some of the “Orphanic” psalms. He had a special aptitude for and was peculiarly endowed to write these songs from experience. He arranged those in existence in his day for temple use.

Theme

Christ (the Messiah) is prominent throughout (Luke 24:44). The King and the kingdom are the theme songs of the Psalms.

Key word

Hallelujah

Key Psalm

Psalm 150. “Hallelujah” occurs 13 times in 6 verses.

Features

The Psalms record deep devotion, intense feeling, exalted emotion, and dark dejection. The Psalms play with all the stops pulled out upon the keyboard of the human soul.

They run the psychological gamut. This book has been called the epitome and anatomy of the soul and designated as the garden of the Scriptures. The place Psalms have held in the lives of God’s people testifies to their universality, although they have a peculiar Jewish application. They express the deep feelings of all believing hearts in all generations.

The Psalms are full of Christ. There is a more complete picture of Him in Psalms than in the Gospels. The Gospels tell us that He went to the mountain to pray, but the Psalms give us His prayer. The Gospels tell us that He was crucified, but the Psalms tell us what went on in His own heart during the crucifixion. The Gospels tell us He went back to heaven, but the Psalms begin where the Gospels leave off and show us Christ seated in heaven.

There are many types of psalms. Although all of them have Christ as the object of worship, some are technically called messianic psalms. These record the birth, life, death, resurrection, glory, priesthood, kingship, and return of Christ. The imprecatory psalms have caused the most criticism because of their vindictiveness and prayers for judgment. (Christians are told to love their enemies.)

These psalms come from a time of war and from a people who, under law, were looking for justice and peace on the earth. They look to a time coming on the earth when the Antichrist will be in power. We have no reasonable basis to say how people should act and what they should say under those circumstances. Other types of psalms include penitential, historic, nature, pilgrim, Hallel, missionary, puritan, acrostic, and praise of God's Word.

Outline

One of the more noticeable features about the Book of Psalms is the systematic arrangement. This reveals that they were not put together in a haphazard manner; there is definite organization.

The major divisions correspond to the Pentateuch (see outline). This is not an artificial division but follows rather closely the Pentateuch of Moses. In each major division there are lesser divisions of clusters and series of psalms which develop a particular subject.

The Psalms were probably all set to music, both vocal and instrumental. It must have been a thrilling experience to hear several thousand voices singing them to the accompaniment of a great orchestra. Psalm 150, probably the theme of the book, could well be the chorus of every psalm.

Source: Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

HEBREW POETRY

"PARALLELISM" Thought - rhyme
Balance of SENSE, not SOUND

I. SYNONYMOUS Same thought - different words

<p style="margin: 0;">a. SIMPLY REPEATED</p> <p style="margin: 0;">"Where can I <u>go</u> from your <u>spirit</u>?" "Where can I <u>flee</u> from your <u>presence</u>?"</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">b. TAKEN FURTHER</p> <p style="margin: 0;">"O Lord, do not <u>rebu</u>ke me in your anger, Or <u>discipli</u>ne me in your wrath Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am <u>faint</u>." O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in <u>agony</u>."</p>
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2. ANTITHETIC Opposite thought

"Those who sow in tears
Will reap with songs of joy.
He who goes out reaping, carrying seed to sow,
Will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him."

3. SYNTHETIC Added thought

"The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want;
He makes me lie down in green pastures
He leads me beside still waters."

PSALMS

BOOKS:

I	1-41	(41)
II	42-72	(30)
III	73-89	(16)
IV	90-106	(16)
V	107-150	(43)

DIVINE NAMES

YAHWEH	ELOHIM
<u>272</u>	15
74	<u>207</u>
13	36
} <u>339</u>	7

AUTHORS

DAVID ~ most in I and II, some in V
 SONS OF KORAH ~ in II (42-49) and III
 SONS OF ASAPH ~ in III (73-83)
 ANONYMOUS ~ some in IV, most in V
 MOSES ~ one in IV (90)

Ein Gedi



Masada



Part I & II

PSALMS

GROUPS:

22-24 : Cross, crook & crown

96-99 : God is king

113-118 : Hallel (Passover)

120-134 : Songs of ascent

146-150 : Hallelujah!

TYPES:

LAMENT (most)

GRATITUDE (many)

PENITENCE (few)

SPECIAL CATEGORIES:

ROYAL

MESSIANIC

WISDOM

'IMPRECATORY'

I. Genesis section

Chapters 1 – 41

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

It has been well stated that the Book of Genesis is the entire Bible in miniature — all great truths of Scripture are germinal in Genesis. The first few psalms cover the entire Book of Psalms in the same way.

Jehovah and Elohim are the two names for God in this section, although Jehovah occurs more often:

- Jehovah (Redeemer) — 272 times
- Elohim (Creator) — 15 times

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 (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

Chapters 42 – 72

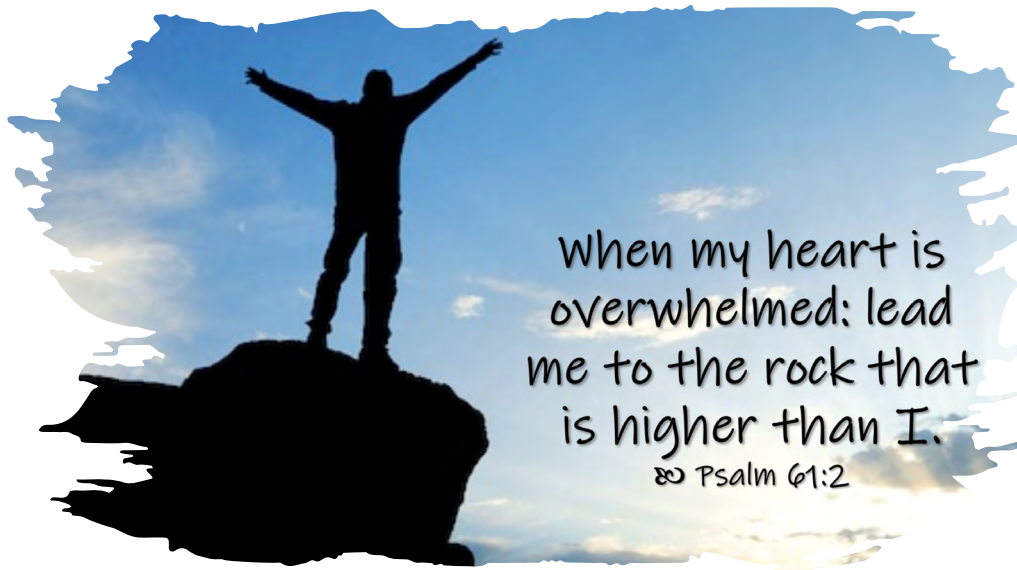
Ruin and Redemption (Israel in View)

(David wrote 19 of these psalms.)

Psalm 42 – 49: Israel's ruin

Psalms 50 – 60: Israel's Redeemer

Psalms 61 – 72: Israel's redemption



When my heart is
overwhelmed; lead
me to the rock that
is higher than I.
80 Psalm 61:2

III. Leviticus section

Chapters 73 – 89

Darkness and Dawn (Sanctuary in View)

Tabernacle, temple, house, assembly, and congregation appear in almost every psalm.



For a day in Your
courts is better than
a thousand. I would
rather be a doorkeeper
in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents
of wickedness.

Psalm 84:10

IV. Numbers section

Chapters 90 – 106

Peril and Protection of Pilgrims (Earth in View)

We do not become pilgrims until we become strangers.

He who dwells in
the shelter of the
Most High will
rest in the shadow
of the Almighty.

- Psalm 91:1 -



V. Deuteronomy section

Chapters 107 – 150

Perfection and Praise of the Word of God

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 Bible.

Before we can know Him, we must know the Word. Sin came through the broken Word; Israel scattered through the broken Word; Sanctuary destroyed through the broken Word.



Quiz on Psalms

1. In Psalm 2, what does God say that he'll give David as an inheritance if he asks?

2. David said what declares the glory of God?

3. According to Psalm 4, why can we lie down and sleep in peace?

4. Who was Psalm 7 written about?

5. Psalm 15 describes what kind of person?

6. The words of the Lord are like refined silver, purified how many times?

7. The phrase, 'Into thine hand I commit my spirit,' was used by Jesus on the Cross, what other New Testament figure used similar words?

8. The psalmist suffered 'as sheep for the slaughter' because of his faith in God; what New Testament figure quoted that verse?

9. In the New Testament, which figure quoted several Psalm 91 verses, beginning with 'For he shall give his angels charge over thee'?

10. What separates the sections of Psalm 119?

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