

Psalms		
Book 1—Rise of the King		
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 2	Psalm 1–2
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 3	Psalm 3–4
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 6	Psalm 5–9
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 7	Psalm 10–12
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 8	Psalm 13–17
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 9	Psalm 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 10	Psalm 19–21
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 13	Psalm 22
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 14	Psalm 23–25
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 15	Psalm 26–29
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 16	Psalm 30–31
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 17	Psalm 32–34
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 20	Psalm 35
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 21	Psalm 36–37
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 22	Psalm 38
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 23	Psalm 39–41

When studying a psalm, ask:

- (1) Is it primarily individual or corporate?
- (2) What is the purpose and what themes are found (praise, cry for help, future hope, thanksgiving)?
- (3) What people or places are in view (the righteous, king, nation(s), the temple, a mountain or city)?

Book 2—Rise of the Kingdom		
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 24	Psalm 42–44
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 27	Psalm 45–47
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 28	Psalm 48–49
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 29	Psalm 50–51
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 30	Psalm 52–55
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 31	Psalm 56–58
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 3	Psalm 59–61
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 4	Psalm 62–65
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 5	Psalm 66–68
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 6	Psalm 69
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 7	Psalm 70–71

Summary

The book of Psalms may appear in the center of the Christian Bible intentionally. They are divinely inspired responses of the human heart to God’s revelation of Himself—the very heart and soul of the conversation that takes place between the people of God and God Himself. The Psalter’s popularity over thousands of years is easily understood when considering the human experience within various circumstances. The Psalms articulate the innermost joys, aspirations, doubts, and fears of God’s people.

Many psalms address God directly with their poetic, and sometimes prophetic, expressions of petition and praise. The psalmists often drew on their experiences for examples of people’s needs and God’s goodness and mercy. Singing of past deliverances in easily remembered lyrics provided support and comfort for believers in their hours of trial, as well as warning them against unbelief and disobedience.

Key Theme & Types

The key theme is worship, expressed within the various types of psalms, which include: hymns of praise (Ps. 96), thanksgivings (Ps. 116), songs of Zion (Ps. 48), royal psalms (Ps. 72), both individual (Ps. 22) and community (Ps. 44) laments, processional hymns (Ps. 15), songs of trust (Ps 27), taunts (Ps. 53), and wisdom psalms (Ps. 49).

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Content & Structure

The Psalter has an intentional shape—meaning that editors and compilers arranged the individual psalms in the order we have them for a particular purpose. It is possible that the division into **five books** (1–41; 42–72; 73–89; 90–106; 107–150), separated by **four doxologies** (41:13; 72:18-19; 89:52; 106:48) is a conscious imitation of the five books of Moses in the Law. The editorial comment in Psalm 72:20 notes that the psalms of David were ended, but Davidic psalms are found later (86; 101; 103, et.al.) suggesting some of these psalms may have been independent for a time before being arranged into five books.

Word Structure. In Hebrew poetry, little corresponds with Western concepts of rhyme and meter. Generally, every line contains between 2-4 words, accented in relationship to its main syllable, forming a simple type of meter.

Parallelism. The most obvious feature of Hebrew poetry is that the unit is not a verse or a single line but a balanced couplet, with a short pause between the lines and a more definite pause at the end of each couplet. Though there are others, the main types of parallelism are:

- (1) **Synonymous**—here the lines, repeating the same thought, reinforce one another (e.g. Ps. 1:2, 5; 49:1; 61:1; 83:14).
- (2) **Antithetic**—there is a contrast of some kind between the two lines (e.g. Ps. 1:6; 37:9; 90:6).
- (3) **Synthetic**—where the second line completes or supplements the thought of the first (e.g. Ps 3:4).
- (4) **Climactic or stair-like parallelism**—where part of the first line is repeated, the thought then being carried forward an extra step. Sometimes a triplet, as an alternative to the couplet, utilizes this method (e.g. Ps. 29:1-2; cf. 96:7-8).

Acrostic Poems. In these, each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet (which contains 22 letters). Psalms 9; 10; 25; 34; 37; 111; 112; 145 employ this method, while Psalm 119 contains 22 eight-verse sections, every verse in each separate section beginning with the appropriate letter of the alphabet.



Book 3—Exile		
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 10	Psalm 72-73
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 11	Psalm 74
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 12	Psalm 75-77
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 13	Psalm 78
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 14	Psalm 79
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 17	Psalm 80-81
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 18	Psalm 82-84
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 19	Psalm 85-87
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 20	Psalm 88-89

Book 5—Reign of “The” King		
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 3	Psalm 107
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 4	Psalm 108
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 5	Psalm 109
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 8	Psalm 110-113
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 9	Psalm 114-116
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 10	Psalm 117-118
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 11	Psalm 119:1-40
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 12	Psalm 119:41-80
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 15	Psalm 119:81-120
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 16	Psalm 119:121-176
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 17	Psalm 120-122
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 18	Psalm 123-129
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 19	Psalm 130-134
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 22	Psalm 135-136
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 23	Psalm 137-139
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 24	Psalm 140-142
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 25	Psalm 143-145
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 26	Psalm 146-147
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 29	Psalm 148-150

Book 4—Hope		
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 21	Psalm 90
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 24	Psalm 91-92
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 25	Psalm 93-95
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 26	Psalm 96-99
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 27	Psalm 100-102
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 28	Psalm 103-104
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 1	Psalm 105
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 2	Psalm 106

Theology of the Psalms

In both adversity and prosperity, the psalmists show a strong faith in God and a clear conception of his attributes. He is seen in personal relationships with individuals and the covenant community. Understandably, anthropomorphisms (ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman things) abound, with references to God’s voice, words, ears, eyes, face, or hands and fingers.

The Psalter is a “God-centered” book showing the vast gulf between Creator and creature (Ps. 8:3-4; 145:3-4). But, despite this vast gulf and the limitations of this earthly life, man has been given a worthy place and calling (Ps. 90:9-10). In the will of God, man occupies a responsible, mediating position, one with authority over all other created beings (Ps. 8:5-8). Though the relationship with a righteous God is endangered by sin (Ps. 106), God is gracious and long-suffering (Ps. 103), faithful and forgiving (Ps. 130).



SCAN TO LISTEN

How to Pray the Psalms
ask Pastor John

150 Hebrew Poems

DAVID (73) HEPMAN & EPHAN (2)
 ASAPH (12) SOLOMON & MOSES (3)
 SONS OF KORAH (11) ANONYMOUS (17)

MANY WRITTEN FOR CHOIR... BUT NOT A HYMNBOOK

(SEE 1 CHRONICLES 25 & PSALM 119:22-23)

PSALMS

Torah & Messiah Lament & Praise Faith & Hope

HOW LONG, O LORD?

LAMENT
 - PRAYERS OF PAIN, CONFUSION, & ANGER
 - DRAW ATTENTION TO CHRIST'S CARING IN THE WORLD
 - ASK GOD TO DO SOMETHING

PRAYERS OF JOY & CELEBRATION
 - DRAW ATTENTION TO CHRIST'S GOOD IN THE WORLD
 - RETELL THE STORY & THANK GOD

PRAYERS OF THANKS
 - GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD

LAMENT & PRAISE

BOOK 1 (3-41)
 1. BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO MEDITATES ON THE TORAH
 2. POETIC REFLECTION ON 2 SAMUEL 7
 15. CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS
 16-18. DAVID'S PAST DELIVERANCE
 19. PSALM 19 TORAH
 20-23. PRIME KING'S DELIVERANCE
 24. CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

BOOK 2 (42-72)
 12-13. HOPE FOR A FUTURE RETURN TO THE TEMPLE IN ZION
 17. FUTURE REIGN OF THE MESSIANIC KING
 118-119. FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

BOOK 3 (73-89)
 89. PROMISE OF A MESSIANIC KINGDOM
 VERSE: EXILE & DOWNFALL OF DAVID'S KINGDOM
 138-139. DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE

BOOK 4 (90-106)
 90. HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SERVANTS!
 120-122. THE LORD REIGNS AS KING
 106-108. LET THE TREES CLAP, LET THE MOUNTAINS & RIVERS SING

BOOK 5 (107-150)
 107-110. THE MESSIANIC KING
 110-116. THE HALLEL
 117-118. THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM
 119. PSALM 119 TORAH
 120-136. THE SONGS OF ASCENTS
 137-139. THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM
 146. HALLELU-YAH
 147. HALLELU-YAH
 148. HALLELU-YAH
 149. HALLELU-YAH
 150. HALLELU-YAH

PSALMS = THE PRAYERBOOK OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE TORAH AND WAITING FOR THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM

MAY THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL BE BLESSED FOREVER, AMEN AND AMEN

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