

Psalms		
Book 1—Rise of the King		
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 9	Psalm 1–2
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 10	Psalm 3–4
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 13	Psalm 5–9
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 14	Psalm 10–12
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 15	Psalm 13–17
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 16	Psalm 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 17	Psalm 19–21
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 20	Psalm 22
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 21	Psalm 23–25
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 22	Psalm 26–29
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 23	Psalm 30–31
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 24	Psalm 32–34
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 27	Psalm 35
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 28	Psalm 36–37
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 29	Psalm 38
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 30	Psalm 39–41
Book 2—Rise of the Kingdom		
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 31	Psalm 42–44
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 3	Psalm 45–47
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 4	Psalm 48–49
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 5	Psalm 50–51
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 6	Psalm 52–55
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 7	Psalm 56–58
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 10	Psalm 59–61
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 11	Psalm 62–65
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 12	Psalm 66–68
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 13	Psalm 69
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 14	Psalm 70–71

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)?

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.



Psalms		
Book 3—Exile		
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 17	Psalms 72-73
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 18	Psalms 74
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 19	Psalms 75-77
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 20	Psalms 78
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 21	Psalms 79
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 24	Psalms 80-81
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 25	Psalms 82-84
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 26	Psalms 85-87
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 27	Psalms 88-89

Book 4—Hope		
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 28	Psalms 90
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 1	Psalms 91-92
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 2	Psalms 93-95
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 3	Psalms 96-99
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 4	Psalms 100-102
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 5	Psalms 103-104
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 8	Psalms 105
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 9	Psalms 106

Book 5—Reign of “The” King		
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 10	Psalms 107
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 11	Psalms 108
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 12	Psalms 109
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 15	Psalms 110-113
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 16	Psalms 114-116
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 17	Psalms 117-118
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 18	Psalms 119:1-40
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 19	Psalms 119:41-80
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 22	Psalms 119:81-120
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 23	Psalms 119:121-176
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 24	Psalms 120-122
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 25	Psalms 123-129
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 26	Psalms 130-134
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 29	Psalms 135-136
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 30	Psalms 137-139
<input type="checkbox"/>	July 31	Psalms 140-142
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 1	Psalms 143-145
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 2	Psalms 146-147
<input type="checkbox"/>	August 5	Psalms 148-150

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) HEBMAN & ETHAN (2)
ASAPH (12) SOLOMON & MOSES (3)
SONS OF KORAH (11) ANONYMOUS (17)

MANY WRITTEN FOR CHOIR... BUT NOT A HYMNBOOK

(SEE 1 CHRONICLES 25 & PSALMS 119:1-22:72)

PSALMS

Torah & Messiah Lament & Praise Faith & Hope

HOW LONG, O LORD?

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

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

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
3. CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS
4. DAVID'S POST-DELIVERANCE ELEVATION AS KING
5. PSALM 19 TORAH
6. FUTURE KING'S DELIVERANCE
7. KINGDOM OVER THE NATIONS
8. CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

BOOK 2 42-72
9. HOPE FOR A FUTURE RETURN TO THE TEMPLE IN ZION
10. FUTURE REIGN OF THE MESSIANIC KING
11. ECHOES THE PROPHECY-ISAIAH 11, 45 & 60
12. ZEPHANIAH 9
13. FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM (PS 72:17-68:12:3 & 22:17)

BOOK 3 73-89
14. PROMISE OF A MESSIANIC KINGDOM
15. EXILE & DOWNFALL OF DAVID'S KINGDOM
16. DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE

BOOK 4 90-106
17. HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SERVANTS!
18. THE LORD REIGNS AS KING
19. LET THE TREES CLAT, LET THE MOUNTAINS & RIVERS SING

BOOK 5 107-145
20. THE MESSIANIC KING
21. DEFEATS EVIL & BRINGS GOD'S KINGDOM
22. THE HALLEL
23. MESSIANIC KINGDOM
24. PSALM 119 TORAH
25. THE SONGS OF ASCENTS
26. 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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