

# Psalms

**MEANING:** “Book of Praises” because almost every psalm contains some note of praise to God.

**AUTHOR:** A number of authors. Some are known; some are unknown; some are speculative.

- Almost half (73 Psalms) are attributed to David.
- 12 were by Asaph.
- 10 by the sons of Korah.
- 2 by Solomon. (Psalms 2 & 127)
- 1 by Moses. (Psalm 90)
- 1 by Heman.
- 1 by Ethan
- 50 are anonymous
- Some of the anonymous Psalms are attributed to Ezra.

**TIME WRITTEN:** The Psalms cover a wide span from Moses (1410 B.C.) to the post exilic community under Ezra and Nehemiah (40 B.C.)

**POSITION IN THE BIBLE:**

- 19th Book in the Bible
- 19th book in the Old Testament
- 2nd of 5 Poetical books
- 18 have preceded it. 47 to follow it.

**CHAPTERS:** 150

**VERSES:** 2,461

**WORDS:** 43,743

**KEY WORD:** Worship

**TWO KEY PASSAGES:**

0. **Psalm 19:14** – Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.
2. **Psalm 145:21** - mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

**KEY CHAPTER:** Psalm 100

1. The two central themes of worship and praise are beautifully wed in the 100th Psalm.

**OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PSALMS:**

1. The Book of Psalms is the longest and perhaps most widely used book in the Bible.
2. Its 150 songs run from the Creation through the patriarchal, theocratic, monarchical, exilic, and postexilic periods of the Old Testament.

3. The tremendous breadth of subject matter in the Psalms includes such diverse topics as:
  - a. Jubilation.
  - b. War.
  - c. Peace.
  - d. Worship
  - e. Judgment.
  - f. Messianic prophecy.
  - g. Praise.
  - g. Lament.
4. Among the many favorites of the psalms are:
 

a. Psalm 1	e. Psalm 24	i. Psalm 101
b. Psalm 19	f. Psalm 37	J. Psalm 119
c. Psalm 22	g. Psalm 72	k. Psalm 121
d. Psalm 23	h. Psalm 100	l. Psalm 150
5. The Book of Psalms is actually five books.
  - a. Book one : Psalms 1-41
  - b. Book two: Psalms 43-72
  - c. Book three: Psalms 73-89
  - d. Book four: Psalms 90-106
  - e. Book five: Psalms 107-150
6. There are ten types of Psalms:
  - a. **INDIVIDUAL LAMENT PSALMS**
    1. These are directly addressed to God, petitioning Him to rescue and defend an individual.
    2. They contain five elements:
      - a. An introduction (usually a cry unto God).
      - b. The lament.
      - c. A confession of trust in God.
      - d. The petition.
      - e. A declaration or vow of praise.
    3. Most Psalms are of this type. (3-7; 12; 13; 22; 25-28; 35; 38-40; 42; 43; 51; 54-57; 59; 61; 63; 64; 69-71; 86; 88; 102; 109; 120; 130; 140-143)
  - b. **COMMUNAL LAMENT PSALMS**
    1. The only difference between the communal and the individual laments Psalms is that the nation rather than the individual makes the lament.
    2. Examples: 44; 60; 74; 79; 80; 83; 85; 90; 123
  - c. **INDIVIDUAL THANKSGIVING PSALMS**
    1. The Psalmist publicly acknowledges God's activity on his behalf.

2. These Psalms thank God for something He has already done or express confidence in what He will yet do.
3. They contain four elements:
  - a. A proclamation to praise God.
  - b. A summary statement.
  - c. A report of deliverance.
  - d. A renewed vow of praise.
4. Examples: 18; 30; 32; 34; 40; 41; 66; 106; 116; 138
- d. **COMMUNAL THANKSGIVING PSALMS**
  1. In these Psalms the acknowledgment is made by the nation rather than by an individual.
  2. Examples: 124; 129
- e. **GENERAL PRAISE PSALMS**
  1. These Psalms are more general than the thanksgiving Psalms.
  2. The psalmist attempts to magnify the name of God and boast about His greatness.
  3. Examples: 8; 19; 29; 103; 104; 139; 148; 150
  4. The joyous exclamation “hallelujah” (“praise the Lord”) is found in several of these Psalms
- f. **DESCRIPTIVE PRAISE PSALMS**
  1. These Psalms praise God for His attributes and acts.
  2. Examples: 33; 36; 15; 111; 113; 117; 135; 136; 146; 147
- g. **ENTHRONEMENT PSALMS**
  1. These Psalms describe God’s sovereign reign over all.
  2. Examples: 27; 83-99
- h. **PILGRIMAGE PSALMS**
  1. Also known as Songs of Zion.
  2. These Psalms were sung by pilgrims traveling up to Jerusalem for the three annual religious feasts:
    - a. Passover.
    - b. Pentecost.
    - c. Tabernacles.
  3. Examples: 43; 46; 48; 76; 84; 87; 120-134
- i. **ROYAL PSALMS**
  1. The reigns of the earthly king and the heavenly king are portrayed in these Psalms.
  2. Examples: 2; 18; 20; 21; 45; 72; 89; 101; 110; 132; 14
- j. **WISDOM AND DIDACTIC PSALMS**
  1. The reader is exhorted and instructed in the way of righteousness.
  2. Examples: 1; 37; 119
7. There are five different types of Messianic Psalms:

- a. **TYPICAL MESSIANIC**
    1. The subject of the Psalm is in some respects a type of Christ.
    2. Examples: 4:20; 69:4, 9
  - b. **TYPICAL PROPHETIC**
    1. The psalmist uses language to describe his present experience, which points beyond his own life and becomes historically true only in Christ.
    2. Example: 22
  - c. **INDIRECTLY MESSIANIC**
    1. At the time of composition the Psalm refers to a king or the house of David in general, but waits final fulfillment in Christ.
    2. Examples: 2; 45; 72
  - d. **PURELY PROPHETIC**
    1. Refers solely to Christ without reference to any other son of David.
    2. Example: 110
  - e. **ENTHRONEMENT**
    1. Anticipates the coming of Yahweh and the consummation of His kingdom which will be fulfilled in the Person of Christ.
    2. Examples: 96-99
4. Some of the specific Messianic prophecies in the Book of Psalms include:

PSALM	PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
2:7	God will declare Him to be his Son	Matthew 3:17
8:6	All things will be put under His feet	Hebrews 2:8
16:10	He will be resurrected from the dead	Mark 16:6-7
22:1	God will forsake Him in His hour of need	Matthew 27:46
22:7-8	He will scorned and mocked	Luke 23:35
22:16	His hands and feet will be pierced	John 20:25-27
22:18	Others will gamble for His clothes	Matthew 27:35-36
34:20	Not one of His bones will be broken	John 19:32-33, 36
35:11	He will be accused by false witnesses	Mark 14:57
35:19	He will be hated without a cause	John 15:25
40:7-8	He will come to do God's will	Hebrews 10:7
41:9	He will be betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47
45:6	His throne will be forever	Hebrews 1:8

- 68:18 He will ascend to God's right hand ——— Mark 16:19  
69:9 Zeal for God's house will consume Him — John 2:17  
69:21 He will be given vinegar and gall to drink — Matthew 27:34  
109:4 He will pray for His enemies ——— Luke 23:34  
109:8 His betrayer's office will be taken by another Acts 1:20  
110:1 His enemies will be made subject to Him Matthew 22:44  
110:4 He will be a priest like Melchizedek ——— Hebrews 5:6  
118:22 He will be the chief cornerstone ——— Matthew 21:42  
118:26 He will come in the name of the Lord ——— Matthew 21:9

## **SUMMARY OF PSALMS**

### **BOOK ONE (Psalms 1 - 41)**

1. Two ways of Life Contrasted
2. Coronation of the Lord's Anointed
3. Victory in the face of Defeat
4. Evening Prayer for Deliverance
5. Morning Prayer for Guidance
6. Prayer for God's Mercy
7. Wickedness Justly Rewarded
8. God's Glory and Human Dominion
9. Praise for Victory over Enemies
10. Petition for God's judgment
11. God Tests the Sons of Men
12. The Pure Words of the Lord
13. The Prayer for God's Answer—Now
14. The Characteristics of the Godless
15. The Characteristics of the Godly
16. Eternal Life for the One Who Trusts
17. "Hide Me Under the Shadow of your Wings"
18. Thanksgiving for Deliverance by God
19. The Works and Words of God
20. Trust Not in Chariots and Horses but in God
21. Triumph of the King
22. Psalm of the Cross
23. Psalm of the Shepherd

24. Psalm of the King of Glory
25. Acrostic Prayer for Instruction
26. "Examine Me, O Lord, and Prove me"
27. Trust in the Lord and Be Not Afraid
28. Rejoice Because of Answered Prayer
29. The Powerful Voice of God
30. Praise for Dramatic Deliverance
31. "Be of Good Courage"
32. The Blessedness of Forgiveness
33. God Considers All Human Works
34. Seek the Lord
35. Petition for God's intervention
36. The Excellent Loving-kindness of God
37. "Rest in the Lord"
38. The Heavy Burden of Sin
39. Know the Measure of Human Days
40. Delight to Do God's Will
41. The Blessedness of Helping the Poor

## **BOOK TWO (Psalms 42 - 72)**

42. Seek After the Lord
43. "Hope is God"
44. Prayer for Deliverance by God
45. The Psalm of the Great King
46. "God is Our refuge and Strength"
47. The Lord Shall Subdue All nations
48. The Praise of Mount Zion
49. Riches Cannot Redeem
50. The Lord Shall Judge All People
51. Confession and Forgiveness of Sin
52. The Lord Shall Judge the Deceitful
53. A Portrait of the Godless
54. The Lord is Our helper
55. "Cast Your Burden on the Lord"
56. Fears in the Midst of Trials
57. Prayers in the Midst of Perils
58. Wicked Judges Will Be judged
59. Petition for Deliverance from Enemies
60. A Prayer for Deliverance of the Nation
61. A Prayer When Overwhelmed
62. Wait For God
63. Thirst For God

- 64. A Prayer For God's Protection
- 65. God's Provision Through Nature
- 66. Remember What God has Done
- 67. God Shall govern the Earth
- 68. God is the Father of the fatherless
- 69. Petition for God to Draw Near
- 70. Prayer for the Poor and Needy
- 71. Prayer for the Aged
- 72. The Reign of the Messiah

### **BOOK THREE (Psalms 73-89)**

- 73. The Perspective of Eternity
- 74. Request for God to remember His Covenant
- 75. "God is the Judge"
- 76. The Glorious Might of God
- 77. When overwhelmed, Remember God's Greatness
- 78. God's Continued Guidance in Spite of Unbelief
- 79. Avenge the Defilement of Jerusalem
- 80. Israel's Plea for God's Mercy
- 81. God's Plea For Israel's Obedience
- 82. Rebuke of Israel's Unjust Judges
- 83. Plea for God to Destroy Israel's Enemies
- 84. The Joy of Dwelling with God
- 85. Prayer for Revival
- 86. "Teach Me Your Way, O Lord"
- 87. Glorious Zion, City of God
- 88. Crying from Deepest Affliction
- 89. Claiming God's Promises in Affliction

### **BOOK FOUR (Psalms 90-106)**

- 90. "Teach Us to Number Our Days"
- 91. Abiding in "the Shadow of the Almighty"
- 92. It is Good to Praise the Lord
- 93. The majesty of God
- 94. Vengeance Belongs Only to God
- 95. Call to Worship the Lord
- 96. Declare the Glory of God
- 97. Rejoice! The Lord Reigns!
- 98. Sing a New Song to the Lord
- 99. "Exalt the Lord with Gladness"

- 100. “Serve the Lord with Gladness”
- 101. Commitments of a holy Life
- 102. Prayer of an Overwhelmed Saint
- 103. “Bless the Lord”
- 104. Psalm Rehearsing Creation
- 105. Remember God Keeps His Promises
- 106. “We Have Sinned”

#### **BOOK FOUR (Psalms 107-150)**

- 107. God Satisfies the Longing Soul
- 108. Awake Early and Praise the Lord
- 109. Song of the Slandered
- 110. The Coming of the Priest-King-Judge
- 111. Praise for God’s Tender Care
- 112. The Blessings of Those Who Fear God
- 113. The Condescending Grace of God
- 114. In Praise for the Exodus
- 115. To God Alone Be the Glory
- 116. Love the Lord for What he Has Done
- 117. The Praise of All Peoples
- 118. Better to Trust God than People
- 119. An Acrostic in Praise of the Scriptures
- 120. A Cry in Distress
- 121. God is Our keeper
- 122. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem
- 123. Plea for the Mercy of God
- 124. God is on Our Side
- 125. Trust in the Lord and Abide Forever
- 126. “Sow in Tears . . . Reap in Joy”
- 127. Children are God’s Heritage
- 128. Blessing on the House of the God-Fearing
- 129. Plea of the Persecuted
- 130. “My Soul Waits for the Lord
- 131. A Childlike Faith
- 132. Trust in the God of David
- 133. Beauty of the unity of the Brethren
- 134. Praise the Lord in the Evening
- 135. God Has Done Great Things
- 136. God’s Mercy Endures Forever
- 137. Tears in Exile
- 138. God Answered My Prayer



- 140. Preserve Me From Violence
- 141. “Set a Guard, O Lord, over My Mouth”
- 142. “No One Cares for My Soul”
- 143. “Teach Me to Do Your Will”
- 144. “What is Man?”
- 145. Testify to God’s Great Acts
- 146. “Do Not Put Your Trust in Princes”
- 147. God Heals the Brokenhearted
- 148. All Creation Praises the Lord
- 149. “The Lord Takes Pleasure in His People”
- 150. “Praise the Lord!”