

# Psalm

A photograph of a narrow, gravel path winding through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the thick canopy of green trees, creating a bright, hazy glow at the end of the path. The word "Psalm" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the upper middle of the image.

# Background and Overview

**Psalms are both prayers and songs**

**Psalms are inspired prayers and songs**

**Psalms are poetry**

**Why poetry?**

**Psalms teach us to know God and trust Him**

**Psalms teach us about the Messiah and His gospel**



*Psalms –  
Written by  
God*

**Hebrews 1:1,5,13**

**Hebrews 3:7; 4:7**

**2 Peter 1:20 - 21**

# Song Book of the Jews



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

# Location in Hebrew Bible

- ▶ Writings (Psalms)
- ▶ Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

# Authors of Psalms

- ▶ David - 73 attributed
- ▶ Asaph wrote 12 psalms (50, 73 - 83)
- ▶ Korah's descendants (42, 44-49, 84 - 85, 87)
- ▶ Solomon (72, 127)
- ▶ Ethan (89)
- ▶ Heman (88)
- ▶ Moses (90)
- ▶ Anonymous: all others

# Style of Writing

- ▶ *Synonymous*. The second line repeats the truth of the first line.
  - ▶ Example: “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein” (Psa. 24:1)
- ▶ *Antithetic*. The thought of the first line is emphasized by a contrasting thought of the second.
  - ▶ Example: “For the Lord knows the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (Psa. 1:6).
- ▶ *Synthetic*. The second line explains or adds to the first.
  - ▶ Example: “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Psa.19:7a).

# Collection of Songs

- ▶ Book One (1 - 41)
- ▶ Book Two (42 - 72)
- ▶ Book Three (73 - 89)
- ▶ Book Four (90 - 106)
- ▶ Book Five (107 - 150)
  
- ▶ Doxology - (phrase of praise) appears at the end of each book or section (cf. **Psa. 41:13; 72:18 - 20**)



# Genre of Psalms

- ▶ The Hymn - exuberant praise of the Lord (cf. 103:1-2; 113:1; 92:1,4,5)
- ▶ The Lament - is the psalmist cry when in great distress (cf. Psalm 22:1 - 2; 42:3,5,9,11)
- ▶ Thanksgiving - the lamenter turns to a thanks giver (cf. 56:12) often in response to an answered lament (Remember - Hannah)
- ▶ Confidence - expresses trust in God's goodness in joy (46) and sadness (3:3 - 6; 52:8).
  - ▶ At least nine psalms (11,16,23,27,62,91, 121,131) are all psalms of confidence based upon tone and content.

# Genre of Psalms

- ▶ Remembrance - God's past actions in redemption are in focus. (cf. 78, 105, 106, 135, 136)
- ▶ Wisdom - contrasting ways of life (Psalm 1:1; 19:7; 119)
- ▶ Kingship - often within category of Hymns
  - ▶ Focus on the glory of the human king (cf. Psalm 20 - 21, 89)
  - ▶ God is the king of all (Psalm 47:7; 99)

# Genre of Psalms

- ▶ Messianic:
- ▶ These psalms provide glimpses into the heart of Jesus. In these psalms not only is Christ referred to, but He actually speaks. Example: [Matt. 27:35 - 36 and Psa. 22:1, verses 16 and 18] goes far beyond David's experiences.
- ▶ Messianic Psalms can be divided into:
  - ▶ Royal Psalms (E.g., Pss. 2, 18, 20-21, 45, 61, 72, 89, 110, 132)
  - ▶ Suffering Psalms (E.g., Pss. 22, 35, 41, 55, 69, 109)
  - ▶ Son of Man (E.g., Pss. 16, 40)
  - ▶ Other (E.g., Pss. 23 - 24, 41, 50, 68, 96-98, 102, 118)

# Genre of Psalms

- ▶ Nature (E.g., Pss. 8, 19, 29, 33, 65, 104)
- ▶ Pilgrim (E.g., Pss. 120 - 134) Song of Degrees or Ascents was probably used as a hymnbook as pilgrims traveled up to Jerusalem for national feasts.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

# Imprecatory (Curses)

- ▶ Imprecatory (E.g., 35, 52, 58-59, 69, 83, 109, 137, 140)
- ▶ The imprecatory (cursing) passages of these psalms are viewed with perplexity. How can such utterances be acceptable to God. The period and setting of their writing must be considered.



# Textual Introduction (Psalm 1 & 2)

## There are only two ways (Psalm 1)

The righteous walking in the counsel of the word are blessed

The wicked walking in the counsel of the world perish

## God has exalted His Messiah above all things (Psalm 2)

Those who submit to His rule are blessed

Those who reject His rule are broken