

Background and Overview

Psalms are both prayers and songs

Psalms are inspired prayers and songs

Psalms are poetry

Why poetry?

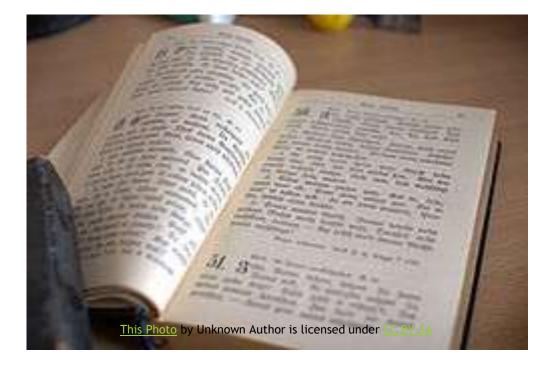
Psalms teach us to know God and trust Him

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



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 <u>Psalms</u> 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)

- 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.

- 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)

- 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)

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.



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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