

# **The Book of Psalms**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not  
all His benefits” (103:2)

<b>BOOK I</b>		<b>BOOK II</b>		<b>BOOK III</b>		<b>BOOK IV</b>		<b>BOOK V</b>	
41 psalms		31 psalms		17 psalms		17 psalms		44 psalms	
1	41	42	72	73	89	90	106	107	150

**DOXOLOGY AT THESE VERSES CONCLUDES EACH BOOK**

41:13	72:18-19	89:52	106:48	150:6
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**JEWISH TRADITION ASCRIBES TOPICAL LIKENESS TO PENTATEUCH**

<b>GENESIS</b>	<b>EXODUS</b>	<b>LEVITICUS</b>	<b>NUMBERS</b>	<b>DEUTERONOMY</b>
8:3-4,19:1	51	83:10	90	119

**— AUTHORS —**

Mainly  
(or all)  
DAVID

Mainly  
DAVID  
And  
KORAH

Mainly  
ASAPH

Mainly  
ANONYMOUS

Mainly  
DAVID

ORIGINAL GROUP  
BY DAVID

BOOKS II AND III  
ADDED DURING  
THE REIGNS OF  
HEZEKIAH AND  
JOSIAH

MISCELLANEOUS  
COLLECTIONS  
COMPILED IN  
TIMES OF EZRA  
AND NEHEMIAH

POSSIBLE CHRONOLOGICAL STAGES IN THE GROWTH AND  
COLLECTION OF THE PSALTER

## Human Authors

- David, the second king of Israel and “sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Sam. 23:1 KJV), is the chief author of the Psalms. He is directly credited with writing 73 of the psalms, but the NT affirms his authorship of 2 more. Thus he wrote 75 of the 150 psalms, which is exactly half the Psalms (3-9; 11-32; 34-41; 51-65; 68-70; 86; 101; 103; 108-110; 122; 124; 131; 133; 138-145. Psalm 2 is identified by Acts 4:25 as being written by David, as is Psalm 95 by Hebrew 4:7).
- Asaph, a priest who served as the worship leader of ancient Israel, wrote twelve psalms (Ps. 50; 73-83) I Chronicles 6:31,39

## Human Authors

- The sons of Korah, a guide of singers and composers of music, are credited with writing ten psalms (Pss. 42; 44-49; 84-85; 87)
- Solomon, David's son, the third king of Israel, accounted for two psalms (Pss. 72;127)
- Moses, the great leader of Israel and the Exodus, wrote one psalm (Ps. 90)
- Heman, a wise man, musician, an Ezrahite, a son of Korah, and founder of the Korahite choir (2 Chr. 5:12; 35:15), wrote one psalm (Ps. 88).
- Ethan, a wise man and Ezrahite, probably a Levitical singer (1 Chr. 6:42; 15:17,19), wrote one psalm (Ps. 89)
- Anonymous authors account for the remaining forty-eight psalms.

# Superscriptions and Notations

1. Historical information Psalm 3
2. Musical instructions 55psalms, 4
3. Important pauses Selah, 3:4

# Literary Types

1. *Wisdom psalms*. These instructive psalms provide practical guidelines for godly living and give direction for righteous living in the pursuit of God's will (Pss. 1; 37; 119)
2. *Royal psalms*. Describing the coming messianic rule of the Christ, these regal psalms portray him as the undisputed sovereign King over heaven and earth (Pss. 2; 18; 20; 21; 45; 47; 68; 72; 89; 101; 110; 118; 132; 144)
3. *Lament psalms*. These highly emotionally charged psalms record the writer's heart cry to God for divine deliverance from trouble and pain (Pss. 3-7; 12-13; 22; 25-28; 35; 38-40; 42-44; 51; 54-57; 59-61; 63-64; 69-71; 74; 79-80; 83; 85-86; 88; 90; 102; 109; 120; 123; 130; 140-143).

# Literary Types

4) *Imprecatory psalms*. Motivated by fiery zeal for God's glory, these provocative, and often controversial, psalms invoke God's wrath and judgment upon the psalmist's adversaries who were God's enemies. The psalmist called upon the Lord to punish the wicked and defined him as he carries out God's work in the midst of his persecutors (Pss. 7: 8-11; 35; 40; 55; 58-59; 69; 79; 109; 137; 139; 144). II Timothy 4:14, Galatians 1:8-9.

5) *Thanksgiving psalms*. These psalms express a profound awareness of deep gratitude for God's abundant blessings, whether individual or national (Pss. 8: 18; 19; 29; 30; 32-34; 36; 40; 41; 66; 103-106; 111; 113; 117; 124; 129; 135-136; 138-139; 146-148; 150)



# Literary Types

6. *Pilgrimage psalms*. These festive psalms foster celebration and praise for God as Israel recalled the Lord's goodness to them as they traveled to Jerusalem for their annual feasts (Pss. 43; 46; 48; 76; 84; 87; 120-134)
7. *Enthronement psalms*. These awe inspiring majestic psalms describe the majesty of God's sovereign rule over all his creation and the providential care by which he sustains, controls, and directs all he has made (Pss. 48; 93; 96-99).
8. *Messianic psalms*. In these and others we have Christ's birth, betrayal, agony, death, resurrection, ascension, coming again in glory, and world-wide reign, all pictured with inspired vividness. (Pss. 2; 8; 16; 22-24; 60-61; 65; 68; 71-72; 87; 89; 102; 108; 118)
9. Connected Psalms. (Pss. 22, 23, 24)

# Unique and interesting Features of The Psalms

- It was the worship hymnal of the Hebrew people.
- It is the largest book of the Bible with 150 psalms.
- It contains the most chapters of any book of the Bible. Isaiah is the 2<sup>nd</sup> with 66.
- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible with 176 verses.
- Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible, containing only two verses.
- Psalm 117 is also the middle chapter of the Bible, the very center of the 1,189 chapters found in Genesis 1 through Revelation 22.

# Unique and interesting Features of The Psalms

- Psalm 118:8 is the absolute center of the 31,173 verses contained in the Scripture, the middle verse of the entire Bible.
- Psalm 18 is the same as 2 Samuel 22.
- Psalms is written by more authors than any other book in the Bible. It is a literary collection from many men such as David, Asaph, the sons of Korah, Solomon, Moses, Heman, Ethan, and others.

# Unique and interesting Features of The Psalms

- Psalms was a long-term project that was approximately nine hundred to one thousand years in the making, requiring more time for its writing than all the canonical books.
- Psalms contains more messianic prophecies than any other Old Testament book, other than possibly Isaiah. It reveals the Messiah as the Son of God (Ps. 2) and son of man (Ps. 8) in his obedience (Ps. 40:6-8), betrayal (Ps. 41:9), crucifixion (Ps. 22), resurrection (Ps. 16), ascension (Ps. 68: 18), and enthronement (Ps. 110).

# Unique and interesting Features of The Psalms

- Psalms is the most quoted Old Testament book in the New Testament. Of the 360 Old Testament quotations or allusions in the New Testament, 112 are from the Psalms.
- There are duplicate psalms: psalm 14 and 53; 40:13-17 and 70; 60:5-12 and 108.
- A number of psalms are acrostic in Hebrew with the first word of each verse or stanza beginning with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet (Pss. 9-10, 25, 34, 37, 119, 145).
- Ps. 139 – omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent