

Old Testament Literature

Session 4 - Psalms Part 1 - Dr. Chris Miller

Israel's Prayer Book

or... Deuteronomy in daily doses

or... "What would Jesus think" ... look in the Psalms.

When were they written?

Date	1400 BC	1000	931		586	500
Time	Moses	David	Solomon	Divided Kingdom	Exile	Return
Psalm	90	*most of the Psalms were written here (time of peace- the arts flourished)			137	1296

Who wrote them?

David 73 - 49% (almost 1/2 the psalms)

Asaph (one of the choir directors) 12 - 8%

Moses and Solomon 3 - 2 %

Sons of Korah (workers in the temple) 11 - 7 %

Heman and Ethan 2 - 1 %

Anonymous 49 - 33%

How were they Organized?

146 Hallelu-YAH 147 Hallelu-YAH 148 Hallelu-YAH 149 Hallelu-YAH 150 Hallelu-YAH

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!
Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,
praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let
everything that has breath praise the LORD. **Praise the LORD!** Psalm 150

Elijah - El (God - Elohim) i (my) jah (Yahweh) - My God is Yahweh

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel from everlasting to Everlasting!

Amen and Amen. Ps 41:13

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, Who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever; May the whole earth be filled with his
glory! **Amen and Amen!** Ps 72:18-19

Blessed be the LORD forever

Amen and Amen! Ps 89:52

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, From everlasting to everlasting!

And let all the people say, "Amen!": Praise the LORD! Ps 106

May the LORD GOD of Israel be BLESSED FOREVER, AMEN & AMEN

*Blessed is the one who meditates in **TORAH** Psalm 1*

*Blessed is the one who trusts in **MESSIAH** Psalm 2 (2 Sam 7 - Son of David)*

Book 1 Psalms 3 - 41

Prayers of David

Book 2 Psalms 42 - 72

Lament... wicked in charge, sin, sickness, death, injustice happens

Book 3 Psalms 73 - 89

Book 4 Psalms 90 - 106

Book 5 Psalms 107-150

Hope and **Praise** of God for deliverance that will come by **faith** because Messiah will come and make everything right. The believing life OT and NT is always forward thinking.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they **will** be comforted. Matt 5:4 (doesn't say now)*

Title Hebrew title is Tehillim = Praise Greek title (LXX) Psalms = Songs "Praise Songs"

LXX - 70 - OT written in Hebrew (some Aramaic). Around 200 BC, Alexander the Great takes over, more people speak Greek than Hebrew.

Septuagint - 70 scholars translate the Hebrew OT into Greek.

Paul and NT authors are quoting from the Septuagint.

Technical words - Appear in the heading of each Psalm.

Some describe **CONTENT**

MaSKIL = teach us to be SKILful at living, see what you can learn to be a better person

Maskil of the Sons of Korah - Ps 44

Maskil of Asaph Ps 74

Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite - Ps 89

Maskil of David - Ps 32, Ps 55, 142

(Ps 32 & 51 post Bathsheba... I will help people learn what I have learned)

Mikhtam = witty, ingenious poem

(From the dawn of creation, some songs were meant to persist. Newsboys)

Some describe the **TIME**

to the choir director = public worship & temple choir

song of ascents = on the way UP to Jerusalem (Ps 120 -135)

Some describe the **MELODY** or **INSTRUMENT**

gittith = stringed instrument (guitar)

Shoshanim = a melody/tune (eg 45, 69, 80)

Al-tashheth = a melody (57, 58, 75)

Others give **DIRECTIONS**

Selah = "Pause & think about it," musical interlude (46 3X, 39 2X...)

Others are **OBSCURE**

Mahalath, Leonnoth (no clue what they mean)

Types of Psalms: (in order of importance)

Thanksgiving 100, 104-5

Individual Praise, Lament 11, 42

National Lament 90

Royal 2, 45 (king and ultimate King - Messiah)

Songs of Zion 43

A mountain on which they put Jerusalem - metaphor for the entire nation,
“Zionist” - a very patriotic, nationalistic Jewish person - get rid of all Palestinians.

Confessional 32, 51 (Penitential)

Imprecatory 109, 137 (harch, judgment on God’s enemies)

Messianic 110, 2, 22

Wisdom 1, 127 (focus on the Torah)

What are Psalms?

Much more than a list of songs...

They really show the heart and what is “normal” for the believer in a fallen world.

Will Intellect Emotions - Christians don’t have to be purely logical.

Psalm 1

More than the first psalm... INTRODUCTION to the entire book with a focus on the good Torah of God.

Blessed is the man who ***walks*** not in the ***council*** of the wicked, (Jesus spends time with the sinners and Pharisees but does not go to them for advice) ***nor stands*** in the way of sinners, but his delight is in the ***law*** (life giving instruction from the Word of God) ***of the LORD***, and on his law he ***meditates*** day and night. He is like a tree (opposite of verse 4) ***planted by streams of water*** that yields its fruit in its season, (deep rooted) and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the ***wind drives away***. (not rooted in God’s Word, stable) Therefore the wicked will not ***stand*** in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm 2

More than a second psalm... INTRODUCTION to the entire book with a focus on the Messiah of God. (David was a Messiah, anointed king, a foreshadowing)

*Why do the nations **rage** and the peoples plot in vain? (against David and Jesus) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers **take counsel together**, against the LORD and against his Anointed, (Messiah) saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us". He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. (When Jesus is in his trial, Jesus doesn't have to defend himself, everything is in God's control)*

Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." (David and in the future with Jesus)

*I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "**You are my Son; today I have begotten you.**" (said at Jesus's baptism and Mount of Transfiguration) Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."*

Now therefore, O Kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. (the Messiah who will come and fix things is the answer to all of our laments)

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.