

SELECTED PSALMS

TERRELL BIBLE CHURCH
2021-2022
DRAKE TORP-PEDERSEN, PH.D.

The Title

Hebrew

תְּהִלִּים

Tehillim

“Praises”

(Note the similarity to
hallelujah)

Greek

Ψαλμοι or Ψαλτεριον

Psalmoi or Psalterion

“Songs”

(“A poem accompanied
by stringed instrument”)

The books in the Book

Book I (Psalms 1-41) (Mostly David)

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen. 41:13 (NKJV)

Book II (Psalms 42-72) (Mostly David)

18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! 19 And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.
20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended. 72:18-20 (NKJV)

Book III (Psalms 73-89) (Mostly Asaph)

Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen. 89:52 (NKJV)

Book IV (Psalms 90-106) (Mostly Anonymous, “orphan psalms”)

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD! 106:48 (NKJV)

Book V (Psalms 107-150) (David and anonymous)

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD! 150:6 (NKJV)

Here is a summary of the Psalm-titles as they relate to authorship:

NAMES	BK. 1 Psalm 1- 41	BK. 2 Psalm 42-72	BK. 3 Psalm 73- 89	BK. 4 Psalm 90- 106	BK. 5 Psalm 107- 150	TOTAL
David	37	18	1	2	15	73
Asaph	—	1	11	—	—	12
Korah	—	7	3	—	—	10
Moses	—	—	—	1	—	1
Solomon	—	1	—	—	1	2
Ethan	—	—	1	—	—	1
Heman	—	—	1	—	—	1
Anonymous	4	4	—	14	28	50
Totals	41	31	17	17	44	150

Superscriptions (titles)

AUTHORSHIP

Psa. 15:0 A Psalm of David.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Psa. 3:0 A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son.

MUSICAL INFORMATION

Psa. 84:0 To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath.

TUNE

Psa. 22:0 To the Chief Musician. Set to “The Deer of the Dawn.”

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Inscriptions (or “Superscriptions)

Psalms without inscriptions	34
Psalms with simple inscriptions	52
Psalms with historical inscriptions	14
Psalms with inscriptions denoting purpose	4
Psalms entitled “Songs of Degrees”	15
Psalms with special-word inscriptions—39 (less 8 of these which also bear historical inscriptions and are included with the 14 such given above)	31
Total	150

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J Sidlow Baxter, *Explore the Book*

14 Psalms have historical notes

Psalm 59 is connected with 1 Samuel 19:11.

Psalm 56 is connected with 1 Samuel 21:10–15.

Psalm 34 is connected with 1 Samuel 21:10–22:2.

Psalm 52 is connected with 1 Samuel 22:9.

Psalm 54 is connected with 1 Samuel 23:15–23.

Psalm 7 may be related to 1 Samuel 23:24–29 (but this is problematic).

Psalm 57 is related to the incident at Adullam (1 Sam. 22:1–2) or at En Gedi (1 Sam. 24).

Psalm 142, another passage that reports David’s being in a cave, could refer to either of the above references as well.

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14 Psalms have historical notes

Psalm 60 is from 2 Samuel 8:8, 13; and 1 Chronicles 18:9–12.

Psalm 18 is almost identical to 2 Samuel 22.

Psalm 51 is based on the incident of David’s sin recorded in 2 Samuel 11–12.

Psalm 3 seems to be connected with 2 Samuel 15–18.

Psalm 63 may be related to 2 Samuel 15:23.

Psalm 30 may be connected with 1 Chronicles 21:1–22:1. (The contents of Ps. 30 suggest that David wrote it for the dedication of the temple after he sinned in numbering the people and he purchased the plot of ground for the temple.)

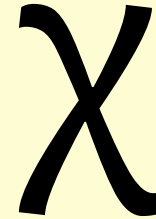
Terrell Bible Church, Drake Torp-Pedersen, Ph.D. Dr. Allen Ross, *Bible Knowledge Commentary*

POETRY

- ❖ Expresses the beauty of God's Word
- ❖ Makes God's Word Memorable
- ❖ Encourages us to slow down and observe God's Word
- ❖ Stimulates Meditation on God's Wor

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Chiasm (*key-asm*)



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X-asm—Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)

No one can serve two masters;
for either he will hate the one
and love the other,
or else he will be loyal to the one
and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and mammon.

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Chiastic Structure at the Heart of Book I

- Ps. 15 Liturgy at the Gate: "Who may ascend?"
Ps. 16 God's Blessings for his People: "The LORD is my cup"
Ps. 17 A Prayer for Deliverance from the Enemies
Ps. 18 A Royal Psalm concerning Battle
Ps. 19 The Torah
Ps. 20—21 Two Royal Psalms concerning Battle
Ps. 22 A Prayer for Deliverance from the Enemies
Ps. 23 God's Blessings for his People: "My cup runs over"
Ps. 24 Liturgy at the Gate: "Who may ascend?"

Terrell Bible Church, Drake Torp-Pedersen, Ph.D. Allen Ross, A Commentary on the Psalms, vol. 1 (1-41), 56

Parallelism in Hebrew Poetry

SYNONYMOUS (the thought of the first line is restated with similar concepts in the second line, e.g., Ps. 2:1).

**Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?**

ANTITHETIC (the thought of the second line is contrasted with the first, e.g., Ps. 1:6).

**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.**

CLIMACTIC (the second and any subsequent lines pick up a crucial word, phrase, or concept and advance it in a stair-step fashion, e.g., Ps. 92:9)

**For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, For behold, Your enemies shall perish;
All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.**

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Acrostic

Poetic

Song

And

Loving

Meditation

A poem or series of lines in which certain letters, usually the first in each line, form a name, motto, or message when read in sequence.
American Heritage Dictionary

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Acrostics

Several psalms use an **alphabetic acrostic** structure to help make the ideas stand out and be more memorable.

Psalm 119 is the most notable example. Each verse in each 8 verse strophe begins with the same letter: א ב ג ד , etc.

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Acrostic Poetry Example: Psalm 119:1-3

A blessing is on them that are undefiled in the way,
and walk in the law of Jehovah;

אֲשֶׁר־יָמִי-יִדְרֹךְ
לְמַעַן יִשְׁמְרוּ חֻמֵי תוֹרַת הַיהוָה:

A blessing is on them that keep His testimonies,
and seek Him with their whole heart:

אֲשֶׁר־יִשְׁמְרוּ בְּצַדִּיקוֹתַי עֲדָוָיו
בְּכָל-לֵב יִדְרֹשׁוּהוּ:

Also on them that do no wickedness,
but walk in His ways.

אֲשֶׁר-לֹא-פָעֵלוּ עֲוֹנָה
בְּדַרְכָיו הִלְכוּ:

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Types of Psalms

Wisdom: direction for life

Lamentation: distress in life

Penitential: distress over sin

Thanksgiving: declaring God's mercies

Praise: describing God's goodness

Imprecatory: desire for justice

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ואל ואל
 רבים שיר נפשי נפשי
 מים מים
 הוא יאין
 עני לנו
 כן בכל הארץ
 עמד מלך צדיק עשה למו אמר ואחה
 תמיד שמך פניך ליהוה און
 ואל עס
 רשעים איש לך הנה חסדך ממני בד מי
 גוים גוים
 ישראל ישראל
 דבר עמים בני היום שמע
 לעולם לעולם
 בני היום שמע
 לכל ארץ ארץ
 ואני לד אני
 מזמור יד חסדו טוב לבני
 אדני שמים עולם בארץ למען להם מה כמו רשעים איש לך הנה חסדך ממני בד מי
 כלל כלל
 יעקב יעקב
 מאד המה
 שם וכל שקר אדם
 ציון שמו עיני יה עמו לב
 אף בו
 סלה לאלהים
 למנוחת אד
 עד לדוד אתה
 הללו

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