Old Testament Survey: **P S A L M S**

**Author:** Various including David (75), Asaph (12), sons of Korah (10), Solomon (2), Moses (1)

**Date:** Ranges from Moses ~ 1410 B.C. (Ps. 90) to Postexilic ~ 430 B.C.

**Theme:** Worship - a personal response to the person and work of God.

**Outline:**
- **BOOK I** 1-41: Adoring Worship (David)
- **BOOK II** 42-72: Wondering Worship (David +)
- **BOOK III** 73-89: Ceaseless Worship (Asaph +)
- **BOOK IV** 90-103: Submissive Worship (Anonymous +)
- **BOOK V** 104-150: Perfected Worship (David & Anonymous +)

**Key Chapters & Verses** (bold required for Elders)

1 - Godly & Wicked Contrasted. (“How blessed is the man who...”)

2 - Messiah’s Reign. (Why do the nations rage...Do homage to the son.)

8 - God’s Glory/Man’s Rule. (When I consider the heavens...What is man)

14:1-3 “The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God.’”

15 - Characteristics of the Godly. (Integrity, righteousness, truth...etc)

16 - Eternal life for the trusting. (Thou will not abandon my soul to Sheol)

18:2 “The LORD is my rock...fortress...deliverer...shield...salvation...”

19 - The Works and Word of God. (The heavens are telling...The law of the LORD)

19:7-11 “The law of the LORD is perfect....”

22 - Messiah’s Suffering. (My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?)

23 - The Great Shepherd. (The LORD is my shepherd)

32 - Blessedness of forgiveness. (David acknowledges his sin)

37:3-6 “Trust in the LORD & do good...dwell...cultivate...delight...commit...trust

40:1-3 “I waited patiently for the LORD; & He inclined...brought me up...set my my feet...put a new
song...many will see....& trust in the LORD.”

42 - Thirsting for God. (As a deer pants for the water brooks...)

51 - David’s confession of Sin.

51:1-9 “Be gracious to me, O God,...wash me...blot out all my iniquities.”

69 - Petition for God’s nearness. (Save me, O God... for Thy sake I have borne reproach... zeal for
Thy house has consumed me...”)

73 - The wicked can prosper in the present, but their end is contrasted with that of the righteous.

86:15 “But Thou, O LORD, art a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in
lovingkindness and truth.”

90 - Man’s transitoriness. (days of life - 70 years... teach us to number our days)

100 - Call to Worship. (Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth)

103:1-5 “Bless the LORD, O my soul, - Who /pardons/heals/redeems/crowns/ satisfies...”

119 - God’s Word exalted.

119:11 “Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”

119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, And a light to my path.”

127 - The LORD builds the house & gives children.

139 - God’s Omniscience & Omnipresence.

39:23,24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see
if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.”

150 - “Praise the LORD.”
The Psalms are prayers and praise sung to God and about God.

Interpretation Warnings -
1) The Psalms are often very expressive of emotion, so be careful of over exegeting the individual statements of the Psalm.
2) The Psalms’ are musical poems and not doctrinal statements per se.
3) The Psalms contain much metaphor.
4) Care must be taken not to push Psalms into allegory.
5) If a superscription references an historical event, the Psalm should be interpreted accordingly.

History: Individual Psalms and small collections were gradually collected into larger books and eventually into the Five Books of Psalms over many centuries. Those involved in the editing of the Psalms into these books include David (1 Chronicles 15:16), Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29:30; Proverbs 25:1) and Ezra (Neh. 8).

Different Psalms could serve different functions:
They were used to aide in Temple worship, individual prayer and worship. They can currently be used to guide worship, prayer, and response to God. The Psalms open our hearts to be real with Him. They help us to reflect and meditate upon the things of God.

Types of Psalms include:
Psalms of Lament: Over 60. This is the largest of all types.
A. _____________ Laments (national) (Psalms 44, 60,74, 79-80, 83, 85, 90, 123)
B. _____________ Laments (Psalms 3-7,12, 13, 22, 25-28, 35, 38-40, 42, 43, 51, 54-57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 69-71, 86, 88, 102, 109, 120, 130, 140-143)
C. _____________ Laments (Distress due to sin) (6, 51)
D. _____________ Laments (Believer calling on God to judge enemies) (Psalms 7, 35, 40, 55, 58, 59, 69, 79, 109, 137, 139, 144)

Psalms of Thanksgiving
A. _____________ (Psalms 124, 129)
B. _____________ (Psalms 18, 30, 32, 34, 40, 41, 66, 106, 116, 138)

Psalms of Praise
A. _____________ Praise (Psalms 8, 19, 29, 103, 104, 139, 148, 150) (8 & 19 are Creation)
B. _____________ Praise (Psalms 33, 36, 105, 111, 113, 117, 135, 136, 146, 147)

Psalms of the Kingdom
A. Royal - Celebration of the Davidic kingship (2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 72, 89, 101, 110, 132, 144)
B. _________ - Celebration over Jerusalem and the Temple (Psalms 43, 46, 48, 76, 84, 87 & 120-134 which are “Songs of Ascent”)
C. Enthronement - Celebration of the Kingship of Yahweh (Psalms 47, 93, 96-99)
Psalms of _____________ (1, 37, 119)

Psalms of _____________ (31, 37, 40, 56, 115, 118)

Terms in Titles of Psalms

Maskil (13) - ____________________________. (Psalms 32; 42; 44; 45; 52; 53; 54; 55; 74; 78; 88; 89; 142) also used in 47:8

Mikhtam (6) (Miktam or Michtam) _____________________ term in title of Psalms 16 & 56-60. All of these are poems of lament, so may have reference to the type of Psalm

Mizmor (57) Usually translated as “______” Rooted in the verb “Zamar” meaning “to make or produce music in praise to God” Examples: Psalm 30; 45, 65-69; 76; 89; 98; 120-134; 149

Selah (71) - may mark a pause, musical interlude or a cresendo. From a word meaning “lift up”


Tephillah (5) - ______________ . Psalms 17, 86; 90; 102; 142. Also in Psalm 72:20

Tehillah (1) - ______________ Psalm 145

PSALMS

Hebrew Poetry

Meter: There is not agreement regarding meter, and there is no exegetical significance to it. The only benefit is in textual criticism.

Grammaratical Issues: Poetical writings differ from prose in often avoiding the use of the article, the conjunction “and” & the sign of the direct object.

Structure: Hebrew poetry is generally _____________ in nature. It is usually in couplets (AB), but Sometimes triplets (ABC), etc. will also occur. Ugaritic literature (c. 1500 B.C.) contained poetry very similar to Hebrew.

_________: This is equivalent to a paragraph in prose interpretation. The strophe’s are marked by:


2) The use of the term “Selah” often indicates a Strophe. (Selah can mark a pause, musical interlude or crescendo)


4) Chiastic - A cross over sequencing of thought: A₁ - B₁ - B₂ - A₂

___________ Parallelism : Line A: Subject Verb Object
                      Line B: Subject Verb Object

___________ Parallelism

___________: Parallel thoughts have same / similar meaning

Example: Proverbs 17:4

Line A    An evil doer listens to wicked lips
Line B    A Liar pays attention to a destructive tongue
Antithetic: A ≠ B Parallel thoughts are the antithesis of each other - the couplets contrast

Example 1: Proverbs 15:2
Line A: The Tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable
Line B: But The mouth of fools spouts folly

Example 2: Isaiah 1:3
Line A: An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master’s manger,
Line B: But Israel does not know, My people do not understand.

Parallelism

a. Deletion of the verb in Line B as in Psalm 114:2,4
Psalm 114:2 Judah became His sanctuary, Israel, [          ] His dominion.
Psalm 114:4 The mountains skipped like rams, The hills, [          ] like lambs.

b. _____________ Symbolism - often uses comparison terms “like” “as” - figurative expression contrasted with the factual one.
Examples:
Psalm 42:1
Actual: As the deer pants for the water brooks,
Figurative: So my soul pants for Thee, O God
Proverbs 11:22
Actual: As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout,
Figurative: [So is] a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.”

c. Climatic or staircase parallelism: Repetition and development of a thought
Example: Psalm 92:9
For, behold, Thine enemies, O Lord,
For, behold, Thine enemies will perish;
All who do iniquity will be scattered.
See also Psalm 93:3, 96:1

d. _____________ - inversion of parallel terms (i.e. A-B-B-A) -
Example: Proverbs 23:15-16
A: My son, if your heart is wise,
B: My own heart also will be glad;
B: °° And my inmost being will rejoice,
A: When your lips speak what is right.”

e. Merismus - two opposites of a concept are used to point to the whole. i.e. it lists the first and the last in a series
Example: Malachi 1:11 “For from the rising of the sun, even to its setting”

Examples of Structure in the Psalms:

1) Psalm of _____________: Prayer for help in time of distress
A. Introductory address to God 1a 1-5
B. Lament - Statement of the problem 1b-2 6-8
C. Confession of trust (often introduced by “but” or “nevertheless”) 3-6 9-10
D. Petition for help (may include grounds for petition) 7 11-21
E. Praise 8 22-31
2) _______(extolls the greatness of Yaweh from personal experience) Psalm 138 Psalm 34
   A. Introductory praise to God (often with “I will . . .”) 1-2 1-3
   B. Narration of the Psalmists’ experience 3 4-7
   C. The Praise (direct praise, instruction to others to also praise God ) 4-8 8-22

3) _______(extolls the greatness of Yahweh apart from personal circumstances - Creation & History
   Ps. 113 Ps.117 Ps. 135
   A. Call to Praise (Imperative, usually 2nd plural) 1-4 1 1-4
   B. Cause of Praise (Key marker - “for,” may also have “who”). 5-9a 2a 5-18
   C. Concluding Call of Praise 9b 2b 19-21

Psalms - Many Psalm anticipated the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Psalms is quoted more in the New Testament than any other book - many of the quotes are Messianic.

Here are some Psalms prophetically fulfilled in the New Testament

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psalm</th>
<th>Prophecy</th>
<th>Fulfillment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:7</td>
<td>Declared to be God’s son</td>
<td>Matthew 3:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:6</td>
<td>All things will be put under His feet</td>
<td>Hebrews 2:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:10</td>
<td>He will be resurrected from the death</td>
<td>Mark 16:6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:1</td>
<td>God will forsake Him in His hour of need</td>
<td>Matthew 27:46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:7-8</td>
<td>He will be scorned and mocked</td>
<td>Luke 23:35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:16</td>
<td>His hands and feet will be pierced</td>
<td>John 20:25,27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:18</td>
<td>Others will gamble for His clothes</td>
<td>Matthew 27:35-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34:20</td>
<td>Not one of His bones will be broken</td>
<td>John 19:32-33,36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35:11</td>
<td>He will be accused by false witnesses</td>
<td>Mark 14:57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35:19</td>
<td>He will be hated without a cause</td>
<td>John 15:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40:7-8</td>
<td>He will come to do God’s will</td>
<td>Hebrews 10:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41:9</td>
<td>He will be betrayed by a friend</td>
<td>Luke 22:47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45:6</td>
<td>His throne will be forever</td>
<td>Hebrews 1:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68:18</td>
<td>He will ascend to God’s right hand</td>
<td>Mark 16:19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69:9</td>
<td>Zeal for God’s house will consume Him</td>
<td>John 2:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69:21</td>
<td>He will be given vinegar and gall to drink</td>
<td>Matthew 27:24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109:4</td>
<td>He will pray for His enemies</td>
<td>Luke 23:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109:8</td>
<td>His betrayer’s office will be fulfilled by another</td>
<td>Acts 1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110:1</td>
<td>His enemies will be made subject to Him</td>
<td>Matthew 22:44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110:4</td>
<td>He will be a priest like Melchizekek</td>
<td>Hebrews 5:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118:22</td>
<td>He will be the chief cornerstone</td>
<td>Matthew 21:42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118:26</td>
<td>He will come in the name of the Lord</td>
<td>Matthew 21:9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>