

## 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."

## Old Testament Survey - Psalms

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 \_\_\_\_\_ (31, 37, 40, 56, 115, 118)

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: <sup>16</sup> *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	Psalm 3	Psalm 22
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)	<u>Psalm 138</u>	<u>Psalm 34</u>	
A. Introductory praise to God (often with “ <i>I will . . .</i> ”)	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)	<u>Ps. 113</u>	<u>Ps.117</u>	<u>Ps. 135</u>
A. Call to Praise (Imperative, usually 2nd plural)	1-4	1	1-4
B. Cause of Praise (Key marker - “ <i>for,</i> ” may also have “ <i>who</i> ”).	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

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