

The Wisdom and Poetic Books

The Book of Psalms

Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the **Psalms**." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

<i>Book</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>God Seen as...</i>	<i>Man seen...</i>	<i>Theme</i>
<i>Job</i>	Pain and Suffering	Sovereign	On his face before God	Woe
<i>Psalms</i>	Prayer and Worship	Holy One	Before the throne of God	Worship
<i>Proverbs</i>	Conduct	All-wise	Receiving instruction	Wisdom
<i>Ecclesiastes</i>	Meaning and Significance	Creator	Looking for satisfaction under the sun	Why?
<i>Song of Solomon</i>	Love	Lover of His people	In a love relationship	Wedding

Poetic Literature	Wisdom Literature
Psalms Song of Solomon	Job Proverbs Ecclesiastes

<i>Poetic Books</i>	<i>Wisdom Books</i>
The Narrator is viewed as a normal man.	The Narrator is viewed as the wise voice of experience.
Touch the heart.	Touch the mind.
Focus upon human emotion.	Focus upon wisdom.
Love for God & for others.	Living before God and with others.

The Book of Psalms Overview

- Background on the Book of Psalms
- Divisions of Psalms based on the 5 books of Moses
- Topical Classification
- Psalms in the NT

Background

- **The book draws its name from the title in the Septuagint (LXX) translation.**
- **The word means “praises.” Or “songs of praise.”**
- **73 Psalms are attributed to David.**
- **50 Psalms are anonymous.**
- **Total of 150 Psalms**
- **Largely written for individual devotion.**
- **Book of prayer and praise.**
- **All emotions touched in the Psalms.**
- **Mainly written in Hebrew poetry style.**

Divisions of Psalms with reference to The Books of Law

Psalms vs. 5 Books of Moses (Law)

Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5
Chapters 1-41	Chapters 42-72	Chapters 73-89	Chapters 90- 106	Chapters 107-150
Mostly written by David		Mostly by Asaph	Mostly anonymous	Mostly by David

Divisions of Psalms

with reference to the 5 books of Moses

- **Book I**
 - *Psalm 1—41*
- Corresponds with Genesis
- All but four written by David
- Subject:
 - *Man*
 - *His state of blessedness*
 - *Fall and recovery*

Divisions of Psalms

with reference to the 5 books of Moses

- **Book II**

- *Psalms 42—72*

- Corresponds with Exodus

- 18 written by David

- Subject—nation of Israel

- *Her ruin (42-49)*

- *Redeemer (50-60)*

- *Redemption (61-72)*

- *Righteous King (72)*

Divisions of Psalms

- Book III
 - *Psalm 73—89*
- Corresponds with Leviticus
- Centers on time of Hezekiah
- Subject—the sanctuary referred to in nearly every Psalm in Book III

Divisions of Psalms

- **Book IV**
 - *Psalm 90—106*
- Corresponds with Numbers
- Two Psalms of David (101 and 103)
- Other Psalms in time of exile
- Subject: The earth
- Psalm 90 written by Moses during wilderness wanderings

Divisions of Psalms

- Book V
 - *Psalms 107—150*
- Corresponds with Deuteronomy
- 15 Psalms of David
- Compiled in time of Nehemiah and Ezra
- Subject: God's word
- Psalm 119 greatest and longest Psalm

Topical Classification

- **God's Attributes**

- *No book more fully sets forth the qualities of God's nature. Nine names are used to show His Divine attitudes and attributes.*

- *The Lord is our judge and defense (7:8-10)*
- *Refuge of the poor (14:6)*
- *Rock and fortress (18:2)*
- *Light and salvation (27:1)*
- *Shield (28:7)*

Topical Classification

- **Psalms That Praise God**

- *Psalms that give Him glory, honor, and praise...*

- *Extolling His goodness (85,95,100,136)*
- *Praising His glory and wisdom (18,19,29,62...)*
- *Creator and preserver (33,89,104)*
- *Infinite knowledge (139)*
- *Divine providence (105)*

Topical Classification

- Christ in the Psalms
 - *Psalms that elevate and prophecy about the coming Messiah and Christ...*
- *His crucifixion (22)*
- *His resurrection (16)*
- *Reign of a righteous King (45,72,110)*
- *The rejected Stone (118)*
- *His eternity (61)*

Topical Classification

- **Historical Psalms**

- *Psalms that remind of past events*

- *Exodus and crossing the Red Sea (136:10-15)*
- *Period of wandering (114)*
- *Period of judges (106:34-46)*
- *David fleeing from Saul (7,11,34)*
- *David's sin with Bathsheba (24,30,51)*

Topical Classification

- **Psalms Concerning Man**
 - *Psalms that elevate and tell about mankind*
- *Man's exaltation (8)*
- *Man's sinfulness (10,14,36)*
- *Wicked contrasted with godly (1,4,5)*
- *Folly of wicked who trust in riches (37,49,53)*
- *Fate of ungodly (9,11,73)*

Topical Classification

- **Psalms of Trust and Thanksgiving**

- *Psalms that express man's gratitude and trust in His God*

- *Trust (3, 16, 20, 27, 31...)*
- *Shepherd Psalm (23)*
- *God is our Refuge (46)*
- *Gates of thanksgiving (100)*
- *Pay vows to God (50)*
- *Help from God (121)*

Topical Classification

- **Prayer Psalms**

- *Psalms that express prayers offered up to God*

- *Mercy in time of trouble (6)*
- *Prayers of assurance (27 and 116)*
- *Penitence (51)*
- *Destruction of the deceitful (55)*
- *Deliverance (70)*
- *Mercy (86)*

Topical Classification

- **The Lord's Church (typical)**
 - *Psalms about the coming of the Lord's church*
- *Safety (46)*
- *Zion's beauty and glory (48,87)*
- *Love for God's house (84, 122)*
- *Unity among brethren (133)*

Topical Classification

- **Psalms Concerning Experiences and Religion in Life**
 - *Psalms about religious experiences*
- *Magnifying God's word (19, 119)*
- *Worship (43, 84, 100, 122, 132)*
- *Vanity of life (39, 49, 90)*
- *The home (127)*

Psalms in the NT

- Fulfillment (~30x) – predicts future events to the psalmist
- Confirmation (~25x) – used to validate a theological point
- Exhortation /Encouragement (~4x) – used to motivate proper action
- Exegesis/Interpretation (~3x) – an extended discussion explaining the OT passage

Fulfillment

Psalms used to show that something is a fulfillment of OT prophecy

- **Psalm 22:1 in Matt 27 & Mark 14**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

(Jesus' words from the cross, noted as fulfilled by Matthew & Mark)

- **Psalm 110:1 in Acts 2**

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

(Peter applies this to Jesus in his sermon in the temple at Pentecost)

Confirmation

Psalm is used to validate a theological point

- **Psalm 110:1 in Matt 22, Mark 12 & Luke 20**

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

(Jesus cites verse to illustrate the dignity of the Messiah).

- **Psalm 91:11-12 in Matt 4 & Luke 4**

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

(Satan cites these verses in tempting Jesus to jump from the temple)

Exhortation/Encouragement

Psalms are used to motivate proper action.

- **Psalm 118:1 in Hebrews 13**

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
(The author of Hebrews is exhorting his readers to contentment in view of God's presence & power)

- **Psalm 4:4 in Ephesians 4**

In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

(Paul is exhorting believers to handle their anger properly)

Exegesis/Interpretation

A Psalm passage is being exegete by the author

- **Psalm 40: 6-8 in Hebrews 10**

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced{[6] Septuagint but a body you have prepared for me}; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

(Author is arguing that Christ is the real sacrifice that animal offerings foreshadowed)

- **Psalm 95:10-11 in Hebrews 3 & 4**

For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."

(An exegetical exhortation on the danger of apostasy)

The Most Frequently Quoted Psalms

- Psalm 118 (12x) – a Messianic psalm re/ Jesus' rejection and (2nd) coming
- Psalm 110 (11x) – a Messianic psalm re/ Jesus combining kingship and priesthood
- Psalm 69 (5x) – a more generic psalm that fits Jesus' rejection and vindication.
- Psalm 2 (4x) – rebellion of mankind against God and his Messiah
- Psalm 22 (4x) – the crucifixion of the Messiah
- Psalm 95 (4x) – lessons from Israel in the wilderness
- Note that most of these are Messianic psalms.