

# **PSALMS**

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# PSALMS

- **IN THIS STUDY WE WILL LEARN**

  - Importance of Psalms**

  - Who wrote the Psalms ?**

  - Understanding the life situations**

  - How to learn the Psalms.**

- **STUDY OF PSALMS IN GENERAL**

  - Authors, Divisions of Books,**

  - Head lines, Poetical importance etc,.**

- **APROPRIATE USE OF THE PSALMS**

  - Selection of Psalms for various occasions;**

  - Proper use according to situations**

# PSALMS

- **PSALMS COMES FROM "PSALMOS" (Greek)**  
"Thehelim" (Heb) means "songs of praises"  
Same is read in Eph.5: 19; Col.3: 16
- **OT Books are divided into three divisions**
  - The law of Moses**
  - The prophets**
  - The Psalms**
- **Luke 24: 44** And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written **in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

# PSALMS

- **PSALMS (POETICAL BOOKS ORIGINALLY)**

**“PSALMS” not the only Book of Psalms;**

**but also includes Book of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Songs of Solomon and the Lamentations of Jeremiah (All Poetries)**

- **Psalms holds another name “KETHUBIMS”**

**Luke 24: 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**

**“KETHUBIMS” means “Writings”**

- **The word “Scriptures” including “Psalms” testifies of the Lord (Jn.5: 39)**

# BOOK OF PSALMS

## THE COMMENT OF DR. SPURGEON ON PSALMS IN HIS "TREASURY OF DAVID"

**" There is no other Book like Psalms to meditate together with David; to feel grieved with David; to rejoice with David, and to trust and believe with David. Doubt whether I could get back to such moments before me entering to the Golden gate"**

**(Perhaps the Book that remains so close to the heart of every believer than any other books.)**

# DIVISION OF THE BOOK

## PSALMS DIVIDED INTO FIVE BOOKS

- **First Book**                      **Ps. 1- 41**
- **Second Book**                    **Ps.42-72**
- **Third Book**                      **Ps 73-89**
- **Forth Book**                      **Ps 90-106**
- **Fifth Book**                      **Ps 107-150**

- **COMPARED TO PENTATAUCH**

<b>Genesis</b>	<b>Way down</b>
<b>Exodus</b>	<b>Way out</b>
<b>Leviticus</b>	<b>Way in</b>
<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Way through</b>
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	<b>Way over</b>

# DIVISION OF THE BOOK

- **DIFFERENT COMPARISON**

<b>FIRST</b>	<b>THE FALL OF MAN</b>
<b>SECOND</b>	<b>DELIVERANCE</b>
<b>THIRD</b>	<b>ENTERING BACK TO WORSHIP</b>
<b>FORTH</b>	<b>THE LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS</b>
<b>FIFTH</b>	<b>WORSHIP WITH PRAISES</b>

- **PROGRESS IN THOUGHT OF WORSHIP**

<b>FIRST</b>	<b>GOD WHO IS THE HELP</b>
<b>SECOND</b>	<b>WHO WORKS MIRACLES</b>
<b>THIRD</b>	<b>WORSHIPED IN HOLINESS</b>
<b>FORTH</b>	<b>WHO IS HIGHLY EXALTED</b>
<b>FIFTH</b>	<b>WHO IS ALONE WORSHIPED</b>

# PSALMS

- **FIVE SACRIFICES READ IN PSALMS**

**Burnt offering** (Ps.40: 7-8)

**Meal offering** (Ps.40: 6)

**Peace offering** (Ps.85: 10)

**Sin offering** (Ps.40: 6)

**Trespass offering** (Ps.69: 4)

- **13 PSALMS ARE CALLED "MESSIANIC"**

**Eschatological nature**

- **THE 3 MINISTRIES OF JESUS SEEN**

**Prophetical** (at his first coming) **Ps.1: 2**

**Priestly** (now in heaven) **Ps.110: 4**

**Kingly** (when coming again) **Ps.98: 6**



# AUTHORS

- **TOTAL 150 PSALMS**

<b>Moses</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Asaph</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>David</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>Heman</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Solomon</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Ethan</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sons of Korah</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Anon</b>	<b>49</b>

- **Ps 90 The oldest of all**
- **Out of 49 Anons; Jews consider 10 of Hezekiah**
- **Ps.119 Of classical work after 22 Hebrew letters**
- **150 DAYS (Judgment of the ungodly)**
  - Days of flood (Up- Gen.7: 24; down- Gen. 8: 3)**
  - Days of the plague by locusts (Rev.9: 10)**

# PSALMS

## How the name "Psalms" chosen ?

- **Two different meanings**

1. **Psalms means "Music of stringed instruments"**

2. **Psalms means "Songs of praises"**

- **But Psalms have words and not music only;**

- **All Psalms are not Songs of praises also.**

**(So in general term "Psalms" chosen)**

## **Proof of divine inspiration**

**More than from any other books of OT;**

**Quotations are given in NT from Psalms**

# "PSALMS OF DAVID"

- **BUT ALL PSALMS ARE NOT OF DAVID ?**

**Ps. 42 A Psalm of the sons of Korah**

**Ps. 72 A Psalm of Solomon**

**Ps. 73 A Psalm of Asaph**

**Ps. 90 A prayer of Moses**

**(David wrote more Psalms than others; most of the psalms are composed or collected by King David or by his direction. And so generally known as "Psalms of David")**

- **Some are attributed to David**
- **Others were collected by David**
- **Or done by the direction of David**

# LIFE SITUATIONS

- **David lived a 1000 years before Christ**
- **What was the life situation of David ?**
- **Study of Ps. 86 (Observe the Psalm)**
  - v. 2 Fear**
  - v. 6 Brokenness**
  - v. 7 Troubles**
  - v.11 Petition and willingness to obey**

**(If the above relevant not only to the Life of David but also for us; Psalms contains valuable teaching for our life situations)**

**Some are more of Eschatological nature; so more relevant to the events of later days.**

**(For example -Ps. 22: 1)**

# PSALMS GROUPED INTO

- 1. Psalms of Lament (Individual & Community)**
- 2. The Messianic Psalms**
- 3. Imprecatory Psalms**
- 4. Declarative Psalms of thanks giving**
- 5. Royal Psalms**
- 6. Enthronement Psalms**
- 7. Psalms of degrees (Ascents)**
- 8. Zion Hymns (Songs of the Lord)**

**(Scholars divided the Psalms in to the above 8 groups;  
some could be in two or more groups)**

# **DOES THE TITLES SO IMPORTANT ?**

- **SOME ARE LONG AND SOME ARE SHORT**

**In the Hebrew Bible it is counted as the first and second verse according to length.**

- **SOME HAVE CONTEXT AND SOME NOT**

**Context helps to know the life situation.**

- **CAN WE IGNORE HEAD LINES ?**

**Can mislead to wrong interpretations**

- **In the Pentateuch we see God speaking to men**

- **In the Psalms we see men speaking to God**

**(They were under the law; some in joy, in grief, in trouble, or in needs of various life situations)**

# PSALMS

## 1. PSALMS OF LAMENT

- **TWO TYPES OF LAMENTS**

1. **Individual laments (could read "I or Me")**
2. **Community laments (Could read "Us or We")**

### **Individual laments**

**3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 17, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 38, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 69, 70, 71, 73, 77, 86, 88, 102, 109, 120, 130, 140, 141, 142, 143 (37 at least)**

### **Community laments**

**44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 83, 85, 90, 94, 137 (10 at least)**

# PSALMS

## OBSERVATION OF THE LAMENTATIONS

- 1. Invocation:** Address God mentioning attributes
- 2. Lamentations:** Describe difficulties, sufferings personal or community feelings.
- 3. Petition:** Praying for God's intervention.
- 4. Motivation:** Mentions why God should answer.
- 5. Vow:** Words of dedication, to praise or serve.
- 6. Divine response:** Answer from God (Not seen always)
- 7. Expression of confidence:** Expressing the assurance in God for answer.



# PSALMS

## OBSERVATION OF LAMENTS (Conti..)

- **FOUR MAJOR ELEMENTS (Essentials)**

1. **Invocation:** Call upon God or invokes
2. **Lamentations:** Describe sufferings
3. **Petitions:** Why God should answer
4. **Motivation:** Prayer God must glorify himself

- **THREE MINOR ELEMENTS**

1. **Vow:** Promise to God, word of dedication
2. **Divine response:** Oracle from God
3. **Expression of confidence:** Will deliver

**(Not all present always, or in given order)**

# PSALMS

## 2. MESSIANIC PSALMS

- **More than the authors life situation fits more to Christ (Messias)**

**Ps. 2, 8, 16, 22, 40, 45, 69, 89, 95, 97, 102, 104, 110**  
**(13 Psalms are called "Messianic Psalms")**

### **Example: Ps. 22**

**Many verses fit more to Christ**

**But some life situations are of David**

**See v. 16 When his hands or legs pierced ?**

**v. 18 When they cast lot for his vesture ?**

**(Observe the words of prophecies in Psalms)**

# PSALMS

## 3. IMPRECATORY PSALMS (OF CURSE)

- **SURPRISED TO SEE THE CURSES ?**
- **OR THE PRAYER FOR REVENGE ?**

**Ps. 35, 59, 69, 79, 109 (5 Psalms)**

- **Examples**

**Ps. 35: 1; 59: 13; 69: 25;28; 79: 12; 109: 6-10**

- **Can we pray like this ? (no; never)**
- **Understand their life situation**

**They were under the Law (Mat. 5: 43)**

**But we are under the Grace (Mat.5: 44)**

# PSALMS

## 4. DECLARATIVE PSALMS (OF THANKS GIVING OR TRUST)

### THE PSALMS EXPRESS TRUST AND PRAISE

- **Psalms 1, 9, 11, 14, 15, 19, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 49, 50, 52, 53, 58, 62, 63, 66, 68, 73, 75, 78, 81, 82, 84, 91, 92, 100, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 111, 112 (113-118) 119, 135, 136, 138, 139, 144 (146-150)**
- **113-118** Are known as “greater hallels” sang in connection with Passover (**Mat.26: 30**)
- **146-150** Begins and ends with **Hallels** known as “smaller hallels” (**give praise to the Lord**)

# PSALMS

## 5. ROYAL PSALMS

- **PSALMS OR HYMNS IN WHICH THE KING IS IN THE FOREGROUND**

**PSALMS 2, 18, 20, 21, 45, 61, 63, 72, 89, 101, 132, 144**  
(At least 12 Psalms)

- **Examples**

**Ps. 2: 6 I have set my king**

**Ps. 18: 50 Deliverance giveth he to king**

**Ps. 20: 9 Save the Lord; let the king hear..**

**Ps. 21: 1; 7 King's shall joy in thy strength**

**Ps.61: 6 Thou will prolong the king's life**

- **Under theocratic rule king represented God**  
(Please make a study thru other Royal Psalms)

# PSALMS

## 6. ENTHRONEMENT PSALMS

- Throne is mentioned than the king
- But no petition or prayer for him
- But words of enthronement or reign

(MAKES IT DIFFERENT FROM ROYAL PSALMS)

- PSALMS 47, 93, 96, 97, 98, 99 (7 Psalms)
- Example

**Psalm 47: 8** He sitteth upon the throne..

**93: 2** Throne is established of old

**96: 10** The Lord reigneth

(PRAISES OR ENTHRONE THE KING)

# PSALMS

## 7. PSALMS OF DEGREES (ASCENTS)

- **SANG BY THE JEWS IN PILGRIMAGE**
- **Deut.16:16** Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles:
- **PSALMS 120-134** (15 Psalms are of degrees)
- **THREE TIMES JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM**
- **SINGING MADE THE JOURNEY JOYFUL**

**(TRY TO DO A PERSONAL MEDITATION ON THESE PSALMS)**

# PSALMS

## 8. ZION HYMNS (SONGS OF THE LORD)

- THE GREATNESS OF ZION EXPRESSED
- BEAUTY OF THE CITY WAS SANG
- LORD (KING) IS PRASIED FOR CHOSING IT
- PSALMS 46,48, 76, 87 (But 84 & 122 could be)
- ALSO CALLED AS "SONGS OF THE LORD"
- Psalms 137:3-4 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

(IMAGINE THE BEAUTY OF ZION ABOVE)



# PSALMS

## WHO WROTE THE PSALMS ?

- **MOSES** – The man of God (**Psalm. 90**)  
(Probably in connection with Aaron's death)
- **DAVID**- A man after God's own heart  
(**73 Psalms**- Ref. Samuel, Kings, Chronicles)
- **SONS OF KORAH**- Descendants of Korah  
(**11 Psalms**- 42-49, 84, 85, 87)  
(Not destroyed with Korah-Num.16; 26:11, became singers and gate keepers-1.Chr.6:37)
- **ASAPH**- A Levite the son of Berechiah- sounded cymbals (1.Chr.6: 39; 43)  
(**12 Psalms**- 50, 73-83)

# PSALMS

## WHO WROTE (Continues)

- **HEMAN** (Man belonged to tribe of Judah)  
(Psalm.88- Composer – 1.Chr.2: 6)
- **ETHAN** (A Levite, singer in the court of David)  
(Psalm 89- 1.Chr.6: 44;47; 15: 17;19)
- **SOLOMON** (David's son- King of Israel)  
(2 Psalms 72; 127)
- Rest of the authors of 49 Psalms unknown
- (In general we had seen the whole Book of Psalms is attributed to David)

# PSALMS

## UNDERSTANDING THE PSALMS

- **USE OF WORDS IN POETRY (Few Examples)**

**Goest not forth with our armies**

(Not providing help)

**Make us to turn back from our enemies**

(Makes us to fail)

**Given us like sheep appointed for meat**

(To be killed with out minding)

**Shaking of head among the people**

(Leaving for shame and reproach)

**Why sleepest thou O Lord (Do God sleeps ?)**

(Why the Lord is keeping silence ?)

# PSALMS

## WHAT IS "SELAH"

- **A WORD SEEN IN PSALMS AND HABAKUK**

**71 TIMES IN PSALMS**

**3 TIMES IN THE BOOK OF HABAKUK (CH.3)**

- **HAVE DIFFERENCES IN OPINIONS**

**A pause**

**A repetition**

**The end of a strope**

**Playing with full power**

**Bending of the body in obeisance**

**A short recurring symphony**

- **(In general can think of a pause for a change or giving stress to the thoughts of the hymn)**

# PSALMS

## PARALLELISM (RHYTHMS)

- Psalms (Hebrew Poetry) also not exception
- Rhythms in Psalms are called "Parallelism"

(The meaning of the first line repeated, balanced or explained in the second line)

- **1. SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM**

(Using another word meaning is repeated)

**Example: Ps.103: 7**

**He made known his ways unto Moses,  
His acts to the children of Israel**

- **2. SYNTHETIC PARALLELISM**

(Meaning is elaborated in the second line)

# PSALMS

**Example Ps. 112: 7**

**He shall not be afraid of evil tidings  
His heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord**

- **3. ANTITHETIC PARALLELISM**

**(Just the opposite meaning brought in second..)**

**Example Ps.1: 6**

**For the Lord knoweth the way of righteous  
But the way of the ungodly shall perish**

- **4. CLIMACTIC PARALLELISM**

**(Repeated and leads to a climax in second line)**

**Example Ps. 29: 1**

**Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty  
Give unto the Lord, glory and strength**

# PSALMS

## TUNES IN THE MUSIC

- Psalms are hymns or songs having tunes
- At least 11 tunes are seen in Psalms
- **Git'-tith (Ps.8, 81, 84)**
  - A musical instrument used in Gath
  - A vintage song to be sing in said tune
  - Tune of the march of the Gittite guards
- **Muthalab'-ben (Ps.9 Means- Die for the son)**
  - Probably a familiar melody
- **Shemi'-i-nith (Ps.6, 12)**
  - Pitch of an octave; name of a scale or tune;
  - or the number of string of instrument

# PSALMS

## TUNES (Cont..)

- **Ai'-je-leth Sha'-har (Ps.22) Hind of the dawn**  
Tune of Hebrew poetry
- **Sho-shan'-nim (Ps.45, 69) The lillies**  
An Instrument resembling a lily  
A familiar melody symbolical of the contents.
- **Shu'shan-e'-duth (Ps. 60, 80)**  
More over same as "Sho-shan-nim"
- **Al'-a-moth (Ps.46) Means Maidens**  
A tune used in joyful times (1.Chr.15: 20)



# PSALMS

## TUNES (Conti..)

- **Ma'-ha-lath (Ps. 53, 88) Mournfully to chant**  
(Sickness, anxiety, grief-refers to sadness)
- **Jo'-nath-e'-li-re-cho'-kim (Ps.56)**  
Silent dove of them that are afar off
- **Al-tas'-chith (Ps. 57, 58, 59, 75)**  
A special and typical Hebrew melody
- **Je-du'-thun (Ps. 39, 62, 77)**  
A special tune ascribed to him in praising  
(Where you cannot find the context; even the tunes helps to understand the life situation; like mournful or joyful or vintage song)

# PSALMS

## HEBREW MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

- **Musical instruments were of three types**
  - Stringed** (Harps and Psaltery)
  - Wind** (Flute, Pipes, and Horns)
  - Percussion** (Timbrel, Tabret)
- **Neginoth** (Means playing on a stringed instrument—**Ps. 4, 6, 54, 55, 61, 67,76**)
- **Nehiloth** (Playing on wind instrument – **Ps.5**)
- **(Heb. Instruments**-Trumpet, Psaltery, Harp, Timbrel, Stringed instruments, organs, Cymbals, High sounding cymbals (**Ps.150: 3-5**)
- **Order in the court of David (1.Chr.15: 19-21)**

# PSALMS

## SELECTION OF THE PSALMS

- There is nothing like understanding the “Life situation”
- Can find a Psalm fit to any life situation
- Selecting a Psalm fit to occasion is excellent

(All Psalms are divine inspired- yet selecting to the occasion makes it different)

- **Selecting to the Life Situations**

**Marriage (Ps.45, 91, 112, 127, 128)**

**Funeral ( Ps. 90, 116)**

**Dedication of a house (Ps. 127, 128)**

**Journey (Ps, 23, 67, 121)**

# PSALMS

## SELECTING TO THE LIFE SITUATION (Cont..)

- **Thanks giving (Ps. 34, 103, 133)**
- **Confession or dedication (Ps.51, 40)**
- **Birth of child (Ps.118, 113, 128)**
- **Praise, worship (Ps. 146-150)**

**(Above are just a guideline and help, you can go thru and select your own choice)**

- **INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION**
- **Psalms are hymns we have seen.**

**(Failure in understanding the life situation can mislead you to wrong interpretation and application)**

# PSALMS

## NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING

- **Ephesians 5:19** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
- **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

# PSALMS



**BELOVED IN THE LORD,**

**Hope this study on "PSALMS"  
has been a blessing.**

**Any questions , Suggestions**

**Please write to my**

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