



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Introduction to Psalms

Music does wonder to human.

Psalms is there for every situations of your life.

Psalms are there for when you want,

To uplift,

To praise,

To be happy,

To cry,

To lament,

To slap somebody,

Etc.

The Psalms are quoted more often in the NT than any other OT book.

The Hebrew Bible calls this as '**Sefer Theilla/Theilim**', Meaning Book of Praise or Praises.

Three forms of Psalms.

1. Praise Psalms:  
characterized by starting with an imperative such as "praise the Lord," "sing unto the Lord," etc.
2. Lament Psalms:

characterized by starting with a vocative such as "O Lord," followed by a complaint or petition

3. Wisdom Psalms:

Like the categories of wisdom literature (i.e., how to live happy, successful, godly lives)

Many Christians knew the Psalms more than any other scripture in the Bible.

**Authorship:**

Qumran known as dead sea scroll found 4,000 Psalms by King David.

Out of 150 Psalms the authorship is

David 73

Asaph 12

Korah 11

Jeduthun 3

Solomon 2

Moses 1

Ethan 1

Haman 1

Rests are anonymous.

Jewish tradition says:

Adam wrote Psalm 139

Melchizedek wrote Psalm 110

Abraham wrote Psalm 89

Moses wrote Psalm 90

### **Superscript:**

Out of 150 Psalms 117 of them have known as superscript.

You will find them between the title and the first verse of the Psalms.

Superscript contains may be three information's.

1. Liturgical/ Musical
2. Historical background
3. Author information

Psalms 51 as an example

Psalms which were written in scrolls and when the time came, they put numbers.

Psalms does not have chapters so its not right to call chapters.

SELAH is used 71 times in 39 psalms

### **Psalms divided in 5 books.**

Book I – Psalms 1-41

Book II – Psalms 42-72

Book III – Psalms 73- 89

Book IV – Psalms 90- 106

Book V – Psalms 107- 150

They made it to 5 books since 5 is very symbolic to the Jewish.

Each book ends with doxology.

**Psalms 41:13**

**Psalms 72:18-19**

**Psalms 89:52**

**Psalms 106:48**

Double use of Amen and Amen is the end of doxological benediction.

Modern scholarship has divided the Psalms into three major periods:

1. Pre-exile (Books, I, II, & IV)
2. Exile (book III)
3. Post-Exile (book V)

### **Numbering of Psalms Varies**

#### **Jewish tradition:**

Psalms 1 and 2 counted as 1

Total number of psalms was 147 to match the years of Jacob's life

#### **Greek translation**

Psalms 9 and 10 are together making one acrostic psalm

Psalms 114 and 115 are together, both being Hallel Psalms

Psalms 116 and 147 are divided into 2 each

#### **Book Collections:**

##### **By Author:**

David: Psalms 3-41

Psalms 51-72

Psalms 138-145

Korah: Psalms 42-49

Asap: Psalms 73-83

**By Theme:**

**Reign of the Lord:** Psalms 93-99

No matter what God rules and reigns over everywhere.

**Songs of Ascent:** Psalms 120-134

Sang when they went up to Jerusalem to the temple.

**Hallel, Praise:** Psalms 112-118; 146-150

Starts and ends with Hallelujah!

Psalms 113 and 144 before the meal and 115 to 118 after the meal.

**Purpose of Psalms:**

Israel believed that all of life was related to God by covenant. The Psalms are humanity's release to God of the deepest emotions of life (awe and intimacy). They functioned in corporate worship as well as individual devotions. They were a liturgical way to recount and accent Israel's history and theology.

Israel believed in one and only one personal, caring God and that they were the special object of His love. Faith was not liturgical or creedal but personal and daily. The poetic form of

the Psalms helps us express our religious self to God. The chief character of the OT is God!

All of the Psalms may have begun as individual expressions of personal faith, which were later used by the community of faith (Psalm 23; 139, etc).