

PSALMS

AT-A-GLANCE



BOOK HIGHLIGHT: Of the 150 Psalms, over half were written by King David

KEY VERSES:

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ***Psalms 37:3-4***

O how love I thy law! it *is* my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me. ***Psalms 110:97***

Important Points about the Book:

- Psalms are poetry, generally meant to be put to music as songs. The word "psalm" means song.
- Individual Psalms were written as early as Moses' time (around 1450BC). More were added through the time of David and Solomon (around 1000BC). Additions were written after the Babylonian captivity (around 500BC). That means the writing of the Book of Psalms spanned nearly 1,000 years.
- Psalms are "timeless" - they can apply to every person in any era. There are Psalms of sorrow, psalms of praise, prophetic psalms, and words of encouragement.

PSALMS | 19 OT

Psalms is the second of the poetry books. The book is divided into five sections (called books) and is a collection of poems (or songs). Many of the poems were songs of trials, trouble, tribulation, thanksgiving, praise, worship and triumph. There are entire Psalms written about the Great Tribulation (Psalm 79), the Antichrist (Psalms 10, 52, 73, 109), the workers of iniquity (Psalms 14, 53), and the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 76, 95-101). Psalms 22 reveals truths of the crucifixion.



BREAKDOWNS

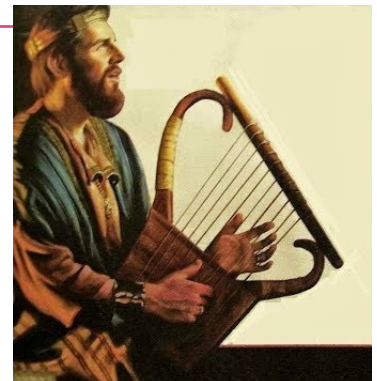
Psalms 1-41	BOOK 1: God is Near to Us
Psalms 42-72	BOOK 2: God Goes Before Us
Psalms 73-89	BOOK 3: God Surrounds Us
Psalms 90-106	BOOK 4: God is Above Us
Psalms 107-150	BOOK 5: God is Among Us

AUTHORS OF PSALMS:

- **DAVID:** 3-9; 11-32; 34-41; 51-65; 68-70; 86; 101; 103; 108-110; 122; 124; 131; 133; 18-145
- **ASAPH:** 50; 73-83
- **FOR THE SONS OF KORAH:** 42; 44-49; 84-85; 87-88
- **OTHER AUTHORS:** Heman (88); Solomon (72); Moses (90); Ethan the Ezrahite (89)
- **ANONYMOUS:** All others not mentioned above

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PSALMS:

- Chapters: 150
- Verses: 2,461
- Words: 42,704
- Every one of the 150 Psalms contains some note of praise to God.
- "Psalms" refers to a collection of chapters of the entire book.
- Each chapter is a "psalm". In others words, proper usage of the word in referring to just one chapter would be "Psalm 23" - not "Psalms 23".
- Psalms is the biggest book of the Bible.
- Psalm 119 is the *longest* chapter in the Bible (176 verses). All but three verses (v. 90, 121, 122) refer to the word of God.



David playing his harp

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PSALMS, *continued*:

- Psalm 117 is the *shortest* chapter in the Bible (2 verses)
- Psalm 90 is the oldest psalm (written by Moses)
- The book of Psalms contain such diverse topics as:
 - ⇒ Jubilation
 - ⇒ War
 - ⇒ Peace
 - ⇒ Worship
 - ⇒ Judgment
 - ⇒ Messianic Prophecy
 - ⇒ Praise
 - ⇒ Lament
 - ⇒ Enemies
- The word "*selah*" occurs 71 times in the book of Psalms (as well as 3 times in the book of Habakkuk 3 (verse 3, 9, 13). Depending on the source, the word has become to have a couple of different meanings. First, it is believed that is a Hebrew music gesture for the music to take a pause. Second, and this is commonly accepted today, it means to "stop and reflect" - encouraging the singer and reader to contemplate what was just said.

PSALMS REFERENCED ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE:

- I Chronicles 16:7
- Luke 20:42; 24:44
- Acts 1:20 (Psalm 69:25); 13:33 (Psalm 2:7) & 35 (Psalm 49:9) — *references to specific Psalms*
- I Corinthians 14:26
- Ephesians 5:19 (Colossians 3:16)
- James 5:13

